Our Goal: Increase proportion of Massachusetts nurses with baccalaureate degrees or higher from 55% in 2014 to 66% by 2020.

“We know from research that nurses who advance their skills are better equipped to deal with the challenging medical cases presented by an aging population, within a health care system that is becoming more technologically complex. It’s good to see our public colleges and universities collaborating to design the clearer academic pathways nurses need in order to pursue higher education.”
Richard M. Freeland
Massachusetts Commissioner of Higher Education

The Massachusetts Action Coalition is a partnership of the MA Department of Higher Education and the Organization of Nurse Leaders of MA & RI. We are part of the nationwide Campaign for Action, a joint initiative of the AARP Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to help implement the Institute of Medicine’s recommendations on the future of nursing.

Invest in your future by advancing your nursing education and skills. Learn about the academic pathways to earning your BSN or beyond – and what schools offer programs – at the Massachusetts Colleges of Nursing (MACN) website: http://massnursing.org/baccalaureate.asp

Learn more about the Massachusetts Action Coalition’s (MAAC) progress and how you can be part of our success at: http://campaignforaction.org/state/ massachusetts

Read more about MAAC and the IOM report on the Future of Nursing at: http://www.mass.edu/ currentinit/NiMaac.asp

In 2010, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a landmark report and evidence-based recommendations on the important role nursing will play in our nation’s health care transformation. To meet growing health care demands and challenges and to serve patients better, we need to change how nurses are educated, trained, and practice.

Now is a great time to go back to school! Advancing your education can further your professional development and enhance the care you provide to your patients. Nurses are at the forefront of many of the changes that are taking place in health care. Be ready to lead!
Why Consider a BSN Degree?

- You will **advance your clinical skills and have more opportunities** to become a stronger leader and manager.
- An increasing number of employers require nurses to have a BSN degree **to be considered for promotion** beyond the entry level.
- A BSN will **advance your critical thinking, decision-making, and communications skills** so you can help find solutions to our health care challenges.
- Earning your BSN degree will ensure you are **prepared to lead** in our evolving health care environment.

"Having earned my BSN, my passion is to continue acquiring knowledge to be able to offer my patients the best care in any type of setting. I hope to become a nurse educator for the new generation who will be the leaders of tomorrow. I hope to reach my goal of returning to UMass Lowell to acquire a Master’s degree in Nursing." — Jessica Alvarez-Montano, 2012 RN to BS graduate with honors, UMass Lowell

BSN = Value for Employers

A more educated and diversified nursing workforce **positively impacts patient outcomes and provides life-saving and life-sustaining services.**

A better-educated nursing workforce plays an important role in **advancing Massachusetts’ reputation as a worldwide leader in health care.**

Research has shown that higher levels of BSN-prepared nurses in a hospital are associated with **decreased rates of fatality and failure-to-rescue.**

**Academic Progression Pathways**

3 Models — find your bridge to the future

- **RN → BSN**
  - New or experienced nurses
- **LPN → BSN**
  - Move along a career ladder
- **Bachelor’s → BSN**
  - A new career in nursing

Some Questions to Consider When Choosing a BSN Program

- How many courses will I need to earn my BSN?
- How much academic credit can I transfer from previous coursework or degree?
- What is the minimum grade and time limit for transfers?
- Will my manager provide support and flexibility?
- Does the school provide access to financial counseling and resources?
- Does my employer offer tuition reimbursement?

The Massachusetts Nursing Education Transfer Compact (NETC) makes it easier to transfer credits from associate (ADN) to bachelor’s degree (BSN) programs at state-funded nursing schools. It’s designed to decrease the cost and lessen the time needed to obtain your degree. Learn more about the NETC at www.mass.edu/nursing.