

## Important Information Regarding the Associate Degree in Nursing Program

It is very important that all applicants are aware of the unique features of this online nursing program. Distance education is as challenging as face-to-face instruction, if not more so. The nursing component of the associate degree program requires outstanding critical thinking skills and nursing judgment, along with a commitment to academic rigor.

Applicants to the associate degree in nursing programs are required to read this important information and to acknowledge understanding by signing this form. Your application to Excelsior College School of Nursing cannot be completed without the receipt of this signed form.

- The [associate degree nursing program](#) is designed for LPNs, LVNs, paramedics, and certain classifications of active-duty military, National Guard, or Reserves within specific military occupations with equivalent scope of practice to LPN/LVN or paramedic.
- A student's possession of an LPN, LVN, Paramedic, or Military Corpsmen credential does not guarantee success in the associate degree nursing program.
- Excelsior College is not associated with, nor does it endorse, any external organization, external firm, or group that provides theoretical and clinical learning opportunities for students. Learning opportunities and resources are provided by the College and are described on our [Test Preparation Advisory](#) webpage.
- The associate degree program is designed for individuals with experience in clinical settings. There is limited clinical instruction provided in the associate degree nursing program. Students demonstrate their clinical competence during the capstone performance examination, the [Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination \(CPNE\)](#), prior to graduation.
- Students are required to submit a [Verification of Health Care Experience Form](#) signed by a clinical supervisor at the time of admission and again prior to course approval for Competencies for Contemporary Nursing Practice.
- Students enrolled in the associate degree nursing program are assigned a primary academic advisor but may also work with different members of the academic advisement team during their enrollment.
- The wait time to test at each CPNE site varies depending on application volume at each site, and the average wait time is disclosed on the Excelsior College website. Students who do not pass the CPNE will be required to retake the exam and, as a result, likely will extend the timeline for graduation.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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- Repeating any Excelsior College sources of credit will require students to pay the tuition and/or fees that are associated with that requirement. This includes the CPNE application fee, travel, and lodging for each administration of the CPNE. Students will be responsible for paying the Student Services Annual Fee for each year they continue in the associate degree nursing program.
- Students who fail the CPNE (either the three-day CPNE or the split pilot CPNE version) will be required to retake the entire version that was failed.
- A student's success or failure in completing program requirements (including all Excelsior College sources of credit) will affect their progress through the associate degree nursing program. The time limit for completion of the associate degree is seven years.
- During the CPNE, Excelsior will seek to provide each student with a pediatric patient; however, an adult patient may be substituted if an appropriate pediatric patient is not available.
- [Pass rates for the CPNE and the National Council Licensure Examination-RN \(NCLEX-RN\)](#) are updated and available on the Excelsior College website.
- Because each institution of higher education maintains its own credit transfer policy, credits earned in Excelsior's associate degree in nursing program may or may not be transferable to other institutions.
- Excelsior College is appealing a recent decision by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) to deny continued programmatic accreditation of the Associate Degree in Nursing program. During the appeal process, ACEN accreditation remains in place. In the event that the College is not successful, the effective date of the decision to deny continued accreditation could be April 20, 2020. Loss of ACEN accreditation could impact the ability to practice in certain states. Regardless of the outcome of the appeal with ACEN, Excelsior College continues to be accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and the Associate Degree in Nursing program remains approved by the New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions. Students should be aware that some employers and higher education institutions may require graduation from a nursing program with specialty accreditation as a condition of employment or acceptance to a nursing program.
- Students are responsible for reading and understanding the RN licensure requirements in the state they hope to practice in following graduation or if considering relocation. Students may consult with the State Board team and review the [State Board Requirements](#) webpage for current information regarding eligibility for RN licensure in each state and U.S. jurisdiction.
- Students are encouraged to read the [School of Nursing catalog](#) prior to enrolling in a program of study.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the information provided in this document.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_