Considering Going Back to School for Your BSN?

Now is a Great Time!

Advancing your education can further your professional development and enhance the care you provide to your patients. Now is the time to get your Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN). Health care is evolving rapidly, and nurses are at the forefront of many of the changes that are taking place.

Nurses provide high-quality care to an increasingly diverse patient population with complex health problems and treatments. A more educated and diversified nursing workforce positively impacts patient outcomes. Obtaining your BSN degree will ensure you are prepared to lead in our evolving health care environment.

Who We Are

The MA Action Coalition (MAAC) 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 AARP Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to help implement the Institute of Medicine’s recommendations on the future of nursing.

Transferring Credits is Easier than Ever

Going back to school for your BSN is an investment in your future and a big commitment, both personally and financially. The Nursing Education Transfer Compact (NETC) can help ease the transition for nurses in Massachusetts.

The NETC makes it easier for students to transfer academic credits from associate degree to bachelor’s degree programs at the Commonwealth’s public colleges and universities. The NETC breaks down barriers that previously complicated the transfer of credits from prior degree programs toward a BSN degree. The removal of these barriers will decrease the cost and lessen the time needed to obtain your degree. Although the NETC directly relates to the transfer of credits from PUBLIC programs in Massachusetts, it is likely that it will serve as a model for ALL RN-to-BSN Programs in the future.

THE NURSING EDUCATION TRANSFER COMPACT (NETC): WHAT IT DOES

- Allows for the transfer of credits earned in an Associate in Nursing (ADN) program to be applied in an RN-to-BSN program.

- General education/distribution core courses (MassTransfer Block) will be accepted without time restriction to fulfill the general education component of the baccalaureate degree requirements in RN-to-BSN programs. MassTransfer Core curriculum courses can be taken instead of having to fulfill the individual General Education Requirements in an RN-to-BSN Program. This makes the General Education Requirements the same regardless of which RN-to-BSN program an RN chooses.
‘THE NETC’ continued

- If you have a bachelor’s degree in another field, the NETC counts that degree program toward your general education requirements for your BSN degree program.

Learn more about the NETC at MA Department of Higher Education: www.mass.edu/nursing.

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL: GETTING STARTED

First, making the decision to return to school is the biggest step you will take! Then:

- **Choose a program** from the more than 20 colleges and universities in Massachusetts that offer BSN programs. They have a range of online or classroom courses, so you can find one designed to fit into your busy schedule. For a list of options, including RN-to-BSN and LPN-to-BSN programs, visit the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing at http://massnursing.org/baccalaureate.asp

- **Explore financing options** through schools, government loans, or scholarships through professional organizations. Earning a BSN is an investment in yourself and your future. Many hospitals and health care organizations provide tuition reimbursement as part of their employee benefits package. Ask if your employer provides tuition reimbursement. Visit the MA Student Nurses Association: http://www.mastudentnurses.com/scholarships-and-awards.html

- **Build a support network** with colleagues who are also interested in advancing their education. Share your decision with family and friends. They will want to offer support along the way.

What Other Nurses are Saying:

“I enrolled in a BSN program so I would have more career opportunities. In addition to all that I’ve learned, I’ve gained a larger perspective of the world and my confidence and pride in myself have grown so much. Who knows? I may earn my masters and become an NP!”

- Courtney (RN to BSN program, Laboure College)

“The flexibility of my BSN program has been great. Classes are late afternoon after work, which gives me time at home in the evening. My teenagers and I do homework together. My courses have given me new insights and a fresh perspective on how I care for patients.”

- Lisa (RN to BSN program, Curry College)

“The LPN-to-BSN program has been so accommodating. All of my previous college classes have been transferred into the program along with my current LPN program credits. It is truly a great feeling knowing that all my previous hard work and school history mean something.”

- Elizabeth (LPN to BSN program, Fitchburg State University)