



*Bachelor of Science in  
Nursing (RN to BSN)  
Student Handbook*

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## Welcome to Franklin University

Dear RN to BSN Students,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the RN to BSN program at Franklin University's School of Nursing. As the program chair, I am committed to ensuring that you have a rewarding and successful educational experience as you continue your academic journey. You have chosen a rewarding and challenging field of study that will not only enhance your skills, knowledge and leadership abilities, but also help you make a positive impact on the lives of your patients.

The nursing program is designed to meet the needs of working nurses like you who are seeking to advance their education and expand their career opportunities while balancing other commitments. Our faculty members are highly experienced and are committed to providing you with the skills and insights you need to succeed in your career.

Throughout your time in the program, you will have the opportunity to develop your critical thinking, leadership, and communication skills essential to advance your practice. You will integrate the best evidence from current research and technology, helping you stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field. I encourage you to take advantage of the resources and support available to you. We have extensive library services and online resources with the tools available to you to help you achieve your academic goals.

Once again, welcome to the School of Nursing. I look forward to working with you as you pursue your educational and career goals. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any member of our team if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

*Dr. Melanie Brewer*

Melanie Brewer, DNSc, RN, FNP-BC, NEA-BC, FAANP  
Program Chair, RN to BSN Program  
School of Nursing

## Preface

The Franklin University Catalog/Bulletin Policies and Procedures, accessible at <https://www.franklin.edu/current-students/academic-resources/university-bulletin>, contains policies applicable to all students. The student Handbook is provided to all nursing students as a supplemental guide related to specialized topics associated with completion of their degree program. The information in this handbook should supplement, not substitute, information published in the Franklin University Academic Bulletin. In any situation of unintended incongruence, the University Catalog/Bulletin takes priority.

Successful matriculation and graduation from an academic program require adherence to all policies, procedures, and regulations as stipulated by the BSN program and the university. If you have any questions regarding requirements or policies, do not hesitate to refer them to your academic advisor, program chair, or other appropriate people.

This handbook presents the policies, procedures, and general information in effect at the time of publication. Students affected by any changes to this handbook will be notified in writing and acknowledgement of receipt is required.

This handbook is not intended to state contractual terms and does not constitute a contract between the student and the University.

## Mission and Purpose Statements

The mission of the College of Health and Public Administration (COHPA), which houses the School of Nursing (SON) and the nursing programs, states that the college will:

Provide a relevant, high quality, lifelong education that will enable our students to:

*Enhance* the quality of healthcare and public service

*Advance* healthcare and public service careers

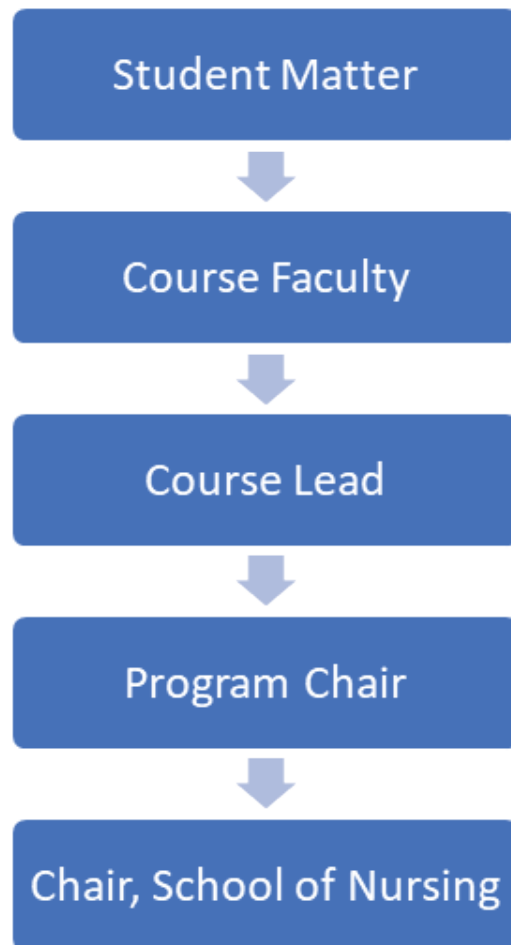
*Succeed* in providing leadership that improves the quality of life in communities

The Purpose of the School of Nursing (SON):

We transform the future of healthcare through innovation, collaboration, opportunity, enthusiasm, and excellence in nursing education to benefit our students, our partners, and the communities we serve. By embracing diversity, change, and educational excellence based on the values of integrity and compassion, we nurture our students and provide them with robust learning opportunities.

## School of Nursing Communication Flow Chart

The communication flow chart establishes appropriate communication channels between students and faculty. This framework ensures that issues and concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately, while promoting a safe and effective learning environment for students.



## RN to BSN Program Overview

The RN to BSN program is designed to provide licensed RNs with the opportunity to further their professional nursing education in an online program designed to build on basic nursing knowledge and experience. Nurses who want to pursue advanced positions in today's challenging healthcare environments are prepared to function in leadership roles in practice. The program blends nursing theory and advanced nursing practice concepts necessary to work within various healthcare organizations or settings. The BSN is awarded upon completion of a prescribed curriculum that includes transfer and technical (advanced standing) credits from an Associate's degree or diploma nursing program. For more information, please see the Franklin University Academic Bulletin. The Academic Bulletin contains program degree requirements, learning outcomes, curriculum, course listings, and descriptions.

**Accreditation.** The program was initially accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in Fall of 2012 for five years, then was reaccredited in September of 2017 for 10 years. In 2014, the program was expanded internationally to include our first cohort of students from South Korea.

**Program Resources.** As of the writing of this document, new students in the RN to BSN program qualify for an automatic scholarship. Franklin offers resources to students including the Library, the Student Learning Center with tutoring and writing support, and academic advising. Grammarly and Turnitin are available to students for scholarly writing assistance.

**Franklin Honor Society.** Students who have completed the required coursework at Franklin in the RN to BSN program who are anticipating graduation with a GPA of 3.0 or higher will be invited to join the Franklin Honor Society during their final course in the program.

For more information on the BSN program, including career opportunities, and program assessment, visit <https://www.franklin.edu/degrees/bachelors/nursing-rn-bsn>

## General Information

### BSN Curriculum

The RN to BSN curriculum was designed to meet the standards of the profession for graduate bachelor's prepared nurses. The curriculum is informed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, and other professional bodies. Detailed information about the curricula are located on the Franklin University website.

### Resources and Guides

Franklin University offers extensive resources to all students. Each course provides links to general and course-specific resources. Students are expected to become familiar with all resources, policies, and expectations as outlined in the Franklin University Academic Bulletin. A minimum 2.25 GPA is required in the major area for students enrolled in the bachelor's degree program, and each major course must be completed with a grade of "C" or better to count toward degree requirements.

### APA Format and Writing Mechanics

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are in APA format (American Psychological Association (2020) Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.). ***Students are expected to be familiar with, and correctly use this format. Numerous resources are available through the Franklin University library*** (<https://www.franklin.edu/library/research-guides>).

Students are expected to use correct grammar, spelling, paragraph structure, and writing formats. Writing services and tutoring are available through Franklin University's Learning Commons. Grammarly, a writing feedback service, is also available. Students are expected to submit papers and assignments in Microsoft Word unless otherwise instructed.

### Undergraduate Academic Advisor

All new BSN students will be assigned an Academic Advisor by the Admissions team as the student is registered for the first course at Franklin University. Students remain on the Advisor active rosters until the student graduates or is not enrolled for 3 consecutive trimesters. Advisors provide administrative support and resources for students in addition to the support provided by the course faculty. Advisors also assist with course registration, convey degree requirements, set expectations related to Franklin University policies, explain the Franklin calendar including important dates and deadlines, provide access and referrals to University resources when appropriate and provide support, advocacy, and encouragement throughout the student's academic career.

## RN TO BSN Program Learning Outcomes

The BSN program learning outcomes were created to match the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing (AACN, 2008). In addition, course assignments throughout the BSN curriculum are also linked to the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) competencies including knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

By completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Integrate theories and concepts from arts, humanities, and sciences to develop a foundation for holistic nursing practice
2. Apply leadership concepts, skills, and decision-making in the provision of quality nursing care, multidisciplinary collaboration, and the oversight and accountability for care delivery.
3. Integrate current evidence including nursing and healthcare research to ground nursing practice and promote high quality patient care outcomes.
4. Apply knowledge and skills in information management and patient care technology to improve patient care outcomes and create a safe care environment.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the influences of healthcare policy, finance, and regulatory environments including local, state, national, and global healthcare trends on nursing practice and the healthcare system.
6. Employ effective communication in interactions with healthcare professionals, individuals, and groups to advocate for high quality and safe patient care.
7. Apply the principles of health promotion and disease prevention across the health-illness continuum to improve the health of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations.
8. Incorporate professional standards, and the values of caring, ethics, integrity, altruism and social justice in the practice of nursing.
9. Assume roles in nursing practice and leadership to provide high quality and safe care to culturally diverse individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations across the lifespan and across the continuum of healthcare environments.

## RN to BSN Courses

The Franklin University RN to BSN Program prepares graduates to attain the highest level of knowledge, skills, and attitudes for BSN nursing practice and to demonstrate synthesis and application of BSN Essentials.

The RN to BSN Program consists of seven major area courses in addition to health informatics and legal aspects of healthcare management.

<b>Nursing Course</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
NURS 310 Transition to Professional Nursing	4
NURS 325 Health Assessment & Promotion	4
NURS 425 Genetics in Nursing & Healthcare	2
NURS 435 Nursing Research & Evidence-based Practice	4
NURS 445 Community Health Nursing	4
NURS 455 Leadership & Management for Professional Nurses	4
NURS 498 Nursing Capstone	4

### **NURS 498 Nursing Capstone Course**

The culminating course in the BSN program is the NURS 498 Nursing Capstone. This handbook addresses specific requirements for preparation and completion of the NURS 498 Nursing Capstone Project.



## The Nursing Capstone Project

All coursework included in the program provides the foundation for the clinical capstone project in the NURS 498 Nursing Capstone course. For this project, students are required to address a need, issue, or topic about a vulnerable or underserved population in the community. Students work to provide a product or service that benefits the institution and population at a community agency or healthcare organization to develop their capstone project. The project must address one of the Health People 2030 leading health indicators and social determinant that fits within the student's chosen population.

Students identify and collaborate with an individual in a leadership position at a community-based agency or organization in their area to complete the capstone project. A discussion of the potential project occurs prior to receiving approval from the organization, the identified leader, and the course professor. Students are expected to have a minimum of 12 contact hours at the organization (approximately two hours/week), with 48 additional project hours (approximately 8 hours/week) conducting research, reading, and preparing and developing their project for a total of 60 hours.

Students select a site during the first week of class. There are no affiliation agreements built into this course. The on-site hours are spent working with the actual population, providing a service (generally some type of education for the population on a specific need). Someone at the site will need to be identified who will approve them to be there and sign their time log. This individual may not be a nurse, and the site could be a non-healthcare-related organization, such as a church, pre-school, daycare, school, homeless shelter, women's shelter, prison, etc. The Nursing Capstone Project cannot be completed in a hospital setting.

At the completion of the Nursing Capstone Project, students develop a final document as part of the course. The faculty member will provide feedback on the document based on the course rubric. Students also develop a presentation on their project. Students are encouraged to save their graded assignments from each course in the RN to BSN program within a professional portfolio to demonstrate their professional growth and expertise throughout the RN to BSN Program.

## **RN to BSN Program Contact Information**

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