


**Board of Regents**

University System of Ohio

 John R. Kasich, Governor  
 John Carey, Chancellor

## INITIAL INQUIRY REQUEST TO OFFER A NEW PROGRAM

**Date of submission:** *Date to come (sent after EPC)*

**Name of institution:** Kent State University

**Primary institutional contact for this request:**

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**Name of new program:** Nursing for Registered Nurses major,  
 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree

*For institutions that are already approved/authorized by the chancellor*

- New degree designation  
 New program within an existing degree (e.g., major, minor, concentration)  
 New technical certificate program  
 New licensure/endorsement area (educator preparation)

**Delivery options (check all that apply):**

- Campus-based  
 Online/hybrid delivery  
 Flexible or accelerated delivery  
 Offering the program at a new offsite location  
 Offering the program at an existing offsite location  
 Program contains off-campus experiences (e.g., internship, clinical, practicum, student teaching)

**The institution will be seeking specialized accreditation for the program:**

- No       Yes

**If “yes,” provide the name of the accrediting agency:**

Kent State’s College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate of Nursing Education.

**Provide a brief description of the request.**

Kent State University proposes establishing an online-only Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program for students who are practicing registered nurses. Presently, this program is a concentration within the Nursing major. With this establishment, Kent State will offer two majors under the BSN degree: the on-ground Nursing major for students, many of whom are entering the nursing profession for the first time (“traditional” path), and the online Nursing for Registered Nurses major for students with an active RN license who wish to advance their nursing career (“RN to BSN” path).

**Explain the academic unit's rationale for making the request.**

Kent State began offering the RN-to-BSN concentration in 2009. In 2010, the program was approved to be offered fully online through the Kent Campus and, later, hybrid online/on-ground on all regional campuses (Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas). In fall 2016, 258 students were declared in the concentration (15<sup>th</sup> day enrollment census). In the past six years, the program has graduated 491 students.

As the program has evolved, so, too, has its criteria, including admission and curriculum, leading to a program that has become distinct from the traditional nursing program. While both the traditional and RN-to-BSN programs require the same competencies and outcomes to prepare graduates to care for patients and for educator/management positions, the programs serve different student populations with different needs, education and skill sets.

In addition, as a concentration, the RN-to-BSN program is less visible to prospective students who are not looking for a traditional nursing program. Therefore, two separate degree programs will allow faculty to better serve their students without the constraints of one program being a subset of another.

**Indicate whether additional faculty and staff will be needed to support the proposed request.**

As the RN-to-BSN program has been an existing and viable program for seven years, current resources are sufficient. Kent State's College of Nursing—which also offers the Master of Science in Nursing, PhD in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees—has approximately 75 full-time faculty members. The college also has, full-time, six academic advisors, an instructional designer, a multimedia developer, a desktop support analyst and an academic recruitment and retention coordinator.