



Frequently Asked Questions About Auburn University at Montgomery's RN to BSN: EARN Program

What is the RN to BSN: EARN program?

EARN is an acronym for Educational Advancement for Registered Nurses. It is an ADN to BSN completion program offered at the Auburn University at Montgomery School of Nursing. The program is designed for Associate or Diploma Degree RNs who wish to complete a Bachelor Degree in Nursing.

What are the course requirements to enter the program?

The core requirements consist of the Alabama State Core requirements for any Bachelor's degree (Area I- IV), plus courses specific to the major (Area V). Credit will only be granted for a grade of C or higher. **(EARN graduates with a 3.4 GPA or higher are only eligible to receive the honors designation at graduation if a minimum of 50 hours of credit was completed at AUM. The EARN courses alone provide only 31 hours of Auburn Montgomery credit.)**

If you are interested in Auburn University at Montgomery's RN to BSN program, you are encouraged to submit previous college transcripts to have a transcript evaluation performed. Unofficial student copies or web transcripts are acceptable. It is imperative to work closely with the RN to BSN advisor to assure proper selection of your lacking core coursework. Submit transcripts for evaluation to the email address, fax number, or mailing address below.

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To graduate with a BSN, you must successfully complete the state core curriculum, the 30-semester hour EARN program, and earn no less than 120 undergraduate semester hours.

Is there a time limit on my previously achieved college credit?

No, as long as the credit was earned at a regionally accredited institution. EARN students typically come from a variety of backgrounds and levels of experience. Some of our students have recently completed an ADN/ASN program and some have over 30 years of nursing experience. This truly enriches the learning experience for all students.

What AP exam scores are accepted at Auburn Montgomery?

A minimum score of 3 is required for Introduction to Biology with lab. A minimum score of 4 is required for English Composition I, unless you have credit for English Composition II. For a complete list, refer to our Registrar's Office website and click on AP credit <http://www.aum.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/admission-requirements/domestic-transfer-test-credits>

Will I ever have to come to campus?

No, the EARN program is completely online, unless you are a member of a cohort sponsored by a partner hospital. You are not required to come to campus unless you take an on-campus core course. However, most core courses are also offered online at Auburn University at Montgomery.

If I live out of state, will I be charged out-of-state tuition?

No, you will be charged a tuition rate of \$333* per credit hour. This is only \$19 more than in-state tuition! Some fees charged to on-campus students are waived for fully online students, saving the distance education student hundreds of dollars per semester. For more information, browse online.aum.edu. *Tuition rate for online learners for 2017-2018 academic year

Are there scholarships for transfer students?

Yes! We offer multiple Transfer Scholarships to incoming transfer students who have completed 45 academic credits with a 2.75 GPA or higher at a regionally accredited Community College. Transfer students with a 3.5 or greater cumulative GPA who complete their Associate's Degree from an out-of-state regionally accredited community college are eligible for in-state tuition rates. For more information, visit <http://www.aum.edu/admissions/scholarships-and-financial-aid/scholarships/transfer-scholarships>. The Financial Aid Office is the scholarship headquarters.

Is it feasible to attend this program while working full time?

The program is designed to facilitate continued employment. Most students choose to complete the program on the full time/3 semester track, even when working full time. You may approach the program on a part time basis, if not in a hospital partnership cohort.

When does Auburn Montgomery admit students for the RN to BSN program?

We admit students in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. If you would like to take core courses at Auburn Montgomery before starting the RN to BSN program, you will need to major in RN to BSN.

What are the admission requirements for the RN to BSN program?

- General Admission into Auburn Montgomery then submission of EARN application
- A "C" or higher in English Composition II, core math, and no more than six outstanding core courses. You must make a grade of "C" or higher in all courses. It is recommended that students enter the program with three or fewer outstanding core courses.
- You must possess unencumbered Registered Nurse licensure by the Board of Nursing
- Your GPA, based only on core course requirements, must be a 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Official copies of your BLS certification, immunization records, physical examination, and 1-step TB skin test results must be submitted to CastleBranch.com. The submission code will be provided upon admission.

How do I apply for the EARN program?

You must be admitted into Auburn University at Montgomery. **There is no application fee.** When applying, indicate that you are a transfer student and select RN to BSN as your major.

Once admitted into Auburn University at Montgomery, submit a separate RN to BSN application to the School of Nursing, which is available on our website www.nursing.aum.edu. *The RN to BSN academic advisor must complete your transcript evaluation prior to submission of a School of Nursing application.*

Are there clinical requirements for the program, and if so, can I do them close to home?

The program includes two courses with a clinical component, which allow students an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, skills and competencies learned throughout the program. This immersion experience may be done in the student's institution of choice, regardless of where you live.

Clinical activities that will count toward attaining the 45 clinical hours could include some of the following:

- Attending county commission meetings/town halls, etc. in order to determine how and if concerns related to community health are considered when making decisions regarding emergency services, current industries or proposed industrial activity and its impact on the community
- Shadowing population-focused nurses in the rural community setting, such as county or state public health nurses, home health nurses providing care outside city limits
- Community wide emergency/disaster planning meetings
- School nurses providing services outside of city limits

The Leadership Immersion project allows the learner to identify a need for a Quality Improvement (QI) project or Safety issue or to reassess a Quality Improvement project or Safety issue. A list will be provided for the learner to select from to meet this course requirement. The learner will work with a self-selected, but faculty approved, leadership mentor that serves in a formal role in the healthcare system to develop an innovative or modified plan for use in the clinical setting. The leader does not have to be a nurse. Examples include the Risk Management Officer, CNO, DON, a Department Manager, a Quality Improvement Officer, or an Administrator. The learner will spend a minimum of 30 hours with this formal leader. The collaborative environment for the QI or Safety issue allows the learner to shadow or observe the leader in the day-to-day role. If the leader is a registered nurse, the nurse must be a Baccalaureate prepared or higher registered nurse.

Is there a resource at Auburn University at Montgomery for me to use to improve my writing skills and tutoring in other areas I may need help?

YES! The Learning Center at Auburn University at Montgomery provides online tutoring! Their online tutors are MLA and APA experts and because they are not undergraduates, they understand the needs of non-traditional students. They provide tutoring for all writing assignment, regardless of the course or your major.

If you have any questions or need to make an appointment, please call 334-244-3470. Visit their website and watch their YouTube video:

- <http://www.aum.edu/academics/academic-support>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkPiotZqEBs&feature=youtu.be>.

What other resources are available for me as an online student?

The Auburn University at Montgomery Office of Digital and Online Learning created a website solely for online learners. The link is online.aum.edu. Browse the information on the "Student Resources" tab on the left. Auburn University at Montgomery strives to make every student feel a part of the Warhawk Nation even if you never set foot on campus. Your advisor, Haley Adams, will be your connection throughout your journey at Auburn University at Montgomery!