

# RN to BSN Program

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The University of Virginia School of Nursing offers a program for registered nurses leading to the Bachelor of Science of Nursing degree. The program, including the prerequisite courses, requires a total of 120 credits, which are earned through course enrollment at the University of Virginia, transfer of credit from other colleges/universities, and advanced standing credit.

**Advanced standing:** Thirty-eight credits of advanced standing will be awarded to students for prior education at the completion of the program. Credit will be awarded after completion of the required courses and successful review of a portfolio of validating assignments developed throughout the program as part of the two Transition & Validation Seminars.

## PROGRAM FORMAT

- 120 credits for degree
  - A full-time student can complete the program in one year (fall + spring+ summer).
  - A part-time student can complete the program over 3-8 semesters (depending on courseload).
- Partially-online
  - Some instruction via internet; other courses meet on Tuesdays at the University.

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission for the program, you must submit a completed application and:

1. Have an associate degree or diploma in nursing from an accredited college, university or school of nursing.
2. Possess an unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse (a copy of your current license must be submitted with the application).
3. Have completed prior to matriculation a minimum of 40 credits towards the prerequisite general education requirements for part-time study and all 55 general education requirements for full-time study.
4. Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale on all college courses completed prior to admission.
5. Submit one satisfactory academic or professional recommendation
6. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Student Services to review your transcripts from previous academic institutions.

## ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

In every case, an applicant must be in good academic and social standing at any college where he/she is currently attending or has previously attended, and must be eligible to return there. Admission to the School of Nursing is not assured, even for applicants from within the University. Students wishing to apply must have completed a minimum of 40 semester hours of the required general education courses for part-time study and all 55 general education requirements for full-time study. Students applying for the RN-BSN program may enter the School in either the fall or spring terms. January entry requires three semesters of study due to course sequencing.

Applications may be obtained from the School of Nursing website:  
<http://www.nursing.virginia.edu/Programs/rnbsn.aspx>  
You can submit the application directly online by following the links from this web page.

Application deadline for all students:  
For fall admission                      March 1



## **General Education Requirements (55 credits in all)**

**English Composition** (3 credits)  
Required for all students except for those who are exempt.

**Second Writing Requirement** (SWR)- 3 credits.  
Required for all students. This requirement is met as part of the Transition/ Validation seminars.

**Natural Science & Math** (12 credits)  
Anatomy & Physiology is required. Other acceptable courses include biology, mathematics, chemistry, physics, genetics, environmental science, geology and ecology. Students considering graduate education should take statistics.

**Social Science & History** (9 credits)  
Acceptable courses include history, government, psychology, sociology, economics, western civilization, political science, and anthropology. Developmental psychology does not count toward this requirement. RN to BSN students receive advanced standing credit for that course.

**Humanities & Fine Arts** (9 credits)  
Acceptable courses include philosophy, ethics, art history, religion, music, drama, literature, and foreign languages.

**Electives** (15 or more credits)  
Three courses (up to 7 credits) in skills courses such as studio art or music performance may be added toward these elective course requirements. Only 2 PE credits can be accepted for elective transfer credit.

### **Sample Plan of Study (full-time, 3-semester)**

*Fall*  
Transition and Validation Seminar I (2)  
Leadership & Management in Healthcare Systems (3)  
Basic Research Concepts in the Health Disciplines (3)  
Perspectives in Community Nursing \* (5)

*Spring*  
Transition & Validation Seminar II (2)  
Issues in Contemporary Nursing Practice (3)  
Contemporary Trends in Clinical Nursing Management\* (5)

*Summer*  
Pathophysiology (4)

\*Precepted practicum courses involve both classroom and practicum time equivalent to 1 day per week. Sites are arranged with the course professor.

Note: These are sample Programs of Study for students completing the program in 2 or 4 semesters; students develop an individualized program with their advisor.

## **INFORMATION SESSIONS**

The RN-BSN Program Director holds an information session on the program every month. Please consult the admissions calendar on the website at [www.nursing.virginia.edu/programs/admissions/events.html](http://www.nursing.virginia.edu/programs/admissions/events.html) for the time and date of the next session.

### **Sample Plan of Study (part-time, 4-semester)**

*Fall*  
Transition & Validation Seminar I (2)  
Leadership & Management in Healthcare Systems (3)  
Basic Research Concepts in the Health Disciplines (3)

*Spring*  
Transition & Validation Seminar II (2)  
Issues in Contemporary Nursing Practice (3)

*Summer*  
Pathophysiology (4)

*Fall*  
Perspectives in Community Nursing\* (5)

*Spring*  
Contemporary Trends in Clinical Nursing Management\* (5)