

**Southwest Minnesota State University**  
**RN to BSN Program Full-Time Program of Study (uAchieve Student Planner)**

The SMSU RN to BSN Program is committed to meeting the needs of our diverse student body. Flexibility is a crucial need for our student body; thus, flexibility is found throughout the program, beginning with the admission process through the curriculum. Courses are sequenced in this manner to set students up for success. Students may progress through the program at a full or part-time pace to meet Department of Nursing requirements and their personal and professional needs. The RN-BSN program of study includes all prerequisite courses, Minnesota Transfer (MnTC) Curriculum core courses, and nursing courses required to complete the degree.

**Full-time (FT) Length of Program:** Students complete program requirements in four (4) semesters (Fall and Spring), with summer term courses *optional*. The RN-BSN Program is a 30-credit hour program with 10 core nursing courses, along with a choice of one (1) nursing elective: Care of the Rural Population (NURS 434), Clinical Reasoning and Judgment (NURS 435), or Mental Health Nursing (NURS 437).

[Financial Aid](#) Eligibility depends on progression status.

**FT Program of Study Plan (Example):**

**Semester One:**

<b>NURS 300- Transitions to Baccalaureate Nursing</b> (first NURS course taken in the SMSU RN to BSN Program. It may be taken alone or in conjunction with other NURS courses)	3
<b>NURS 310- Transcultural Nursing</b>	3
<b>NURS 320- Chronic Illness in Rural Settings</b>	3
<b>NURS 400- Prevention and Population Health</b>	3

**Semester Two:**

<b>NURS 420- Healthcare Policy and Informatics</b>	3
<b>NURS 360- Pathophysiology</b>	3
<b>NURS 390- Evidence-Based Practice</b>	3
<b>NURS 410- Public/Community Health Experiential Nursing Learning Seminar</b>	1

**Semester Three:**

<b>*NURS Elective</b>	2
<b>NURS 440- Organizational and System Leadership</b>	3
<b>*NURS 450- Public/Community Health Experiential Nursing Learning</b>	3 (2/1)

**Semester Four:**

- may need depending on transfer credits completed (student will work with their faculty advisor)

## **RN to BSN Program Less Than Full-Time (Part-Time) Program of Study (uAchieve Student Planner)**

**Less Than Full-time:** Part-time students complete coursework in up to 11 semesters (Fall and Spring) with summer term *optional*. Students must complete the SMSU RN to BSN Program within a seven-year timeframe.

### **Less Than Full-Time Program of Study Plan (Example: two courses per semester):**

#### **Semester One:**

**NURS 300- Transitions to Baccalaureate Nursing** (first NURS course taken in the SMSU RN to BSN Program.  
It may be taken alone or in conjunction with other NURS courses) 3  
**NURS 310- Transcultural Nursing** 3

#### **Semester Two:**

**NURS 320- Chronic Illness in Rural Settings** 3  
**NURS 390- Evidence-Based Practice** 3

#### **Semester Three:**

**NURS 360- Pathophysiology**  
**NURS 400- Prevention and Population Health** 3

#### **Semester Four:**

**NURS 410- Public/Community Health Experiential Nursing Learning Seminar** 1  
**NURS 420- Healthcare Policy and Informatics** 3

#### **Semester Five:**

**NURS 440- Organizational and System Leadership** 3  
**\*NURS 450- Public/Community Health Experiential Nursing Learning** 3 (2/1)  
**\*NURS Elective** 2

### **Less Than Full-Time (one course per semester) Example:**

#### **Semester One:**

**NURS 300- Transitions to Baccalaureate Nursing** 3

#### **Semester Two:**

**NURS 310- Transcultural Nursing** 3

#### **Semester Three:**

**NURS 320- Chronic Illness in Rural Settings** 3

#### **Semester Four:**

**NURS 360- Pathophysiology** 3

#### **Semester Five:**

**NURS 390- Evidence-Based Practice** 3

#### **Semester Six:**

**NURS 400- Prevention and Population Health** 3

**Semester Seven:**

**NURS 420 - Health Care Policy and Informatics** 3

**Semester Eight:**

**\*NURS Elective** 2

**Semester Nine:**

**NURS 440- Organizational and System Leadership** 3

**Semester 10:**

**NURS 410- Public/Community Health Experiential Nursing Learning Seminar** 1

**Semester 11:**

**\*NURS 450- Public/Community Health Experiential Nursing Learning** 3 (2/1)

**\*Courses with prerequisites**

Students may begin the RN to BSN Program NURS courses in the fall or spring semester. The RN to BSN program at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU) is a 30-credit hour program with 10 courses and one elective course. The three programs of study above are just some examples of programs of study available. Standard 16-week (as displayed above) and express course options (8 to 10-week courses) are also available for some course offerings.

Flexibility is offered in scheduling courses to meet student learner needs, noting that SMSU may not offer all courses per schedule, depending on enrollment. Students may take courses at a pace that meets their needs, ranging from taking one course at a time to taking courses full-time. Summer term course offerings are available/optional if desired. Students may change the pace at which they take courses while in the program. Students are encouraged to review the course catalog for each semester's offerings. Beyond the RN to BSN Program nursing-specific courses, additional courses may be needed to complete the Liberal Education Program (LEP) Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) SMSU graduation requirements. SMSU baccalaureate degree completion requirements include 120 semester credits, including 42 MnTC credits. MnTC includes general education courses reflecting competencies adopted by the higher education entities of Minnesota. To complete the entire MnTC at SMSU, students must earn at least 40-42 credits in the ten goal areas and the requirements for each goal area. Successful completion of the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) earns 15 credits for prior learning. The student academic advisor will help the student create their program of study to progress through the program, with each student having a unique, individualized course program of study.