

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

SB 523



CREATE NEW NURSING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

100%

of Oregon counties are designated as **Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)**, which identifies an area, population, or facility experiencing a shortage of health care services by the Health Resources & Services Administration.

CAREER ADVANCEMENT



More opportunities to earn a BSN will open up a career pathway to graduate-level credentials, enabling more nurses to pursue a Masters of Science in Nursing (MSN). **More MSNs equates to more individuals qualified to teach at the RN/ADN level, addressing the nurse educator shortage** that restricts student capacity in nursing programs.

Educational Attainment for Oregon RNs



The Institute of Medicine Future Nursing Initiative recommended hospitals strive to achieve 80% BSN prepared nurses by 2020; just 61% of Oregon nurses are currently educated at the BSN level.

	2014	2016	2018	2020
Less than ADN	5%	5%	5%	3%
ADN	43%	41%	37%	34%
BSN	45%	48%	51%	54%
Master's or Higher	6%	6%	7%	7%

Source: OHA, Public Nursing Workforce Data Files, 2014-2020



COMMUNITY COLLEGES EDUCATE OREGON'S NURSES



16 out of Oregon's 17 community colleges currently offer a 2-year Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) with successful track records for students. The one remaining Oregon CC will have an ADN program soon.

ALL ABOUT ACCESS

A community college option for earning a BSN degree would **increase access to 4-year nursing degrees** across Oregon, particularly in rural areas. An RN to BSN program from a community college will provide the **opportunity for more equitable outcomes for underserved, often marginalized populations**, as a community college education is a more **accessible, affordable option**.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, Senate Bill 3 passed, giving community colleges the ability to offer applied baccalaureate degrees (AB) if authorized by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). These workforce-oriented degrees are continuations of existing associate degrees (usually in career and technical fields), aimed at providing higher-level skills to the existing associate degree program.

HECC needs additional statutory language to clarify that the HECC may approve a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at a community college. The colleges would otherwise have to title the degree as a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing. Because the nursing industry does not recognize that degree title, students with such degrees would be at a significant disadvantage making the degree much less valuable. This means students would have a degree equivalent to a BSN with a title (BASN) that is unrecognized by employers and the nursing industry.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Empower community colleges to offer a BSN if they meet the necessary requirements.

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RN to BSN programs have **ZERO** required clinical components - that means there are no clinical capacity needs at the upper-division level because all clinicals can be done in the first two years.

12

States that currently **empower community colleges to offer the RN to BSN** (FL, WA, CO, IN, NV, VT, UT, NM, GA, WV, DE, TX)

QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS



All current community college nursing programs require Master's prepared instructors, which means **community college nursing faculty are already credentialed to teach to the BSN**.