

RN to BS Option Frequently Asked Questions

In what format are the nursing courses offered?

The RN to BS courses are offered on-line (85%) only. Students are required to make 1-2 visits to the main campus each semester of the program (depending on the course).

Will I be able to work while completing this program?

Yes, the RN to BS program is geared for working nurses. The classes are offered on a part-time format and are on-line to increase flexibility. Please keep in mind that there is extensive computer time required for an on-line program. To be successful, you must be able to manage your time between work and school and personal obligations.

What is the application procedure?

There is a 2-part application process. First, you must be admitted to the University. Second, you must complete an RN to BS nursing application and submit it to the School of Nursing along with a copy of your RN license. If you are currently finishing up your ADN program, then you do not have to submit a copy of the license. **After these two steps have been completed, your file will be considered for admission.**

When do the applications get reviewed?

Application review will begin February 1 for the following fall semester admission. Only completed application files will be reviewed for admission. Students that meet or exceed the admission requirements will be admitted on a rolling basis until the option is full. If space is available, applications will be reviewed until August 1.

Do I need an Illinois license?

Yes, you are required to have an unencumbered Illinois license. Students can enroll in the first semester of the program without an Illinois license, but it must be turned in before enrolling in the second semester of the program.

Do I have to be finished with my ADN program before I can apply?

No, you can apply to the RN to BS program even if you are currently finishing up an ADN or diploma program. On the nursing application, fill in the "Pending" section instead of listing your RN license number.

Are there any other admission requirements?

Yes, students must have an overall grade point average of 2.0/4.0 for all college courses.

Is there a deadline for admission into the program?

Yes, the deadline is **August 1** for fall admission.

How do I apply to the University?

You can apply on-line at www.siu.edu and click on Prospective Students. You can download the application and mail it in or fill it out on-line and submit it electronically. There is a \$30 fee that can also be paid on-line. Official transcripts from each college attended need to be sent in to the Admissions Office at Box 1047. Once all of these

materials are received in Admissions, you will be notified of your university admission in approximately 2 weeks. **Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the RN to BS program.**

When will I be notified of admission into the RN to BS program?

Admissions will begin in February and will continue until the program is full.

How many students are admitted into the RN to BS program?

We admit 50 students once a year in the fall semester on a rolling admissions basis.

After being accepted into the program, are there other requirements that I need to work on before the program starts?

Yes. All students in the nursing program must complete a federal background check, Missouri background check (no cost), drug screen, and turn in a physical exam with an immunization history. These are extra costs that the students pay. They are not included in your tuition and fees. A copy of a current CPR card and personal health insurance card is also required. Detailed information on these requirements is sent at the time of admission.

What is the bridge process?

University academic proficiency credit for lower-division nursing courses completed as part of the preparation for licensure program at another institution will be given to applicants who have completed their nursing course work within five years of acceptance into the SIUE School of Nursing RN to BS program. For applicants that have completed their nursing course work over five years prior to acceptance into the program, they are required to submit a portfolio of their professional work experience and continuing education. The portfolio will be reviewed by the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Programs. Applicants should contact the RN to BS program advisor for details. The proficiency credit is not applied to the student's transcript until successful completion of the SIUE School of Nursing upper-division [bridge courses] with a grade of "C" or better:

How long does the program take?

It takes 4 semesters on a part-time format to complete the nursing curriculum if you stay on track. Students can attend on a slower basis if they prefer. The program consists of 25 hours of nursing courses. Additional time may be required to complete general education requirements for the bachelor's degree.

Do I have to take the nursing courses in order?

Yes, there is a designated progression for the nursing courses. Some of the nursing courses are only offered once a year so if you get off track, it will take you longer to complete the courses.

Can I start enrolling in the RN to BS classes in any semester?

No, the RN to BS program starts every fall semester. If you are waiting to get into the program, it's a good idea to work on general education courses that you need for the degree.

How can I find out what general education courses I need for the bachelor's degree?

The best way to find out what general education courses you need is to get a copy of your transcript to the RN to BS advisor. The advisor will complete a worksheet for you to let you know what other requirements you still need. For this purpose, you can send an unofficial transcript by mail or fax. You should also include your address or phone number so that you can be contacted.

If I need additional general education courses, where can I take them?

You can transfer in general education courses from any accredited community college or university. It's important to check the courses with the RN to BS advisor before you enroll in them to make sure that they will transfer.

Can I take my general education courses on-line?

Yes, you can take on-line courses for your general education requirements and transfer them here. A good website to check for on-line courses is www.ivc.illinois.edu. This is the Illinois Virtual Campus website, and it will list on-line courses offered by Illinois universities and community colleges.

Is there a limit on how many hours I can transfer to SIUE?

No, you can transfer in as many hours as you like from a community college or university. Due to the way the program is designed, you will meet your university hours requirement for graduation through the nursing program credits (enrollment hours plus proficiency credits).

Is there a time limit on my transfer courses?

No, there is not a time limit on transferable courses.

Do I need to have the general education courses finished before I can start the RN to BS program?

No, you do not have to take all of the general education courses first, but it is recommended that you work on as many of these ahead of time as you can. Keep in mind, that these requirements must be completed before you can graduate. It is highly recommended that you complete English Composition I and II prior to starting the program since there are several writing assignments in the program.

Can the requirements change once I'm in the program?

No. Once you are admitted to the University and the School of Nursing and you remain a continuing student, you are locked into your curriculum. If you drop out of school for over one year and then decide to return, you may be required to complete any new requirements which are in place at the time of your return.

Will my nursing courses be accepted from my ADN/Diploma program?

Your ADN/diploma nursing courses are not accepted as direct transfer credits by the University. The School of Nursing awards university level proficiency credits in place of your prior nursing courses. Students are awarded 38-41 hours of proficiency credits. These will be placed on the transcript after completing the nursing bridge courses with a grade of "C" or better.

How much does the program cost?

With the current tuition and fees rates, the cost of the program is approximately \$6500. This total includes tuition, off-campus fees, a technology fee, and nursing fees.

Are off-campus fees different from on-campus fees?

Yes. On-campus fees are assessed per credit hour and include fees that are geared more for on-campus students. Off-campus fees are usually less. They are assessed per **COURSE**. The rate is \$177 per course. For example, if you are enrolled for 2 courses in a semester, then you will pay \$354 for the off-campus fees.

Does the University give credit for work experience?

No.

Can I test out of any of the nursing courses?

No.

Are there any clinicals required?

Yes, there is one course which includes a clinical component. The course is Nurs 475, Care of the Populations. This course is typically offered in the third semester of the program and focuses on county health department activities. You will need some minimal days off during this course for clinical activities.

Where are the clinical sites located?

We use clinical sites in central, southern, and southeastern Illinois. Students will be placed in an agency as close to home as possible depending on the space available at the clinical agency.

Who is the contact person for this program if I want to make an appointment?

The contact person is the RN to BS advisor. You can also discuss the program with the advisor via telephone or email. Contact information is listed below.

How do I register for a course?

Once you have been admitted to the program, you can contact the RN to BS advisor to get enrolled in your classes.

What is the contact information for the School of Nursing? Address, Fax, and Phone

The main number for the School of Nursing is (618) 650-3956 or 1-800-234-4844. The address is SIUE School of Nursing, Box 1066, Edwardsville, IL 62026. The fax number is (618) 650-3854.