

Questions and Answers about UK's RN to BSN Program

Provided by:

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Greetings! Below are answers to some questions that have been or are frequently posed about UK's RN to BSN program.

Q: Are there still spots available in UK's program for Fall 2016?

A: Yes, but you will need to work on your application very soon!

Q: Will my credits transfer to UK?

A: Credits from all regionally accredited community colleges, colleges, or universities should transfer. When you look up your prior school's accreditation- look for Higher Learning Commission accreditation. UK accepts up to 90 credits in transfer from each 4-year degree granting college or university, or KY community colleges. For Community colleges outside KY, UK will accept 67 hours in transfer.

Q: I attended UK's College of Nursing more than 10 years ago, will I have to repeat courses?

A: There is no time limit on general education courses; however, the nursing curriculum changes regularly to maintain accreditation so RN-BSN nursing courses taken at UK more than 5 years ago typically will not count toward a BSN today. The curriculum today would not be the same and there is a rule you must complete the BSN within 5 years of beginning the nursing courses.

Q: How is the online program set up?

A: You can attend part-time or full-time. You never have to come in the College, but you can meet with faculty in the College in person if you choose too. The nursing courses run on a set schedule. One course is a 4-week course, there are 5, 8-week courses, and there are 2, 16-week courses. You never have to be online at a certain time. The courses are set up in modules where each week you will learn content and do assignments. There are few exams.

Q: How long is the program?

A: UK nurses usually enroll part-time to fully utilize their tuition benefit and they complete the program in 2 years. You have the option to pay out of pocket for additional hours and finish in 12 months.

Q: How do we get our books?

A: We do not dictate where the books are purchased or if you get printed or electronic books, rental or buy. We do use textbooks and not materials that are instructor-developed and owned like some for-profit schools. Therefore, we do not send them to your door because we want you to have some flexibility.

Q: How does this program compare to our prior ADN program?

A: This is much different from ADN. There are very few exams. Assignments are discussion boards, case studies, written assignments, etc. It feels more like a helpful community instead of a competitive one that you may have come from.

Q: Are there clinical requirements?

A: Yes, all RN-BSN programs are required to have clinical experiences to maintain their accreditation. We require a clinical project in 2 courses: Population Health and the Graduation Capstone course. You can choose areas you are interested in for both and we can help you find placements. The on-site clinical is approx. 45 hours in Population Health and 40 hours in the Graduation capstone course.

Q: What are the out of pocket costs?

A: Costs include textbooks and approx. \$120 to purchase software package that maintains your immunizations, cpr, etc. online for the College and their clinical partners where you may do clinical.

Q: I have been out of school a long time. Are there other students in my situation?

A: Yes! We have a nice mix of students who just finished their Associate degree to very experienced nurses who have been away from school a long time.

Q: How will I learn to navigate my courses?

A: You will be provided with orientation materials that will help answer your questions. You will be assigned an advisor who is available to answer questions and guide you throughout the process. Canvas is UK's learning management system and there is 24/7 help available on navigating and using Canvas and it is extremely helpful and prompt!

Q: Can I get an evaluation of my unofficial transcripts?

A: Yes, anyone who wants to bring a copy of their transcripts to the Lunch and Learn may bring a copy to leave with the Coordinator and they will be reviewed and we can send you information about them via email. There is also a Transfer Center at UK who will evaluate transcripts for you. Or you can email them to me (Dr. Jessica Wilson JessicaL.Wilson@uky.edu) and I will

Q: How does UK's program compare to Indiana Wesleyan?

A: I don't really know much about Indiana Wesleyan's program. I can only speak to UK's program. UK has a national and international reputation for excellence in nursing education with ranked programs. The faculty are interested in getting to know their students and mentor them in their career. We will not put you on a listserv and hound you about applying. We want you to enroll when the time is right for you and we will support you to be successful. We had a 98% retention/graduation rate in our hybrid program and we have maintained that in our first year online.

Two Nurse Panelists from the May 19th, 2016 Nursing Lunch and Learn

Jon Grillon, RN

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Background: I got into the UK RN to BSN (full-time) program in the fall 2015. I work full time in the Stroke ICU and have 3 children under the age of 4 years. My wife works full-time as a RN too. The UK RN to BSN program is 4 semesters long; Fall and Spring semesters, and Summer 1 and Summer 2. I got my ADN first.

Q: What is the best part about the UK RN to BSN program?

A: That the classes are 8 weeks in length. The Public Health clinical is only 44 hours and the Nursing Synthesis Clinical (final semester) has been shortened from 222 hours to 40 clinical hours. The flexibility, two due dates/week...I can balance my week because things are due at the end of the week. What also is great about the program is how easy I can access my faculty for questions, assignments, etc. because their doors are always open and they are right across the street. The UK Employee Education Program (EEP) made it affordable, but I still took out a student loan to cover household expenses. Tuition is very reasonable. I only had to get 1 – 2 books/semester and I rented them from Amazon for \$20/semester.

Q: What have you noticed has improved in your nursing practice by being in UK's RN to BSN program?

A: My supervisor has been very supportive especially for my Public Health clinical. She helped me prepare the #100 packets I needed for my paper. I believe that the UK RN to BSN program has improved my writing skills; I know how to write in APA style now. It also helped me to understand Evidence Based Practice which I utilize now in my nursing

practice, and I can find journal articles very quickly now as compared to my ADN program which took me forever. Also I believe my nursing assessment skills have improved.

Q: How does UK's RN to BSN program differ from other programs?

A: There are no trick questions on our tests. Pharmacology and pathophysiology are all multiple choice test questions and the prestige of getting a degree from the University of Kentucky College of Nursing.

Shannon Parsley, RN, BSN

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Background: I received my ADN from BCTC in 2007 and then worked at St. Joseph Hospital in Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, and Rapid Response for 7 years. I was sitting in a Nursing Lunch and Learn workshop several years ago just like you all are, feeling the pressure and expectation to pursue a BSN. I remember thinking that a BSN merely added letters behind my name and couldn't possibly make me a better nurse, as it certainly wasn't going to immediately increase my scope of practice. I enrolled in UK's RN- BSN program in 2009, but because of personal reasons, I withdrew half way through. It was very easy for me to return and the faculty welcomed me back with open arms. I didn't even need to reapply and was able to pick up right where I left off. I returned to the program in January, 2015 and finished my BSN in August, 2015

Q: What is the best part about the UK RN to BSN program?

A: The best part of the UK RN to BSN program is the support and encouragement of the faculty and how available they always are. After completing my BSN, I realized, through the direct mentorship of the faculty, that I needed a Ph.D. to be able to affect healthcare policy changes on the level that I desired. I just recently completed my 1st semester of the Ph.D. program with a research interest in health policy and a focus on organizational healthcare ethics. I do believe that UK College of Nursing faculty truly cares about their students and are invested in developing future nursing leaders. They serve as an inspiration and example for us all to rise to our unique potential.

Q: What have you noticed has improved in your nursing practice by being in UK's RN to BSN program?

A: Now that I look back, I am a much better writer and researcher and I am also able to utilize and apply Evidenced Based Practice. The RN-BSN program opened my eyes to the endless career possibilities that exist within the nursing profession. Despite my preconceptions, I do believe I am now a much better nurse!