

Common Criteria for Building and Validating Seamless ADN-BSN Pathways General Guidelines for Collaborating Community College (CC) and University (U)

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General Education Requirements

1. Identify ADN requirements for each CC that also meet U requirements.
2. Identify specific U requirements that are not met with CC ADN requirements.
3. Develop standardized academic advising protocols for all students interested in nursing that assume eventual transfer/progression to U for the BSN.
4. U Nursing Program identifies options for completing the required Upper Division General Education (GE) units for the BSN at the U.
5. Clarify which U GE requirements may be met with approved CC course enrollment and which are required at the Upper Division level.
6. Provide information on existing options for credit-by-exam (e.g., CLEP) and distance learning/online courses to complete approved GE courses through CC and U.

Required Nursing Prerequisites

1. Validate agreement on anatomy, physiology, and microbiology between CC and U.
2. Determine strategies for addressing chemistry (because it is the only prerequisite science that also satisfies the U Physical Science requirement and sometimes is a "hidden" prerequisite in the CC).
3. Example from California State University (CSU) system: Revisit and validate the CSU's eight "Common Core" Prerequisites for nursing which also satisfy all of the CSU General Education requirements in Areas A (Communication) and B (Science & Math). The two most common GE not met by ADN graduates are Critical Thinking and Quantitative Reasoning (Math above Intermediate Algebra). Note that some CSU BSN programs meet the Critical Thinking requirement with the nursing major.

Nursing Coursework

1. Identify acceptable mechanisms by which the curriculum for licensure completed at the Community College may be awarded credit at the university level without testing or portfolio (e.g., equivalency, credit-by-exam for NCLEX-RN).
2. U and CC review common content across nursing curricula based on agreed upon standard (e.g., AACN *Essentials of Baccalaureate Education*). Adjustments in CC curriculum and/or U curriculum are negotiated and documented based on findings.

General Program Features

1. U Nursing Program delineates the components of the 50+ units of U college coursework required for the BSN (that adds to the 70 unit maximum transfer from CC accepted toward the BSN degree).
2. Design to make ADN-BSN Pathway possible to complete within one calendar year of full-time enrollment at the U after graduation from the ADN Program (Note that this DOES NOT mean that all students will pursue this option).
3. Eliminate pejorative and/or inaccurate rhetoric and labeling in course titles and descriptions of the educational pathways for ADN-BSN (e.g., "degree completion," "two-plus-two," "introduction to professional nursing," "bridge" course, "advanced").