

## RN-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who should apply to the RN-BSN program?**

**A:** This program is intended for Registered Nurses who wish to advance their career by completing a bachelor's degree in nursing.

**Q: What are the requirements for applicants?**

**A:** Applicants must have graduated with either an associate of science in nursing degree from a regionally accredited college/university or have graduated with a diploma in nursing from an ACEN-accredited program. (Note: ACEN was formerly known as NLNAC). A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required.

Applicants must hold an active, unencumbered (clear without restriction) RN license.

**Q: How do I apply for admission to the BSN program?**

**A:** [Admission checklist and application](#). Please allow 4 weeks for processing.

When you complete an application, you will be given an SPC email address. Please note that all future correspondence will be sent to the SPC student email address. Your SPC email is accessible when you login to MySPC from the SPC homepage. If you need assistance accessing your email account, please call the help desk at 727-341-HELP (4357) or email the help desk at [onlinehelp@spcollege.edu](mailto:onlinehelp@spcollege.edu). You may also find [SPC Email and MySPC Resources](#) and [Student Tech Tutorials](#) helpful.

**Q: Is there a waiting list for the RN-BSN program?**

**A:** There is no waiting list for the program. The RN-BSN program accepts applications continually throughout the year.

**Q: How long is the program?**

**A:** Students must take 32 credits of upper division/ nursing core courses. These credits can be completed in as little as three semesters. Students must take (or transfer) 8 credits of upper division elective credits in nursing or another field of study. Each BSN course is taught in an 8-week module format (modmester). Students may opt to take either one or two courses in each modmester.

**Q: Will I need to take general education courses in addition to the nursing curriculum?**

**A:** The BSN degree requires a total of 121 credit hours. These hours include lower division credits, including general education, foreign language, and state-mandated prerequisite requirements.

If you have also completed an Associate in Arts (AA) degree from a regionally-accredited college, you may be exempt from general education courses. Keep in mind that AA degree graduates from non-English speaking countries must complete the SPC Communications requirements. Students must complete 8 credits (two semesters) of one foreign language at the college level. Some students may have fulfilled this requirement in

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High school. All lower division state-mandated prerequisites, general education, and foreign language requirements must be completed prior to graduation from the BSN program.

**Q: Can I take my lower division general education, foreign language, and state-mandated prerequisite courses at the same time as the nursing courses?**

**A:** Yes. Students are encouraged to strongly consider all their commitments when planning their course load. All graduation requirements must be completed as listed on their advisement report.

**Q: I work full-time as an RN. Will I be able to complete the program while continuing to work?**

**A:** Yes. Many of our current BSN students have family responsibilities and most work full- or part-time while in the program.

**Q: How much time during the week will I need to spend on my courses?**

**A:** Expect to spend between 7 and 15 hours a week to complete course activities, papers, projects, and other requirements.

**Q: As an online RN-BSN student, will I ever have to come to the SPC campus, or meet with an instructor?**

**A:** No. Students will complete the new student orientation online. Our online courses allow students to complete their coursework at any time of the day or night that is compatible with their schedules.

**Q: Do I need special computer training to succeed in online courses?**

**A:** You do not need proof of specialized computer training to succeed in our online courses. However, it would be helpful if you have a working knowledge of the following:

- Email, including sending attachments.
- Accessing and browsing the web
- Basic computer functions like word processing, copying and pasting text as well as backup procedures.
- Be able to "bookmark" or set as a "favorite" your class home page, and other frequently visited websites.
- Create, name, save, and move files and folders around on your computer.

**Q: I would like to take a basic computer literacy course in preparation for this program. Which one do you recommend?**

**A:** Currently, the best one to take at SPC is CGS 1070 Basic Computer and Information Literacy.

**Q: Do I have to have a particular type of computer and software to take online courses?**

**A:** Please review the [technical requirements](#) and support for online courses.

**Q: How often will I need to log into my courses?**

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**A:** Since our courses are delivered in shortened 8-week modesters, you will need to login and participate four days a week. All activities are asynchronous, meaning that you can do your coursework any day or time of the week that you choose, and from any location that has internet access.

**Q: Is there a clinical component or requirement for this program?**

**A:** No, there are no clinical requirements in this program. However, there are out-of-class activities you must complete. The out-of-class activities provide the opportunity for students to explore an area of focus outside the traditional clinical nursing setting, and to do so within their own community.

**Q: I was previously a student in the RN-BSN program but took a break. How can I return to the program?**

**A:** Returning SPC students are required to verify their [residency](#) status for tuition purposes prior to enrolling in class. Please see the [Admission Guide/Checklist](#) to reapply. If you have not enrolled in classes for two years, you will need to reapply for admission to the program.

**Q: I am currently a student in a BSN program at another institution, how can I transfer to the RN to BSN program at SPC?**

**A:** RNs who wish to transfer from another BSN program to the RN to BSN program at SPC must complete the application process as a new student to SPC. Once admitted to SPC's RN-BSN program, courses with identical course numbers will automatically be counted in the SPC transcript. In addition, you may submit the course syllabi/descriptions for BSN courses completed elsewhere to the Dean for the College of Nursing at SPC. The Dean may substitute up to 10 upper division nursing credits towards the BSN curriculum at SPC. However, students must complete at least 30 of the upper division BSN credits through SPC, which requires 32 core courses and 8 elective credits.

**Q: What is a Capstone course?**

**A:** A capstone course is a final course that allows students to demonstrate their cumulative knowledge in their degree program. Students synthesize learning from prior courses in a quality improvement project that demonstrates leadership qualities necessary to function effectively as a baccalaureate-prepared nurse.