Congratulations on taking the first step toward earning a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Nursing and creating greater opportunities for you as a nurse.

1. **Why should I seek a BSN?**
   - Nurses choose to return to school for a BSN for a variety of reasons. A BSN may be required for particular roles or promotions. A BSN is a prerequisite for graduate study in preparation for advanced practice roles. A BSN from a university provides a general educational background similar to those of other professions. And perhaps most importantly, a baccalaureate degree is a matter of personal fulfillment for many nurses.

2. **What are the admission eligibility criteria for 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 course prerequisites with a C or better.
   - Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher.
   - Completion of 60 transferable non-nursing courses.
   - 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.

3. **How can I meet WCU’s “Liberal Studies” prerequisites?**
   - An approved previous baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university, OR
   - An approved Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree, OR
   - The 44 hour “general education” core degree from a North Carolina community college completed before WCU Enrollment, OR
   - Completing an approved transferable course for each Liberal Studies category.

4. **Is there a time limit on transfer of credit to WCU?**
   - No, transferable credits do not expire. WCU's Registrar's Office determines which courses are eligible for transfer.

5. **How many credits do I need for the BSN at WCU and how can I get them?**
   - 60 semester hours (not counting nursing courses) can be transferred from any accredited institution.
     - We suggest completing as many as possible from a community college.
   - 32 hours of upper-division (300-400 level) credits must be earned from WCU.
     - In our program, 24 of these hours are core required RN to BSN courses required and up to 8 hours are electives.
   - 30 hours of credit from your nursing program (awarded upon completion of NSG 399).
   - 122 semester hours needed to graduate.

6. **When can I begin the RN to BSN program?**
   - Students may enter the program in either August (Fall) or January (Spring).
   - Deadlines to apply are March 10th for the Fall semester, and September 10th for the Spring semester.

7. **How quickly can I earn the BSN at Western Carolina University?**
   - Students enrolled full-time can complete the program in as few as two semesters. Students enrolled part-time can complete the program within two years. Most follow the suggested 4 semester program of study.

8. **Is this program available via distance education?**
   - Yes, the entire RN to BSN Program is completed online.
   - The program is a blend of synchronous and asynchronous meetings.
   - The two clinical blocks require on-site clinical/practicums which can be arranged in your community.
9. **What days do nursing classes meet?**
   - Students log into a live, online classroom for synchronous activities required by some courses.
   - Clinical times are flexible and arranged with agencies and preceptors in your region.

10. **How do I prepare for an online degree program?**
    - Students need to have basic computer skills using Microsoft Word. Students are encouraged to take CIS 110 at a North Carolina Community College to gain those skills and elective credit.
    - As a primer for online learning, students must complete WCU’s online University Experience course. This learning tutorial is offered one week prior to the start of the regular semester. The one-time course introduces you to online student services, builds skills necessary for success in your distance learning program and creates a community of learners. You will receive more information about the University Experience in acceptance packet. No fees or credit are associated with this course.

11. **What are the required Nursing courses?** *(Each course within a block must be taken concurrently)*
    - **Block One:**
      - NSG 301, Professional Transitions in Nursing (3 credit hours)
      - NSG 398, APA Writing Skills and Format (1 credit hour)
      - NSG 399, Clinical Update for RNs (2 credit hours)
    - **Block Two:**
      - NSG 302, Community Health Nursing I: Theory (3 credit hours)
      - NSG 305, Community Health Nursing III: Intervention Project (1 credit hour)
      - NSG 384, Community Health Nursing II: Practicum (2 credit hours)
    - **Block Three:**
      - NSG 460, Nursing Leadership I: Theory (3 credit hours)
      - NSG 483, Nursing Leadership II: Practicum (2 credit hours)
      - NSG 484, Nursing Leadership III: Intervention Project (1 credit hours)
    - **Block Four:**
      - NSG 471, Nursing Research I: Research Process (2 credit hours)
      - NSG 472, Nursing Research II: Critical Reading (2 credit hours)
      - NSG 473, Nursing Research III: Clinical Application (2 credit hours)

12. **How many electives will I need?**
    - Students are required to take 8 hours of upper division (300-400 level) elective courses at WCU. Online electives are available year-round.
    - Students may take these elective courses simultaneously with their required nursing blocks.
    - Some students may be required to take an upper division Perspectives elective as 3 of the 8 required elective hours. Your faculty advisor will assist you in determining if this requirement applies to you.
    - Students pursuing the RN to MS(N) Early-Entry Option will take up to 8 hours of graduate-level electives in their final semester to satisfy the electives requirement and receive their BSN.

13. **What are the clinical requirements?**
    - Students are required to complete two clinical courses: Community Health Nursing and Nursing Leadership.
    - Clinical requirements for both courses can be satisfied at sites convenient to the student’s residence and typically require up to 60 hours of on-site experience per clinical course.
    - Students are responsible for identifying and establishing their preferred site and preceptor in the semesters prior to enrolling in the clinical courses.

14. **What are the costs?**
    - For current Distance Education tuition rates, please visit tuition.wcu.edu.
    - For in-state students, the current estimated cost of the program (tuition, books and fees) is $5400.
    - The cost of nursing textbooks is approximately $800. The WCU application fee is $55.
    - Additional fees include WCU professional malpractice insurance (approximately $20 per clinical block) and the graduation application fee (currently $60). Additional fees may apply; rates are subject to change.

15. **What if my plans include going on to graduate school?**
    - WCU offers the RN to MS(N) Early Entry Option for current WCU RN to BSN students.
    - To learn more, please visit rnmn.wcu.edu.

16. **I’ve decided that I want to pursue my BSN with WCU. What is my next step?**
    - The first step in determining your eligibility for enrollment is to do a transcript evaluation request.
    - To start this important step, go to RNtoBSNtranscript.wcu.edu.

Questions? Contact wcunursing@wcu.edu for more information.

*Thank you for considering Western Carolina University!*