



NURSING PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL TO ASSOCIATE TO BACHELOR DEGREE IN NURSING

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The Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) is a valued option for students who want to become nurses; however, the ADN is not the end goal. The Institute of Medicine report published in 2010 recommended that the proportion of nurses with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) increase to 80% by the year 2020. With employers eyeing the 80% goal, as well as the push for Magnet recognition, the BSN is becoming an expectation for graduate nurses. In order to provide Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) graduates with options, AACC has developed partnerships with four-year universities to facilitate the transition to baccalaureate education.

AACC is utilizing specific strategies supported by Maryland's FY2018 Nurse Support II (NSP II) funding to promote students' academic progression by creating a pathway to baccalaureate nursing programs. Strategies include:

1. Continuing to create partnerships with four year universities offering BSN and Master of Science in Nursing Degree programs.
2. Pre-admission advisement and structured academic progression planning for high school students and AACC students by conducting:
 - a. Outreach events at the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).
 - b. AACC School of Health Sciences Open Houses annually.
 - c. Nursing program information sessions.
3. Continuing to educate the local high school counselors and AACC advisors of the necessary requirements for students coming into AACC's nursing program by:
 - a. Attending AACC/AACPS monthly partnership meetings.
 - b. Attending the AACC/AACPS counselor's annual conference.
 - c. Conducting one-on-one meetings with high school signature program coordinators.

AACC believes that early advisement and intervention along with close monitoring of the pre-nursing student's academic progression, the future nurse will enter the nursing program stronger academically and have a smoother transition to baccalaureate and master's degree nursing programs.