



## Why should I get my B.S. degree in nursing?

**1. Builds upon and enhances your knowledge and skills:** The additional technical training and research-oriented learning will increase your knowledge and skills, as well as your leadership and management abilities.

**2. More career opportunities and options for advancement:** A BSN will allow you to advance your career and become a leader in the nursing industry. There may come a time when you no longer want to perform the physically demanding work of acute care. You may wish to have a different work schedule, rather than work shifts, weekends, and holidays. At some point, you may want to go to the next level and receive a master's or doctoral degree. According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "registered nurses with at least a bachelor's degree in nursing will have better job prospects than those without one" (2012).

Management-level nursing requires an advanced degree, such as a BSN. Careers include head nurse, nursing director, vice president, or chief of nursing. Other career opportunities include research, consulting, and teaching in colleges or universities. A nurse with a BSN can manage ambulatory, acute, home-based, and chronic care businesses. A BSN will allow you to venture into the business side of nursing, as hospitals, insurance companies, managed care organizations, and pharmaceutical manufacturers need BSN's for health planning and development, marketing, consulting, policy development, and quality assurance (U.S. Dept. of Labor, 2012).

Also, for those institutions that have or are seeking *Magnet Status*, a BSN is the preferred degree. Many health care organizations have a BSN-preferred or BSN-required policy for advancement into supervisory and non-clinical positions. A BSN is preferred or required for most research positions, and virtually all public health positions in the U.S. The military requires active duty health care officers to possess a BSN.

**3. Salary benefits and greater earning potential:** Nurses with advanced degrees have more career opportunities and can justify an increased salary. An RN and a BSN will receive the same salary for the same nursing position, but as the BSN moves through the ranks to a higher position, salaries tend to increase. For example, a promotion to a management position of head nurse with a BSN has a higher salary than being the floor nurse with an RN.

## Why should I continue now rather than later?

1. Because once you finish your ADN you are only about a year away from earning a BSN.
2. Your student loans will continue through Dual Enrollment. Your previous loans will continue in deferment and the grace period (with no interest added) will not begin until after completion of the BSN.
3. Returning to school later in life is difficult when you factor in the added financial hardships, time inflexibility, family, and other commitments.
4. You might have to take more classes or retake classes in the future.

## Why UCCS?

Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences is ranked by US News and we have an excellent reputation, top faculty, and a state of the art learning facility.

**Simply put, a BSN will open the door to many career possibilities, better secure your future, increase your earning potential, and lay the foundation for advancement.**