NURSING 2015 Yellow Team –Group 2
Considerations When Selecting An RN-BSN Program
Updated 3/09

Personal Considerations	Notes
1. What are the advantages and disadvantages for me in going back to school? (short term and long term)	
2. How much time and emotional commitment is needed to attend this program? How much time and effort can I and will I commit to attend this program? What other commitments do I have in my life? Where would going back to school fit among the priorities in my life?	
3. Am I prepared to shuffle my priorities? What adjustments can I make in my life to make room for school? Can I free up the time required to attend class and clinical?	
4. What support do I have in my life now to return to school – From family? Friends? Employer? Peers? What support would I need? Can I realistically get it?	
5. What are the financial costs and potential benefits of returning to school? Can I realistically meet the financial obligations at this time? What resources do I have (see below)	
Other thoughts?	

Topics to Consider about the School	Notes
1. Accreditation – Is the college or university accredited by a regional accrediting organization? Is the nursing program accredited by the NLN-AC or CCNE? NLN-AC – National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission CCNE - Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. (American Association of Colleges of Nursing).	
2. Program format: 100% on campus? 100% on line? Mixed?	
3. Location –	

Where is the college or university located? Where is the faculty located? Are they on site?	
4. Learn more about the educational institution -- Visit the campus if possible Talk with current students Talk with alumni of the RN-BSN program	
5. Student body – Number of students in the RN-BSN Program? Number of students graduated from the program? Graduation rate? Average time to complete the program? Diversity of students in the program?	
6. Time commitment expected? Full time Part time Time limit to complete the program?	
7. Application process Deadlines? Exam required? Portfolio required? Can the application be done on line?	
8. Expense - What costs and fees are involved? –examples include: Application fee? Tuition costs including deposit? Health insurance (can it be waived)? Transcript evaluation or portfolio fee? Library fee? Clinical fees such as immunizations, background check, liability insurance, CPR; Lab fee? Graduation fee? Technology fee? Other fees?	
9. Financial Aid? Employer tuition benefit? If so, what are the policies and procedures for the benefit? Scholarships, grants, loans, other? What support for financial aid application/processing is provided by the school?	
10. Is the school non-profit or proprietary (for profit)?	
11. Teaching/learning strategies used? How are the unique learning needs of adults addressed? Do RN students take classes with generic BSN students?	
12. Didactic (lecture) format? Traditional didactic in classroom? Schedule? - days, eves, weekends? Distance learning didactic? If yes, Type? (live or taped?) Location? From site of learner's choice or Required site? Is the program flexible enough to include both online and traditional classes that can be taken in any combination or must the student choose one	

method of delivery and continue with this method?	
13. Is lab required? If yes, Format? Location? Time commitment?	
14. Are clinical experiences required? If yes → What are the requirements? Which courses? How any hours are required? What activities are required? Who makes the arrangements? - does the program make them? Does the student have to arrange a site and preceptor for the clinical experiences? Does the student have to travel to another city? If so, for how long? Are there additional travel costs, or is travel included in my tuition costs? If the school makes the clinical arrangements, does the student have input? Can the student fulfill the requirements with my own employer? Are there additional fees for the clinical experiences?	
15. Resources provided by the program? Faculty support including advising? Student services including registrar, financial aid. Library?	
16. Technological resources expected of students? Computer? If so, what are the specific requirements? Internet? What tech support is available? Technology fees?	
17. Nature of the program format and curriculum What is the policy on transferring credits into the program? If allowed, is there a limit to the number of hours of transfer credit? Can the student take my General Education courses from somewhere else and transfer them in? Are there any courses that will not be able to be transferred in? What is the policy of the program on assigning and clearing incompletes? Is there a certain amount of time to close an incomplete or can it continue indefinitely? What is the policy on timeframe for completion of the program? Policy on taking a leave of absence?	