Introduction

Demand for Registered Nurses with Bachelor’s Degrees
- Nearly 400,000 people die each year from preventable adverse events in healthcare facilities.1
- Nurses spend the greatest amount of time at the bedside compared to any other provider- including physicians.2
- Patients have better outcomes when cared for by a registered nurse with a bachelor’s degree (BSN).3,4
- United States federal reimbursement to hospitals is tied to Magnet credentialing through AACN drives competition5
- BSN curricula: Designed for transition, not education6

Review of Literature

Challenges
- Associate degree (AD) programs are necessary to avoid further nursing shortages.
- Dual enrollment (DE) in both an AD program and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree-completion (RN-B.S.) program can help increase the number of BSNs at the bedside but are not routinely adopted throughout the United States.9
- The curriculum content between the AD and RN-B.S. programs must be seamless and the coursework must be balanced to facilitate success.2,4

Examples of Success
- California implemented a statewide program that allows students to be dually enrolled in AD and RN-B.S. programs and finish their B.S. within one year of completing the AD.7
- New York showed successful retention and high pass rates for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), along with a 175% increase in student enrollment in the DE partnership six years after the initial cohort.9

The Plan
- Path 1: Students will graduate with a B.S. in Nursing one semester after completion of their AD program and passing NCLEX-RN.
- Path 2: Students will graduate with a B.S. in Nursing two semesters after completion of their AD program and passing NCLEX-RN.
- Path 3: Students will graduate with a B.S. in Nursing three semesters after completion of their AD program and passing NCLEX-RN.

References

Contact
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- ncsbn.org/workforce.htm
- www.aacnnursing.org/News
- ncsbn.org/RN-BSN

ACEweek articles
- Am J Nurs Insights: CISS RN to BSN pathway
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