

*Frequently asked questions about:*

**Marquette University College of Nursing**

***RN to BSN to MSN Program for  
Associate Degree and Diploma Registered Nurses***

1. *What degree is awarded at the end of this program?*
2. *I already have a Bachelor's Degree in a non-nursing field in addition to my Associate Degree in Nursing. Will I be able to earn my BSN any faster?*
3. *What are the requirements for admission?*
4. *How many credits from my RN program and other schools will transfer and be counted toward my BSN at Marquette?*
5. *How long will it take me to complete my studies and earn my BSN?*
6. *I know that to earn my BSN at Marquette I must have 128 credits, from a combination of transfer credits, validation, and Marquette courses. I have attended several schools and hope to transfer in many credits. Is there a minimum number of credits that I **must earn at Marquette?***
7. *Will I be taking any clinicals in this program?*
8. *There is a course in my Marquette program plan that is also offered at another school. May I take courses at other schools while I am enrolled at Marquette?*
9. *I am concerned about my writing skills. Is there any help for me?*
10. *What GPA do I need to maintain to graduate from the program?*
11. *What is the best way to figure out if your program will truly work for me?*

*Q: What degree is awarded at the end of this program?*

**A:** The BSN. However, there are two tracks you can choose between in this program: the *RN to BSN* track and the *RN to BSN to MSN* track. *Both result in the BSN*, but, during the final sequence of courses, if you have maintained a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, you can choose to take 9 graduate credits in place of undergraduate electives. If you do that, you will still graduate with your BSN; however, if you decide to apply for and are accepted into the MSN program at Marquette, those graduate credits will also count toward your MSN. The advantage of this is to shorten your MSN program by as much as one semester.

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**Q:** *I already have a Bachelor's Degree in a non-nursing field in addition to my Associate Degree in Nursing. Will I be able to earn my BSN any faster?*

**A:** The RN to BSN to MSN Program might not be the best way for you to go although it is definitely an option. Please refer to the [RN Direct Entry](#) program. If it does not interest you or you do not meet the qualifications, return to this page.

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**Q:** *What are the requirements for admission?*

**A:** You must have an Associate Degree or Diploma in nursing; be currently licensed as an RN in good standing; submit all high school and post-secondary transcripts; have a GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and complete the application, which is free if done on-line. International students may be required to take the TOEFL exam. You will submit your application as a "Transfer Student," and may apply at any time for admission the following semester. New graduates who have not yet taken and passed the NCLEX may enroll as non-degree students for a short period of time.

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**Q:** *How many credits from my RN program and other schools will transfer and be counted toward my BSN at Marquette?*

**A:** The evaluation of transfer credits is an individualized process aimed at maximizing the number that transfer. First, we look for your courses that are reasonable equivalents to Marquette's required courses. Then we evaluate whether you earned a "C" or better in those courses and apply them toward your Marquette degree. The number of credits that transfer varies considerably but usually ranges from 30-55 liberal arts and science credits. In addition, during a later phase of the program, we will award you an *additional* 46-48 credits. These credits are in recognition of your prior learning from the nursing courses and clinicals you took in your ADN or Diploma program.

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*Q: How long will it take me to complete my studies and earn my BSN?*

**A:** This will vary by the number of credits you transferred in as well as how fast *you* desire to move through the program. A program plan will be created for you, with your input, that reflects as much as possible your preferred timeframe. This is not a cohort-based program, so it can be reasonably customized with your preferences, work and family situation. You are also free to accelerate or slow down your program as your needs change; this will be done with the assistance of your advisor.

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*Q: I know that to earn my BSN at Marquette I must have 128 credits, from a combination of transfer credits, validation, and Marquette courses. I have attended several schools and hope to transfer in many credits. Is there a minimum number of credits that I **must earn at Marquette**?*

**A:** Yes. At least 30 of the 128 credits must be earned at Marquette University for a degree to be awarded to you.

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*Q: Will I be taking any clinicals in this program?*

**A:** Yes. There is one semester-long clinical in Community Health later in the program that will involve approximately 8 hours a week in one or more community agencies.

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*Q: There is a course in my Marquette program plan that is also offered at another school. May I take courses at other schools while I am enrolled at Marquette?*

**A:** This is addressed on a case by case basis and must always involve a discussion with your advisor. The usual reason students request to take a course out-of-house is that the needed course is offered here at a time the student *cannot* attend, but the equivalent course is available elsewhere. The student must formally request permission from his or her advisor. The last 30 credits of your program must be taken at Marquette so careful planning and good communication are very important if you think you will be facing a serious obstacle.

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*Q: I am concerned about my writing skills. Is there any help for me?*

**A:** The Writing Center, located in Raynor Library, Room 207, is an excellent resource for helping you with your college level writing. The Writing Center website will give you a very good idea of how they can help you. [www.marquette.edu/writingcenter](http://www.marquette.edu/writingcenter)

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*Q: What GPA do I need to maintain to graduate from the program?*

**A:** To be awarded the BSN degree, a student must maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA throughout the course of study. Also, certain courses have specified minimum acceptable grades; there can be significant consequences for dropping below the required minimum grade, up to and including a request for you to withdraw from the program.

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*Q: What is the best way to figure out if your program will truly work for me?*

**A:** Make an appointment with the RN to BSN to MSN Coordinator at 414.288.3861 to discuss your plans, evaluate your transcripts and create a sample program plan. There is no obligation tied to this visit.

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