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: An evolving health care environment and a desire for greater career opportunities is sending increasingly more registered nurses back to school. Earning a bachelor’s degree in nursing is the right idea—according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 71.7% of employers are expressing a strong preference for BSN program graduates. This growth is attributed to a number of factors, including an aging baby boomer population and the growing prevalence of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity. As health care continues to focus on primary and preventive care, nurses need to be prepared for expanding professional roles that require the ability to practice in a variety of settings. Perhaps your employer requires it or maybe you’re looking for a career opportunity—whatever your motivation, here’s what you need to know about going from an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) with the RN credential to earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). If you’re already a licensed RN, earning your BSN can be a worthwhile pursuit. A BSN can help you gain appreciable skills and explore new career possibilities. Most, if not all, graduate nursing programs require a bachelor’s degree upon admittance. According to the BLS, three of the most advanced nursing jobs—nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, and nurse anesthetist—require a master’s degree in nursing, to which a BSN is a stepping stone. Overall, nurses with a BSN can be prepared to pursue roles that are responsible for more than basic clinical care. You might also consider other positions related to the field. For instance, even if you love your work right now, in the future, you may want to move into administration or teaching. A BSN can help facilitate your path to getting there. With a BSN, you could pursue opportunities in patient care coordination, community education and public health, nursing management and leadership, health care administration, and more. Research has long shown that higher levels of nursing education are associated with better clinical patient outcomes. A 2022 study published by Nursing Outlook found that hospitals with a higher proportion of BSN nurses show a better survival rate for patients receiving surgery. Ultimately, nurses with a BSN or higher-level degree have been found to have stronger communication and problem-solving skills, and a higher proficiency in making accurate diagnoses based on evaluations. For many RNs, leaving the workforce to pursue higher education isn’t an option. And traditional class schedules are difficult to accommodate if you have a family and a job. This is what makes an online program so appealing. It provides the same rigorous curriculum as a campus program, yet is flexible enough to allow you to work, go to school, and take care of family responsibilities.