



# Bachelor of Science in Nursing

College of Human Development and Community Service

## Why pursue the Bachelor of Science in Nursing?

There is a high demand for professionally educated nurses. The purpose of the baccalaureate completion program is to provide registered nurses with a number of skills not fully attainable at the associate degree level. These include additional critical thinking skills, advanced communication skills, diverse and complex community care and management skills, supervisory techniques and professional expertise that helps nurses to meet the challenges of a more complex and changing health care system.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program prepares the nurse to function independently in a variety of health settings to provide care using a framework of scientific and professional accountability. This program provides graduates with eligibility for California certification in public health nursing, and the skills and knowledge base to pursue graduate study. While the program normally entails four semesters of full-time study, courses are offered to allow part-time study for the practicing nurse. The program is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

## Why choose Cal State Fullerton?

**Reputation** - The BSN program at CSUF is known throughout the State of California for its use of distance education and technology such as video conferencing and the Web. Prior to starting the program, we assist students with orientation to computer work. The Department of Nursing enjoys an excellent reputation as a high-quality program that is innovative, community-based, and student-friendly. The faculty are leaders in providing distance education to enhance accessibility for registered nurses seeking a BSN education in California.

**Flexible Program** - This program is designed to be flexible and to accommodate working adult professionals and students with families, as well as the traditional full-time student. The program can be completed in four semesters if taken full-time.

Many on-campus students take their general education courses in the evening or during the summer and their nursing classes during the day. Nursing courses are scheduled to allow most students to attend only one or two days

per week. Interactive videoconference courses are offered at regional and state-wide satellite campuses and health care institutions.

**Labs and Fieldwork** - All students in the major conduct their clinical work in community-based locations such as health departments, school districts and non-acute home health agencies. Whenever possible, students are placed for fieldwork in clinical sites in communities that are convenient to students. The program also offers a state-of-the-art physical assessment and computer lab that is available for nursing students on campus.

**High Quality Faculty** - The Department of Nursing is comprised of faculty members from some of the most prestigious universities throughout the U.S. The majority of the full-time faculty are doctorally prepared. They are accomplished teachers and researchers with a commitment to provide a quality education for students. Additional faculty member information is available at the Nursing Department website: <http://nursing.fullerton.edu>.

**Friendly Environment** - The CSUF Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program offers classes in a way that allows learning to flourish. Cal State Fullerton is also the most affordable campus-based option in the area and provides ease of transfer from California Community Colleges into upper-division courses. The program is closely linked to the community, and students are welcomed at a variety of clinical placements. All these benefits are offered in a supportive, congenial atmosphere for nurses of all ages interested in career advancement.

### **What are Cal State Fullerton's BSN Program offerings?**

**On-Campus, Fullerton Offering:** This choice offers the advantages of face-to-face faculty attention and the convenience of other campus services. Web-based work that can be completed on campus, at home or at work is offered in a number of courses. Students can also learn from other professional disciplines and the stimulation through involvement in campus-based clubs, organizations and activities. Classes are offered primarily during the day and late afternoon. Students may attend part time or full time and progress through the program at their own pace.

**Regional Satellite Campus or Medical Center Offering:** Students enjoy the benefits of local classes close to home and participate in most classes through interactive video conferencing and Web-enhanced course work. The conveniences of easily accessible parking, a shorter commute and free parking attract students for whom time and ease are the critical factors. Classes are offered primarily during the day and late afternoon. Students may attend part time or full time and progress through the program at their own pace.

**Fully Distance (Statewide Distance) Offering:** Students attend classes in a cohort group on a part-time basis one evening a week at a Kaiser Permanente facility. The BSN program is completed in eight or nine semesters. Many classes are offered through interactive videoconferencing with an adjunct educator providing personalized attention to students at each site. Kaiser Permanente facility sites are distributed throughout Northern and Southern California. Some courses are offered entirely over the Internet.

### **Accelerated Associate Degree to Master of Science in Nursing Program Offering:**

The Accelerated Associate Degree to Master of Science in Nursing (ADN to MSN) Program is ideal for students meeting higher level admission requirements and who want to ultimately pursue a MSN degree. The Department offers the Nursing Administration concentration in the MSN accelerated program, which takes approximately three to four years to complete, depending on whether students pursue part-time or full-time study. Students progress through the program in an individualized schedule that incorporates 10 units of master's level courses at the baccalaureate level and waives nine units of BSN course work. Admission requirements are: GPA of 3.0 or higher, personal interview, and demonstrated competency in writing and reading skills.

Students may also apply to one of the advanced practice concentrations within the MSN program toward the end of their accelerated BSN course work, but admission to those MSN concentrations is not guaranteed. The time required to complete any of these concentrations is at least four years, with more clinical practicums required throughout each program.

### **What career opportunities are available?**

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing provides the nurse with the foundation and capability to function independently in a variety of health settings and provide care within a framework of scientific and professional accountability. Students can also qualify for a California Public Health Nursing certificate. Cal State Fullerton BSN graduates are on the cutting edge in such areas as community health nursing, nursing administration, in-service education, nursing supervision, public health nursing, home health nursing, occupational health nursing, school nursing and other community roles. Nursing positions are also held in private case management, HMOs and other management and educational areas.

### **What is required for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing?**

California residents seeking admission to the program must have completed a minimum of 56 transferable semester units with an average grade of C or better (2.0). Non-California residents must have a GPA of 2.4 or better. It is highly recommended that students apply for certification of their general education units before transferring to CSUF.

It is necessary to complete one college-level course in each of the following areas as prerequisites with a C or better: Anatomy and physiology with a lab; chemistry with a lab; microbiology with a lab; and psychology and sociology or anthropology.

It is also necessary to have an Associate of Arts degree in Nursing or its equivalent and a current active license to practice as a registered nurse in California. For California residents who are graduates of diploma schools of nursing with less than 56 transferable units, please contact a community college nursing program to document the required transfer units. Residents of other states or international students should call the Department of Nursing at (714) 278-3336 for further information.

Math and/or critical thinking prerequisites may be completed during the first academic year of the BSN program.

**What are the requirements for the degree?**

Students may attend full time or part time and transfer up to 70 units from a community college. If all lower-division general elective requirements are met on admission, students need a total of 54 upper-division units for a BSN, and a total of 124 units to graduate. This includes 45 units of upper-division nursing courses and nine units of upper-division general education/electives (including a three-unit upper-division statistics course).

**What types of financial aid are available?**

Nursing students are eligible for selected scholarships, grants or loans available to the general student body. For more information, call University Financial Aid at (714) 278-3125. Financial aid applications are accepted at the beginning of each year. Students may apply online at [www.fullerton.edu/financialaid/](http://www.fullerton.edu/financialaid/).

The Department of Nursing also allows students access to many different types of scholarships. The Maria Dolores Hernandez Fund is awarded annually to those who qualify and show leadership potential and an interest in serving the health care needs in their region. For further information, call the Department of Nursing at (714) 278-3336, or visit the Department website for additional information on scholarships and financial aid (<http://nursing.fullerton.edu>).

**Who advises me?**

Each undergraduate student must consult with a nursing adviser each semester to develop a study plan and to choose appropriate elective courses. Undergraduate students should arrange to meet with the undergraduate adviser during their first semester in residence and each semester while enrolled in the program.

**How can I learn more?**

Contact the Department of Nursing, California State University, Fullerton, Education-Classroom 199, P.O. Box 6868, Fullerton, CA 92834-6868. You can also call the department at (714) 278-3336 or (714) 278-7648, or fax us at (714) 278-3338. Or, if it is more convenient, we would be happy to respond to your e-mail request at [nursing@fullerton.edu](mailto:nursing@fullerton.edu).

Find out how easy it can be to put your career on the fast track! Call us at the Department of Nursing.