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: Nurses are the backbone of the health care industry. According to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, nursing is the single largest profession in the entire U.S. health care workforce. Without registered nurses, the health care system would collapse. Nationally, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) projects: Whereas there is an overall projected surplus of RNs by 2035, several states are still expecting shortages. The 10 states with the largest projected shortages in 2035 and their projected supply deficiencies are: To adequately address nursing employment needs, the health care industry must recognize and address challenges. Just like any industry, many factors impact the supply and demand in the health care sector. According to the United States Census Bureau, as of December 2019, there were 73 million baby boomers — those born between 1946 and 1964 — in this country. As the baby boomers age, they increasingly require health care services. The sheer size of the generation’s aging population could be a considerable burden on the health care system if the nursing shortage isn’t solved. Baby boomer nurses are retiring in large numbers, creating a lack of nurses in the U.S.: Chronic diseases have grown among individuals in the U.S. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 60% of Americans suffer from at least one chronic disease, and this number is steadily growing. Cancer, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, respiratory diseases, hypertension, obesity, and arthritis are all chronic diseases that can lead to hospitalization and long-term disability. This steady growth in chronic diseases increases the need for health care services, especially from nurses. Each state’s health care industry leadership and government needs to take a close look at how to attract more nurses. Some recommendations industry professionals and legislators have discussed include: Additionally, national foundations, other health care industry players, and educational institutions have a role to play in the form of: In an effort to recruit and retain nurses, employers across the country are offering substantial financial and non-financial perks and incentives. According to numerous reports, such as this article from the Houston Chronicle, some incentives include: Nurses — and those considering becoming a nurse — can secure some considerable benefits as a result of the nursing shortage. Nursing is a rewarding profession that fulfills a passion to serve and care for others. To explore the field of nursing or to advance your nursing career, learn more about earning a nursing degree online with Purdue Global or request more information. See Notes and Conditions below for important information. About the Author Purdue Global