

RN to BSN Completion in Wisconsin Pathways for Progression

Nurses should achieve higher levels of education through improved systems that promote seamless academic progression to reach 80% BSN by 2020.

Institute of Medicine (2011). *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*



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Wisconsin Center
for Nursing



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Academic-Practice Partnerships

Partnerships between schools of nursing and healthcare organizations are becoming more common in an effort to promote lifelong learning for nurses. These partnerships may share faculty and educational advisors to guide students through the degree completion process, and collaborate for improvements in curricula and clinical experiences.

ADN/BSN Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment allows students to enroll in both programs to take specific BSN level courses or general education courses while completing their ADN degree. These classes are then accepted for credit as the student transfers to the BSN program.

Articulation Agreements

Most RN to BSN programs have articulation agreements which accept ADN credits earned through the Wisconsin Technical College System. This allows for seamless transition into a BSN program.

BSN Classes in the Workplace

Partnerships between healthcare systems and schools offer face-to-face classes at the student's worksite to accommodate the busy schedules of employed RNs.

BSN@Home Program

The *BSN@Home* program is a collaborative RN to BSN program between six UW campuses: Eau Claire, Green Bay, Madison, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Stevens Point. This option is primarily online, with some campus requirements. The student declares a home campus and graduates with a BSN from that school. www.bsnathome.com

Clinical Pathway Ladders

Many healthcare systems have clinical ladders which provide a structure to achieve a BSN degree with the goal of moving up the ladder and advancing the professional development process. This may be associated with salary increases, or the eligibility for leadership positions within the system.

Employment Requirement

Some Wisconsin healthcare facilities are requiring newly hired RN employees to obtain their BSN within 5 – 10 years. As a condition of employment, the employer will frequently offer types of support, such as tuition reimbursement.

Foundation/Business Partnerships

Private foundations, healthcare systems, and businesses collaborate with nursing education programs to provide monetary assistance for practicing RNs to complete their BSN degrees.

Loan Forgiveness Programs

Loan forgiveness is sometimes offered through special grants, or by the employer when the nurse commits to working for a specified period after BSN completion or if their work involves underserved regions of the state.

Online/Onsite Hybrid Programs

BSN schools in Wisconsin offer hybrid programs to accommodate the needs of working RNs. Coursework can be completed with a combination of both online and in-person classes at various sites.

RN to BSN Flex Degree Option

The UW System Flexible Degree Program offers competency-based, self-paced learning. Offered at UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing, this program allows students to earn college credits by demonstrating knowledge acquired through coursework, alternative educational activities, and professional experiences. <http://flex.wisconsin.edu/degrees-programs/online-nursing-program/>

Technical College BSN Advisors

Many ADN schools offer BSN degree completion advisors on their campuses. These advisors evaluate unofficial transcripts and assist students with decisions on how, when, and where to complete their BSN degree, in ways that are most cost-effective and easiest for the student.

Technical College BSN Courses

Some public technical colleges and private nursing programs in Wisconsin offer BSN level courses that transfer when students enroll in RN to BSN programs after completing their ADN degree.

Tuition Reimbursement

Many employers offer financial assistance to employees to return to school for advanced degrees. This may include all or part of the cost of tuition, or a set amount allowed per employee, per year.