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 practicum requirements will be satisfied).
   - Completion of all WCU Liberal Studies and School of Nursing course prerequisites with a C grade or better
   - Cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.5 or higher
   - Completion of 62 transferable non-nursing courses
   - Submission of the WCU Office of Distance Learning Application For Admissions along with all official transcripts by the application deadline
   - Submission of the RN to BSN Application Packet along with all transcripts by the application deadline

3. How can I meet WCU's "Liberal Studies" prerequisites?
   - An approved previous baccalaureate degree from a UNC state university, OR
   - An approved Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or AAS-Nursing + AAS-RN to BSN degree from a NC community college, 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.

5. How many credits do I need for the BSN at WCU and how can I get them?
   - 62 semester hours (not counting nursing courses) can be transferred from any accredited institution.
     - We suggest completing as many as possible from a community college.
     - 30 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?
   - Most students complete the program in only 4 continuous semesters following the suggested program of study.

8. Is this program available via distance education?
   - Yes, the entire RN to BSN Program coursework is completed online.
   - The program is a blend of synchronous and asynchronous meetings.
   - The two practicum blocks require on-site practicums/clinicals 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.
   - Practicum/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 will complete some online University Experience Assignments before their first class. It introduces students to online student services, builds skills necessary for success in your distance learning program and creates a community of learners. Students receive more information about the University Experience in Welcome Letter. 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: Professional Transitions in Nursing Block**
  - NSG 301, Professional Transitions in Nursing (3 credit hours)
  - NSG 398, APA Writing Skills and Format (1 credit hours)
  - NSG 399, Clinical Update for RNs (2 credit hours)

- **Block Two: Community Health Block**
  - 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: Leadership Block**
  - 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: Research Block**
  - 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 Upper Level Electives and Perspectives will I need?**

- Students are required to take 8 hours of upper division (300-400 level) elective (ULE) 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 1 of the 6 required elective hours. Your faculty advisor will assist you in determining if this requirement applies to you once you start the program.
- 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 practicum/clinical requirements?**

- Students are required to complete two practicum courses: Community Health Nursing and Nursing Leadership.
- Practicum requirements for both courses can be satisfied at sites convenient to the student's residence and typically require 60 hours of experience per practicum course with a maximum of 20 virtual practicum hours and a minimum of 40 onsite precepted hours.
- Students are responsible for identifying and establishing their preferred site and preceptor in the semesters prior to enrolling in the practicum courses.
- Students may be able to complete some of their practicum requirements at their place of employment. However, these cannot be precepted by their current supervisor or within the same department.

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 $3,500.
- The cost of nursing textbooks is approximately $800. The WCU application fee is $65.
- Additional fees include WCU professional malpractice insurance (approximately $20 per practicum 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 rnmson.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!*