What is a RN?

**ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE IN NURSING (ADN) or DIPLOMA**

The Associate's degree in Nursing, or ADN, is a 2-year degree usually based in a community college. The Diploma program is a two to three year program of study based in a hospital setting often providing highly concentrated clinical education. Both meet the minimum amount of school required to become licensed as a registered nurse, or RN.

Once the student graduates, he or she is eligible to take the NCLEX-RN examination which must be passed to become licensed by the State in which they live and/or practice.

An Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) or Diploma will give you a solid foundation for a career in healthcare. Popular among registered nurses (RNs), these pathways provide opportunities to work in entry-level nursing positions.

To bridge the gap between an ADN/Diploma and BSN, there are RN to BSN programs that help nurses earn a bachelor's degree. It is an accelerated nursing program that takes ADN- and diploma-prepared RNs to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

**RN TO BSN**

If you are already a registered nurse, you can complete an RN to BSN program in as little as 2 years without having to put your career on hold, repeat previously completed courses, or cut back your working hours.

RN to BSN programs are designed to add to an RN's already-vast clinical knowledge. You will learn more about leadership and management within the healthcare space. Critical thinking and decision-making skills are also prioritized. RN to BSN programs also focus on evidence-based practice, which will increase the quality of patient care you provide, while increasing patient satisfaction and the overall cost-effectiveness of treatment.

**BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN NURSING (BSN)**

A BSN is a bachelor's degree of science in nursing and is a four-year program for students who seek to become a registered nurse, or those who already are a registered nurse and have an Associate degree in nursing.

BSN programs expand upon the ADN/Diploma curriculum, exposing students to topics such as patient care technology, research, health promotion, safety and quality within the healthcare system.

Many employers require nurses to have a BSN and the degree sets a nurse up to more easily pursue higher degrees such as a master's or terminal level degree in nursing.