

RN NURSING PATHWAYS

You want to become a Registered Nurse (RN)

You can obtain a:

Associate of Science Degree in Nursing

OR

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing

OR

Accelerated Nursing Programs

These programs are offered at community colleges and provide an efficient, economical pathway to becoming an RN. Graduates are prepared with the clinical competence & technical proficiency needed to practice in multiple settings. However, today's employers prefer the bachelor's prepared RN, and require this degree to secure long term employment and advancement.

These programs prepare graduates to practice across all health care settings & assume the widest variety of RN roles. These programs combine the clinical and technical skills of nursing with coursework in the physical & social sciences, research, public & community health, management & the humanities. A Bachelor's Degree in Nursing is the preferred qualification.

These programs are designed for students who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field of study. These programs are fast paced and run continuously. Accelerated baccalaureate programs take between 11-18 months to complete, while entry level master's degree programs take about 3 years. This may not include pre-requisite coursework.

Pass the NCLEX-RN Exam
(National Council Licensure Exam for Registered Nurses)

Start working as an RN!

After passing the NCLEX-RN Exam, Associate Degree RNs may complete their bachelor's degree in Nursing by enrolling in a RN Baccalaureate Completion Program. MSU offers this flexible, 100% online program, requiring 7 additional classes and the completion of the university's general education requirements. Enrolled students usually work part-time or full-time as RN professionals, and often receive tuition reimbursement from employers.

Exploring alternate nursing programs

- Visit the state board of nursing website for a list of professional program options.
- Determine program accreditation by either CCNE or ACEN.
- Study the application criteria to the nursing program.
- Review pre-requisite courses. Determine what is complete & remaining. Confirm.
- Learn what GPA is used for application and admission to the nursing program.
- Examine application process: exam, essay, interview, references, experiential hours?
- Check for application deadlines and total length of program.
- Learn how many students apply vs. how many are accepted each admission cycle.
- Understand what information is used to determine selective admission.
- Discover the admitted student profile-average GPA, points, test scores etc...
- Determine how you can become one of the selected applicants.