

Grantham University – RN to BSN Program Overview

Grantham University is celebrating our 70th year in providing online education!! Utilizing the content expertise of a subject matter expert and the course design expertise of an instructional designer, our courses engage the student through multiple educational levels: certificate, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, and master's degree. Since 1961, Grantham University has been continuously accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC), an institutional accreditor deemed comparable by the Federal government to regional accreditation. Both the RN to BSN Completion Program and the Master's Program hold dual accreditation, from ACEN and from CCNE. The health professions programs at the present time do not hold programmatic accreditation, but this is a goal towards which the College of Nursing and Health Professions is actively working.

The College of Nursing provides the baccalaureate degree through the RN to BSN Completion Program and a master's in nursing degree through four separate track specialties: case management, nursing education, nursing informatics, and nursing management/leadership.

Every course is one term, eight weeks in length, and three credits. The RN to BSN completion program may be completed part-time with one course per term or full time with two courses per term. Full time students complete their BSN in 13/14 months if there are no interruptions in progress. Students may stop out for a term if needed, thus personalizing the curriculum plan for each student. For students who qualify, there is a Fast Track option to the BSN curriculum in which the BSN may be obtained in 9/10 months. Courses make monthly in the BSN.

Out of the 120 credits required for the BSN, incoming students with an unencumbered, current RN license receive 81 transcribed credits for their ADN program and their experience as an RN. Students have the potential to obtain nine (9) additional credits if courses such as pharmacology, nursing ethics, pathophysiology (at least at a 300-level) can be transcribed from another college. We are listed as 100% online, however this applies to the didactic portion of the program. Our courses are infused with a combination of virtual simulation and authentic, practice experiences that enhance the concepts of the curriculum. The students complete a capstone project at the culmination of the program. Our faculty are all master's prepared.

The master's program contains 36 credits, all of which must be taken at Grantham University. Every course is one term, eight weeks in length, and three credits. There is a mix of start times for courses: monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly. Full time is one course per term. Overloads may be requested. The full-time student who progresses without interruption completes in 26 months. The first five courses are core courses that all four of the specialty tracks must take. Subsequent to the core courses, the student moves into the specialty courses that are reflective of the track that they have chosen to pursue. As with the BSN Completion Program, the didactic portion of the course is 100% online. The student begins their capstone project in the master's program from the first course of the curriculum and carries it through to completion during the final two courses of the curriculum. Accompanying the capstone project is the capstone paper which is a version of the five chapters inherent in a master's thesis. Although the final course in the master's curriculum is listed as the practicum experience, simulation and authentic, practice

experiences are also contained in additional courses throughout the curriculum. Our faculty in the master's program are all doctoral prepared.

Students meet the program outcomes consistently at 100% of the time and the student satisfaction rating is always 90-100%. Program completion is stable around 70% and is typical for this demographic of military students who may be deployed, and nurses who have personal and professional responsibilities which prevent them from taking courses on a continual basis.

The College of Health Professions provides three 18-credit certificate programs: Electronic Health Records, Medical Administrative Assistant, and Medical Coding and Billing. There are three associate degrees: Health Care Administration, Medical Coding and Billing, and Medical Administrative Assistant. The associate degrees build on the certificates. There is one Bachelor of Science degree in Health Information Management and two master's degrees: Health Systems Management and Healthcare Administration.

The College of Health Professions is working to provide programs where the student can seamlessly move from one level to the next in the educational hierarchy of degrees. All courses in the certificate curricula are contained in one of the associate degrees with work being done to incorporate the courses in the associate degree into the programs leading to a bachelor's degree. The same will be done to facilitate transfer from the bachelor's degrees into the master's programs. As noted earlier, the programs are being aligned with accreditation standards with accreditation being a goal for the future.