

TO: Potential Students

FROM: Patricia A Tabloski, PhD, APRN, BC  
Associate Dean Graduate Studies

RE: RN/MS Program

### **Program**

The RN to Masters Program enables registered nurses without a baccalaureate degree in nursing to obtain the MS degree and prepares them for advanced nursing practice.

### **Admission Requirements Include:**

- A portfolio review to verify and document prerequisite coursework has been completed. In order to request a portfolio review, you must:
  - Complete the worksheet below identifying all the course work that you have completed.
  - Collect all your official academic transcripts
  - Email Maureen Eldredge at [Eldredgm@bc.edu](mailto:Eldredgm@bc.edu) to request a portfolio review. You will need to have the completed worksheet and transcripts prior to this meeting.
- In addition to the application requirements for the MS program, **submit a copy of your portfolio review worksheet** as part of your application.

Our RN/MS students come from diverse backgrounds. They may possess a diploma with no other academic work, an associate degree in nursing, an associate or bachelor's degree in another field, or various course credits acquired over time. All applicants, however, must demonstrate leadership potential, motivation interest in a specific clinical specialty, and an excellent academic record.

The program recognizes prior educational achievement and clinical experience. The BCSON makes every attempt to maximize credits earned in prior education program and to recognize clinical expertise. Students may earn academic credit by transfer of courses, enrollment in courses at Boston College or another accredited college or university, and portfolio review. Students already possessing a non-nursing BS or BA degree will have the general education requirements waived.

RN/MS students are allowed up to four years to complete the program. The length of the program will vary because of the need of some students to engage in part-time study before and during beginning graduate study. Students who complete the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree can progress to the regular masters program in their chosen specialty. ***Please note that a baccalaureate degree is NOT awarded by Boston College.***

## General Education Requirements

The equivalent of a bachelor's degree and the following general education requirements must be attained before the student begins study in the transition courses at BCSON. These requirements are designed to ensure that all students have a broad background in the liberal arts and sciences. Approximately 110 credits should be accrued in order to meet these general education requirements. Approximately 55 credits should be under the category of general education with the remaining credits accrued from specialty knowledge related to the nursing major.

A well rounded undergraduate college education should broaden, enhance, and strengthen a nurse's specialty knowledge, intellectual capabilities, and ability to manage complex health problems. The holder of the equivalent of a bachelor's degree should be able to analyze critically the surrounding world and to articulate that analysis coherently to others. This ability will enhance communication with multiple disciplines in order to participate as a fully equitable member of the health care team.

Social Sciences: 6 courses (18 credits) (Human behavior/social institutions; Social behavior and social sciences, etc)

English: 2 courses (6 credits)

Statistics: 1 course (3 credits)

Humanities: 1 course (3 credits)

Biological and Physical Sciences: 4 courses (15 credits)

- Two courses in Anatomy and Physiology (lecture and lab)
- One course in Organic Chemistry
- One course in microbiology

Electives: 4 courses (12 credits)

Specialty Knowledge (Nursing Courses and requirements for nursing concentration) (55 credits)

Upon completion of these requirements the student can make formal application to the RN/MS program. Upon admission the student will enroll in the following BC transitional courses. Transition courses must be completed before enrolling in MS courses.

### Transition Courses

- NU 260 Community Health Theory – 3 credits
- NU 261 Community Health Clinical – 3 credits
- NU263 Synthesis Practicum (\*waived for RN's with experience at the Dean's discretion).
- NU264 Prof. Nursing II – 3 credits

Once transition courses have been successfully completed, students may progress to the MS curriculum and pursue either full-time or part-time study. The Associate Dean for graduate study will serve as advisor while the student is enrolled in transition courses and upon entry in MS courses, an advisor from the student's specialty area will be chosen.

**RN - MS Portfolio Review**  
(submit completed portfolio review with application)

Undergraduate Courses required	Cr	Name of Courses Taken	Cr	Grade	Where Taken	When	Comments
Anat & Physiology I lab	4						
Anat & Physiology II lab	4						
Org Chemistry - Life Science	4						
Microbiology	3						
Social Science	3						
Social Science	3						
Social Science	3						
Social Science	3						
Social Science	3						
Social Science	3						
English (literature)	3						
English (writing)	3						
Statistics	3						
Humanities	3						
Elective	3						
Elective	3						
Elective	3						
Elective	3						
<b>RN TRANSITION COURSES (BC)</b>		<b>Transition courses must be completed <span style="color: red;">before</span> enrolling in MS courses</b>					
NU260 Community Health Theory	3						
NU261 Community Health Clinical	3*						
NU263 Synthesis Practicum	3**						
NU264 Professional Nursing II	3						
*space available basis							
**waived for RN's with experience at Dean's discretion							

Upon completion of all pre-requisite and transition courses the following courses are required coursework to be awarded a MS degree.							
MASTER'S COURSES		Upon matriculation, students will develop their MS plan of study with an advisor in their specialty					
Elective (Graduate)	3						
NU 415 Conceptual Basis	3						
NU 416 Ethical Reasoning	3						
NU 417 Adv. Pract. Role	3						
NU 420 Pharmacology OR							
NU 426 Psychopharmacology	3						
NU 430 Adv Health Assessment	3						
NU 672 Pathophysiology	3						
NU 520 Research	3						
Research Practicum NU524/NU525							
OR Elective (graduate)	3						
(Specialty) Theory I	3						
(Specialty) Practicum I	6						
(Specialty) Theory II	3						
(Specialty) Practicum II	6						