

THE RN TO BSN UNIFORM ARTICULATION AGREEMENT

Jointly Approved by the North Carolina Community College and University of North Carolina Systems in February, 2015

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the North Carolina RN to BSN Uniform Articulation Agreement (RN to BSNA)?

A: It is a statewide agreement that streamlines and clarifies the route by which a registered nurse who has earned an associate degree in nursing in the North Carolina Community College System can apply to a BSN completion program at any of The University of North Carolina System RN to BSN programs. It includes a plan that identifies common general education and nursing prerequisite courses that, when successfully completed, will be accepted by all of these programs.

Q: How is this plan structured?

A: There are five course blocks in the plan, though the first three are of particular interest to potential RN to BSN students. Block 1 includes prerequisite nursing courses that all North Carolina community college nursing students now take as a part of their programs. Block 2 consists of additional general education courses that all UNC System universities will accept toward a BSN degree. Block 3 consists of specific nursing or support courses that are also accepted. Together, the three blocks total between 58 and 60 credit hours and must be completed prior to entering a UNC System BSN completion program.

Once a prospective RN to BSN student has successfully completed all three blocks, they may securely apply to any of the UNC System BSN completion programs, knowing that all the plan courses will be accepted. Click on the following link for full details of the plan. (*Insert a link to the 5 block plan here*)

Q: Who is eligible to use this plan?

A: To be eligible for the transfer of credits under the RN to BSN AA, a potential student must:

- Enter a NC community college nursing program on or after Fall Semester, 2015
- Earn an Associate Degree in Nursing at a North Carolina Community College with a GPA of at least 2.0.
- Earn a C or better in all courses included in the first three blocks of the plan.
- Be licensed as an RN prior to applying to the RN to BSN Program.

Q: What are the benefits of using the RN to BSN AA?

A: An eligible individual who takes advantage of this Agreement will have fulfilled both the general education and nursing program entry requirements of all UNC System BSN completion programs. A prospective RN to BSN student can be certain that these courses will be transferable and that additional courses (except when identified on a specific program's web site) will not be required. Additionally, an associate degree nursing student may take courses in Blocks 2 or 3 while still in that nursing program with the assurance that, when successfully completed, those courses will be transferable to all UNC System BSN completion programs.

Q: Is an eligible individual required to use the agreement?

A: No. A prospective RN to BSN student may use this agreement or, as traditionally has been the case, have transfer credits reviewed on a course by course basis by the program to which he or she is applying. Of course, it is important to carefully consider the benefits and limitations of each approach before selecting an option.

Q: What if a prospective RN to BSN student does not meet the plan's eligibility requirements?

A: Any prospective RN to BSN student who is not eligible to use this plan will, as traditionally has been the case, have transfer credits reviewed on a course by course basis by the program to which he or she is applying.

Q: Must a nurse be licensed to use the agreement?

A: An individual need not have a license while taking courses in Blocks 1, 2, or 3. However, under the terms of the Articulation Agreement, in order to apply to any UNC System BSN completion program, one must hold a current unrestricted license as a Registered Nurse in North Carolina.

Q: Can a student at a NC community college nursing program who has a previous bachelor's degree use the RN to BSN AA?

A: While that student may be eligible to use the Articulation Agreement, it is possible that it would be more expeditious for him or her to have transfer credits evaluated on a course by course basis. Be sure to check with an academic advisor before committing to either approach.

Q: Can a graduate from an out of state nursing program use the RN to BSN AA?

A: In general, someone who earned an associate degree in nursing from an out of state nursing program may not use the RN to BSN AA. However, if an individual earned an associate's degree in nursing from an in-state school but took some preliminary courses out of state, it may be possible to use the Agreement. Please contact a nursing advisor at the community college you

attended or an RN to BSN admissions councilor at UNC System nursing program you are most likely to attend.

Q: Is necessary to finish the courses in blocks one through three at a community college before being admitted to a UNC System BSN completion program?

A. In general, yes. Of course, it is also possible to enroll in courses in blocks 2 and 3 at a UNC System University. However, a prospective RN to BSN student must complete those courses prior to actually being admitted to a BSN completion program at any of those universities.

Q. If I follow the model as presented, am I guaranteed admission?

A: No. Because nursing program admissions are competitive, no student is guaranteed admission to a particular program. You must apply to the specific completion BSN program or programs of your choice for admission. This agreement ensures that you have taken courses that will transfer to any of these programs.

Q. Which courses may be taken at a community college?

A. Block one courses are a part of the curriculum of associate degree nursing programs and so are always completed at a community college. One may also take all courses listed in blocks two and three at a North Carolina community college.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A; Please contact an nursing advisor at the community college you attended or an RN to BSN admissions councilor at UNC System nursing program you are most likely to attend.