

RN-to-BSN Framework - South Texas College

What is a BSN?

BSN stands for Bachelor of Science in Nursing. South Texas College has a one year, 3 semester hybrid (online and classroom) RN-to-BSN program. The program is designed to respond to the increased demand for baccalaureate-prepared nurses in Hidalgo and Starr counties by providing applicants who already possess a current, unencumbered RN License to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License, increased access to a BSN degree. The program focuses on advancing competencies, skills, and values needed to meet the demands of the current healthcare system.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html>

Below is a small chart that briefly outlines a broad question pertaining to the nursing field, specifically the RN-to-BSN program. The information is organized in a way that allows the educator to introduce information to the student in *small, appropriate increments* by grade level.

Programs and Professions in Nursing			
What degree can the student get in the nursing field?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursing Introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Types of schools to obtain certificate/degree at 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job responsibilities ● Job statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pay ○ Job growth

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The first level would be the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), then the Associate’s Degree in Nursing (ADN), followed by a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing (BSN), Master’s of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctorate in Nursing (DNP). Each one of these levels takes different amounts of time to obtain, and have very different job opportunities and responsibilities.

<https://nursejournal.org/articles/types-of-nursing-degrees/>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What are the types of schools the student can attend?**
 - Technical schools
 - Technical schools, also known as “vocational schools” offer targeted, shorter instruction at a lower tuition, or cost depending on the school, leading to a certificate or an associate’s degree. Many technical schools in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.
<https://scitexas.edu/technical-school/>
 - Community College
 - A community college is an institution that offers short term certificates, two year Associate degrees, and sometimes Bachelor degrees. Associate degrees transfer and often lead to four year degrees at partnering universities. Many community colleges in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. They typically offer less expensive education than four year universities. Most community colleges have open enrollment, meaning there are very few requirements for admission.
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2012/03/what-is-community-college>
 - College
 - A college is a four year institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study. These degrees can lead to graduate or professional school. Colleges may have open enrollment or may have strict admission requirements.
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>
 - University
 - A University is a four year institution that offers many different degrees through multiple “colleges” located on the same campus. Typically a university may have a “College of Education” or a “College of Health Sciences”. Universities also usually offer graduate (Master’s, Doctorates) and professional degrees. Typically, universities have strict admission requirements that include grades, placements tests, and admissions tests like the SAT/ACT.

<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **Where can a student work with a BSN degree?**

- Hospitals
- Physician's Offices
- Home Health Care Services
- Community Care Facilities
- Insurance Carriers
- Schools, Colleges, Universities

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/7-bsn-jobs-available-now-dont-wait-for-the-mandate/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What responsibilities does a BSN Nurse have?**

- Examining patients and speaking with them about their symptoms and health histories in order to make critical decisions about their care
- Deliver essential information and counsel with the goal of improving health
- Play a key role in medication and treatment delivery
- Perform essential research
- Collaborate with other health care professionals to ensure a high quality of patient care through the creation of quality assurance standards. <https://nurse.org/education/bsn-degree/>

- **How much does a BSN Nurse earn?**

- The median pay for a BSN nurse is about \$34.48 per hour - \$71,730 per year.

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

- **What is the projected job growth of a BSN Nurse?**

- The projected job growth is 12%. The government expects to have 371,500 jobs available by 2028.

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

Academic Pathway			
What coursework should be taken to become a nurse?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual Enrollment • GPA Relevancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual v. AP Coursework • Transferability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required GPA

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is dual enrollment?**

- The term dual enrollment refers to students being enrolled—concurrently—in two academic programs or institutions. The term is used in reference to high school students taking college courses while they are still enrolled in high school (i.e., a *dual-enrollment student*), or to the programs that allow high school students to take college-level courses (i.e., a *dual-enrollment program*). For this reason, the term *early college* is a common synonym for dual enrollment.

<https://www.edglossary.org/dual-enrollment/>

- The student needs to be aware that the grades they receive in any dual or concurrent enrollment courses will stay with them throughout their college career. These grades will be averaged into their overall college GPA.

- **Is high school coursework relevant to the nursing field?**

- The student might not realize it, but preparing for a future career starts in high school (or even earlier). For example, did you know that nurses use algebra when calculating medication dosages? What the student learns in high school builds the foundation for their college education and career. If a student is considering nursing, they should take classes *now* that will prepare them for college *later*.

<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- **Does high school GPA matter?**

- Most BSN programs often set the minimum GPA at 3.0. ADN programs are more likely to set the minimum somewhere in the 2.0 to 2.75 range. Grades in prerequisite courses may be considered separately. *These are minimum requirements and **to be competitive, the student should aim much higher**. When interest exceeds available spots, grades are often an important factor. [Getting-into-a-nursing-program.html](http://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/)

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What are examples of courses to take in high school to best prepare for nursing school applications?**

<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Physics
 - Algebra
 - Geometry
 - Psychology
 - Speech
 - Foreign Language
 - Health courses
- **What other coursework should be taken for the BSN program?**
 - HIST 1301 or HIST 2327 United States History I or Mexican-American History
 - HIST 1302 or HIST 2328 United States History II or Mexican-American History II
 - GOVT 2305 Federal Government
 - GOVT 2306 Texas Government
 - PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314 General Psychology or Lifespan Growth and Development
 - MATH 1442 Elementary Statistical Methods

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/files/Prospective-Student-Guide-RN-BSN.pdf>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What is the difference between AP and Dual Enrollment?**

- Dual enrollment courses allow students to get early access to college courses. AP courses are different because they only result in college credit if a student earns a particular score on the AP exam at the end of the course, and if the college that the student enrolls in, accepts AP scores as course credit. This means students who complete a dual enrollment program have a college transcript at the end of their high school career and can enroll directly into that college or transfer these courses if they move to another institution. AP courses on the other hand result in an AP score that can be submitted to a college. The college can then decide if the score will amount to any college credit.

<https://blog.ed.gov/2019/07/burning-questions-dual-enrollment-answered/>

- **Will Dual Enrollment coursework transfer to all colleges and universities?**

- Academic dual credit can be applied toward the core curriculum or to other specific degree program requirements of an academic associate degree or baccalaureate degree. Students who want more information about the transferability of their dual credit courses should seek guidance from an advisor at the institution offering the dual credit.

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/institutional-resources-programs/public-community-technical-state-colleges/transfer-resources/dual-credit-initiatives/>

- If the student has course credit from South Texas College, they may check if a course will transfer to a college or university in Texas at www.tccns.org. For information regarding transferability of courses to institutions *outside* of Texas, students should check with the institution receiving the credit.

<https://www.southtexascollege.edu/dual/faqs.html>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What GPA does the student need in order to apply?**

- Conferred Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing (AAS-ADN) ▪ with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Completed Core Curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher

Admissions			
What does the student need in order to apply for the BSN program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce BSN • Job Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE Courses • License Renewal

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is a BSN?**

- A BSN is a bachelor of science in nursing degree and, along the traditional route, is a four-year program for students who seek to become a registered nurse. The RN-to-BSN program is specifically designed for those who want to obtain a BSN degree, but are already a working Registered Nurse (RN) and have an Associate Degree in Nursing. Many RNs will enroll in BSN programs to further their education in the nursing field. Those who obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree are more likely to be hired for many nursing vacancies over those who only have an associates degree, especially those who apply to work in hospitals.

<https://www.gmercyu.edu/academics/learn/rn-vs-bsn>

- **What jobs can a student get with a BSN?**

- **Registered Nurse at a Hospital**

- Legal mandate or not, more and more hospitals are already requiring RNs to have a BSN. Hospitals also continue to be the largest employers of nurses. There are pros and cons to working in a hospital, but the nurses who do, typically tend to work in an area of specialization, such as pediatrics, intensive care or emergency.
- If the student is an aspiring nurse who hopes to work at a hospital, earning a BSN may increase their hiring potential. They can also choose what area of the hospital they would like to work in, similar to the ones listed below:
 - NICU Nurse
 - Trauma Nurse
 - Surgical Nurse

- Pediatric Nurse
- ICU Nurse
- OB/GYN Nurse

■ **Clinical Nurse Specialists**

- Clinical nurse specialists are a category of advanced nursing professionals who use their specific expertise in an area (i.e., pediatrics, oncology or critical care) to care for patients. Depending on state law, clinical nursing specialists can have an expanded scope of practice and may be able to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment.
- If the student has their sights set on eventually landing a clinical nursing specialist role, know that earning a BSN is only the first step. They'll also need to complete a graduate-level nursing program to be eligible.

■ **Nurse Manager**

- This leadership role in nursing is responsible for the overall operations of a nursing floor or unit. Most nurse managers work their way up from bedside care and then take on additional administrative duties as they reach a management role.
- This means nurse managers will need a strong blend of hands-on clinical skills and experience for training and development of staff, as well as an ability to manage the “business” side by understanding budgeting, human resources practices and strategic planning principles.

■ **Nursing Director**

- This senior-level role places an even greater level of emphasis on the management and administration side of nursing. Nursing directors are the high-level representatives for nurses at their hospital or other healthcare facilities as executive decisions are made.
- As someone might expect, the bar for qualifying for a nursing director position is high—a BSN with substantial leadership experience is a minimum, and most employers may prefer nurses with a master's degree to help round out their administrative and business proficiency.

■ **Nurse Educator**

- As a nurse educator, a degree above the level you are teaching is typically needed. In order to teach in a nursing

diploma program, a person would need a bachelor's degree. And for those looking to teach BSN nurses, a Master's of Science in Nursing would be preferred. If the student is passionate about the profession, becoming a nurse educator can be an extremely rewarding way to make an impression on the next generation of nurses.

- For those who are very passionate about their own nursing career, education can also be an excellent opportunity to pass on that passion to the next generation of nurses. There is also currently a major shortage of nursing faculty due to an aging workforce and increased competition with hospitals and other clinical sites, making the role of nurse educators even more critical.

■ **Clinical Research Nurse**

- Clinical research nurses (CRN) work with research patients during clinical trials of drugs or other medical treatments. This puts them in an exciting position to see potentially game-changing treatments in their early stages. CRNs are responsible for the patient safety, care coordination and documentation before, during and after any procedures. These specialized registered nurses may work for hospitals, specialized clinics or even pharmaceutical companies.
- BSN curriculum provides the foundational knowledge needed to become a CRN, with certification programs available to acquire more specialized skills.

■ **Public Health Nurse**

- Public health nurses care for entire populations rather than individual patients. Instead of waiting for patients to seek treatment, public health nurses go out into communities to advocate for lifestyle improvements and disease prevention. They often work through healthcare programs and government services to educate the community and improve access for individuals.

■ **Quality Assurance or Improvement Coordinator**

- One of the components of the Affordable Care Act is using ratings to improve quality care. Nurses have an interesting perspective on the measurement and analysis of this data because of their knowledge of working with patients. These individuals are responsible for ensuring the nursing staff are

in compliance with procedures in place to provide quality care. This is another opportunity for a student to make a positive and lasting impact on the industry.

- **Case Management Nurse**

- Case management nurses work primarily with patients dealing with long-term health issues like AIDS or cancer. This includes creating care plans designed to help coordinate several treatments across an extended period of time. Responsibilities can range from scheduling surgeries to advising the best course of action for the patient.

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/7-bsn-jobs-available-now-dont-wait-for-the-mandate/>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What is the RN-to-BSN program at South Texas College?**

- The RN-to-BSN Program is a one year, 3 semester program for ADN nurses who seek higher education. It focuses on advancing competencies, skills, and values needed to meet the demands of the current healthcare system.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the admission requirements for the program?**

- Hold a current, unencumbered *RN License* to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License
- Information Session Certificate of Completion
- Official transcripts that include the following:
 - Conferred Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing (AAS-ADN)
 - A cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
 - Completed Core Curriculum with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
- Personal letter of intent and curriculum vitae detailing academic career and professional experience
- Three letters of professional recommendation from faculty members or employers
- Official documentation of all required immunizations or proof of positive serology:
 - Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap): within the last 10 years

- Hepatitis B: 3 vaccine series is required or proof of positive serology
 - MMR: 2 doses are required or proof of positive serology
 - Varicella: 2 doses are required or positive serology
 - Meningitis (MCV4) for entering students under the age of 22: 1 dose is accepted if within the last 5 years or must have 2 completed doses
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- **Twelfth Grade**
 - **When and how often does a registered nurse have to renew their license?**
 - In Texas, registered nurses have to renew their license every two years. The renewal time could be different depending on which state the student moves to.
https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D
 - **Does a registered nurse have to take Continuing Education (CE) courses?**
 - For licensure renewal, registered nurses must complete 20 contact hours of continuing nursing education (CNE) in the nurse's area of practice OR demonstrate the achievement, maintenance, or renewal of a board-approved national nursing certification in the nurse's area of practice within the licensing period and meet the applicable targeted continuing education requirements.
https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D

Want to learn more? Visit the STC RN-to-BSN Page here:

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html>