

# MANY ACADEMIC ROUTES TO AN RN LICENSE

## DEGREE ROUTES

*NOTE: All of these programs qualify students to take the NCLEX exam and be licensed as registered nurses.*

### **Associate Degree in Nursing – ADN**

Usually a two year program, often taken at a community college. The ADN is sometimes available at Schools of Nursing awarding the BSN.

### **Bachelor of Science in Nursing – BSN**

A 4 year program taken in a school of nursing (SON) (usually at a university); or, accomplished through a “BSN Completion” program if the ADN is completed first. In some cases students must be admitted to the University as an undergraduate and subsequently apply for admission to the SON.

### **Accelerated/Second Degree - BSN**

Taken at an SON, designed for students pursuing nursing as a second career, with or without a prior bachelors degree. Some programs require a prior completed BA or BS, others will admit if all pre-reqs are completed. Duration varies from 12-21 months. Most are continuous.

### **Direct Entry Masters of Science In Nursing – MSN**

These MSN programs (also known as ‘graduate entry’ or ‘masters’entry’) admit students with bachelors degrees in any major, but who have completed specific prerequisites. Essentially, they combine the content of an accelerated BSN (tho they do not award a BSN) preparing students to take the NCLEX . Advanced nursing curriculum is included, leading to an MSN. Additional coursework beyond this MSN is usually required to pursue advanced practice nursing careers such as nurse practitioner, certified registered nurse anesthetist, certified nurse midwife.

### **Conventional Masters of Science in Nursing – MSN**

Students holding a BSN and nursing experience commonly proceed to an MSN to become advanced practice nurses or clinical specialists in particular areas.

### **NCLEX – National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses**

This is the national exam given to secure a nursing license.

## LICENSE TO WORK AS A NURSE

DEGREE

+

NCLEX

=

RN