



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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## Transfer Guide for Undergraduate Nursing Programs at Public Colleges and Universities in South Carolina

### Purpose

This guide shows how nursing courses will transfer toward an undergraduate degree in Nursing at a South Carolina public institution of higher education according to the Statewide Articulation Agreement for Nursing Programs. The purpose of this guide is to facilitate the progression of students in good standing who wish to transfer between nursing programs at public South Carolina institutions.

### Licensed Practical Nursing to Associate Degree in Nursing Transfer (LPN to RN)

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who graduated from an accredited, credit-bearing public program who seek to enroll in an Associate's Degree in Nursing program to become a Registered Nurse (RN) and who meet the admission requirements of the institution to which they are applying will be awarded a minimum of 15 transfer credits for general education and nursing courses.

### Associate Degree in Nursing to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Transfer (RN to BSN)

Registered Nurses (RNs) who received an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from a public South Carolina institution who seek to enroll in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program and who meet the admission requirements of the institution to which they are applying will be awarded a minimum of 60 transfer credits for general education and nursing courses. These students will also be exempt from taking educational mobility exams or other validation mechanisms to receive academic credit for nursing courses.

### Important Notes about Transfer

All transfer credit must meet the transfer requirements of the degree-granting institution.

Residency requirements of the degree-granting institution must be met to earn a degree from that institution. Each student must achieve, by enrollment or transfer, the minimum number of credit hours required by the degree-granting institution.

In instances of course credit hour variance, transfer credit may be used to meet requirements(s) in that course, but adjustments in total credit required may be made as appropriate by the degree-granting institution.

Students must contact the nursing program to which they seek transfer as early as possible to determine space availability, eligibility, and program requirements.

Course scheduling and full-time or part-time status will influence the time required to complete a nursing program.

## Associate Degree in Nursing to Associate Degree in Nursing Transfer *and* Bachelor of Science in Nursing to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Transfer

Students enrolled in a nursing program at a public South Carolina institution who seek to transfer to a comparable program at another public institution should consult the institution to which they seek to transfer to determine how nursing coursework will transfer. Due to accreditation standards and space limitations, the number of openings available to these types of transfer students is very small.

**Note:** General education courses will transfer according to the *Transfer Policy for Public Two-Year and Four-Year Institutions in South Carolina*.

### Considering a Career in Nursing

With advancing technology, more emphasis on preventative care, and an increasingly diverse and aging population, there is a great need for well-educated nurses. The Institute of Medicine's 2010 Report, [\*The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health\*](#), states that nurses should achieve higher levels of education and training and includes a recommendation to increase the proportion of baccalaureate degree prepared nurses to 80% by 2020.<sup>1</sup> One benefit of more baccalaureate degree prepared nurses is described in a 2003 report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* which provides evidence that these nurses have better patient outcomes.<sup>2</sup> Because of better outcomes, there is a national trend for colleges to produce, and for employers to hire, more baccalaureate degree prepared nurses. As a result of this trend, there are generally better employment opportunities for nurses who hold a baccalaureate degree or higher.



Photo Courtesy of Clemson University

From nursing administration to research and development, nurses have many career opportunities. According to the 2012-13 *Occupational Outlook Handbook* of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall job opportunities for nurses are expected to be excellent, as employment of Registered Nurses is expected to increase by 26% by 2020, which is faster than the average for all occupations.<sup>3</sup> The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* also states that Registered Nurses constitute the largest healthcare occupation, with 2.7 million jobs, more than half of which are in hospitals. The *Occupational Outlook Handbook* also lists offices of

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Medicine, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, on the Internet at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2010/The-Future-of-Nursing-Leading-Change-Advancing-Health.aspx> (accessed April 02, 2012).

<sup>2</sup> Aiken, Linda H et al., "Educational Levels of Hospital Nurses and Surgical Patient Mortality," *Journal of the American Medical Association*, on the Internet at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/290/12/1617.full?sid=b815c7c2-62c4-4f25-bdc7-2f36c4234e4e> (accessed April 02, 2012).

<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2012-13 Edition*, Registered Nurses, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm> (accessed April 02, 2012).

physicians, home healthcare services, and nursing care facilities as industries that employed the most registered nurses in 2010. In addition, according to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, the median annual wage of registered nurses was \$64,690 in May 2010.

### **Nursing Education Programs**

In South Carolina, two educational paths are available for becoming a Registered Nurse: an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree from an approved nursing program. All nursing education programs include classroom instruction and supervised clinical experience in hospitals or other healthcare facilities. A bachelor's degree or higher is often necessary for administrative, research, and teaching positions because Registered Nurses who possess a bachelor's degree usually receive more training in areas such as communication, leadership, and critical thinking, all of which are becoming increasingly important in nursing practice.



Photo Courtesy of Clemson University

Graduate degrees are required for advanced practice nurses such as clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, and nurse practitioners. According to the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, advanced practice nurses will be in high demand, particularly in medically underserved areas such as inner cities and rural areas where nurses increasingly serve as lower-cost primary care providers.

A career in nursing requires life-long learning. Therefore, the South Carolina Council of Deans and Directors of Nursing Education strongly recommends that nurses work toward a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the field.

#### **Public Institution in South Carolina Offering LPN to RN Programs**

Aiken Technical College  
Central Carolina Technical College  
Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Greenville Technical College  
Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
Midlands Technical College  
Northeastern Technical College  
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College  
Piedmont Technical College  
Technical College of the Lowcountry  
Tri-County Technical College  
Trident Technical College  
York Technical College

#### **Public Institutions in South Carolina Offering RN to BSN Completion Programs**

Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University\*  
Francis Marion University\*  
Lander University\*  
South Carolina State University  
USC Aiken\*  
USC Beaufort\*  
USC Upstate\*

\* These programs are offered online.

## Public Institutions in South Carolina Offering Programs for Initial Licensure

### Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Programs

Aiken Technical College  
Central Carolina Technical College  
Florence-Darlington Technical College  
Greenville Technical College  
Horry-Georgetown Technical College  
Midlands Technical College  
Northeastern Technical College  
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College  
Piedmont Technical College  
Spartanburg Community College  
Technical College of the Lowcountry  
Tri-County Technical College  
Trident Technical College  
York Technical College

### Bachelor of Science (BSN) Degree in Nursing Programs

Clemson University  
Francis Marion University  
Lander University  
Medical University of South Carolina (Note: This program is an accelerated 16 month, four consecutive semester program for students prepared for upper division coursework.)  
South Carolina State University  
USC Columbia (Note: USC Columbia also houses the Center for Nursing Leadership)  
USC Aiken  
USC Beaufort  
USC Upstate

**Note:** Most nursing programs at four-year institutions have bridge programs or other articulation agreements with local two-year colleges that allow for a seamless transition from the ADN to the BSN.

### Public Institutions in South Carolina Offering Accelerated Nursing Programs as a Second Degree (i.e., for those with a bachelor's degree in any field)

Clemson University  
Francis Marion University  
Medical University of South Carolina



**South Carolina**  
TRANSFER AND ARTICULATION CENTER

An additional resource is the South Carolina Transfer and Articulation Center (SC TRAC), available at [www.sctrac.org](http://www.sctrac.org). Students may take advantage of SC TRAC to:

- locate information related to transfer and access transfer agreements; and
- search for course equivalencies to determine how courses taken at one institution will transfer to another.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education consulted with representatives of the South Carolina Council of Deans and Directors of Nursing Education to develop this guide. This Council assumes the ongoing responsibility to review and update this Nursing Transfer Guide.