

Why Nursing?

The field of nursing is growing and nurses in every field are in high demand. While some people choose to solely attend a nursing school for their training, there are many advantages to first earning a bachelor's degree in another field before pursuing a nursing career. You can earn a bachelor's degree at Hollins University while preparing for admission to an accelerated Bachelor of Nursing (BSN) program.

RN Diploma, ADN, or BSN?

- **RN diploma:** Typically a hospital-based accreditation that may be granted by a technical or vocational school
- **ADN:** An Associate's degree in nursing is a degree from a two-year college
- **BSN:** A Bachelor of Science in nursing is a degree from a four-year college
 - *an accelerated BSN is available to Hollins students through partnerships with EWCSON (see below)*

Rewards of earning a BSN

More career options

- Nurse educator
- Public health nurse
- Specialist in specific age groups or disease types

Gateway to more advanced nursing roles that require an MSN

- Nurse practitioner
- Nurse midwife
- Clinical nurse leader

Greater eligibility for available jobs

- In a recent study of 187,000 nursing job ads posted over a 90-day period, RNs with a diploma or ADN were eligible for 51% of these jobs while candidates that held a BSN were eligible for 88%

Better care

- Research by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) shows that patients in the care of nurses with a BSN have better outcomes, including lower rates of mortality

Increased earning potential

- The mean salary for RNs with an ADN is \$75,000
- By comparison, BSNs earn an average of \$17,000 more, with a mean salary of \$92,000 (American Nurses Association, 2023)
- Nurse Practitioners earn a mean annual salary of \$128,490
- Nurse Midwives earn a mean annual salary of \$131,490 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025)

It may be a requirement in the near future

- According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), many hospitals and other medical facilities are strongly encouraging ADN-prepared RNs to earn their BSN within five years of graduation

Advantages of the accelerated BSN after graduation from Hollins

Hollins has an articulation agreement with the Eleanor Wade Custer School of Nursing (EWCSN) at Shenandoah University (Winchester and Leesburg campuses). Each year, Shenandoah will reserve select spaces to their accelerated BSN programs for Hollins students who have successfully fulfilled admission requirements.

- **Many Hollins courses satisfy requirements for the BSN, allowing you to complete the additional requirement in just 16 months**
- **Upon successful completion you will have earned two bachelor's degrees in just five and one-half years**
- **Greater flexibility**
 - If you decide not to pursue nursing after Hollins, you will still have a college degree
 - If you decide you want to change careers from nursing, you have another degree
- **You have the possibility of combining your other interests with nursing and potentially increasing your career options. Examples include:**
 - B.A. in Business + BSN for administrative roles
 - B.S. in Psychology + BSN for working with a particular population (e.g. children)
 - B.A. in Education + BSN for nurse education
 - B.A. or minor in a second language for working with non-English speaking populations