

**WHY RNS**  
SHOULD CONSIDER A  
**BSN DEGREE**

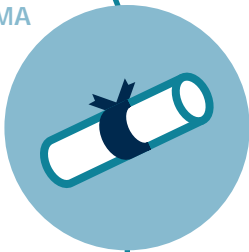
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# Pathways to Nursing

There are three main pathways to becoming a Registered Nurse (RN): a Nursing Diploma, an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

NURSING  
DIPLOMA



Some prospective RNs choose ADN programs because, typically, it can be a more affordable and faster route to nursing. Being able to complete coursework and clinical hours in just two years is a boon to working professionals and people with families.

ADN



These types of degrees are also excellent ways to start making money quickly. Payscale puts the average salary of a nurse with an ADN degree around \$67,000, but that number can fluctuate depending on your skills and experience.

BSN





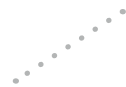
## B

According to [Payscale](#), the average salary for BSN-educated nurses is around \$81,000.

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# BSN-Prepared Nurses and Bedside Care

**R**esearch shows that hospitals with a greater percentage of BSN-prepared nurses have better patient outcomes across a variety of indicators, including:

A 2013 article published in [JONA: Journal of Nursing Administration](#) found that hospitals with a greater percentage of nurses with a bachelor's degree or higher had better patient outcomes across a variety of indicators, including:





Higher levels of education within the nursing workforce don't just benefit patients, either—nurses also stand to gain from obtaining a BSN. And it's not in the way you might think.

According to [PRC Custom Research's National Nursing Engagement Report](#), 15.6 percent of nurses experience



# Effects of Higher Education on the Nursing Workforce

## ○ Leadership Skills : BSN

### \* Leadership Skills

A standard part of the BSN curriculum focuses on leadership, delegation, collaboration, and communication with other members of the healthcare team. These skills are critical for nurses who expect to meet the increasingly complex medical needs of a diverse patient population by collaborating with specialists in other fields. BSN-prepared nurses are also trained to think critically, which is essential when modifying patient care, interpreting test results, and identifying situations in which further support from other healthcare professionals is needed.

## ⊕ Specialties : BSN

Many specialties—including critical care, informatics, oncology, perioperative, and trauma—require BSNs, and so do management and administrative positions. A BSN gives you a leg up over other applicants because it increases your understanding of core competencies. Classes such as pharmacology and pathophysiology, for instance, give you a better understanding of the disease process and how medical interventions help prevent and treat all types of illnesses.

## 💡 Practice : BSN

BSN-prepared nurses receive in-depth training in many areas, including critical thinking, collaboration, and organization, and these skills often translate into healthcare innovations. A 2016 study in [The Online Journal of Issues in Nursing](#) found that with the right education and opportunity, nurses are often heavily involved in creating and implementing healthcare policy advancements, quality improvement initiatives, and educational programs. A BSN prepares you to manage improvement projects and innovate within a healthcare facility.

A BSN is also the first step toward higher education, which can further increase your skill set and earning potential. Many advanced practice nursing roles, such as nurse practitioner and nurse anesthetist, require a master's in nursing or even a PhD—and you'll need a BSN before you pursue either of those degrees.

# Exploring Your BSN Options

Online RN-to-BSN degree programs make it easier than ever to obtain the education you need to take your practice to the next level. Online programs are generally more affordable, and they allow you to schedule around your work or family schedule.

Before enrolling in an online program, make sure the program is fully accredited. Accreditation—through organizations such as the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education](#)—ensures that the education you receive meets the highest standards of quality and integrity. A degree from an accredited program shows prospective employers that you've received your education from an organization such as the



