

## **RN to BSN**

A BSN curriculum pathway for RN students who are graduates of associate's degree or diploma programs is offered. This pathway provides for recognition of prior study through transfer credit from diploma or associate degree nursing programs and bachelor's degree credits earned previously.

Classes are offered during the evening to accommodate working RNs. All professional nursing courses are taught by highly qualified faculty who are experienced and proficient in scientific foundations and clinical applications of nursing principles. State-of-the-art professional instruction emphasizes that nursing is centered on caring for people. The faculty and students comprise a community of learners with the faculty member as facilitator and the student responsible for his or her own learning. Teaching/learning strategies are varied so that students are able to maximize their learning potentials.

The purposes of the RN to BSN program at The College of New Jersey are to prepare nurses to:

1. Assume the responsibilities of an educated person in society.
2. Participate in the advancement of the profession.
3. Pursue advanced study.
4. Engage in lifelong learning.

### **Requirements for the Major**

The curriculum includes nursing courses in the upper division, College Core courses, and free electives. RN to BSN students are exempt from First Seminar requirement. RN students work with faculty advisors to develop individualized pathways for completing the program. Individualized pathways are based upon the amount and type of transfer credit and the number of courses the student takes in a given semester.

The RN to BSN program follows New Jersey's Comprehensive State-Wide Transfer Agreement. For transferability, one (1) course unit equals four (4) credit hours. TCNJ will accept transfer courses based on this same formula (i.e., a three semester hour course equals .75 course units).

- The maximum number of courses taken in transfer for diploma graduates cannot exceed 7.5 course units.
- The maximum number of courses taken in transfer from schools designated as community colleges or junior colleges cannot exceed 15.5 course units (=62 credit hours). This includes up to 13 nursing courses (=52 credit hours). Note: The maximum number of nursing credits transferred cannot exceed the number of nursing credits earned in the sending institution.
- The maximum number of courses transferred from all sources cannot exceed 22.5 course units (=90 credit hours).

**Academic Policies and Program Requirements**

Entering nursing students are required to understand and adhere to all TCNJ academic and financial rules and procedures. RN to BSN students are expected to demonstrate safe and ethical professional nursing practice. Guidelines for student behavior in clinical settings are outlined on the Nursing website.

Clinical courses require students to travel to regional clinical agencies. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to each assigned clinical site.

**Program Entrance, Retention, and Exit Standards**

RN to BSN students must have earned an associate's degree in nursing or diploma in nursing from an accredited institution. RN-BSN applicants can be accepted into the program if they are eligible for the NCLEX exam or hold a current license to practice professional nursing in New Jersey and present a copy of the same with application for admission to TCNJ. Every major program at the College has set standards for allowing students to remain in that program, to transfer within the College from one program to another, and to graduate from a program. The following are the standards for RN to BSN majors.

- To earn a degree from The College of New Jersey, a student must take at least 8 full course units (=32 credit hours) at the College.
- Graduation requires a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 overall.

**Organizations SIGMA (International Honor Society of Nursing)** The Delta Nu Chapter of SIGMA, the only international honor society of nursing, was chartered at the College in 1980. There are over 300 constituent chapters across the nation in collegiate schools of nursing accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. SIGMA was founded to:

- Recognize the achievement of scholarship of superior quality;
- Recognize the development of leadership qualities;
- Foster high professional standards;
- Encourage creative work; and
- Strengthen commitment on the part of individuals to the ideals and purposes of the profession of nursing.

Each year invitations to membership are extended to selected students in the undergraduate and graduate programs who are in the upper 35 percent of their graduating class. Faculty and other nursing professionals in the community who meet specified criteria may also be invited to become members. Program meetings of an educational or scientific nature are held on a regular basis.

**Course Sequence for RN to BSN Students**

Equivalent courses for the following nursing courses may be transferred in by the RN student.

NUR 110 Development of Unitary Man and Environment	
Across the Life Span	1 course unit
NUR 200 Pharmacological Interventions	1 course unit
NUR 202 Nutrition Across the Life Span	1 course unit
NUR 220 Wellness Promotion Across the Life Span	1 course unit
NUR 230 Health Assessment	1 course unit
NUR 240 Holistic Health Interventions	
Across the Life Span	1 course unit
NUR 320 Caring in Childbearing Family Health/Science	1 course unit
NUR 324 Caring in Childbearing Family Health/Practice	1 course unit
NUR 330 Caring in Adult and Elder Health I/Science	1 course unit
NUR 334 Caring in Adult and Elder Health I/Practice	1 course unit
NUR 340 Caring in Psychosocial Health	
Across the Life Span/Science/Practice	1 course unit
NUR 344 Caring in Child Health/Science/Practice	1 course unit
NUR 420 Caring in Adult and Elder Health Science II	1 course unit

**Total 13 course units**

**Courses that RN students typically need to take at TCNJ include:**

NUR 210 Professional Role Development I:	
Caring Within The Learner Role	1 course unit
NUR 310 Professional Role Development II:	
Caring Within The Clinician Role	1 course unit
NUR 328 Research for Health-Related and Social Sciences	1 course unit
NUR 434 Professional Practice Across the Life Span	1 course unit
NUR 440 Caring in Community Health/Science	1 course unit
NUR 444 Caring in Community Health/Practice	1 course unit
NUR 460 Professional Role Development III: Capstone	
Seminar/Caring within the Leadership Role	1 course unit
STA 115 Statistics	1 course unit

**Total 8 course units**

College Core/Elective Courses (transferred or taken at TCNJ) **10 course units**

**TOTAL FOR RN to BSN Program**

**31 course units**