We are pleased to offer the RN to BS Degree Completion Program in an online format. You can now earn your degree from The College of St. Scholastica without disrupting your home or work life.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The RN to Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program is designed for registered nurses with an associate degree or diploma. By the end of the program you will meet baccalaureate nursing outcomes. The program consists of seven nursing courses for a total of 24 credit hours and the Nursing Portfolio which consists of 16 credit hours. Additional non-nursing courses maybe 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 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:

1. Synthesize knowledge from nursing, the arts and sciences and the Benedictine values in the holistic practice of professional nursing.
2. Demonstrate professional values and behaviors consistent with professional standards.
3. Demonstrate competence for entry level professional practice.
4. Advocate for health care that is sensitive to the needs of clients including vulnerable populations.
5. Assume responsibility for ongoing professional development in an ever-changing health care environment.

**CURRICULUM**

**NURSING COURSES ARE REQUIRED:**

**RN to BS Nursing Program Orientation** – 0 credits: Presents an overview of the process of learning in an online environment.

**Portfolio Introduction** – 4 credits: The RN/BS Nursing Portfolio allows the RN student an opportunity to obtain nursing credits for the major based on prior RN experience. Graduation requirements mandate the completion of 20 credits for the nursing portfolio. This course will introduce the RN student to the nursing portfolio guidelines and provide faculty guidance for completion of the first 4 objectives of the nursing portfolio. Pre- or co-requisite: Admission to the RN/BS nursing program.

**RNBS Nursing Portfolio II, III, IV** – 16 credits: The RN/BS Nursing Portfolio allows the RN student an opportunity to obtain nursing credits for the major based on prior RN experience. Graduation requirements mandate the completion of 20 credits for the nursing portfolio.

**Dimensions of Professional Nursing** – 4 credits: An overview of professional nursing practice, focusing on the roles and characteristics of the baccalaureate nurse.

**Research, Evidence-Based Practice and Information Technology in Nursing** – 4 credits: Emphasizes the role of the nurse as a critical consumer of research findings to improve nursing practice.

**Health Assessment for RN Students** – 4 credits: Builds on assessment information from the associate level, using a systems-based approach with a strong lifespan developmental focus.

**Public Health Nursing** – 4 credits: Applies public health principles to nursing practice from a population-based individual, community and system level.

**Leadership in Nursing** – 4 credits: Develops a personal, issue-related action plan from a leadership perspective, based upon analysis of historical and current issues in professional nursing.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

We invite all applicants to contact our Admissions Advisors who are available to guide you and provide you with as much information and assistance as you need.

- Program Application
- Registered nurse licensure in at least one state
- An acceptable GPA
- General education requirements, AA or transfer curriculum
- Pre-requisite Courses
  - General Education Courses (Refer to General Education website for more information) or Curriculum Plan
    - An AA degree 1995 or later or a MnTC (Minnesota Transfer Curriculum) 1998 or later will meet these requirements except for Religious Studies and Intensive Writing.
    - A BA or BS degree meets all General Education requirements including Religious Studies and Intensive Writing.

FAQ’s

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

Q. I am an R.N. How do I earn the 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 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 an Associate of Arts degree or have met the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, the majority of your general education requirements are satisfied.

Q. I am an R.N. with a Bachelor’s degree in another field. Do I receive another Bachelor’s degree?
A. With a previous bachelor’s degree, you will receive a Certificate from the College of St. Scholastica. This certificate is the equivalent to a Bachelor of Science Degree with a concentration in nursing. General education requirements of the College are waived if you have a bachelor's degree in another field.

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 are my achievements in nursing 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 - CLEP Websites include:
  - Documentation of prior learning
  - Independent study
  - Taking courses

Q. What difference will a BS degree 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 is developed along with skill in holistic nursing interventions. BS education in nursing provides a foundation for graduate study.

Q. Whom do I talk to if I have more questions?
A. You may call the RN/BS Online Program Recruiter at:
   Lori Gubash, Graduate Recruitment Counselor
   The College of St. Scholastica
   lgubash@css.edu; (651)731-6369 or (888)-679-7650

Q. How do I apply?
A. You can apply online at http://rnbs.css.edu