The average Purdue Global military student is awarded 54% of the credits needed for an associate's and 45% of the credits needed for a bachelor's. Most Commonly Searched: Most Commonly Searched: Nursing is a challenging and rewarding career that provides significant opportunities to help others and make a difference in the world. There's also ample room to achieve higher levels of education and advance into many different roles. Many nurses wish to continue their education and grow in the profession, becoming advanced practice registered nurses, community or public health nurses, nursing and health care administrators, nurse educators, and health care policymakers. Below is the hierarchy of different nursing degree levels: Purdue Global offers a range of nursing degrees to help you in your career, from an Associate of Science in Nursing all the way up to a Doctor of Nursing Practice. There are also postgraduate certificates available for nurses who are interested in focusing on a particular nursing specialty. If you’re thinking of becoming a nurse or looking to expand your nursing career, this article is for you. It provides an overview of what a typical nursing career progression might look like. Learn about the various nursing degrees you can earn, average time to completion, and the possible career outcomes that go along with each degree. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment of registered nurses is expected to grow 6% between 2021 and 2031. How do you become an RN? You could start with an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN). This program is mostly offered through on-campus community colleges and career schools, although some hybrid online and on-campus programs exist. For example, Purdue Global offers an ASN program for students in Iowa and Maine. This degree usually takes about 2 years of full-time study to complete. Successful completion of the program qualifies you to sit for the NCLEX®-RN; this is the exam that, if you pass, gives you the RN credential. Many nurses who hold an ASN and work as registered nurses go back to school to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Not only do BSN programs aim to provide a broader educational perspective, but many employers prefer a BSN, and having one may present you with greater career opportunities. According to the 2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey, more than 65% of RNs hold a BSN or higher. >> Read More: Top Reasons to Earn Your RN-to-BSN Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing–RN-to-BSN: These programs are available at on-campus colleges and universities and in online programs. The time to complete varies. Purdue Global offers an online RN-to-BSN program as well as an accelerated competency-based online RN-to-BSN program known as ExcelTrack®.