



Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) to
Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN)

ADVISING & STUDENT PLANNING GUIDE

ADN

RN LICENSURE

WORK EXPERIENCE

BSN

MSN

ADVANCED ROLES

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Welcome Future Nurse

This guide was created to help you plan your journey from Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and beyond. Whether your goal is to begin working quickly, advance into leadership, or pursue graduate study, strategic planning early in your academic journey will save time, reduce stress, and open doors.

How to Use This Guide

This Master Guide is designed to help you plan your nursing journey intentionally and efficiently. Rather than reading it all at once, use it as a step-by-step planning tool.

Start with the Nursing Pathway Overview to understand the full progression from ADN to advanced roles. Then review the section that aligns with your current stage – whether you are preparing to apply to the ADN program or planning ahead for a BSN or MSN.

Use the reflection questions, timelines, and checklist to guide conversations with a Chaffey College counselor. Strategic planning early in your academic journey can reduce delays, improve competitiveness, and support long-term career goals.

Your nursing journey is not a single step—it is a progression. Planning early allows you to move efficiently from entry-level licensure to leadership and advanced professional opportunities.

START HERE: The Nursing Pathway Overview

**Attend an ADN Info
Session and meet with a
Chaffey College Counselor**



**Complete the Associate
Degree in Nursing (ADN)
at Chaffey College**



**Pass the NCLEX-RN exam
and obtain CA RN license**



**Begin working as a RN
and gain hands-on
professional experience**



**Complete a
Bachelor of Science
in Nursing through:**

Option 1
traditional RN to BSN
Program

OR

Option 2
Concurrent Enrollment
Program

Which academic pathway is right for you?

There is no “best” pathway, only the pathway that aligns with your goals, timelines, and responsibilities.

Use the guide below to help you decide.

ADN to BSN

Best for students who:

- Want to begin working as an RN as soon as possible
- Prefer completing a bachelor's degree in a flexible, often online format
- Plan to keep graduate school options open
- Want a step by step, affordable progression
- Are balancing work, family, or other commitments.

Typical Timeline:

Year 1–2: Complete the ADN program
Pass the NCLEX-RN exam and become licensed

Year 3–4: Complete a BSN program

Career Outlook:

Staff RN, charge nurse, public health, hospital systems, foundation for MSN later.

ADN to MSN (Bridge)

Best for students who:

- Know they want leadership, education, or advanced roles
- Are comfortable with graduate-level coursework
- Prefer a streamlined path without stopping at a separate BSN program
- Have strong time management and writing skills

Typical Timeline:

Year 1–2: Complete the ADN program
Pass the NCLEX-RN exam and become licensed

Year 3–5: Complete BSN level bridge coursework, MSN (2 – 3 additional years)

Career Outlook:

Nurse educator, nurse manager, advanced clinical leadership, graduate level roles.

Please meet with a representative from the respective partnership nursing school in which you are interested to discuss this pathway.

Still Unsure? Reflection Questions:

Ask yourself:

- Do I want to work as an RN as quickly as possible?
- Am I planning for graduate school now, or later?
- Do I need maximum scheduling flexibility?
- Am I comfortable with graduate level writing and research?
- What is my long-term career goal?

If you are unsure, meet with a counselor early to map out your academic plan.



ADN Program Foundation

The Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) prepares students to become Registered Nurses (RNs).

Program Length: Approximately 2 years (once admitted)

Outcome: Eligible to take the NCLEX – RN exam

Result: Registered Nurse licensure

The ADN program is competitive and uses a multi-criteria screening process for selection.

Students must complete all required prerequisites before applying to the ADN program.



ADN Program Prerequisites

**Required biology science courses.
2.80 GPA minimum.**

COURSE	COURSE TITLE
BIOL 20	Human Anatomy
BIOL 22	Human Physiology
BIOL 23	Microbiology
BIOL 23L	Microbiology Lab

**Required fixed general education courses.
3.00 GPA minimum.**

COURSE	COURSE TITLE
ENGL C1000 (PREVIOUSLY ENGL 1A)	Academic Reading & Writing
MATH 401	Math for Health Sciences
PSYCH 25	Developmental Psychology
SOC 10	Intro to Sociology or ANTHRO 3 Cultural Anthropology or COMSTD 74 Intercultural Communications
COMSTD	COMM C1000, previously COMSTD 2 (Intro to Public Speaking) or Communication Studies 4, 6 or 8
ARTS/Humanities	One course from either Arts or Humanities from the Chaffey College GE.
Ethnic Studies	One course from the Chaffey College GE
Math	STAT C1000, previously STAT 10 (Intro to Statistics) or SCSCI 10 (Statistics for Social Sciences) is recommended.

Always verify current requirements with a Chaffey College Counselor.

Sample Chaffey ADN Prerequisites – Cal-GETC Certification Academic Path

ADN to BSN prerequisites

Students planning to pursue a BSN at a CSU (such as the CSUSB Concurrent Enrollment Program) should complete Cal-GETC or CSU General Education certification while finishing ADN prerequisites.

Start times vary depending on student's enrollment at Chaffey College.

SEMESTER	COURSE	COURSE TITLE	UNITS
First Semester	*HS 30	Medical Terminology	3
	CHEM 10 or higher Chemistry	Introduction to Chemistry	4–5
	ENGL C1000 previously ENGL 1A	Academic Reading & Writing	3
	*NF 15	Nutrition I: Intro to Nutri Sci	3
	STAT C1000 previously STAT 10 or SCSCI 10 Social Science Stats	Introduction to Statistics	4
Total Units 17–18			
Courses marked with an asterisk are nursing support courses, highly recommended but not required.			
Second Semester	BIOL 20	Human Anatomy	4
	COMM C1000 previously COMSTD 2, or COMSTD 8	Introduction to Public Speaking or Fund/Speech Communication	3
	ENGL C1001 previously ENGL 1B	Critical Thinking and Writing	3
	Cal-GETC Ethnic Studies	Ethnic Studies (1 – 6)	3
	Cal-GETC Arts/Humanities	Arts	3–4
Total Units 17			
Summer Session	* GERO 18 or GERO 22 or GERO 23	Aging and the Life Course, Dying and Death, Aging and Older Adulthood	3
	HIST C1001 or HIST C1002 previously HIST 17 or HIST 18	United States History to 1877 United States History since 1865	3
Total Units 6			
Courses marked with an asterisk are nursing support courses, highly recommended but not required.			
Third Semester	BIOL 22	Human Physiology	4
	PSYCH 25	Developmental Psychology: Lifespan Development	3
	SOC 10 or ANTHRO 3 or COMSTD 74	Introduction to Sociology Cultural Anthropology Intercultural Communication	3
	Cal-GETC Arts/Humanities	Humanities	3–4
	*NURADN 428	Basic Pharmacology	3
Total Units 16			
Courses marked with an asterisk are nursing support courses, highly recommended but not required.			
Fourth Semester	BIOL 23	Microbiology	3
	BIOL 23L	Microbiology Lab	2
	Math 401	Math for Health Sciences	1
	POLS C1000 previously PS 1	American Government and Politics	3
	*NURADN 403	Pathophysiology	3
Total Units 15			
Congratulations you are now eligible to apply to the ADN program and will also be Cal-GETC or CSU GE Certified!			

ADN Multi-Criteria Screening Overview

Admission is based on a structured multi-criteria screening process designed to evaluate academic readiness and professional preparation.

- Completion of all prerequisite coursework
- Science GPA and General Education “fixed set” GPA
- Previous healthcare experience
- TEAS exam performance

Please review the ADN Multi Criteria Screening Worksheet in its entirety on the ADN program website and attend an ADN Information Session to learn more!

Attend an Application Workshop

- You will learn how to prepare your ADN application
- Apply to the ADN program during open application period

Common Mistakes That Delay Admission

Avoid these common issues:

- Waiting too long to submit official college/university transcripts to Admissions & Records
- Repeating science courses without counseling guidance
- Not understanding recency requirements for sciences
- Missing application deadlines
- Assuming all BSN programs have the same requirements

Early planning and regular counseling appointments reduce delays.

Planning Ahead for BSN or MSN

Even while preparing for the ADN, students should consider long term goals.

Ask Yourself - Reflection Questions:

Do I plan to pursue a BSN immediately after licensure?

- Am I interested in leadership or graduate level roles?
- Should I complete transfer GE pattern such as Cal-GETC or CSU general education now to avoid delays later?

Strategic planning at the ADN stage improves efficiency and reduces total time to advanced degrees.

Why the BSN Matters

While the ADN program prepares students for licensure as a Registered Nurse, the BSN expands professional opportunities.

A BSN may:

- Increase competitiveness in hospital hiring
- Support advancement into leadership roles
- Meet eligibility requirements for graduate nursing programs
- Strengthen preparation in research, public health, and evidence-based practice
- Strategic planning early ensures a smooth transition from ADN to advanced nursing roles

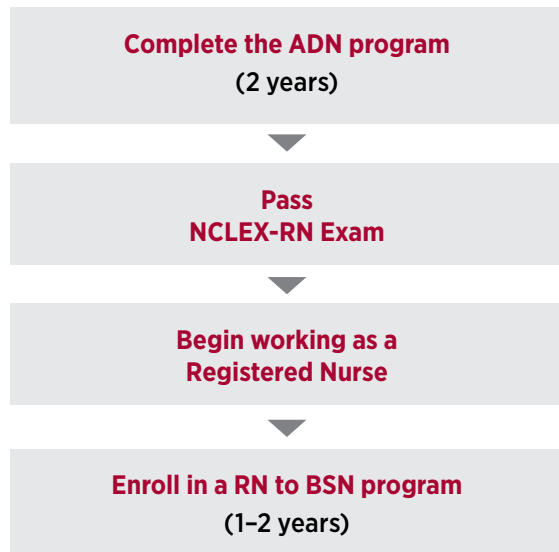


ADN to BSN Pathways

After completing the ADN program and becoming licensed as a Registered Nurse, students may pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). There are two primary pathways.

Option 1: Traditional ADN to RN to BSN (Post-Licensure)

How it works:



Typical Timeline:

Year 1 – 2: Complete the ADN program

NCLEX-RN: Licensure

Year 3 – 4: Complete RN to BSN program

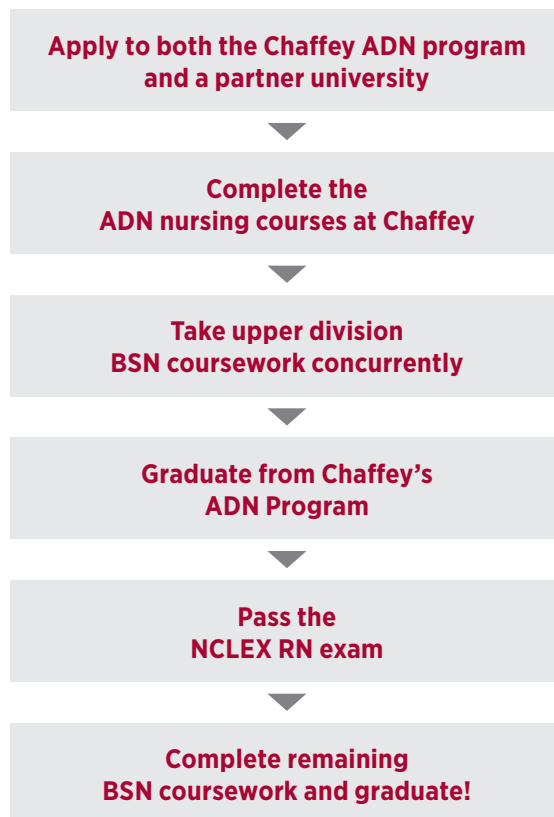
Best for students who:

- 👍 Want to begin working quickly
- 👍 Prefer flexible or online learning options
- 👍 Need manageable academic workload during the ADN program

Option 2: Concurrent Enrollment Pathway (CEP – CSU Example)

Concurrent Enrollment allows students to complete ADN coursework at Chaffey College while simultaneously enrolling in BSN coursework at a partner university.

How it works:



Typical Timeline:

Year 1 – 2: ADN coursework + selected BSN coursework

After ADN completion: NCLEX – RN exam

Final Term(s): Complete remaining BSN requirements and graduate with a BSN!

Best for students who:

- 👍 Plan early for BSN completion
- 👍 Have completed Cal-GETC or CSU GE transfer requirements
- 👍 Can manage additional coursework during the ADN program
- 👍 Prefer a structured pathway

Key Differences Between the traditional ADN program and ADN-BSN CEP:

	Traditional	Concurrent Enrollment Program
	Apply to BSN after RN licensure	Apply to ADN and university partner
	Being working before starting BSN	Take BSN courses during the ADN program
	More flexible pacing	Faster completion
	Lower workload during the ADN program	Higher workload during the ADN program

ADN Planning Checklist

- ☐ Meet with a Chaffey College Counselor early
- ☐ Track science and general education “fixed set” GPAs
- ☐ Verify repeat and recency science coursework requirements
- ☐ Submit all college/university transcripts to Admissions & Records
- ☐ Attend an ADN Information Session
- ☐ Review the ADN Multi-Criteria Screening Worksheet
- ☐ Consider completing transfer GE pattern Cal-GETC or CSU general education
- ☐ Discuss long-term goals with your Counselor

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