

I Want to Become a Registered Nurse (RN) at the College of Staten Island (CSI). Which Program is Best for Me Right Now?
Program Comparisons at a Glance

	AAS (To become an RN)	4-year BS (To become an RN)	AAS + RN-BS (To continue education after AAS)
Duration of Program			
Shortest possible pre-requisite completion time	2 semesters	2 semesters	AAS program (6 semesters)
Shortest possible program completion time	6 semesters (3 years)	8 semesters (4 years)	Above 6 + 3 = 9 semesters* (4 ½ years)*
Degree Earned	AAS	BS	BS
Eligibility to take the national RN licensing exam	Upon successful completion of the AAS nursing program	Upon successful completion of the 4-year BS nursing program	Already licensed (Required before taking 400 level nursing courses)
RN license renewal (in NY state)	Within 10 years of initial licensure, must have completed a BS with a major in nursing degree	Already met this requirement upon graduation and initial RN licensure	Must have completed a BS with a major in nursing degree within 10 years of initial licensure.
Educational Focus	Foundational health sciences principles necessary to care for patients.	Foundations principles in patient care, but also includes coursework about leadership, public health, policy, nursing specialty electives, and other broad topics.	Includes coursework about leadership, public health, policy, nursing specialty electives, and other broad topics.
Career Opportunities	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.	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.	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.
Salary Potential	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.	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.	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.

* 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 baccalaureate 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)**