FAQs for Upper Division RN to BS Program

**How long is the RN to BS program?**
The program is 19 months; 5 semesters of full-time study. Part-time options are also available.

**What degree will I earn?**
You will earn a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing.

**How is this degree different from a BSN?**
New York State only allows colleges to grant a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree (B.S. Nurs.). The B.S. Nurs. is an older degree that began when nursing schools were considered to be vocational in nature. Now that baccalaureate nurses are seen as healthcare professionals, and that nursing baccalaureate degrees should be considered on par with other baccalaureate degrees, newer institutions have renamed their degree, the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing. However, many SUNY and CUNY programs have retained the B.S. Nurs. designation.

**There is no difference between the educational requirements for the two degrees. Both require an equal distribution of nursing and non-nursing courses, and both degrees are equally accepted by employers.**

**Is the program accredited?**
Yes. The program has been accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) since 2013.

**Does the College’s focus on environmental health make HFCN’s degree less desirable?**
Absolutely not! Environmental health incorporates all aspects of urban health care issues, including health care issues in hospitals, nursing homes, and the community. Students’ individual preferences allow them to explore the aspects of nursing that most interest them. Some choose to complete their clinicals in a hospital setting, while others choose to practice in community agencies.

**What is the cost of the program? How does this cost compare to other programs?**
HFCN’s program costs $7,080 per semester. Compared to similar programs in NYC, our tuition is much less expensive.
**Is financial aid available?**
Yes. One hundred percent of the RN to BS students receive financial aid in the form of scholarships.

**How many days do students attend the program?**
Students complete their classes by attending the College one day a week during the first three semesters. During the fourth and fifth semesters, students attend the College one day a week, but also complete a clinical on a second day. Students can expect that if they follow the curriculum plan, their classes will be held on the same day of the week throughout their enrollment; either a Tuesday or a Wednesday. The clinical day is arranged to suit the student’s work schedule, recognizing that there are fewer evening and weekend clinical options.

**Is there an online component to the program?**
Many of the courses are offered in a hybrid format; meaning half of the class time is at the College, and half of the time is through online study. Ample evidence continues to demonstrate that hybrid programs yield higher completion rates compared to solely online programs.

**Some online programs are less expensive. Why choose HFCN's program?**
Each student should consider his/her budget, individual learning styles, and time constraints. Although many online options are available, few offer the support that a brick and mortar school can. Advisement throughout the program, library and technical support, individualized attention in small classes (less than 25 students per class) go a long way in ensuring that you will not waste money on a program that you begin, but do not finish.

**How large are the classes?**
There are 20-25 students in each class.

**How are the College's RN to BS courses different from the LPN to RN courses?**
In the RN to BS program, the focus is on broadening the students’ understanding of the world so that they can be more effective nurses. Students learn about the history and cultural influences that impact our world, and learn how this awareness can improve their nursing practice. As a result of this different emphasis, there are few multiple-choice exams in the program. Most of the assessment is through essay-writing, discussion boards, role-playing, etc.

**Do I have to have my RN license before I can enroll?**
You can enroll on a non-matriculated basis until you receive your license. That means, you can take the program’s non-nursing courses, and join the next September cohort as a matriculated student.