



Support for RN-BSN Students at a Distance

The College of Nursing maintains outreach support centers in selected Iowa communities and has collaborative agreements with all Iowa community colleges. Most students find it advantageous to combine enrollment in the local community college with courses offered by The University of Iowa in distance education formats, making it possible to deliver the RN-BSN program in its entirety to students across the state.

Students' learning experiences throughout the state are facilitated by **University of Iowa faculty** located in selected regions, with knowledge of the local clinical environment that is critical to the distance education philosophy of the program. The faculty coordinator also advises students in the nursing major, teaches in the program, and coordinates access to clinical and educational resources, both locally and with The University of Iowa.

Students participating around the state are encouraged to access the local community college for prerequisite, supporting, and general education courses. Find the community college nearest you on the Iowa Department of Education's clickable map.

<http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/view/241/857/>

The RN-BSN Program also maintains detailed transfer guides for each of Iowa's community colleges and many community colleges in surrounding states on the program website at http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic_programs/undergrad/rn-bsn/index.htm

REGION	CONTACT FOR PLANNING	PHONE / EMAIL
East Central Iowa (Iowa City / Cedar Rapids / Quad Cities / Dubuque / Marshalltown / Newton)	Mary Fuhrman, Regional Faculty Coordinator	563 588-8009 or 563 580-2306 mary-fuhrman@uiowa.edu
Northeast Iowa (Mason City / Calmar / Waterloo / Waverly)	Pat Nelson, Regional Faculty Coordinator	641 422-4338 Patricia-a-nelson@uiowa.edu
Central Iowa (Fort Dodge / Carroll / Ames / Des Moines)	Kelley Blackburn, Regional Faculty Coordinator	515 576-0099, ext 1307 (Fort Dodge Office) 515 235-4616 (Des Moines Office) kelley-blackburn@uiowa.edu
Northwest Iowa (Emmetsburg / Spencer / Sheldon / Orange City / Sioux City)	Carol Dupic, Regional Faculty Coordinator	712 852-5208 Carolrae-dupic@uiowa.edu
Southeast Iowa (Ottumwa / Burlington / Fort Madison / Centerville)	Contact Program Office in this Region: Cheri Doggett, Distance Education Support Staff Karla Christensen or Kathy Keasler, Program Staff	Contact Program Office: 800 272-6430, ext 59214 or 319 335-9214 Nursing-rn-bsn@uiowa.edu
Southwest Iowa (Council Bluffs / Red Oak / Creston / Clarinda / Harlan / Atlantic)	Carol Maxwell, Regional Faculty Coordinator	712 310-5198 Carol-maxwell@uiowa.edu

Taking the Next Step



Planning for the Online RN-BSN Program

1. Provide transcripts for review

The first and most helpful step for students is to **send copies of transcripts for review**. It is important to include all transcripts, including high school (particularly if you graduated 1991 or thereafter). The more complete the information you provide, the more specific our review can be. We do **not** need official transcripts for this preliminary review.

It may be to your advantage to have official transcripts sent, however, especially if you anticipate making application to the College of Nursing for the upcoming summer session. Be sure to also send an email to nursing-rn-bsn@uiowa.edu, letting us know that transcripts have been ordered, what schools you attended, and any previous names that may be on the transcripts.

Whether you send photocopies or official, **always** have transcripts sent to the **RN-BSN Program Office, 37 Nursing Bldg, The University of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242** and be sure to provide us with current contact information: name, mailing address, phone, and email address.

2. Develop an individual plan of study

Once you have received the transcript evaluation, you may still have specific questions. **Arrange a time to meet** (in person, by email, or by phone) with an advisor in the program office or the coordinator for your region. We want to help you meet your individual goals, so establish this contact early!

Your individual plan will serve as a guide, so be sure to keep it with your transcript evaluation. You may want to send copies of updated transcripts later on, as you make progress toward prerequisites. We're very willing to update that initial transcript review if that's helpful in your planning.

3. Get wired!

Look over the **computer competency expectations** handout. Don't despair if you don't feel completely "up to speed," but do check around in your workplace for training opportunities or contact your local community college for a schedule of credit courses. See the Business/Management Supporting area of your community college transfer guide for specific course names and catalog numbers. Visit and **bookmark our website**:

http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/academic_programs/undergrad/rn-bsn/index.htm

Take some time to become familiar with the resources available on our website. Click on the links along the left side of that main page to find Frequently Asked Questions, informational handouts, and transfer guides – for easy access wherever you are - including detail about the nursing major that will help you to prepare for this Next Step.

4. Apply

The deadline is **January 15** for summer admission. If your advising worksheet and individual plan of study suggest that you might be ready to begin the nursing major as early as next summer, apply now at <http://www.uiowa.edu/admissions/undergrad/>. You can mark that off your list and we will be able to better anticipate the needs in your region. The College of Nursing is committed to offering **nursing major courses online**. Limited face-to-face learning activities may occur in regional support centers around the state.