

Frequently asked questions about:

Marquette University College of Nursing

Second Degree MSN for Associate Degree or Diploma RNs with non-Nursing Bachelor Degrees “RN Direct Entry”

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[Q: Does this program award a BSN?](#)

A: No. The intent of this program is the Master’s Degree, and you will apply and enter as a Graduate student. This program is designed to take advantage of your non-nursing Bachelor’s degree without additional Arts and Sciences requirements. You will take 12 undergraduate credits that will bridge to the Master’s from your nursing Diploma or Associate’s Degree and your Bachelor’s degree.

If your goal is a BSN, not the MSN, please review the Frequently Asked Questions page and program description for the *RN to BSN to MSN Program*.

[Q: What are the requirements for admission into this program?](#)

A: Admission requirements include: a non-nursing Bachelor’s degree and an Associate Degree or Diploma in Nursing, both with a GPA of 3.0; recommendations; current resume; a written statement of professional goals; graduate school application; transcripts; and completion of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). However, if your undergraduate GPA was 3.2 or higher, the GRE will be waived.

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[Q: Are there also prerequisite courses for admission to this program?](#)

A: Yes. You will need to present evidence that you have taken and passed with at least a “C” the following courses and credits: a minimum of 5 semester credits of Human Anatomy and Physiology covering all body systems; 5-6 credits of science from Chemistry, Biochemistry, Microbiology or Biology; 3 credits of behavioral science (psychology or sociology); and 3

credits of statistics, which must include an inferential component. It is preferred that your anatomy, physiology, science, and statistics courses would have been completed within the last five years.

Q: What are the “bridging courses” you referred to?

A: These are undergraduate level courses in Health Assessment, Professional Issues in Nursing, and theory and a clinical in the Nursing of Communities.

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Q: Do I have to be done with the 12 bridging credits before I start my master’s coursework?

A: There are several core Master’s courses that you may intermingle with the bridge courses if you wish; these are courses that all MSN students take regardless of their master’s option. However, you must have successfully completed your bridge courses before you may start your option-specific courses.

Q: How long will it take to complete my MSN?

A: This is very individualized, based on whether you wish to attend full or part time. In addition, different MSN options have different numbers of credits to complete. The best approach is to have an appointment with an advisor in the option you are choosing, who will assist in creating an individualized program plan for you. The University requires that you complete your MSN within 6 years.

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Q: What are the specialty options available to me in the MSN program?

A: The College of Nursing offers MSN options in Clinical Nurse Leader, Health Care Systems Leadership, Certified Nurse Midwife, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist options in Adult, Older Adult, and Pediatric Nursing. In addition there is a combined MSN-MBA program. Please review the College of Nursing website for a description of your MSN options.

<http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/Academic/Graduate.shtml#MasterOfScienceNursingMSN>

Q: What is the best way to find out if this program will work for me?

A: The first step in exploring your options is to make an appointment with the Coordinator of Direct Entry Programs. Contact mary.paquette@marquette.edu to schedule an appointment to discuss this program.