

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Frequently Asked Questions

Program Information:

How many nursing classes will I need to complete?

There are ten 3000 and 4000 level nursing courses for 30 credits. Additional coursework may be required to meet general education requirements.

If I hold a previous bachelor's degree, will I have to take non-nursing courses?

There are general education credits and pre-requisite courses required for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. How many and if any non-nursing courses need to be taken will depend on the general education and pre-requisite courses that you have completed compared to St. Johns River State College's general education and BSN program degree requirements. An academic advisor or the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health can help you assess your status. The course requirements are in the College catalogue. The link is <http://www.sjrstate.edu/catalog/bachelors.pdf>

How many clinicals are there?

BSN students participate in practicum hours in healthcare settings to meet course requirements. There is one course with practicum hours: the Capstone course.

How long does it take to complete the BSN?

Students may select full-time or part-time study. BSN students that pursue full time study should be able to complete the program in three to four semesters. The length of the program for part-time study will depend on the number of courses in which the student enrolls each semester.

Is there a time limit on completing the BSN degree?

All requirements for a Baccalaureate degree at St. Johns River State College must be completed within a period of five (5) consecutive calendar years (15 semesters) from the date of first enrollment in nursing courses after admission to the nursing program.

What happens if I have to drop out for one or more semesters?

Students that withdraw from the RN to BSN program may apply to return to the program.

Are there any classes that require special arrangements?

The Capstone course will have practicum hours. The practicum hours will require a school of nursing – logo patch and a white lab coat. All courses are Blackboard based, so all students will need regular and reliable access to a computer and the Internet to complete course requirements. The computers will need to be compatible with Blackboard, have at least a 2007-2010 version of Microsoft Word, have at least a 2007-2010 version of PowerPoint, and current virus protection. There may be other course-specific requirements, including assignments within healthcare settings.

Do I ever need to come to campus?

Students accepted to the BSN program will be notified of the dates in the acceptance letter. The Capstone course requires an end of program standardized test administered in the computer lab. The test will be provided on different dates and times and on different campuses. You will have advanced notice of required activities on campus.

Do I get credit for work experience?

Credit is not given for work experience.

What kind of tests will I have to take in the program? Do all courses require tests?

Selected courses will have on-line tests, for example Pathophysiology and Health Assessment. There is an end of program standardized test taken in the Capstone course. The majority of assessments are in the form of projects, written assignments, on-line presentations, discussion questions, and other types of written or presented assignments.

How many courses are taught on line?

All courses are Blackboard based and online.

What is distance education?

Distance education is a mode of delivering education and instruction to students that are not physically present in a traditional setting, such as a classroom. Distance education at St. Johns River State College is provided through web-based Blackboard. For questions about distance education go to <http://www.sjrstate.edu/distance.html>

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Do I have to be in an online class on specific dates and times?

The nursing curriculum can be synchronous and asynchronous. Synchronous distance learning occurs when the faculty and the students interact in different places but during the same time. Students enrolled in synchronous courses are generally required to log on to their computer during a set time. Synchronous distance learning may include multimedia components such as group chats, web seminars, video conferencing, and phone calls. Asynchronous learning is a student-centered teaching method that uses online learning resources to facilitate information sharing outside the constraints of time and place among a network of people. The student access the course via Blackboard at a time convenient for the student. Although there are not specific times to “attend”, there are deadlines that are expected to be met.

Is there a required program orientation before registration?

There is a required online orientation course that must be taken after program admission but prior to course registration. Once the orientation course has been attended, then the student can register for nursing courses.

Are there any courses that have a sequence or have required pre-requisites?

Core courses are taken first. NUR 3805 is a pre-requisite course for all courses, but it may be taken concurrently to courses during the first semester of nursing courses. The core courses lay the foundation for the higher level courses, and it is recommended that they be completed first. Once the core courses are complete, then the two pre-capstone courses would typically be taken. The Capstone course is the last course, and all required nursing courses should be completed prior to the Capstone course. In the Capstone course, students are applying what has been learned throughout the curriculum. Students may take general education courses concurrent to nursing courses.

When should I take statistics (STA 2023)?

You can take statistics at any time, but it is a requirement prior to NUR 3169 Applied Evidence-Based Practice In Professional Nursing Practice. Students that have not completed statistics prior to application to the program may

find it beneficial to take statistics the semester just prior to taking NUR 3169.

What support services are available to me during the program?

All of the College’s support services are available to BSN nursing students. Tutoring and student success workshops on select subjects are available on campus and online. For more information visit Smarthinking accessible in your My SJRState account and <http://www.sjrstate.edu/success.html>

Do I have to take College Algebra?

The requirement is that the student must have two General Education Math courses. The student is not required to take College Algebra. The student must meet the requirement of college approved or accepted two math courses, meaning that the student would have Statistics and some other math. The two math classes must be general education math courses that are listed in the College Catalog for the A.A. degree. If you have a math class that is a higher level than College Algebra, then that course could be accepted. For example, business math and MAT1033 would not count. College Algebra is the math recommended. Some of the science courses have specific math pre-requisites. You are encourage to review the math pre-requisites for the science course you choose. If you are unsure which math courses to take, it is recommended you speak to an Academic Advisor.

Do I have to take Chemistry?

Any CHM XXXX, BSC XXXX, PCB XXXX, PHY XXXX (other than anatomy and physiology) with a minimum of 4 credit hours may be accepted as the second science.

Are all courses offered every semester?

There is a rotation of courses. In addition, course offerings, just like for any college course, depends on enrollment.

Is the BSN program nationally accredited?

The nursing education program, Bachelor of Science in Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 (404) 975-5000, www.acenursing.org

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Frequently Asked Questions

If I still have program questions, where can I get more information on the program?

You may call the Nursing Office in Palatka at 1-386-312-4176, in St. Augustine at 1-904-808-7465, or Orange Park at 1-904-276-6863.

Admission / Enrollment:

What do I do to get started?

The application is located on St. Johns River State College's web site. There are several links to the application form. First, students must first be admitted to the College. Under STUDENTS, there is a link to the College's application for admission. The link to the BSN program is under ACADEMICS. You will see a Bachelors link. One link is <http://www.sjrstate.edu/bachelors.html>

When should I apply for admission?

If you are a registered nurse with a current unencumbered license in the state of Florida and if you have an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing, you can apply.

Where is the enrollment / application form?

A link to the application is under the ACADEMICS tab and can be accessed via the Bachelor's tab. One link to the application is <http://www.sjrstate.edu/bachelors.html>

How many times a year does enrollment start?

Students may apply anytime during the academic year. New classes begin each Fall and Spring terms.

Who is responsible for obtaining transcripts?

You are responsible for contacting each college you attended and ordering the transcripts.

When do I need to obtain course descriptions?

Course descriptions are required for those courses in which you have earned credit for any private college in the state of Florida that does not participate in the State of Florida Common Numbering System. Course descriptions are required for those courses in which you earned credit for any private or public college outside the State of Florida. You are responsible for contacting the registrar/admissions services of the college where the credits were earned to order copies of the course descriptions. The

course description must match the course number on the transcript.

Do all of my transcripts need to be received before I can be accepted into the program?

All transcripts from the colleges that you have attended need to be received.

Do I have to apply both to the college and to the BSN program?

The location for the college application is on the general college web page under students. It states apply now. If you do not already have an account, you will create the account. A list of degree programs will be listed. Select the bachelors' degree option. One link to the college's application is https://web.sjrstate.edu/pls/prod/bwskalog.P_DisplLoginNon

If I am currently enrolled in general education courses now, do I still have to apply to the college for admission again?

Yes. According to the Director of Admissions and Records, you will need to apply again to the college. The application to the college for a bachelors' degree program triggers a different set of processes. This application applies whether you are a graduate of St. Johns River State College or whether you have a degree/s from other institutions.

What are enrollment deadlines?

The RN to BSN program is an open access program. There are no deadlines. Students are encouraged to apply early to assure timely processing of application. It is strongly recommended that students apply no less than four weeks before the start of a term to allow time to process the application and to attend the required orientation. It takes about two – three weeks to process an application. If transcripts and course descriptions are all present, licensure verification is available, and the application is complete. The last 4-hour required orientation is approximately 10 days before the end of each semester.

What criteria do I have to meet to be admitted in the program?

The BSN program is an open access program to students that meet the admission requirements:

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Frequently Asked Questions

- Admission to St Johns River State College.
- Submission of a completed application to the baccalaureate program in nursing.
- Completion of an Associate in Science degree in nursing with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale prior to upper division acceptance.
- Submission of official transcript(s) indicating the coursework taken and the degree(s) awarded.
- Proof of valid, current, active unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in Florida.

Do I have to complete all of the general education courses before I apply?

The general education courses can be completed concomitantly with the nursing courses. You are strongly advised to meet with the Dean of Nursing and Allied Health or an Academic Advisor to best plan the general education courses.

Do I have to complete an AA degree before I apply?

You do not have to complete an AA degree before you apply. There are 36 general education credits required in the degree curriculum, but these general education courses may be completed concomitantly with the nursing courses or may be taken in advance of the nursing course.

Can I test out of any classes?

Contact the College's Academic Advisors to discuss credit by examination for general education courses. There is not "credit by examination" for the nursing courses.

How many credits do you accept from other colleges?

The BSN program follows the College's requirements for the number of credits that can be transferred into the Baccalaureate degree program. Students wishing to transfer credits into the RN to BSN program are referred to the Transfer of Credit and the Substitute Admission and Program Requirements policies and procedure in the current College Catalogue.

SJR State adheres to the overall minimum requirement of completing 25% of the total program hours at SJR State. SJR State will allow transfer of 9 (nine) credits of upper level BSN courses as long as the transfer of credit meets the College's Transfer of Credit requirements and adheres to the overall minimum requirement of completing 25% of total program hours at SJR State. Students are required to take NUR 3169 and NUR 4949 at SJR State.

Are there any restrictions on awarding of credit from other colleges?

The BSN program follows the College's policies on awarding of credit and transfer of credit. These policies are located in the current College Catalogue (under Students on the College's web page). Credit can only be accepted from colleges and universities that hold regional accreditation or colleges and universities that participate in the Florida's Statewide Course Numbering System. If you are unsure if your college / university is regionally accredited or if your college participates in the Florida Statewide Course Numbering System, then consult the Records office of your college or speak to a St. Johns River State College Academic Advisor for assistance.

If you have taken a course at a college out of state or a private college in-state or out of state, you will need to provide the course description to Records from the same catalogue year in which you took the course. These also need to be provided to the Director of BSN, and may be faxed, scanned and emailed, or delivered to the nursing offices in Palatka or Orange Park. These course descriptions must show the year of the catalogue. You may find these on the college's web site, but if not on the college's web site, you may need to obtain them from the college's registrar. Course descriptions are necessary for review of the credit for transfer to SJR State.

Do I need my high school transcript?

The College requires a high school transcript or GED for all students applying for admission to the college. Contact Records for additional information or to verify that the College has on file your high school transcript or GED.

Do I need an official college transcript if I graduated from St. Johns River State College?

You do not need "official" transcripts if graduated from SJR State. If you graduated from another school, the college has to verify your degree and your coursework. This comes from official transcripts. You can contact Records or a college counselor for additional information or to verify that the College has on file your transcript/s.

Do I need official college transcripts if I graduated from a college other than St. Johns River State College?

Yes, you do need official, sealed transcripts for any college where you achieved college credit. There are also circum-

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Frequently Asked Questions

stances in which course descriptions are required for consideration of credit transfer.

1. You received college credit from a private college either in Florida or from another state.
2. You received college credit from any college outside the state of Florida.

Course descriptions may be obtained from the Admissions / Records/ Registrar of the college where you took the courses. Some colleges have the course descriptions in archived catalogs on the college's web site. It is your responsibility to obtain the course descriptions.

How and when will I be notified if I am accepted?

Students are notified by College e-mail and by a letter sent to the home address of record (the mailing address the student has listed on the application for admission to the College).

Do I have to have work experience as an RN to be accepted?

Work experience is not an admission requirement.

Do I have to have an RN license to be accepted?

Proof of valid unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in Florida is an admission requirement. If you are registered in another state and wish to be licensed in Florida, visit the Florida Board of Nursing's website to learn about possible reciprocity and/or applying for Florida licensure. The link to the Florida Board of Nursing is <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/nursing/>

Students that have been awarded an ASN degree and are waiting to take the licensure exam may be admitted provisionally. Applicants must meet admission criteria. Students must successfully pass the licensure exam with one year of acceptance.

Do I have to meet foreign language requirements to be admitted into the program? If yes, where do I find out how to satisfy this requirement?

Students are referred to the College's current catalogue. The BSN program follows the College's requirement for baccalaureate degree graduation. All students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree starting are required to meet the Foreign Language Competency Requirement in order

to graduate with their degree. This degree requirement can be met by 2 years of the same high school foreign language OR 2 semesters of college level foreign language OR documented proficiency of a foreign language. If you did not take 2 years of the same high school foreign language and do not have documented proficiency of a foreign language, you will need to register for 2 semesters of college level foreign language in order to graduate. Please check with your Academic Advisor if you are unsure whether you already meet this requirement

Can I apply to the program before I have completed all the pre-requisites?

General education requirements may be taken after admission to the BSN program.

If I take the required general education courses at another college, can these courses transfer?

Students wishing to transfer credits are referred to the Transfer of Credit and the Substitute Admission and Program Requirements policies and procedure in the current College Catalogue. If the course meets the BSN program and if the course meets the College's requirements, then credit for the course can be given. You are strongly encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor to assess your unique transfer requirements to determine what will transfer, what documentation is needed to achieve the transfer, and to work with the Academic Advisor to complete course substitutions, if appropriate.

Do I need letters of recommendation?

Letters of recommendation are not a requirement for admission.

Who is a good person to talk to about the general education requirements?

Each campus has Academic Advisors that are interested in helping.

If you choose to meet with an Academic Advisor and if you have college course work from a private college (in any state) or from an out of state college/university, then please obtain the course descriptions before meeting with the Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor cannot provide you feedback on your course needs just with a transcript unless all of your courses were taken at public colleges and

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing Frequently Asked Questions

universities in the state of Florida. Course descriptions are needed to evaluate courses completed at out of state colleges and universities and some in state private colleges.

If I still have admission questions, where can I get more information on admission / enrollment in the program?

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Financial:

How much does the program cost?

The actual costs of the program may vary based on the number of courses per semester and any changes in costs approved by the Board of Trustees of the College and the number of general electives and pre-program courses already completed. The St. Johns River State College Application Fee is \$30.00. The current costs are located in the College Catalogue. The link to the College Catalogue is on the College's web page under the Student Tab.

Where do I find out if there are scholarships that can help pay for the program?

Students may find scholarships through professional nursing organizations, such as Florida Nurse's Association. The Foundation of the College may have scholarship monies that apply. Financial Aid may be able to provide guidance in identifying area hospitals, service organizations, and local and national scholarships. The link to the foundation is <http://www.sjrstate.edu/scholarships.html>

What financial aid is there for this program?

Financial Aid is through the Financial Aid office of the college. Many area healthcare employers offer tuition assistance; the human resources department of your employer can discuss with you this benefit availability.

Will CareerSource be a financial aid source?

Students may qualify for CareerSource funds. Students are referred to the CareerSource Specialist on each campus for details. The link to Financial Aid is <http://www.sjrstate.edu/finaid.html> The contact on the Orange Park campus is Mary Ann Nabywaniec at 1-904-276-6765 and mnabywaniec@careersourcenortheastflorida.com The Palatka Campus contact is Tammie Jackson at 1-386-312-4257 and tjackson@careersourcenortheastflorida.com

Is a FAFSA form needed to apply for financial aid and for CareerSource aid? Where can I find the form?

There are several links to the form on the College's web site. You can find the FAFSA form at the Federal Student Aid web site. A link to FAFSA is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/#> The link to Financial Aid is <http://www.sjrstate.edu/finaid.html>

Technology:

I have never taken an internet-based class? How do I know I can do this?

There are two links on MySJRState that take you to general information on online learning. These links address the student characteristics needed to be successful in distance education.

<http://www.sjrstate.edu/distance.html>

<http://www.sjrstate.edu/onlinecourses.html>

I have never used Blackboard for a class? Where can I get help with this?

For students already registered at St. Johns River State College, there is a student Blackboard orientation that is a self-paced online tutorial. The orientation will help the student that is not familiar with Blackboard to start a class with basic knowledge of the system. Blackboard has several great resources, as well. In every course there is a link to Help. The link is more detailed than the orientation course on Blackboard with a searchable feature will take students to questions they may have. Blackboard also has a site called "On Demand" that includes short videos and handouts. <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/> The required orientation session includes an overview of Blackboard.

How do we take tests?

Examinations / tests will be administered on-line using Blackboard. During the Capstone courses, students will take a standardized test on a college campus using the Internet.

What technology do I need?

The nursing courses use Blackboard and Internet access. Basic computer skills and proficiency in use of Blackboard are necessary. Students will need reliable and dependable access to the Internet and a computer. Each course is on-line, with Blackboard course requirements, such as assignments for submission, required course reading or viewing