

## How to Select an RN to BSN School



Getting your BSN is not simply about jumping through hoops to end up with a degree. Your BSN degree can be the foundation for your future as a nurse. That's why it is so important to carefully choose the school that you attend. Your BHMT career counselor can help you get started on this process. It is about preparing yourself for your future and insuring that the program you choose readies you for the challenges you'll face and the goals you'll set for yourself.

### Practical Considerations

There are a couple of items to consider to help you build a complete picture of which program best suits your educational needs and goals. These are practical matters that your BHMT career counselor and Ed Assist can help you think through:

- Each school has specific requirements about the minimum GPA you need to be accepted. Check the requirements of the schools you're considering to make sure you meet them.
- Each school has specific requirements regarding prerequisites. Check with the school to find out what is required.
- The BHMT has independent requirements regarding prerequisites. During your meeting with Ed Assist, you'll review your transcripts to determine whether you must first complete any of these prerequisites (whether from the school of your choice or from the BHMT) before applying to a school





## What Not to Do

It's easiest to begin with the things you shouldn't base your decision on. Here are the "don'ts":

- Don't choose a program because someone else liked it.
- Don't choose a program because that's where your co-workers are going.
- Don't choose a program based solely on cost.
- Don't choose a program because you think it will require the least amount of work.
- Don't choose a program because it is the fastest to complete.

It's not that these things are absolutely wrong to do. The problem is that none of them is, in itself, a good enough reason to choose a school.

## What Should You Consider When Choosing Your School?

When you're thinking about the school you want to attend, it is helpful to understand your learning needs, style and preferences. The following considerations will help you to clarify what serves you best.

- Which is better for you, an all online program or a blended learning program (some class-room time and some online)? Which is better suited to your learning style and needs? (Your BHMT career counselor can help you figure this out.)
- Do you have a preference for traditional semester structure (e.g. you take several classes at a time) or an intensive approach in which classes can be as short as five weeks and you take only one class at a time?
- Do you want a spiritual component in your Nursing education? (Azusa Pacific University and Regis University provide this.)
- Are you comfortable with a program that provides letter grades or do you prefer a competency based program without letter grades? If you have educational goals beyond the BSN (e.g. MSN, NP, PA) which universities accept credits from a school with a competency based program?
- How much do you have to spend on education? Think through your personal financial requirement and the financial support available to you from other sources (e.g. tuition reimbursement, the BHMT RN to BSN program). Know how much you'll have to contribute to your education.
- Which program will accept your transfer credits and how that will affect costs, completion time and the curriculum you will experience? Ed Assist will help you think through these questions.
- Does the program offer sufficient mentorship and/or support for you as a student (e.g. academic advisors, tutors, coaches, student support)? You can find the answer by speaking to an admissions counselor at the schools you are considering and asking him/her about this.
- Are you interested in obtaining a Public Health Certificate and does the school you are considering offer the courses and clinical hours to obtain this Certificate?