The RN to MS degree

The DePaul University RN to MS program is an innovative online program that provides registered nurses the opportunity to earn a Master of Science in Nursing from DePaul University, and a specialty graduate certificate in Health Professions Education or Health Administration from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, while earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from DePaul along the way.

In this dynamic program, students apply for admission to the graduate program with our School of Nursing, and, once accepted to the program, enroll first in the undergraduate phase of the nursing program to complete all undergraduate requirements, after which they enter the graduate phase of the program. The program is open to RNs who have not yet completed a baccalaureate degree, as well as RNs who have a bachelor’s degree in something other than nursing.

More information on the program requirements and the curriculum is available in the School of Nursing RN to MS information page.

Financial aid and financing information:

Financial aid is available for both the undergraduate and graduate phase of this program. If you are interested in applying for financial aid, you should complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov at the same time you apply for admission to the program.

You should initially complete the FAFSA as an undergraduate student. This will allow you to be considered for all federal and state financial aid during the undergraduate phase of the RN to MS studies. The type of undergraduate aid for which you may qualify will depend on your FAFSA results, your prior educational experience, and your prior financial aid usage. If you have not yet completed your undergraduate degree, you will be considered for all available federal and state undergraduate financial aid, including any grant aid for which you may qualify, as well as federal student loans. If you have already completed an undergraduate degree, you will be considered for all available federal undergraduate loans. Your financial aid award letter will explain your full eligibility.

Once the undergraduate phase of the RN to MS program is completed, you will be considered a graduate student, and your financial aid will be awarded at the graduate level. At the graduate level, federal financial aid eligibility is generally restricted to federal student loans.

The DePaul financial aid website provides more detailed information on financial aid at the undergraduate and graduate level.
Frequently asked questions about financial aid and financing

How do I apply for financial aid for this program?

Simply complete a FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov. Be sure to complete the FAFSA initially as an undergraduate. This will allow you to be considered for all federal and state undergraduate financial aid during your undergraduate phase of the RN to MS studies.

At what point do I become a graduate student – and at what point should my FAFSA be updated to graduate status?

The School of Nursing and College of Science and Health Advising Office will monitor your progression through the program requirements, and update your status to graduate status when your undergraduate nursing degree requirements are completed. At this point, you should update your FAFSA to graduate status so that your financial aid can be awarded at the graduate level.

In what ways does the RN to MS program represent a savings in terms of time and tuition cost?

The savings are multiple:

- Students complete the undergraduate nursing degree, the master’s degree and the certificate from Rosalind Franklin all at once, making it possible to progress from an associate’s degree to a master’s plus graduate certificate in one integrated program – earning an undergraduate degree in nursing along the way.
- During the undergraduate phase of the program, students are eligible for consideration for undergraduate federal and state financial aid, including any grant assistance for which they may qualify. At the graduate level, federal financial aid eligibility is generally restricted to federal student loans. These federal loans may be eligible for Public Loan Forgiveness for graduates who elect to work full-time in a public service job in a governmental or nonprofit (501c3) organization. More information is available at studentaid.ed.gov.
- Six courses from the undergraduate phase count toward both the undergraduate degree and the master’s degree, allowing students to complete the graduate phase in as little as one year -- saving potentially several thousand dollars in tuition costs, while allowing students to complete the program quickly and enter the workplace, or get promoted, sooner.
- Tuition is structured as a cost-effective, hourly-rate plan, recognizing the needs of the working adult professional -- allowing students to customize full- and part-time enrollment, as needed.
Where can I find more information about tuition for this program?

Your financial aid award letter will provide projected costs for your program. You can also find more information at the DePaul University Student Accounts website. In the undergraduate tuition rate section, you will see the credit-hour tuition rate for the College of Science and Health, in the column titled “Part-time, per credit hour.” Graduate tuition is listed under “Graduate tuition rates, College of Science and Health.”

Are there university payment plans to supplement any financial aid I may receive?

Yes. DePaul offers four payment plans, listed below. You can find more information on each program by clicking the links below, or by visiting DePaul Central in the DePaul University website.

- DePaul In-Term Payment Plan (ITP)
- DePaul Annual Payment Plan
- DePaul Employer Tuition Deferral Program (formerly known as DePeper)
- DePaul Third Party Payment Plan

Are there scholarships or other forms of institutional aid available for this program?

Because of the cost-savings built into the structure of the program, institutional scholarship and grant assistance for this program is extremely limited. Enrolled students are eligible to apply for continuing-student institutional scholarships; however, these scholarships are competitive and subject to availability.

I am a veteran and I am eligible for Veterans Educational Benefits. Can I use my benefits at DePaul?

If you are a veteran of U.S. military service, an eligible active-duty member of the military, or an eligible dependent, you may be eligible for Veterans Affairs (VA) Educational Benefits. For more detailed information, visit the Veterans Affairs website, or contact the Office of Financial Aid.

If you have additional questions about financing your RN to MS degree with your VA benefits, please call, email, visit DePaul Central, or schedule an appointment with our VA Coordinator, Megan Burda, by phone at (312) 362-8092, or via email at mburda1@depaul.edu.

What other resources are available for students who are planning to work in the health professions?

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing offers a comprehensive listing of scholarship resources for graduate nursing study. Visit the American Association of Colleges of Nursing website for more information.