average Purdue Global military student awarded 54 credits needed associate 's 45 credits needed bachelor 's Commonly Searched Commonly Searched evolving health care environment desire greater career opportunities sending increasingly registered nurses back school Earning bachelor ’ degree nursing right idea—according American Association Colleges Nursing 71.7 employers expressing strong preference BSN program graduates growth attributed number factors including aging baby boomer population growing prevalence chronic conditions diabetes obesity health care continues focus primary preventive care nurses need prepared expanding professional roles require ability practice variety settings Perhaps employer requires maybe ’ looking career opportunity—whatever motivation ’ need know going Associate Science Nursing ASN RN credential earning Bachelor Science Nursing BSN ’ already licensed RN earning BSN worthwhile pursuit BSN help gain appreciable skills explore new career possibilities graduate nursing programs require bachelor ’ degree upon admittance According BLS three advanced nursing jobs—nurse practitioner nurse midwife nurse anesthetist—require master ’ degree nursing BSN stepping stone Overall nurses BSN prepared pursue roles responsible basic clinical care might also consider positions related field instance even love work right future may want move administration teaching BSN help facilitate path getting BSN could pursue opportunities patient care coordination community education public health nursing management leadership health care administration Research long shown higher levels nursing education associated better clinical patient outcomes 2022 study published Nursing Outlook found hospitals higher proportion BSN nurses show better survival rate patients receiving surgery Ultimately nurses BSN higher-level degree found stronger communication problem-solving skills higher proficiency making accurate diagnoses based evaluations many RNs leaving workforce pursue higher education ’ option traditional class schedules difficult accommodate family job makes online program appealing provides rigorous curriculum campus program yet flexible enough allow work go school take care family responsibilities