



School of Nursing - Online RN to BSN Degree Top 20 Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What type of university is OHIO?** Founded in 1804, we are the 9th oldest public, not-for-profit university in the nation.
- 2. What is the accreditation of Ohio University?** We are regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and nationally accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- 3. Is the program fully online?** Yes, our program is 100% online. There is no travel to campus necessary, though you are welcome to visit our gorgeous campus and walk with your graduating class during spring or fall commencement ceremonies. Additionally, our capstone course, NRSE 4600, provides students the opportunity to complete their clinical practice project locally, rather than on campus in Ohio. For more information regarding NRSE 4600, please visit our Online RN to BSN Nursing Knowledge Center.

To further serve our students, Public Health Nurse Certification coursework is available in our program to choose. The additional course, NRSE 4541 is one credit hour and will be completed concurrently with NRSE 4540. In order for a student to apply for the PHN Certificate in California, there is a minimum 90 public health clinical hours necessary to be completed locally. Clinical hours are a mandated requirement of such certification by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Note, some counties may require more than 90 clinical hours to meet their requirements. Upon completing the minimum public health clinical hours and having our BSN degree conferred, a student would then be able to apply for their CA PHN Certificate through the Board's website.
- 4. How much does the program cost?** We believe that all students should have access to an affordable education. You will be able to earn your BSN for less than \$10,000! We are proud to say that we did not have a tuition increase for more than ten years. In fall 2022, our rate will be \$315 per credit hour, paid-as-you-go, per course, rather than all at once or by semester. Any additional NRSE, General Education, or Support Coursework necessary to earn our degree is also offered at \$315 per credit hour; however, we enable and encourage our students to take equivalent pre-approved General Education / Support Coursework concurrently at their local community college to further reduce tuition costs.
- 5. Are there any additional fees other than tuition?** At OHIO, we believe in providing prospective students a clear understanding of what they will be paying to earn our BSN. Our application fee is \$25, however this can be waived if you attend a webinar or are at a partner school. We have a "Student Information and Network Fee" of \$33. (This is assessed at \$3 per credit hour for less than full time enrollment.) We also have a \$50 Graduation Application Fee. Two upper division nursing courses, NRSE 4520 & NRSE 4560, each have online clinical materials fees of \$99 per class.
- 6. How much do textbooks cost?** For the 2022 academic year, if all textbooks are purchased **new**, a student can expect to pay a total of \$935 for these books. OHIO has also partnered with Top Hat, an OER organization, to offer free or reduced priced textbooks to our students. With our Top Hat partnership and students purchasing books used rather than new, the expected cost of textbooks could be greatly reduced.
 - CHSP students have their own librarian assigned to them, Hanna Schmillen! Hanna is an amazing resource for our online students and maintains an **online nursing program guide** (<https://libguides.library.ohio.edu/rn-bsn>) that includes: **FAQs on assignments**, videos and tutorials, searching tips and tricks, so that students can get tailored help, whenever there is a need. OHIO is also a member of OhioLink, an Ohio academic library consortium. Out of state students can request digital copies of articles or book chapters – sent to them free!
- 7. What is the format of the program?** Students in our program earn a Grade Point Average; *we are not competency based*. In the continuing education field of healthcare, students in our program may earn up to a 4.0 GPA and position themselves to competitively meet admission requirements in MSN degree programs that are pursued in the future. We will prepare you to meet the challenges in today's dynamic and ever-changing field of healthcare. Our online students are members of our eCampus community, with have access to course work 24/7, as well as university resources. All online courses are either 3-credit hours or 4-credit hours. We utilize Blackboard as our online learning management system. There are nine NRSE courses offered online in 5-week sessions that must be completed in our program. If needed to earn our degree, additional NRSE, General Education, and Support Courses are also offered online in 5-week to 15-week sessions.

8. **How many credit hours are required to earn the BSN degree?** 120 credit hours; however, only 30 credit hours must be completed from Ohio University in order to confer (award) our degree. Because we have 31 credit hours of Upper Level Division Nursing Courses (NRSE 4510 – NRSE 4600), by completing all nine required NRSE courses, students are already one credit hour over the minimum threshold to earn our BSN.
9. **What is the maximum number of credit hours that can transfer in to OHIO?** Unlimited general education courses, however students may not transfer more than 50% of NRSE courses into the program. We will review all previously completed coursework for transfer equivalency into our program from Associate and Bachelor degree programs. For transfer consideration into our program, all previously completed coursework must be earned with a minimum 2.0 GPA.
10. **Do previously earned credit hours expire?** No. Previously earned credit hours do not expire.
11. **On average, how long does it take to earn the degree?** Ohio University offers an Early Start option for student that would like to begin taking upper division nursing courses while still enrolled in their ADN program from a CHEA recognized institution. Students can complete 8 of the 9 nursing courses while still enrolled in their nursing program. Nationwide, our graduation success rate is as follows: 50% of our students complete their BSN in two years, 70% within five years. Due to our program’s flexibility, length of time for completion depends upon how quickly a student chooses to earn their degree, whether they take one, two, or three courses at a time, whether they step out for one or more start dates, and their educational history, i.e. how many courses we can transfer in to Ohio University. With our program, you will not be penalized if you need to step away and take a break. We understand that life happens and we are here to support you, your individual needs, and education goals.
12. **What is the Admission GPA for the Online RN to BSN Program?** We are an inclusive university and program. We expect a minimum 2.0 GPA for admission.
13. **Is the Online RN to BSN program impacted?** No. We admit students throughout the year and have eight start dates. We always offer three start dates in the fall, three in the spring, and two in the summer from which students may choose.
14. **Is an active RN license required for Admission?** In order to review a student’s application for admission, along with a 2.0 GPA and a student’s degree conferred (official transcripts), we also need the NCLEX date/location entered into our online application. Upon admission, students may begin earning their BSN, including taking Upper Level NRSE Courses, *prior to sitting/passing* their NCLEX. Note: An unencumbered license on file with the CA BRN will be needed to complete your degree.
15. **When can a student apply for Admission to Ohio University and the Online RN to BSN program?** Students may apply during their final semester of their ADN Program. A completed applicant file for review by an Undergraduate Admissions Advisor will include a student’s NCLEX date/location in the online application, a submitted \$25 application fee, and official transcripts from all previously attended institutions, including the ADN College that states their degree has been “conferred” or “awarded.” If a student applies without filling in the NCLEX date/location into the online application, Undergraduate Admissions will follow up with a to-do list to complete in order for the student’s file to be reviewed.

Students interested in Early Start can begin taking courses once the first semester nursing foundations course has been successfully completed.

16. **What is the application process?** To apply to Ohio University and our Online RN to BSN program, please visit our homepage <https://www.ohio.edu/chsp/nursing/rn-bsn> and choose the “Apply” button. Then, follow these steps to a successful application: Step 1 – complete the online application, Step 2 – Activate your OHIO ID, Step 3 – Request official transcripts, Step 4 – Track your application status online.
17. **Does a student have to be employed as a licensed RN to begin our program?** No. Students may begin our program even if they are not yet employed.
18. **Once in the program, are there limitations on repeating online coursework?** The maximum number of attempts allowed to pass a course successfully for all Ohio University courses (including NRSE courses) is three times.
19. **Is Financial Aid available?** Yes. Students are encouraged to visit our Financial Aid page for our RN to BSN program for more information: <https://www.ohio.edu/chsp/nursing/rn-bsn/financial-aid>. As a future eCampus student, you may also visit the following site for additional information on various types of Financial Aid available at Ohio University, including FAFSA, Federal Grants, Student Loans, and VA Benefits. <https://www.ohio.edu/financial-aid>. The eCampus FAFSA code for Ohio University is: 003100. Our financial aid office would best be able to answer your questions and can be reached at financial.aid.elearn@ohio.edu; or at 740-593-4141.
20. **Who can I contact for more information?** You may reach your local Ohio University School of Nursing staff member Renee Dodd at 805-471-7622, doddr@ohio.edu. I am here to serve as your personal advocate, resource, and program liaison in California.

As the 9th oldest public, not-for-profit university in the nation, we look forward to welcoming you to our Bobcat family and an academic tradition 218years strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Go Bobcats!