Experience & Examination
Characteristics and qualities of online RN-BSN programs

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OVERVIEW

Among several recommendations in the 2010 report, The Future of Nursing, the Institute of Medicine (2010) set a goal of increasing the number of nurses with a baccalaureate degree from 50% to 80% by the year 2020. As part of their recommendation, they elaborate: “The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), working in collaboration with the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, should require all nursing schools to offer defined academic pathways, beyond articulation agreements, that promote seamless access for nurses to higher levels of education.”

This ambitious goal creates the need to educate nurses effectively and efficiently, with educational programs that can fit with their full-time employment commitments. In recent years, colleges and universities nationally and internationally have been working to make classes—as well as entire degree programs—more easily accessible by offering online, distance learning options. As such, over the past several years, there has been exponential growth in the number of nursing programs that may be completed online.

This paper focuses on online educational programs, specifically tailored to registered nurses who have a diploma or associate's degree, with the objective of obtaining a baccalaureate degree in nursing (commonly referred to as Online RN-BSN programs). The goal of this report is to provide information, regarding the characteristics of Online RN-BSN programs, and determine whether or not there are trends among programs that share similar characteristics, which may help clarify the quality of the program. Specific characteristics discussed below include the following: clinical education requirements, college credit offered for professional/prior experience, tuition, accreditation, and admissions requirements.

Registered nurses need to make an informed decision about where to pursue a BSN completion degree by reviewing these program characteristics. One outcome of this attempt to streamline nurses' information gathering may be that health care administrators decide to compile lists of “preferred” organizations for their registered nurses to pursue, based on unique organizational needs and standards. A list of preferred institutions of higher education may also help ensure both the employer and nurse make sound investments of their time and money.
BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF ONLINE RN-BSN PROGRAMS

One of the most highly-cited benefits of offering web-based delivery method for BSN completion degrees is that the nature of the program delivery allows nurses to complete their education on a schedule that suits their needs.

Online RN-BSN programs may be offered by the following types of institutions of higher education: Public/Traditional Universities (Arizona State University, Purdue University-Calumet, University of Cincinnati, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, etc.), Nonprofit Colleges/Universities (Davenport University, Baker College, etc.), and For-Profit Colleges (University of Phoenix, Chamberlain College of Nursing, South University, etc.).

Most of these degree programs are designed to be completed in 12-18 months, if the student pursues the degree part-time. These programs may be completed in under a year if pursued full-time. Many universities accept rolling enrollment, so that students may begin the degree program at nearly any time of the year.

According to the CCNE (phone conversation, 2013), the accreditation process involves accrediting a specific degree program. This means that all Bachelors of Science in Nursing degrees are evaluated according to the same standards, regardless of the targeted student group the track is tailored to, or the course delivery methods.

A clinical learning experience is required of all accredited Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree programs. However, a clinical rotation is not a requirement of an accredited RN-BSN program, as registered nurses have already completed the clinical requirements through completing the clinical rotation requirements in their associate's degree program.

Many universities with Online RN-BSN programs offer condensed, 5-week classes.

Some (typically public, brick-and-mortar) universities have geographic restrictions on who may enroll in the Online RN-BSN course; some universities also charge out-of-state tuition to those students who do not live in the same state as the university; however, many universities do not have a geographic restriction, and charge one rate for tuition—regardless of the student's state or country of residency.

INFORMATION FOR EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF ONLINE RN-BSN PROGRAMS

The following characteristics are used throughout the report to evaluate the quality of an Online RN-BSN program.

Clinical education component

It is our hypothesis that a stronger clinical education requirement for the Online RN-BSN program is indicative of a higher-quality program, with stricter academic requirements, and will ultimately benefit the nurse and the
health care site where they are employed

**College credit offered for professional experience**

It is our hypothesis that a college/university that is willing to award academic credit for previous work experience—specifically for nursing courses—may have less stringent academic requirements than a college/university that does not award academic credit for previous work experience.

**Accreditation**

It is our hypothesis that an accredited program will provide the greatest educational and professional flexibility for the nurse, after graduation.

**Cost of tuition**

It is our hypothesis that cost should play a factor in the pursuit of a bachelor’s degree—while cost can often times be indicative of a more prestigious or higher-quality program, we believe that this is not the rule, and that cost should be a determining factor when creating a list of recommended programs.

**CLINICAL EDUCATION IN ONLINE RN-BSN PROGRAMS**

After conducting a web-based search and evaluation of the clinical education requirements of Online RN-BSN programs, it appears that no trend exists between certain types of universities, and their clinical education requirements. Public, private/nonprofit, and for-profit universities all vary in the clinical education requirements for degree completion. See Table 1 in the Appendix for the findings from the web-based search.

As Table 1 illustrates, many colleges require at least one clinical rotation course, often to fulfill community and leadership requirements. Other programs choose to fulfill the clinical education requirement by having students either complete class projects that require spending time in a clinical setting or draw upon current employment experiences when completing classroom assignments.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2012) produced a white paper, titled “Expectations for Practice Experiences in the RN to Baccalaureate Curriculum.” In this paper, they describe the type of clinical experiences that students in RN-BSN programs should engage in. However, neither the AACN nor the CCNE provide any recommendations regarding the minimum number of clinical hours that should be required for graduation, nor does either recommend requiring clinical rotation courses.

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (phone conversation, 2013) requires clinical learning experiences in all baccalaureate-level nursing programs. The section of their accreditation standards that touches on this...
subject, reads as follows:

### III-E. The curriculum includes planned clinical practice experiences that:

- Enable students to integrate new knowledge and demonstrate attainment of program outcomes; and  
- Are evaluated by faculty.

**Elaboration:** To prepare students for a practice profession, each track in each degree program and post-graduate APRN certificate program affords students the opportunity to develop professional competencies in practice settings aligned to the educational preparation. Clinical practice experiences are provided for students in all programs, including those with distance education offerings. Clinical practice experiences involve activities that are designed to ensure students are competent to enter nursing practice at the level indicated by the degree/certificate program. The design, implementation, and evaluation of clinical practice experiences are aligned to student and program outcomes.

Regarding clinical experiences in baccalaureate-level programs, the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing’s accreditation standards read as follows (2013):

4.10 Students participate in clinical experiences that are evidence-based and reflect contemporary practice and nationally established patient health and safety goals.

Many ACEN-accredited Online RN-BSN programs do not have a clinical rotation requirement, as the clinical education components required for accreditation are fulfilled during the nurse’s associates degree-level training (University of Michigan-Flint, Phone Conversation, 2013).

## COLLEGE CREDIT OFFERED FOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

College credit, based on prior knowledge and/or experience, is often offered by colleges and universities in a number of different ways. Two of these methods for issuing college credit based on prior (non-academic) learning include credit by examination, and prior learning assessment. These are discussed in the sections below.

See Table 2 in the Appendix, for a list of the results of our search regarding academic credit awarded for prior knowledge and experience.

### Credit by Examination

Colleges and universities routinely award credits to students through an exam that tests the student’s mastery of the material contained within a specific college course—these tests correspond to different courses, depending on the university. Examples of these exams include the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DSST). The maximum number of academic credits...
covered by credit by examination varies widely by school.

Credit by examination is a commonly adopted practice by many colleges and universities. This process allows students to earn college credit for courses where they may have sufficient knowledge and understanding, and provides a standardized way of allowing students to exhibit their knowledge. Independent, third party testing companies often develop standardized tests that can be administered by colleges and universities. Other times, colleges and universities may develop their own examinations, should they want to offer college credit by examination, but a test that suits the needs of the organization is not available.

The fees for credit by examination typically cost between $95 and $395 (Hopkins, 2012). Costs are often based on the number of credits the student is seeking to fulfill by successfully passing the examination. For instance, students at Pennsylvania State University pay $30-per-credit to take an examination for credit (PSU, 2013).

Through our research, we did not find any common trends between the colleges and universities, regarding their policies on credit by examination.

The University of Phoenix (2013) offers credit by examination for general education and elective courses, but not for core nursing coursework.

Prior Learning Assessment

According to the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (2013):

*Prior Learning Assessment is a term used to describe learning gained outside a traditional academic environment. Put another way, it’s learning and knowledge...students acquire while living their lives: working, participating in employer training programs, serving in the military, studying independently, volunteering or doing community service, and studying open source courseware. In short, PLA is the evaluation and assessment of an individual’s life learning for college credit, certification, or advanced standing toward further education or training."

Many universities only offer this option to veterans.

No common trend appears to exist between certain types of universities and whether or not they offer college credits through prior learning assessments. However, we found that nursing credits awarded through prior learning assessment are a rare occurrence. It is atypical for students to earn credit for 300- or 400-level nursing courses based on the knowledge they have acquired through professional experience. A few exceptions exist (Kent State University), but generally colleges and universities do not allow students to test out of courses in the nursing major’s core curriculum.

Students who are admitted to Online RN-BSN programs typically receive generally, colleges and universities do not allow students to test out of courses in the nursing major’s core curriculum.
college credit that reflects their previous coursework and professional experience. The number of credits can vary widely, depending on where the student completed their previous coursework, what classes they took during their pursuit of an associate’s degree, and whether or not they took any college courses after receiving their associate’s degree, and beginning the Online RN-BSN program. Experiential learning is typically counted in the credits that newly admitted students receive, once they have been admitted to the Online RN-BSN program.

Old Dominion University offers Credit by Examination, as well as an Experiential Learning and Testing program. It is not unusual for universities to offer these services; specifically to veterans who may have significant experience through military service (Old Dominion University is located in Norfolk, VA, which has a large military/veteran presence and population).

The University of Phoenix has a Prior Learning Assessment process that allows students to submit a portfolio for review, to receive academic credit for elective, interdisciplinary and/or general education courses. The cost of the review process is a one-time fee of $150. Should the faculty members responsible for the review determine that the student is eligible to receive academic credit; the cost of receiving that credit is $75 per credit hour. Students may not use this process to receive credit for nursing courses.

Indiana University’s School of Nursing (2013) offers a “portfolio option,” for “students who believe they meet the outcomes of specific courses through prior learning and/or professional nursing experience.”

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (2013) is open to the possibility of fulfilling the “other culture” requirement based on prior experience living or traveling in a foreign country. However, they indicate that “work experience is included in the initial 57-60 credits you are awarded for completing an Associate Degree or Diploma program.” This means that they will not award any additional credits for work experience beyond credits that may be transferred from the completion of a diploma program or associates degree.

Michigan State University (2013) automatically grants 30 credits to new students, for having passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

**Transferring Credits from Previous Coursework**

Transferring credits from prior coursework completed community colleges/diploma programs depends upon a number of factors:

1. Does the college or university, with the RN-BSN program, have an articulation agreement with the institution where the student earned their previous degree?

2. If no articulation agreement exists, will credits transfer?

3. When was the degree completed?
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4. Does the college/university only accept credits from accredited programs?

An articulation agreement between colleges and universities quickly gives students a way of understanding which of their previous credits are instantly approved for credit at the four-year institution where the BSN completion degree will be pursued. For an example of a very effective, user-friendly website where students may determine which credits do or do not transfer, visit Michigan State University's “Transfer MSU” website (transfer.msu.edu).

Michigan State University does not have articulation agreements with all colleges and universities across the country. They elaborate, “Michigan State’s transfer credit evaluators add courses to the Transfer MSU searchable credit equivalency system as they are reviewed. If you do not see your course or institution listed, that does not mean you will not receive credit. It simply means your course, or a course from your institution, has yet to be reviewed by an MSU transfer credit evaluator.”

According to Michigan State University (phone conversation, 2013), faculty within the Nursing Department evaluate a student's transcript to determine how many credits should be granted, and which courses will or will not transfer. Those courses that do not transfer based on an articulation agreement are reviewed by the nursing department on a case-by-case basis. Since evaluating all courses from all colleges and universities across the country is a daunting (and likely impossible) task, individual assessment of courses is a normal way of evaluating whether or not credits will transfer. This process seems to be in line with all of the other colleges and universities we have examined. Students are normally requested to submit a course syllabus, which will allow the university faculty to assess the knowledge the student acquired through completion of the course.

The University of Phoenix has articulation agreements with nationwide corporations. In-house training sessions at these corporations may be assessed as college-level coursework, and students may receive academic credit for participating in these trainings. After examination of this program, it does not appear that students are able to fulfill core nursing coursework through these trainings. Instead, this process usually awards credits towards elective courses.

Colleges and Universities sometimes have strong articulation agreements with regional community colleges. For example, every nursing course taken at Charles Mott Community College (Flint) will successfully transfer to the University of Michigan-Flint nursing program, indicating that both colleges have expressed an interest in creating a professional development “bridge” from one college to the other.

College credits do not “expire” or have a lifespan. However, certain college credits will not transfer several years after the course was taken. This usually occurs when the content delivered in the course is outdated (one key major where this happens with frequency is Computer Science). As scientific knowledge changes and expands, it is possible that some nursing credits will not transfer, or will only count as elective courses. However, this is heavily
dependent upon how long ago the course was taken, and the general nature of the course. If a course equivalency does not already exist at the university, nursing department at Michigan State University analyzes an Online RN-BSN student's courses to determine whether or not the student will receive credit for each course they take. Often times, a syllabus is required to assess the subject matter and difficulty of the course. General education credits (English, History, science prerequisites, etc.) ordinarily do not have a lifespan, and should transfer.

It may be worthwhile to examine how many transfer credits a college/university will accept, in the context of where a nurse received their associate’s degree. For example, NURS 160 (Acute Nursing Care) at Lansing Community College—a core nursing course, required for graduation—will transfer to Ferris State University, the University of Phoenix, and Eastern Michigan University. However, that course does not transfer to Michigan State University or Hope College (the course is not listed in the transfer equivalency section of the University of Michigan-Flint's website). The other option would be for nurses to present their community college transcript to several universities, and identify which ones are most favorable to accepting credits that they completed during the pursuit of their associate's degree.

ACCREDITATION

According to Jacksonville University (2013):

*High-quality patient care depends on properly trained and educated nursing staff. For licensed and registered nurses, that means graduating from an accredited nursing degree program. Accreditation assures employers and patients that a nurse’s education meets certain standards required for licensing. It also signifies that a licensed practical nurse (LPN), registered nurse (RN) or nurse practitioner (NP) has received adequate training and preparation to work within a clinical setting.*

According to the American Dental Education Association (2011), consequences of attending a non-accredited school include not finding a job in the profession, not able to attend graduate school, wasting time and money, and challenges repaying student loans.

The two nationally recognized accreditation programs for colleges of nursing are the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (formerly the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission), which accredits all types of nursing education programs, and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), which accredits baccalaureate and master’s-level degrees.

All of the nursing programs examined in this paper (with the exception of Bellevue University) are accredited by one or both of these accrediting bodies. The vast majority of these colleges and universities are accredited by CCNE. Only two are accredited by ACEN (Indiana University—which is also accredited by CCNE—and Anna Maria College).
Students who become enrolled in an Online RN-BSN program are generally awarded a significant number of transfer credits that correspond to the completion of an associate's degree. According to Michigan State University (2013), “[A] maximum of 60 credits may be transferred from a community college. All transfer credits must be evaluated and approved by the University.”

Accreditation does not automatically guarantee that credits will transfer. For instance, several nursing courses completed at the University of Phoenix (a CCNE-accredited program) will not transfer to Michigan State University (another CCNE-accredited program). Additionally, possession of an associate's degree from an ACEN-accredited school of nursing does not appear to create a minimum number of credits that will automatically transfer to another accredited college of nursing.

Because health care organizations value the standards set through accreditation so strongly, it seems that a vast majority of nursing programs throughout the country are either ACEN or CCNE-accredited—or, they are seeking accreditation (for example, Southern New Hampshire University is seeking CCNE-accreditation for their Online RN-BSN program). All of the associates-degree nursing programs at community colleges in Michigan are accredited by ACEN (ACEN, 2013) and all of the Online RN-BSN programs offered by Michigan's public universities are accredited by either ACEN or CCNE.

See Table 3 in the Appendix for the list of Accredited Colleges of Nursing in the State of Michigan.

**COST OF TUITION AND ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

In order to provide fair comparisons of the cost of attending different colleges and universities, we compiled the institution's cost per credit hour, specifically for the Online RN-BSN program. See Table 1 in the Appendix for a comparison of tuition at each institution.

All private (both nonprofit and for-profit) colleges and universities offer one tuition rate, regardless of residency. This practice aligns with the tuition rates charged by schools for in-class education, and other degree tracks. Most public colleges and universities offer tuition rates based on residency requirements—with non-resident tuition rates often being more than three times as much as resident tuition rates. For certain universities (e.g. Michigan State University, Kent State University, and University of Michigan-Flint), the price difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition is relatively negligible (less than $50 per credit hour).

Certain public colleges and universities offer one rate of tuition for online degree program tracks, regardless of residency (e.g. Arizona State University, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, and Old Dominion University).
We believe that cost should be considered when creating a list of preferred online RN-BSN programs. Health care sites should be economical in the way that they finance nurses to receive baccalaureate degrees, to maximize the proportion of their workforce that is bachelor-degree trained.

It is critical for health care administrators and professionals to consider the cost of acquiring a bachelor’s degree in their overall budget available to improve patient care in part with nurses that enrich their critical thinking skills and technical competence.

It is generally accepted that colleges and universities with higher admissions requirements feature more rigorous coursework. Many of the colleges and universities require a relatively low academic threshold for acceptance (minimum of 2.0/4.0 GPA, or no GPA requirement), while relatively few require a higher threshold for acceptance (Northeastern University requires a 3.0/4.0 GPA). Because so few colleges and universities require rigorous grade point average for acceptance, it is difficult to determine whether or not this indicates that Northeastern University’s program is more complex or difficult than any of the other universities. However, by setting higher admissions standards, it is clear that they aim to attract more academically-accomplished students.

**DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Our hypotheses regarding clinical education experiences in Online RN-BSN programs, as well as credit awarded due to prior knowledge/experience, cannot be proven based on the sample of online RN-BSN programs we evaluated. It may be valuable to consider that most of the nursing programs evaluated for the purposes of this paper are accredited by CCNE, who requires a clinical component for all accredited programs. Colleges and universities have flexibility in the ways they choose to fulfill the clinical requirement. Additionally, different student populations have different needs—therefore, some colleges have a more expansive program that awards credit based on prior knowledge and experience. Finally, health professionals, administrators, and educators may have biases and preconceived beliefs towards colleges and universities of certain types.

Accreditation should be a top priority for health administrators seeking to develop a list of preferred educational partners given the importance of quality assurance in the health care industry. Many hospitals and health care providers will not hire nurses who did not graduate from an accredited program, and credits from non-accredited programs are not likely to transfer or be considered if/when a nurse wishes to pursue a master’s degree.

Credit by examination and prior learning experience do not seem to be instrumental in the design of Online RN-BSN programs. It seems that most colleges and universities are reluctant to award credit for upper-level undergraduate courses (specifically those that are part of a major’s core curriculum) based on examinations or experiential learning. When credits...
are awarded based on prior knowledge and experience, it is typically used to fulfill elective or general education requirements—not core nursing coursework. Additionally, the number of credits that nurses receive as transfer students—upon being admitted to an Online RN-BSN program—can vary widely, according to where they received their first degree, the agreement that college may have with other colleges, and any coursework that may have been completed post-associates degree.

We believe that cost should be considered when creating a list of preferred Online RN-BSN programs. Health care sites should be economical in the way that they finance nurses to receive baccalaureate degrees, to maximize the proportion of their workforce that is bachelor-degree trained. Paying for a registered nurse to complete their baccalaureate degree can cost into the tens of thousands of dollars.

One area where programs varied widely was in their admissions standards—particularly the minimum grade point average the college/university required for admission to the program. These varied from no minimum GPA to a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 in previous coursework. Additionally, required experience varies from no work experience as a nurse, to at least two years of work experience as a registered nurse.

Further research will be required to determine whether or not higher admissions standards are indicative of a higher quality program. Additionally, it is possible that the determining factors of the quality of different programs lies within the quality of the instruction and online-classroom curriculum of the Online RN-BSN program.
REFERENCES


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of College or University</th>
<th>Type of College or University</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
<th>Clinical Education Requirement</th>
<th>In-State Tuition</th>
<th>Out-of-State Tuition</th>
<th>Admission Standards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Maria College</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing</td>
<td>&quot;There is no clinical time required in the UW RN/BSN completion program.&quot;</td>
<td>$1,320 per semester</td>
<td>$1,320 per semester</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;No clinical &quot;course,&quot; though some professors may elect to require students to complete a course-related activity in a clinical setting.&quot;</td>
<td>$543 per credit hour</td>
<td>$543 per credit hour</td>
<td>Active RN license in good standing to practice in the state or country in which the student is working. GPA of 2.5 is required for undergraduate course work. Pre-requisite courses require a grade of &quot;C&quot; or better. Non-Pathway students need 2.5 cumulative GPA. Currently practicing as a licensed RN OR a minimum of one year of practice as a licensed RN. (Verification form completed and signed by supervisor or employer.)</td>
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<td>Baker College</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>Clinical or externship experiences are based on site availability and determined by the Program Coordinator/Director/Dean of Health Sciences. Students are required to have reliable transportation to and from the assigned clinical location.</td>
<td>$240 per credit hour</td>
<td>$240 per credit hour</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>Bellevue University (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>&quot;Our RN to BSN degree completion program is designed for working professionals who need to juggle family and career obligations. That's why it is 100% online with NO clinicals.&quot;</td>
<td>$375 per credit hour</td>
<td>$375 per credit hour</td>
<td>Program Specific Admission Requirements (In addition to Bellevue University requirements for admission): A current unrestricted RN license to practice in a US state (International applicants must validate credentials with the Commission of Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools before applying for a license.) Currently practicing as a licensed RN OR a minimum of one year of practice as a licensed RN. (Verification form completed and signed by supervisor or employer.) Copy of all transcripts on file and documenting an earned grade of &quot;C&quot; or higher in the following prerequisite courses: Anatomy &amp; Physiology I &amp; II (3 semester credits or equivalent), Anatomy &amp; Physiology III (3 semester credits or equivalent), Statistics (3 semester credits or equivalent), Nursing Research (3 semester credits or equivalent), Health Assessment (3 semester credits or equivalent), Pathophysiology (3 semester credits or equivalent), Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology (3 semester credits or equivalent), Chemistry (3 semester credits or equivalent), or higher math(3 semester credits or equivalent), A&amp;P I &amp; II (8 semester credits or equivalent), Social Science Course (Psychology, Sociology, or Anthropology) (3 semester credits or equivalent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham University (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>To enable nursing students to complete the necessary clinical experiences, Chatham requires students to complete a self-directed clinical placement process.</td>
<td>$759 per credit hour</td>
<td>$759 per credit hour</td>
<td>Applicant must: Provide RN license number and a copy of current license. Submit official transcripts from all institutions attended. Complete online application without fee at apply.chatham.edu/ccps.</td>
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<td>Cumberland University (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;Instead of a traditional clinical education, you conveniently complete course projects in your own workplace and community.&quot;</td>
<td>$425 per credit hour</td>
<td>$425 per credit hour</td>
<td>Nursing diploma or AS degree in nursing (regionally or nationally accredited) 2.0 GPA Currently employed as an RN (with exceptions) 2 years of work experience as an RN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drexel University (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;Drexel's RN-BSN program has a course, NURS 375-Nurses Building a Healthy Community, which requires a clinical component to be completed offline. Students must complete a total of 40 hours of clinical time on-site plus any online coursework associated with the field experience.&quot;</td>
<td>$591 per credit hour</td>
<td>$591 per credit hour</td>
<td>A completed application Associates degree or diploma in nursing College GPA of 2.0 or above Current, unrestricted U.S. RN licensure Your application will be reviewed prior to taking the NCLEX exam, but in order to begin the program you must have an active license License verification from your nursing license registry website is acceptable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana University-Bloomington (2017)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing</td>
<td>Three Clinical Projects are required for program completion · S475: Multisystem Approach to the Health of the Community · S483: Nursing Practice Capstone · S487: Nursing Management</td>
<td>$273.40 per credit hour</td>
<td>$943.75 per credit hour</td>
<td>To be eligible to apply to the RN-BSN Mobility Program, students must: Be admitted to Indiana University as a degree-seeking student. Have a current, unrestricted RN license Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or above. A grade of C or above must be obtained by the second attempt. Students may take a required course only twice. Comply with immunization requirements. Failure to meet immunization requirements will prevent participation in the program. Lack of participation could constitute a program failure. Provide proof of CPR, Insurance coverage and licensure.</td>
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<td>Kaplan University</td>
<td>For-Profit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>“This online nursing program features a capstone in nursing, completed in your community with the guidance of expert faculty. The capstone allows you to apply what you've learned online to a real-world setting.”</td>
<td>$315 per credit hour</td>
<td>$315 per credit hour</td>
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<td>Kent State University</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>No clinical rotation requirement, however papers/projects need to be completed regarding current employment</td>
<td>$440 per credit hour</td>
<td>$450 per credit hour</td>
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<td>Linfield College (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>Each RN-BSN student will carry out a clinical experience in NURS 475 Integrated Experiential Learning IV, tailored to your learning and professional needs.</td>
<td>$435 per credit hour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>There is a total of 117 clinical hours students will complete under the guidance of a preceptor who has a minimum of a BSN. Hours are flexible and can be planned with preceptor. Students may do their clinicals where they are employed. They may not do clinicals on the same unit where they practice.</td>
<td>$545.25 per credit hour</td>
<td>$570.25 per credit hour</td>
<td>Submission of a University application (transfer students only). Completion of a diploma or Associate Degree in Nursing with a cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 or higher. Active and unrestricted RN license to practice without probationary status. Completion of University required coursework and of Nursing prerequisite courses outlined below. A grade of 2.0 or higher in each science prerequisite course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern University (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>For clinicals, the program uses a preceptor clinical model that emphasizes clinical competency while preparing the students for leadership and advancement. Clinical hours with a nurse leader in a community or public health setting are required.</td>
<td>$675 per credit hour</td>
<td>$675 per credit hour</td>
<td>Northeastern University seeks applicants who possess the academic and personal potential to complete a highly rigorous course of study. The following are the initial eligibility requirements for admission to the program: Valid, unrestricted Registered Nurse (RN) license for the state in which clinicals will be completed. An Associate’s Degree or Diploma in Nursing from a regionally accredited school in the United States (International credits are not accepted) Minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.0 Successful completion of the listed prerequisites with grade C or higher* Minimum 83 units of credit earned Prerequisite Courses (with credits): Health Assessment (3), Anatomy &amp; Physiology I with Lab (4), Microbiology (3), Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology (4), Psychology 203S, Sociology 201S, Statistics 130M, History perspective, Philosophy perspective, Fine Arts perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Dominion University</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>No clinical &quot;course,&quot; though some professors may require students to complete a course-related activity in a clinical setting.</td>
<td>$285 per credit hour</td>
<td>$285 per credit hour</td>
<td>Living in Virginia, but without Virginia domicile: $807 per credit hour For this program, you must currently hold licensure as a Registered Nurse and be accepted into ODU as a degree-seeking student. For admission the successful RN&gt;BSN applicant must have completed: English 110C, English 211C, Literature perspective, Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology [Biology 250 &amp; 251], <strong>Bacteriology or Microbiology [Biology 103]</strong>, <em>Chemistry [Chemistry 105/106N and 107/108N or 121/122N and 123/124N]</em>, Psychology 203S, Sociology 201S, Statistics 130M, Foreign Language [6 credits unless exempt], History perspective, Philosophy perspective, Fine Arts perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of College or University</td>
<td>Type of College or University</td>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Clinical Education Requirement</td>
<td>In-State Tuition</td>
<td>Out-of-State Tuition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Louis University (2013)</td>
<td>Private/Nonprofit</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;Unique features of this online RN to BSN program include…no clinical nursing courses required.&quot;</td>
<td>$1,260 per credit hour</td>
<td>$1,260 per credit hour</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Cincinnati (2013)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;The student will complete a community clinical in your local or geographic area.&quot;</td>
<td>$464 per credit hour</td>
<td>$479 per credit hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan-Flint (2013)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;As a CCNE accredited program, two clinical placements are required for this program. Your placement will require observation hours, but we have a Nursing Clinical Coordinator to assist you in establishing that placement in your local area.&quot;</td>
<td>$372 per credit hour</td>
<td>$414.50 per credit hour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Florida (2013)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;Coursework will be completely online, and students will participate in clinical activities in the community to fulfill accreditation standards and the requirements of a BSN from the University of North Florida.&quot;</td>
<td>$175 per credit hour</td>
<td>$655 per credit hour</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name of College or University</td>
<td>Type of College or University</td>
<td>Accreditation</td>
<td>Clinical Education Requirement</td>
<td>In-State Tuition</td>
<td>Out-of-State Tuition</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| University of Phoenix                        | For-Profit                     | Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education | Clinical hours required for the following courses:  
  - Healthy Communities: Theory and Practice (50)  
  - Epidemiology: Global and Public Health (50)  
  - Senior Practicum: Leadership and Management (25) | 100/200-level courses: $395 per credit hour  
  300/400-level courses: $510 per credit hour  
  Electronic materials fee: $95 per course | To enter the RN to Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program, you must:  
  - Have earned an associate degree from a regionally or nationally accredited institution of higher education.  
  - Have completed the following courses:  
    - Nutrition (5)  
    - Human Nutrition: Physiological Aspects (5)  
    - Public Health Nursing (5)  
    - Community Health Nursing (CHN) (11.5) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of College or University</th>
<th>Type of College or University</th>
<th>Accreditation</th>
<th>Clinical Education Requirement</th>
<th>In-State Tuition</th>
<th>Out-of-State Tuition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Wyoming (2013)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;There is no clinical time required in the UW RN/BSN completion program.&quot;</td>
<td>$108 per credit hour</td>
<td>$152 per credit hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Carolina University (2013)</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education</td>
<td>&quot;Students are required to complete two clinical course rotations. Clinical requirements may be met in your local area with approval from clinical instructors.&quot;</td>
<td>$144.12 per credit hour</td>
<td>$468.35 per credit hour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Admissions Standards
- **University of Wyoming (2013)**
  - All students are required to complete the following USP courses prior to RN/BSN admission:
    - Quantitative Reasoning 1 (QA) [e.g., college algebra]
    - Writing 1 (WA)
    - Writing 2 (WB)
- **Western Carolina University (2013)**
  - The following criteria are all required for admission to the RN to BSN Program:
    - A current, unrestricted license to practice as an RN (including the state where the clinical requirements will be satisfied).
    - Completion of all WCU Liberal Studies* and School of Nursing Prerequisites Courses with a C or better.
    - Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher at time of application.
    - Completion of 60 transferable non-nursing courses before the program begins.
    - Submission of the WCU Office of Admissions Application For Admissions along with all official transcripts by the application deadline.
    - Submission of the RN to BSN Application Packet along with all official transcripts by the application deadline.

*Note: Applicants who are not WCU students are encouraged to complete these requirements before applying to the program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/University</th>
<th>Offers Credit by Exam for Upper-Level Nursing Courses</th>
<th>Offers Credit through Prior Learning Assessment for Nursing Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anna Maria College (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not clear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker College</td>
<td>Rare for 300 or 400-level courses</td>
<td>Could be allowed to be exempt from one course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue University (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chatham University (2013)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland University (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Unclear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drexel University (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana University-Bloomington</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaplan University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent State University</td>
<td>Yes (certain courses)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linfield College (2013)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeastern University (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Dominion University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, but it's not common for 300 or 400-level courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Louis University (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Cincinnati (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan-Flint</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of North Florida (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Phoenix (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wyoming (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Carolina University (2013)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# ACCREDITED COLLEGES OF NURSING IN MICHIGAN

*Indicates a college/university with an online RN-BSN program

## CCNE
- Baker College (Flint)*
- Calvin College (Grand Rapids)
- Eastern Michigan University (Ypsilanti)*
- Finlandia University (Hancock)*
- Grand Valley State University (Grand Rapids)
- Hope College (Holland)*
- Madonna University (Livonia)
- Michigan State University (East Lansing)*
- Northern Michigan University (Marquette)
- Oakland University (Rochester)
- Robert B. Miller College (Battle Creek)
- Rochester College (Rochester Hills)
- Saginaw Valley State University (University Center)*
- Siena Heights (Adrian)
- Spring Arbor (Spring Arbor)
- University of Detroit-Mercy (Detroit)
- University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (Ann Arbor)
- University of Michigan-Flint (Flint)*
- Wayne State University (Detroit)
- Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo)*

## ACEN
- Andrews University (Berrien Springs)*
- Davenport University (Grand Rapids)*
- Ferris State University (Big Rapids)*
- Lake Superior State University (Sault Ste. Marie)*