Murray State University
School of Nursing
RN BSN Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I contact related to questions about the RN BSN Program at Murray State University (MSU)?
Prospective students may access the website for the MSU RN BSN Program at http://www.murraystate.edu/academics/CollegesDepartments/nursing-and-health-professions/nursing/RNtoBSN/resources.aspx for information, requirements, and documents related to the program. Students may also contact the RN BSN Program Coordinator by emailing at msu.rnbsn@murraystate.edu or by calling 270.824.1815. Students may also contact the MSU Transfer Center by emailing at msu.transfercenter@murraystate.edu or by calling 800.669.7654 or 270.809.3350.

Where can I get information locally about the RN BSN Program?
Prospective students may access the website for MSU Regional Academic Outreach at http://murraystate.edu/academics/RegionalAcademicOutreach/index.aspx. The MSU staff at each regional campus listed below are eager to assist you in meeting your educational goals. Individuals transferring from other institutions are encouraged to make his/her first contact at the nearest regional site for application, admission, financial aid, and transfer information.

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<tr>
<th>MSU Henderson Regional Campus</th>
<th>MSU Hopkinsville Regional Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>2660 S. Green Street</td>
<td>5305 Ft. Campbell Blvd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henderson, Ky. 42420</td>
<td>Hopkinsville, KY 42240</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone: 270.831.5111 or</td>
<td>Telephone: 270.707.1525 or 800.669.7654</td>
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<tr>
<td>800.669.7654</td>
<td>Fax: 270.707.1535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax: 270.831.2375</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:msu.henderson@murraystate.edu">msu.henderson@murraystate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:msu.henderson@murraystate.edu">msu.henderson@murraystate.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>MSU Madisonville Regional Campus</th>
<th>MSU- Paducah Regional Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td>2000 College Drive</td>
<td>4430 Sunset Avenue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madisonville, KY 42431</td>
<td>Paducah, KY 42003</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone: 270.825.4379 or</td>
<td>Telephone: 270.442.4753 or</td>
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<tr>
<td>800.669.7654</td>
<td>800.669.7654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fax: 270.809.5469</td>
<td>Fax: 270.809.5473</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:msu.madisonville@murraystate.edu">msu.madisonville@murraystate.edu</a></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:msu.paducah@murraystate.edu">msu.paducah@murraystate.edu</a></td>
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Who advises RNs?
Advisors are responsible for assisting the student to plan a course of study which will permit the student to successfully complete the program in the most expeditious manner. Upon acceptance into MSU, the student will be assigned an advisor who is a faculty member teaching within the program.

Is there a separate admission to nursing?
Yes, admission into nursing is separate from the admission into the university (see RN BSN Admission Procedure Form 006 and RN BSN Program Admission Application Form 007).
Are there admission deadlines for the RN BSN Program?
Students applying to the program must be a current MSU student and have his/her admission application, required documents, and all transfer work evaluation completed before the Academic Standards and Admission Committee will consider them for admission. For fall semester admission, the deadline is May 1 and for spring semester admission, the deadline is November 15. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for admission.

Do I have to take a test to be admitted to the RN BSN Program?
No, there is no additional testing required for admission to the program.

Do I get credit for my associate degree nursing classes?
Registered nurses may receive up to 20 hours of upper division credit for their basic nursing courses (subject to transfer credit evaluation) after paying the course validation/challenge fee. Once enrolled in the program, students will submit payment as directed by the RN BSN Program Coordinator and Registrar. The current fee for course validation is $500.00 ($25.00/credit hour).

Do my courses from the community college transfer?
Yes, all courses from accredited institutions of higher education will be evaluated for transfer credit by the Registrar’s office. BSN courses transferred to MSU, will be evaluated on a case by case basis when the student submits course descriptions and/or course syllabi. Course substitution forms must be initiated and filed by the student.

How many hours do I have to take from MSU?
Students should refer to the MSU Academic Bulletin for the number of hours required for graduation. Registered nurses are required to complete all university requirements for graduation, including the University Studies requirements. Specific University Studies requirements are listed in the MSU Academic Bulletin. Current catalog requirements apply to newly admitted students. Students who have attained an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science will be exempt from the University Studies requirements, however, program requirements still apply.

What other courses will I need from the community college?
Students will be required to demonstrate, by way of transcript receipt, successful completion (grade of C or better) of the following prerequisite courses or equivalent courses: ENG 105, COM 161, PSY 180, CHE 105 or CHE 111, MAT 140, BIO 228, and BIO 229.
In addition to the above courses, students will be required to complete STA 135 or equivalent course, and meet the University Studies requirements.

Are nursing courses taught on weekends?
No, we do not have a weekend program however nursing courses are available online.

Can I work full-time and go to school full time?
This is truly a personal decision. You will be challenged in the program in a different way than when you completed your associate program. There is significant library research, writing, and reading required to meet course objectives. A full-time load is 12 credit hours. The rationale behind this, is that for every 1 hour spent in the classroom, there are approximately 3+ hours of time spent outside of class on assignments, reading, and other preparatory work.
How many written assignments are there?
There are multiple written assignments throughout the program. Students spend a great deal of time learning to perfect oral and written communication skills. The ability to communicate in multiple ways is one of the characteristics of a professional. As part of your BSN preparation, you will encounter a strong emphasis on developing and/or improving your written communication skills.

How long will it take me to complete the program?
The length of time to complete the program depends on one’s total credit hours needed and the availability to prepare for classes and complete assignments. Some courses are taught during a short summer term but are online. Many students complete the program within 3 semesters.

How long do I have to complete the program?
An RN has 5 years to complete the program after admission and enrollment into NUR 314.

How is the clinical component of nursing courses completed?
Some courses require a clinical component. Students will be responsible for identifying nurse preceptors/mentors and clinical sites in the local community. Approval of selected preceptors/mentors and facilities must be obtained from course faculty prior to implementing clinical experiences. Clinical components are completed in a variety of ways that are flexible and student arranged. Students will be responsible for securing facility contracts, if required.

What technology requirements are needed to complete courses?
In order to participate and be successful in required course work, students will need to have access to a computer and the internet. For students who wish to use a home computer, it is recommended that you have:

- Obtained and exclusively utilize your Murray State University email account (faculty will communicate and use only MSU accounts for correspondence purposes).
- Access to the Canvas course management system for all registered courses.
- An operating system of Windows 2008 or higher as well as current Microsoft Office Suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook.
- Internet browsers such as Windows Explorer, Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are all options in the latest version.

How do I find out the answers to additional questions?
Students may contact the RN BSN Program Coordinator at msu.rnbsn@murraystate.edu or by calling 270.824.1815, the School of Nursing at 270.809.2193, or the nearest regional campus.