

# An Innovative Initiative To Reimagine Prospective Applicants and Increase Enrollment in an ABSN Program

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**Topic:** Academic Nursing: Excellence & Innovation

**Category:** Quality Improvement/Evidence-Based Practice Project

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## Abstract

### Background/Introduction

Attendees will gain insight into an innovative approach to increase enrollment and graduates in an ABSN Program. This initiative was developed in response to applicants who completed 62 college credits or an Associate Degree. The interest resulted in the development of a “Degree Completion” option. In an effort to address the nursing shortage, Northeastern University submitted and received approval to launch a Degree Completion Pathway for admission into the ABSN Program. The Degree Completion Pathway ABSN Program is designed for applicants who do not hold a Bachelors Degree, have completed 62 undergraduate credits from a regionally accredited college or university or have a non-nursing Associate Degree and completed prerequisites courses. These students have the option to apply for admission to the 16-month ABSN Program at Northeastern University’s Charlotte, North Carolina campus. The Degree Completion opportunity is the only ABSN admission non previous Bachelor’s degree option in the state of North Carolina.

### Purpose

The purpose of this innovation in nursing education is to increase nursing graduates entering the workforce and provide an opportunity for students to apply to an ABSN program without the time and expense of earning a Bachelors Degree. Students are admitted and Graduate in the Spring, Summer and Fall terms and are offered Registered Nurse positions in prestigious healthcare facilities.

### Methods or Processes/Procedures

The students are enrolled in the approved 16-month ABSN curriculum and are supported by an Academic Advisor. The admission requirements and expectations of the Degree Completion students remain the same as students pursue their Accelerated Bachelors of Science in Nursing degree.

### Results

Degree Completion options increase enrollment and provide nurses during a national shortage of Registered Nurses.

### Limitations

Applicants may need to repeat science requirements due to the 5 year requirement for enrollment.

### Conclusions/Implications for Practice

The Degree Completion option provides the opportunity to admit additional students and mitigate the current nursing shortage.

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## Biography

G. Buttriss is the President of The ICNLA, Faculty Advisor to STT and Treasurer for the Charlotte Chapter of the National Association for Neonatal and Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. (NAPNAP). She is the Program Director for Northeastern University’s Charlotte Nursing Program and is a practicing nurse practitioner for newborn services at Novant Health in Charlotte, NC. She has published chapters in the CNL Certification textbook editions 1 &2, and Pediatric Population Health for Advanced Practice” and has served as an item writer for the clinical nurse leader certification exam. She is a coauthor for the textbook “Pathophysiology, Physical Assessment and Pharmacology”

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