



Earning an Associate Degree in Nursing at Excelsior College: Your Guide to Costs

## Am I eligible to enroll in the associate degree program?

The accredited nursing degree program at Excelsior College is designed for individuals with significant background and/or experience in clinically oriented health care disciplines. Admission is open to licensed practical/vocational nurses, paramedics, selected classifications of military service corpsmen, and individuals who hold degrees in clinically oriented health care fields that provide direct patient care (e.g., physicians, respiratory therapists, and physician assistants).

To determine if you meet [admission requirements](#), please contact the Admissions Office at Excelsior College by calling 888-647-2388, ext 2. Eligibility for licensure as a registered nurse is determined on a [state-by-state](#) basis.

## What is the program and how can I complete it?

Both the Associate in Science and the Associate in Applied Science require a total of 67 credits: 31 in general education and 36 in nursing. The two degrees have identical nursing component requirements, but they differ in their general education requirements. Please see the School of Nursing [catalog](#) or our [website](#) to learn more about these differences and for details of the nursing component.

Students have seven years to complete an associate degree in nursing at Excelsior. The current average time to completion for part-time students is three years.

Excelsior's accredited nursing degree program can be completed by independently studying for and taking a series of nursing theory examinations, participating in a series of online courses in nursing theory, or a combination of the two. Both degree paths require students to take the [Focused Clinical Competencies Assessment](#) (FCCA®) and the capstone [Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination](#) (CPNE®).

All of our nursing theory examinations and online nursing theory courses cover the same content, use the same textbooks, and have identical expected learning outcomes. The textbooks required in the nursing examinations and courses are also used in the Focused Clinical Competencies Assessment (FCCA).

The difference in the two paths is in how you learn the material.

The exam or assessment-based path allows students to study at their own pace and, when ready, take an examination to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. For each 3-credit exam, we recommend approximately 135 hours of study time.

Courses have a defined start and end date within an eight-week period during which time students are required to complete assignments and interact with other students and the faculty. They are similar to a campus-based course in this regard. However, since they are delivered online and offered in an asynchronous format—you don't need to attend class at any given time—you will have some flexibility as to when you log in and participate in learning activities. Each eight-week online course requires approximately 18 or more hours of work, per week, on your part.

## What factors will affect the cost to earn the degree?

Based, in part, on the path you choose to follow in completing degree requirements—exams, courses, or a combination—there are two different enrollment options: the Multi-Source Option and the Excelsior Course Option, both of which are described here. The best option for you depends on how you plan to complete the program.

To help you make that decision, if you are new to distance and online learning, visit our "[What Is Excelsior Like](#)" page on our website to learn about earning credit by examination and through online courses.

Whether you choose to take exams or online courses really depends upon your learning style and the goal you have set for yourself for degree completion. Many students will use a combination of both to fulfill degree requirements. It is recommended that you speak with an Excelsior College admissions counselor to help you understand your choices.

The tuition and fees in the attached worksheet are at Excelsior's standard rates. You may be eligible for reduced fee and tuition rates if you are active-duty military or a veteran.

Information about the availability of [financial aid and payment plans](#) can be found at our website.

## What are the enrollment options?

The **Multi-Source Option** may suit your needs if you plan to follow a mostly independent study path by taking more examinations than online courses during the life of your enrollment. Under this option, you will pay a one-time enrollment fee for the first year you are enrolled and a Student Service Annual Fee (SSAF) each subsequent year that you remain enrolled. The respective cost of exams and online courses are charged as you progress through the program. This option allows you some flexibility in choosing exams versus online courses during your period of enrollment.

The Multi-Source Option does not require you to take a minimum number of Excelsior online course credits while enrolled. This option may be a better choice if you plan to transfer in credits earned elsewhere to meet the general education requirements of the degree. General education transfer credit may be accepted from other regionally accredited colleges and universities, from American Council on Education (ACE)-recognized credit-bearing exams such as UExcel®, CLEP or DSST, or from industry/professional training programs that have been evaluated by ACE or the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS).

The **Excelsior Course Option** may suit your needs if you plan to take at least 12 Excelsior online course credits (general education and/or nursing) over the life of your enrollment. There is no one-time enrollment fee under this option. However, if you did not take at least 12 Excelsior online course credits over the life of your enrollment at Excelsior and have otherwise completed all degree requirements, you will be assessed the Multi-Source Option enrollment fee that is in effect at the time degree requirements have been fulfilled. If assessed, this must be paid prior to graduating. Credits earned by exam do not count toward this 12 course-credit requirement.

If you take at least 12 Excelsior online course credits each year of your enrollment, the Student Service Annual Fee (SSAF) for the following year will be waived. In addition, for every Excelsior online course credit attempted, you will receive a \$15 credit toward the final graduation fee.

Unlike exams that follow an independent study approach, in an online course environment you will be completing assignments and engaging in online discussions with faculty and other students. Regular access to a personal computer is required for an online course. To determine if your computer meets the minimum specifications necessary, review the information at [www.excelsior.edu/system-requirements](http://www.excelsior.edu/system-requirements).

Our School of Nursing provides a range of optional study resources to help you be successful in the pursuit of your degree. Information on these can be found in the School's catalog and on Excelsior's [website](#).

### What steps should I follow?

1. Your first step is to apply for admission to determine if you are eligible to enroll in Excelsior College's associate degree program in nursing. Visit the [admissions page](#) at our website.
2. Speak with an Excelsior College admissions counselor to make sure you understand the enrollment options and to help you decide if exams, courses, or a combination may suit your learning style and needs. You can speak to an admissions counselor by calling 888-647-2388 ext 2.
3. Complete the attached worksheet to estimate the cost of earning your degree. If needed, contact an Excelsior College admissions counselor for assistance.
4. Upon completion of the budget worksheet and if you decide Excelsior College is right for you, complete an [enrollment form](#) online.

## Associate Degree in Nursing Estimated Cost Worksheet

Tuition and fees shown are effective July 1, 2014 and are subject to change without notice.\*

|   | Excelsior<br>Exam-based Option                             | Excelsior<br>Course-based Option  | Cost |
|---|--|---|------|
| <b>Application Fee</b>  | \$80 (\$100 effective November 3, 2014)                    | \$80 (\$100 effective November 3, 2014)   |      |
| <b>Enrollment Fee</b>   | \$1,065  | n/a   |      |
| <b>Student Service Annual Fee (SSAF)</b><br>Multiply the SSAF by the number of years beyond the first year that you think it will take you to complete the degree program. Students have seven years to complete the associate degree in nursing. The average time to completion for part-time students is three years.                                   | \$495 x number of years of enrollment after the first year | \$495 x number of years of enrollment after the first year (this fee can be waived if you complete 12 Excelsior online course credits each year you are enrolled) |      |
| <b>Required Nursing Component – 36 credits</b>  |  |   |      |
| <b>For each item below, choose either a course or exam to fulfill the requirement</b>   | <a href="#">Exam</a> <sup>1</sup>                          | <a href="#">Course</a> <sup>3</sup>   |      |
| NURx108/NUR 108<br><b>Transition to the Professional Nurse Role – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx104/NUR 104<br><b>Essentials of Nursing Care: Health Safety – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx105/NUR 105<br><b>Essentials of Nursing Care: Health Differences – 3 credits</b>  | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx109/NUR 109<br><b>Foundations in Nursing Practice – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx209/NUR 209<br><b>Reproductive Health – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx211/NUR 211<br><b>Health Differences Across the Life Span 1 – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx212/NUR 212<br><b>Health Differences Across the Life Span 2 – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| NURx213/NUR 213<br><b>Health Differences Across the Life Span 3 – 3 credits</b>   | \$325  | \$1,395   |      |
| <b>Optional Nursing Theory Practice Exams</b><br>These are available for all eight nursing theory exams listed above. While not required, they are recommended. These practice exams will help you identify strengths and weaknesses in understanding the content to be covered and aid in your decision on readiness to take the actual exam for credit. | \$75 x number of practice exams you plan to take           |   |      |

|  | Excelsior Exam-based Option  | Excelsior Course-based Option                                       | Cost |
|--|--|---|------|
| <p><b>Optional Nursing Theory Examination Online Conferences</b><br/>Each of the eight theory exams has its own <a href="#">online conference</a> that is designed to help you understand the respective nursing theory content and to help you prepare for the actual exam for credit. Each online conference is eight-weeks in length and is available asynchronously, which means you can learn wherever and whenever you choose within each time period. Through textbook readings, learning activities, case studies, pre/post tests, and discussion boards, the sessions will provide you with an opportunity to learn each of the areas tested in the examination as well as connect you with other students and nursing faculty who will answer any questions posed.</p> | \$180 x the number of online conferences you plan to utilize   |   |      |
| <b>Required Excelsior College Performance Examinations</b>   |  |   |      |
| <p><a href="#">NURx274A</a><br/><b>FCCA: Head-to-Toe Assessment and Nursing Process – 2 credits</b></p>  | \$185  |   |      |
| <p><a href="#">NURx274C</a><br/><b>FCCA: Managing Multiple Patients/Working in Interdisciplinary Health Care Teams – 2 credits</b></p>   | \$185  |   |      |
| <p><a href="#">NURx299</a><br/><b>Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination (CPNE) 2–8 credits</b></p>   | \$2,275 <sup>2</sup>   |   |      |
| <b><a href="#">Optional CPNE Learning Resources</a> (Available when CPNE–eligible)</b>   |  |   |      |
| <b>CPNE Online Conference – Applying the Nursing Process</b>   | \$350  |   |      |
| <b>CPNE Online Conference – Skills</b>   | \$220  |   |      |
| <b>CPNE Online Conference – Beginning CPNE Preparation</b>   | No charge  |   |      |
| <p><b>CPNE One-Day Workshop<sup>2</sup></b><br/>This in-person interactive workshop is designed to enable you to understand the structure and process of the Clinical Performance in Nursing Examination (CPNE) and validate your readiness to successfully complete the CPNE. Your ability to perform the areas of care will be critiqued, and feedback will be provided related to a mock simulation lab and patient care situation.</p>   | \$300  |   |      |
| <p><b>General Education Requirement</b> These requirements may be met by taking Excelsior College online courses and/or UExcel® exams offered by Excelsior. They may also be met by transferring in credit earned at other colleges and universities, from American Council on Education (ACE)-recognized credit-bearing exams such as CLEP or DSST, or from industry/professional training programs that have been evaluated by ACE or the National College Credit Recommendation Service (NCCRS). If you will be taking Excelsior College online courses and/or UExcel® exams offered by Excelsior to meet the general education requirements, choose from among the list below for those credits that will not be met through transfer credit. Limitations may apply.</p>     |  |   |      |
|  | <a href="#">UExcel® Exam<sup>1</sup></a>   | <a href="#">Excelsior Online Course<sup>3</sup></a>                 |      |
| <b>Information Literacy – 1 credit (required of all students regardless of the enrollment option chosen)</b>   |  | INL102: Information Literacy (1 credit) \$465                       |      |
| <b>Written English Requirement – 3 credits (choose one)</b>  | <p>ENGx110: College Writing (3 credits) \$95</p> <p>ENGx111: English Composition (6 credits) \$440</p> | ENG101N: Composition for the Nursing Profession (3 credits) \$1,395 |      |

|  | Excelsior Exam-based Option  | Excelsior Course-based Option   | Cost |
|--|--|---|------|
| <b>Humanities — minimum 6 credits</b>  | PHIx101: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits) \$95<br>PHIx310: Ethics: Theory & Practice (3 credits) \$325<br>COMx215: Interpersonal Communication (3 credits) \$325   |   |      |
| <b>Social Sciences/History — minimum 6 credits</b>   | PSYx210: Life Span Developmental Psychology (3 credits) \$325<br>SOCx310: Foundations of Gerontology (3 credits) \$325<br>SOCx105: Introduction to Sociology (3 credits) \$95  |   |      |
| <b>Natural Sciences/Mathematics — minimum 8 credits</b>  | BIOx210: Anatomy & Physiology (6 credits) \$440<br>BIOx220: Microbiology (3 credits) \$325<br>MATx100: Contemporary Mathematics (3 credits) \$95   | HSC105: Anatomy and Physiology I (3 credits) \$1,395<br>HSC106: Anatomy and Physiology II (3 credits) \$1,395<br>BIO212: Microbiology I (3 credits) \$1,395<br>MAT101: Mathematics for Everyday Life (meets math requirement) (3 credits) \$1,395 |      |
| <b>Arts and Sciences Electives — minimum 6 credits</b>   | PSYx310: Abnormal Psychology (3 credits) \$325<br>PSYx315: Psychology of Adulthood & Aging (3 credits) \$95<br>SOCx305: Cultural Diversity (3 credits) \$325<br>PSYx101: Introduction to Psychology (3 credits) \$95 |   |      |
| <b>Graduation Fee — reduced by \$15 for every Excelsior College online course credit attempted</b> | \$495  | \$495   |      |
|  |  | <b>Estimated Cost*</b>  |      |

\* This worksheet is for informational purposes only to provide you with an estimated cost of degree completion. Actual cost will depend upon a number of factors including but not limited to the number of general education transfer credits that are accepted, the choice of examinations or online courses to meet degree requirements, the cost of textbooks, and how long it will take you to fulfill degree requirements. Repeating any Excelsior College requirement, examination, or online course will require students to pay the tuition and/or fees that are associated with repeating the requirement. The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice.

<sup>1</sup> Cost shown is for the exam itself and will be charged by Excelsior College when you register for the exam. Upon registration, the six-month window for you to take the exam begins. Exams are administered at secure PearsonVUE testing centers located across the United States and internationally. You schedule a date and time to take the exam directly with PearsonVUE, and you will be charged a separate test administration fee by PearsonVUE when you do so.

<sup>2</sup> You will be responsible for other costs, including the cost of textbooks, other study materials, repeating the exam if failed, optional workshops, and online conferences each time you sign up and/or participate, applicable cancellation fees, travel and lodging for the CPNE®, and any fees for optional services associated with the exam.

<sup>3</sup> Excelsior's online courses are 8 weeks long and offered during three periods (trimesters) each academic year.

### **Notice to All Students Taking UExcel® Exams and Excelsior College® Examinations**

Excelsior College provides its students with the resources and support necessary to successfully complete its associate degree in nursing program. In response to numerous questions from students, please know that in no way is Excelsior College affiliated with any test preparation company. We do not promote, endorse, review, or approve the products these companies offer. For more information, visit our [About Test Preparation Services](#) page or contact an Excelsior College advisor at 888-647-2388.

The associate, bachelor's, and master's degree programs in nursing at Excelsior College are accredited by the [Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing](#) (ACEN), formerly known as the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, telephone: 404-975-5000. The ACEN is a specialized accrediting agency for nursing recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

The National League for Nursing (NLN) designated the Excelsior College School of Nursing a [2011–2016 Center of Excellence in Nursing Education](#) in recognition of the School's sustained achievements in creating environments that promote student learning and professional development. This is the third time the School has been designated a Center of Excellence.



**Center of Excellence**  
*in* **Nursing Education™**

Excelsior College is accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools · 3642 Market Street · Philadelphia, PA 19104 · 215-662-5606. All Excelsior College nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN; formerly known as NLNAC) · 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326 · 404-975-5000. The ACEN is a specialized accrediting agency for nursing recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The Excelsior College associate degree nursing programs are designed in accordance with the requirements for Registered Nurse Programs in New York State. Excelsior College does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, race, gender, or sexual orientation in the educational programs and activities which it operates.