

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IU SOUTH BEND RN TO BSN PROGRAM

How long will the program take to complete?

This varies greatly by the number of general education credits that need to be completed--the more non-nursing courses an RN has had, the less time it will take. Once only nursing courses are left, it takes 1 1/2 to 2 years to complete the program through part-time study (6 credit hours per semester and summers). RN's can set a faster pace as courses are available. Some RN's complete the program by attending full time which can take a year for nursing courses. The online option can be completed in one year once nursing courses start.

Will the courses from my RN program transfer in?

Most general education college courses (in which a grade of C or better was earned) will transfer from accredited programs. RN's are awarded 35 credits for prior nursing courses and licensure upon completion of NURS B 404 RN Seminar course. These 35 credits have no costs attached and take the place of transferring in nursing courses. Having your transcripts evaluated is the first step to determine your plan of study.

Will I have to take any "clinical"?

Practicum experiences for management, community and capstone are planned and arranged with assistance from the faculty but are not directly supervised. About 28 hours of direct practice are required for each course but can vary. RN's have a direct say in how they would like to meet the course requirements. Faculty works with the students to assist them in getting experiences which meet their career and educational goals.

Does my certification count for anything?

Current, nationally recognized certification can be applied towards the elective course NURS K 304 Nursing Specialty. Courses such as ACLS or hospital continuing education courses cannot be used for credit.

What does the program cost?

Currently, the cost is around \$200/credit hour plus student fees. An average 3 credit hours course costs about \$700.00 with fees. Books run about \$120 a course. For most RN's the entire program would cost about \$9500 and financial assistance is often available through employers. The Bursar website should be checked for most current tuition and fee figures.

I have had a lot of nursing experience--can I get credit for this?

The RN has the opportunity to develop a portfolio to demonstrate that he or she has met any nursing courses requirements or content through experience. A faculty member will be assigned to assist the RN with this process. However, an RN must complete at least 50% (usually 30 credits) of the upper division requirements at IUSB to receive a degree from IUSB. Portfolio, special and transfer credits may not count towards this requirement.

What is capstone?

This course is designed to pull the program together and includes a project and the development of an e-portfolio to house your school and career experiences. It focuses on an area of your interest.

What courses are required besides the nursing courses?

Although several courses are required most RN's have had these courses in their RN program. Courses RN's do not typically have are: Public Speaking, Introduction to Ethics, a course with a cultural focus and a three hundred level Common Core General Education course (listed in the Schedule of Classes for each semester). RN's may choose from a large number of courses in the three cluster areas for additional credit requirements. This allows the RN to take courses in areas of interest outside of the field of nursing and provides the foundation for a baccalaureate degree.

Do the RN's take courses with the entry-level nursing students?

No, starting in 2011 the RN-BSN curriculum is separate from courses with the regular BSN program at Indiana University South Bend.

Online or in the Classroom?

Each RN has a preferred learning style and lifestyle. Online courses offer flexibility but are not less work. A well working computer and consistent high speed internet access are minimal requirements beyond the self-motivation to keep up with course work. In class courses provide personal interactions with classmates and faculty. Both options offer the same rich, stimulating curriculum.