

Top 10 Nursing Schools in Connecticut

University of Hartford

Annual Tuition: \$39,220 | NCLEX Pass Rate: N/A

Traditional: Yes

Online: No

Accelerated: No

Bridge: No

Private schools like the University of Hartford may not offer in-state tuition, but 90% of Hartford students receive some form of financial aid to help reduce the cost of their degree. Hartford also offers the benefits of private education, such as a low 9:1 student-to-faculty ratio. Nursing students have plenty of options at Hartford, the most popular being the traditional BSN program. This direct-entry BSN lets high school students find out if they're accepted into the program before beginning college.

Western Connecticut State University

Annual In-State Tuition: \$11,344 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 88%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: No

Bridge: No

Spread over two campuses in Danbury, Western Connecticut State University has more than enough room for its 4,181 full-time students. WCSU's Nursing Department has four options: a traditional BSN, RN-BSN, MSN, and a doctoral degree. Because over 5,000 of WCSU's 5,600 students are undergraduates, the traditional BSN is the main program at WCSU, though the

online RN-BSN is a great choice for current nurses looking to earn a bachelor's degree. However, nurses should note that part-time nursing students are charged an additional \$33 per credit.

Fairfield University

Annual Tuition: \$49,080 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 93%

Traditional: Yes

Online: No

Accelerated: Yes

Bridge: Yes

Located just on the coast and just across the water from Long Island, Fairfield University's 200-acre campus is one of the largest coastline campuses you'll find on the East Coast. As a Jesuit school, Fairfield is also a private university — and carries a price tag of private education and a coastal location. But the quality of the BSN is certainly worth the cost. Not only does Fairfield have a high NCLEX pass rate, but nursing students can attain a for-credit internship to gain professional experience while completing their schooling.

Sacred Heart University

Annual Tuition: \$41,150 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 97%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: No

Bridge: Yes

Located in Fairfield, Sacred Heart University began in 1963. While Sacred Heart is a Catholic school, the university was founded by laymen, and the school combines Catholic liberal arts education with various secular options, including every program in the College of Nursing. The College of Nursing has 10 separate nursing options, including an innovative RN-BSN-MSN and

a post-baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Almost any degree needed for a specific nursing career can be completed at Sacred Heart.

Quinnipiac University

Annual Tuition: \$46,790 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 92%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: Yes

Bridge: No

Quinnipiac University comes with a high tuition rate but admitted students study at one of the top private universities in the nation. Undergraduate nursing students have plenty of options to choose from, though the most popular is the traditional nursing program. As proof of quality, Quinnipiac's School of Nursing is also one of the only programs in the region endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation. With a high NCLEX pass rate, a nursing degree from Quinnipiac could help kickstart a great nursing career.

Central Connecticut State University

Annual In-State Tuition: \$10,028 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 90%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: No

Bridge: No

Aside from the low in-state tuition, Central Connecticut State University also offers a discount to New England residents, so aspiring nurses in the area can receive an affordable education. Graduates of the Department of Nursing have had incredible success with the NCLEX, a good sign for future BSN students. Also, a study abroad program isn't just available to nurses —

nurses are encouraged to study abroad for up to one year. Scholarships are also available specifically to nursing students.

Southern Connecticut State University

Annual In-State Tuition: \$11,446 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 95%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: Yes

Bridge: Yes

For over 125 years, Southern Connecticut State University has been offering higher education to New Haven and Connecticut residents. Southern has recently established itself as one of the most environmentally responsible campuses in the nation, a sign of its innovation. Nursing students have plenty of options to earn a BSN, including a traditional route, an RN-BSN, an accelerated program, and a direct entry option for current high school seniors. The low in-state tuition and the high NCLEX pass rate for recent grads make this an attractive option for Connecticut residents.

Yale University

Annual Tuition: \$43,990 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 98%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: No

Bridge: Yes

As an Ivy League school that is over 300 years old, Yale University may be the most recognizable — and best — school in Connecticut. Of course, it goes without saying that the Yale School of Nursing is also among the best in the nation. However, future nurses should note that Yale does not offer a BSN. But the lowest level degree, the MSN, doesn't require applicants

to be RNs; in fact, some students take the NCLEX after earning their MSN. Other master's specialties and doctoral programs are also available.

University of Connecticut

Annual In-State Tuition: \$13,798 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 92%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: Yes

Bridge: Yes

As Connecticut's flagship university, the University of Connecticut is sure to already be on most state residents' shortlist for colleges. Aside from a large campus, excellent sports programs, and a long history of teaching excellence, UConn also uses its extensive alumni network to help place graduates in relevant positions. So, graduates of the School of Nursing should have no trouble finding nursing positions — so long as they pass the NCLEX, as most graduates do.

University of Saint Joseph

Annual Tuition: \$38,482 | NCLEX Pass Rate: 96%

Traditional: Yes

Online: Yes

Accelerated: Yes

Bridge: Yes

Founded by the Catholic Sisters of Mercy in 1932, the University of St. Joseph is located midway between Boston and New York City. This prime location is perfect for nursing graduates who want to find a high-paying position in a big city. The main nursing degree, BSN, is meant for both incoming freshmen and transfer students. Other undergraduate programs are available, though they carry a different tuition rate. For example, the online RN-BSN costs \$18,000 total, and the accelerated second degree nursing program is \$43,770.