



Frequently Asked Questions about the Accelerated Second-Degree BSN (ABSBN) Option

1. What is an Accelerated Second-Degree BSN option?

The accelerated second-degree BSN option is designed for students who have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree and are interested in pursuing a BSN degree with eligibility to obtain licensure as a registered nurse (RN). This 12-month option begins in the spring semester annually.

2. What is the difference between the BSN program and Accelerated Second-Degree BSN option?

A baccalaureate degree is not required for admission to the BSN. After admission to the BSN, students complete two years (4 semesters) of nursing courses and graduate with a BSN.

A baccalaureate degree is one of the minimum requirements for the ABSBN. After admission to the ABSBN, students complete one year of nursing courses in a more intense format.

3. Do I need a degree in science for the Accelerated Second-Degree BSN?

Students are not required to hold a specific undergraduate degree. However, students must complete all of the prerequisite courses which include specific science courses. The prerequisite courses prepare the student to successfully meet the challenges of the ABSBN curriculum. Students from a variety of degree backgrounds have been very successful in this option.

4. Is there a time frame on prerequisite courses?

The science prerequisite courses must have been taken within the last 5 years. These courses include: Microbiology, Anatomy & Physiology and Chemistry.

5. How many students are accepted each year?

A minimum of twenty students a year are accepted. Applicants would have to apply for admission to ECU, the College of Nursing, complete the required prerequisite courses and a pre-admission entrance exam before the deadline date. After the application deadline date, competitive applicants would be receiving an invite for a personal interview before final decisions are made.

6. Do I have to attend class on-campus?

Yes, the Accelerated Second-Degree BSN option is a full-time campus based option that will last for 12 months.

7. Once admitted, how long is it before I can take the NCLEX and begin working as a nurse?

During the one year, students are enrolled in an intensive, full-time, undergraduate-level series of traditional pre-licensure courses. At the end of 12 months, successful students would then graduate with their BSN degree and be able to take the NCLEX-RN. Upon passing this exam, students receive their RN license and are eligible to begin work as a registered nurse.