FAQs

Q. Will my diploma say “online” degree?
A. No. You will receive the same degree; your diploma is the same as students’ on-campus diplomas.

Q. I am an RN. How do I earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing? How does this program work for me?
A. The RN to BS Degree Completion Program track is designed for the RN with an associate’s degree or diploma who seeks a bachelor’s degree in nursing. The program consists of general education requirements, nursing prerequisites, support courses and concentrated nursing courses. If you have a BA/BS, Associate of Arts degree or have met the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, the majority of your general education requirements are satisfied.

Q. Will I earn a BS or a BSN?
A. You will earn a BS with a major in Nursing.

Q. What is the difference between a BS and a BSN?
A. For practical purposes, there is no difference. A BS is a degree offered by the College as a whole. It offers bachelor’s degrees in a variety of different majors but each program is governed by the school at a whole. In most cases the faculty/administrator in each department has a title such as “director” or “chair.” A “dean” is then over multiple departments.

A BSN is offered by a professional school that is a separate entity unto itself. If the school of nursing is part of a larger university, there will be connections between the larger school and the school of nursing but the school of nursing will have its own “dean” and more political independence.

Q. Is the program accredited?
A. The RN to BS Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College of St. Scholastica is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

Q. How will my achievements in nursing be recognized?
A. The RN to BS Program is designed to build on your experience as a registered nurse. Sixteen semester credits in nursing are credited toward the BS degree upon validation of prior learning by means of a portfolio that documents what you have experienced as an RN.

Q. How many credits will I need to graduate?
A. You need 128 semester credits to earn the baccalaureate degree. The credits may be gained in a number of ways:

- Credits from a previous four-year college/university or community college
- CLEP or challenge exams
- Documentation of prior learning
- Independent study
- Teling courses

Q. Do I need to take additional courses?
A. Additional non-nursing courses may be required (including statistics and other courses to meet the 128-credit graduation requirement).

Q. What difference will a BS make in my ability to practice nursing?
A. The only constant in nursing today is change and a BS education will allow you to manage change, not be managed by it. An emphasis on leadership and management skills facilitates upward mobility. Competence in areas of health promotion, health teaching, culture and information technology are developed along with skills in holistic nursing interventions. A BS degree in nursing provides a foundation for graduate study.

Q. Whom do I talk to if I have a question?
A. You may contact the Office of Online Admissions at:
The College of St. Scholastica • cssonline@css.edu • (218) 723-5990 | (866) 870-6550

Q. How do I apply?
A. You can apply online at www.css.edu/appstatus.xml
We are pleased to offer the RN to BS Degree Completion Program in an online format. You can earn your degree from The College of St. Scholastica without disrupting your home or work life.

Program Overview

The RN to BS Degree Completion Program Online is designed for registered nurses with an associate degree or diploma. The program has been designed to build on your experience as a registered nurse. You will discover new fundamental concepts and broaden your knowledge base through a curriculum that is unique from the curriculum taught at the associate's level. By the end of the program you will meet baccalaureate nursing outcomes.

Baccalaureate nursing emphasizes community based nursing practice and leadership.

The program consists of seven nursing courses for a total of 24 credit hours, the Nursing Portfolio which consists of 16 credit hours, and upper division writing and religious studies. Additional non-nursing courses may be required.

Learning Outcomes

The RN to BS Degree Completion Program has been established to build on your knowledge as a registered nurse. Through this program, you will explore central concepts and broaden your knowledge base through a curriculum that is unique from the program taught at the associate's level.

The program is designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Synthesize knowledge from nursing, the arts and sciences and the Benedictine values in the holistic practice of professional nursing
- Demonstrate professional values and behavior consistent with professional standards
- Advocate for health care that is sensitive to the needs of clients including vulnerable populations
- Assume responsibility for ongoing professional development in an ever-changing health care environment

Curriculum

Following is a list of courses that you are required to take in order to graduate with the baccalaureate degree:

- RN/BS Nursing Introduction | 0 credits
- Research, Evidence-Based Practice and Information Technology in Nursing | 4 credits
- Dimensions of Professional Nursing | 4 credits
- Leadership in Nursing | 4 credits
- Community Health Nursing | 4 credits
- Community Health Nursing Clinical | 1 credit (optional)
- Holistic Assessment in Nursing | 4 credits
- RN/BS Portfolio Introduction | 4 credits
- RN/BS Nursing Portfolio | 16 credits
- Upper Division Writing and Religious Studies | 4 credits
- Basic Statistics for Professional Practice | 4 credits

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Learning Outcomes

The RN to BS Degree Completion Program has been established to build on your knowledge as a registered nurse. Through this program, you will realize central concepts and broaden your knowledge base through a curriculum that is unique from the program taught at the associate's level.

The program is designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Demonstrate competence for entry-level professional practice
- Demonstrate professional values and behaviors consistent with professional standards
- Synthesize knowledge from nursing, the arts and sciences and the Benedictine values in the holistic practice of professional nursing
- Demonstrate professionalism and behavior consistent with professional standards
- Demonstrate competence for entry-level professional practice
- Advocacy for health care that is sensitive to the needs of clients including vulnerable populations
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Admission Requirements

The RN to BS Online Program will consider applicants who:

- Submit a completed online admissions application at www.css.edu/appstatus.xml
- Have earned an associate's degree with a major in nursing from an accredited college prior to the program start (AA degree, MNTC or prior BA or BS)
- General education requirements must be satisfied before acceptance into the RN to BS Program
- Submit all official transcripts
- Submit a copy of current registered nurse license from at least one state; eligibility for licensure in Minnesota
- Have earned a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher

Note: All admissions materials are taken into consideration when making admissions decisions. Meeting minimal entrance requirements does not necessarily guarantee admission. Exceptions to minimum criteria may be made at the discretion of the admission's committee.

Foundational Requirements

All applicants to the RN to BS Online Nursing Program will need to fulfill the following requirements prior to the start of the program:

- Three to six months of experience as a registered nurse
- Current registered nurse license from at least one state; eligibility for licensure in Minnesota
- Associate of Arts degree, MNTC, previous BA or BS degree or all general education requirements must be met

International Admissions

All applicants with international transcripts must submit:
1. ECE (wes.org) or WES (wes.org) original Course-by-Course Evaluation sent from company
2. Certified or notarized copy of official transcript
3. Certified or notarized copy of English translation of transcript

Lawful Permanent Residents

Lawful Permanent Residents must submit a notarized copy of Permanent Resident card (I-551) with application

International Applicants

- Applicants with non-student visa (including H-1B): Submit notarized copy of visa or I-94 and passport
- Applicants with student visa (F-1 or J-1): Restrictions to online learning apply. Please contact online admissions representative for assistance

Application Deadlines

| Fall: August 1 | Spring: December 1 | Summer: April 1 |

Application Checklist

Complete the following steps to be considered for acceptance into the RN to BS Online Nursing Program. Submit all application materials to the Online Admissions Office.

- **Step 1** Submit your completed RN to BS online admissions application at www.css.edu/appstatus.xml
- **Step 2** Request all official transcripts from colleges and universities previously attended; be sent to:
  - The College of St. Scholastica, Online Admissions Office
  - 1200 Kenwood Avenue
  - Duluth, MN 55811
- **Step 3** Submit a copy of current registered nurse license from at least one state; eligibility for licensure in MN
- **Step 4** Discuss financing your education with the Office of Financial Aid early in the application process by calling (800) 447-5444, ext. 2260
- **Step 5** International applicants must complete the additional admissions requirements as outlined in this application packet.
  - For further information, please contact the Office of Online Admissions at (866) 870-6550
- **Step 6** Upon completion of the application process, a decision regarding your admission will be made
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Q. Whom do I talk to if I have more questions?
A. You may contact the Office of Online admissions at:
The College of St. Scholastica, Office of graduate admissions – Duluth
1200 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
The College of St. Scholastica is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Contact Information

Applicants must use up-to-date application materials to ensure all current admission requirements are met.

Apply online at go.css.edu/applyonline or contact the Office of Online Admissions – Duluth at (866) 870-6550 or e-mail cssonline@css.edu for new forms.

For information regarding Financial Aid
(800) 447-5444, ext. 2260, and identify yourself as an online applicant.

For information regarding other payment options
(800) 447-5444, ext. 6134, and identify yourself as an online applicant.

The College of St. Scholastica, Office of Graduate Admissions – Duluth
1200 Kenwood Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811

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The College of St. Scholastica is registered as a private institution with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education pursuant to sections 136A.63 to 136A.71. Registration is an endorsement of the institution. Credits earned at the institution may not transfer to all other institutions.