

Why Choose a Two-Year Nursing Program?

Frequently Asked Questions

An ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) is a two-year program while a BSN (Bachelors Degree in Nursing) is a four-year program. Just as each ADN program is unique, BSN programs also vary from school to school. Below are some of the general differences.

Q. What are the differences between a BSN and an ADN program, other than length?

A. There are three big differences:

General education courses. BSN programs contain considerably more liberal arts classes - history, economics, foreign language, etc. - than ADN programs. On the other hand, ADN programs usually include more total clinical time.

How quickly you start nursing. BSN programs typically don't start you in nursing classes or nursing clinicals until the third year. ADN programs include clinical courses and patient assignments in the first semester.

University atmosphere. The BSN is often offered at larger colleges. So if the big school atmosphere is important to you, then a BSN program may be right for you.

Q. Is there a difference in the nursing education I'll receive?

A. Not really. Both programs provide the theory and practice you need to take your nursing licensing exam and become a practicing RN after graduation.

Q. Does a new nurse with a BSN make more money than a new nurse with an ADN?

A. Not usually. Most health providers have a flat rate "new RN" salary which is exactly the same, regardless of academic preparation. For long-term career mobility, however, the BSN offers more flexibility. CCHS encourages all graduates to continue their education while working as nurses at the same time.

Q. How long will it take to finish a BSN once I have an ADN?

A. A student who comes to CCHS with a just a few college classes will take from one to two years after the ADN to complete the BSN. It varies with which college you select. Most students work full-time while finishing their BSN.

Q. My goal is to earn a BSN; am I better off starting in a BSN program?

A. Not necessarily. Most ADN-to-BSN "bridge programs" allow you to work full-time as an RN while taking courses. You are in the workplace, earning an RN salary two years earlier. Some ADN nurses even go straight into an MSN program.

Q. How do I know which is best for me?

A. If getting the full college experience is important to you - look into BSN programs. If a small school environment, entering the workplace ASAP, and total clinical time are important, then CCHS may be what you're looking for.