

Become a Registered Nurse (RN) at the College of Staten Island (CSI)

What CSI offers

There are many pathways into the profession of nursing. At CSI students can choose between an associate degree or bachelor's degree with a major in nursing. Both degrees prepare graduates to take the registered nurse (RN) licensing exam (NCLEX-RN). Upon passing the RN licensing exam, graduates are eligible to work as an RN.

In New York State, a registered nurse without a bachelor's degree in nursing must complete a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing within 10 years of licensure in order to keep their license and remain eligible to work as an RN. CSI offers the RN-BS nursing program for RNs and recent graduates from associate degree or diploma programs in nursing. Depending on the number of required courses already completed, the CSI RN-BS program may be completed in 3 semesters (including summer or winter semesters).

I want to become an RN. Which prelicensure degree program is best for me right now? How do I choose?

Duration of program, curriculum, career opportunities, and salary define the difference and can help you choose.

How long will it take to complete a prelicensure program to become an RN? What happens after I complete my prelicensure program?

AAS: The four required pre-nursing courses may be completed in two semesters. After acceptance into the AAS nursing program, the required courses take a minimum of two years to complete. **The AAS program will take a minimum of 3 years to complete.** Upon successful completion, graduates will be awarded an AAS degree, eligible to take the RN licensing exam, and eligible to pursue their bachelor's degree in nursing. Upon successful completion of the RN licensing exam, graduates will be eligible for employment as an RN. (In New York state, a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing is required within 10 years of initial licensure. A current license and registration is required for continued employment as an RN).

BS: All pre-requisites of this full-time four-year program are completed in year one. Once accepted into the 4-year BS program students begin their nursing course sequence in their first semester of year 2, a feature unique to CSI's nursing program. **The 4-year BS program will take a minimum of 4 years to complete.** Upon successful completion, graduates will be awarded their BS degree and be eligible to take the RN licensing exam. Upon successful completion of the RN licensing exam, graduates will be eligible for multiple employment opportunities as an RN and eligible to pursue graduate education in nursing.

How long will it take to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing if I complete the AAS first, continue my studies, and complete the RN-BS program?

The shortest time to complete the AAS + RN-BS (inclusive of summers and intercessions and having all non-nursing courses completed swiftly excluding transfer credits) are as follows:

AAS (6 semesters) + RN-BS (3 semesters) = 9 semesters (**4 ½ years**)

AAS nursing students in their last semester of their AAS nursing courses who are in good academic standing may be permitted to take Nursing 303 (a required bachelor level nursing course) during their last semester of the AAS program. The shortest time for these students to complete the AAS and RN-BS program would be 8 semesters. (**4 years**)

What is the educational focus of each program?

AAS: This program educates nurses on foundational health sciences principles necessary to care for patients.

BS: This program educates nurses on foundations principles in patient care, but also includes coursework about leadership, public health, policy, nursing specialty electives, and other broad topics.

What career opportunities are available to program graduates?

AAS: With an AAS degree, students can enter the nursing workforce once they pass the NCLEX-RN exam. In most cases a nurse with an AAS degree will not be eligible for jobs in nursing that extend past bedside care, such as leadership, case management, and more.

BS: There are career advantages with the BS degree. Some employers require the BS in nursing degree upon hire. The BS in nursing is required for advancement in all settings and to seek graduate study. Graduate study includes advanced practice roles such as nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, and certified nurse-midwife.

What is the salary potential of program graduates?

AAS: Without the ability to take on advanced roles, nurses with an AAS may find their earning potential capped at a certain salary point. RNs who do not have a bachelor's degree are limited with career options.

BS: Depending on the location of employment, nurses with a BS in nursing typically earn more when starting employment and over the course of their career.

Where can I find more information about CSI's nursing programs?

<https://www.csi.cuny.edu/academics-and-research/departments-programs/nursing>