



Academic Progression in Nursing – Nursing Workforce Center Resource

The Illinois Nursing Workforce Center (INWC) website now includes a resource document that lists Illinois 4-year universities and itemizes the partnerships each has with Illinois 2-year community colleges. http://nursing.illinois.gov/PDF/2020-05-06_ILBSNcPgms_Partnerships_Final.pdf The university partnership supports transfer of credit hours, both general education and nursing credit hours, towards a nursing degree. Each 4-year university is different, and one would need to check, for example, how recent course completion would have to be to be accepted as a transfer credit; it varies amongst institutions.

Additional background partnership information is reflected in schools participating in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI), which was launched in 1993 by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). All colleges and universities participating in IAI agree to accept a "package" of IAI general education courses in lieu of their own comparable lower-division general education requirements. Keep in mind, the IAI general education transfers as a package. Any course-to-course transfer credit is not guaranteed. Of the 4 year public universities that offer a bachelor of science in nursing completion (BSNc) program, all eight are full participants in the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI); of the 4 year Independent Universities, nine are full participants in the IAI, eight are listed as a receiving only institution and finally eight are not listed as participants in the Illinois Articulation Initiative <https://itransfer.org/courses/participatingschools.php>

Many students initially begin working towards a Bachelor of Science (BSN) in nursing degree, many also continue their education and complete a masters or doctoral degree, becoming licensed as an advanced practice RN, working as nursing education faculty or as health care administrators.

Additional INWC resources (<http://nursing.illinois.gov/>) for academic progression include:

- Illinois baccalaureate completion programs, contact information
 - Over 90% of programs offer 100% online degree completion
- Post licensure certificate programs are listed
- Graduate degree programs and graduate degree specialization area
 - A grid lists each school with which specialty areas are offered
 - CRNA programs and contact information are listed separately

According to the findings of the Academic Progression in Nursing initiative launched by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (Gerardi, 2017), facilitators of successful academic progression programs include intentional coordination of degree requirements using easily understood pathways that smooth the way to higher degrees and employment. The goal is to create a more highly educated nursing workforce able to deliver high quality care in all settings today and in the future. Illinois nursing education programs have a long history of working in partnership in support of academic progression.