

# NURSING

## **Award: Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Technology**

### **Major: Nursing**

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Health Technology with a major in nursing is designed to prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the health team, rendering direct patient care as beginning practitioners of nursing in a variety of health service facilities. Classroom and clinical experiences will include lifespan from birth to death. Graduates will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination leading to licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN). Licensure is required in order to be employed as a registered nurse. The nursing program is approved by the State Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia 30326; telephone 404-975-5000).

The nursing law of Virginia addresses criteria for application for licensure. The Virginia State Board of Nursing has the power to deny opportunity to procure a license through testing if the applicant has willfully committed a felony/misdemeanor under laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia or of the United States. Students will be required to pay for a criminal background check and urine drug test when they apply for the clinical component of the program.

## **General Education Courses**

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Students who have not been accepted into the clinical component of the program will be enrolled in the Health Sciences-Nursing (pre-nursing) curriculum. Pre-nursing students are encouraged to complete clinical component prerequisites (required in order to be eligible for admission) and as many of the general education courses as possible before beginning the clinical portion of the program. The general education courses required for graduation are: ENG 111-112, SOC 215, PSY 230, Humanities/Fine Arts (see footnote on page 86), ITE 119, and Student Development, in addition to BIO 141-142, which are clinical prerequisite courses. Please note that BIO 141-142 must be completed within 10 years of application to the clinical component of the program. BIO 141 must be completed with a grade of "C" or better prior to the application deadline, and the applicant must be enrolled in BIO 142. Candidates may be provisionally admitted pending successful completion of BIO 142 with a grade of "C" or better.

Pre-nursing students are encouraged to complete as many required general education courses as possible before applying for admission to the clinical component of the program. Students who did not complete high school biology, algebra and chemistry with a grade of "C" or higher are also strongly encouraged to complete MTH 03, BIO 101 and CHM 101 before enrolling in the BIO 141-142 sequence. In addition, students should not enroll in two science courses during the same semester, excluding summer.

## **Application and Admission to the Clinical Component**

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### **General Information**

Admission to the clinical component of the nursing program is highly competitive. Students apply in a separate admissions process to the clinical component in the fall prior to the start of nursing classes the following year. LPNs begin in May. Traditional students begin in August. Clinical applications are available online on the Nursing Program website in late fall semester. Acceptance to the College does not guarantee admission to the clinical component. Students must satisfy the graduation requirements listed in the BRCC Catalog and Nursing Student Handbook in effect at the time they begin the clinical component of the program.

Students who are admitted to the clinical component of the program must complete each nursing course with a grade of 80% or greater in order to continue in the clinical nursing sequence. Students who fail to achieve a minimum grade of 80% may not continue in the program and must reapply and be accepted for readmission. Readmission is competitive and is not guaranteed.

### **Residence in Service Region**

Since the number of applicants generally exceeds the space available in the clinical program, some applicants may not be accepted even if the minimum requirements for admission are met. When enrollments must be limited for any curriculum, such as nursing, priority shall be given to all qualified applicants who are residents of the political subdivisions supporting the College and then to Virginia residents not having access to a given program at their local Virginia community college. Please be aware that the qualified Virginia resident applicant pool may more than fill the enrollment capacity for the nursing clinical component; therefore the College may not be able to honor all requests for admission into the nursing clinical component.

*August 5, 2011*

First priority is given to residents in the BRCC service area: Harrisonburg, Staunton, Waynesboro, Augusta County, Rockingham County, and Highland County.

In order to be considered a resident of the BRCC service region, applicants must have been domiciled continuously in the service region for the 12 months prior to the clinical application deadline and must not be residents of the service region for the primary purpose of education. Service area criteria will be scrutinized very carefully. A student with out-of-state tuition status is not a resident of the BRCC service region.

Documentation may be required to establish residency in the BRCC service region. Listed below are documents that may be requested:

- the parents' and student's latest federal and Virginia tax returns
- physical residence in the student's name that is not student housing
- full-time or equivalent employment documenting income of \$10,500 or more
- car registration and VA driver's license in the student's name
- documents showing who pays insurances and college tuition and fees

### **Clinical Component Prerequisites**

In order to be considered for admission to the clinical portion of the nursing program, applicants must have:

- earned a high school diploma or the equivalent
- applied to the College
- attained a 45% score on the math and reading comprehension portions of the nursing entrance examination required by the program. Additional information is available at <http://community.brcc.edu/nursing/>. In lieu of the designated nursing entrance examination, scores from ERI, NLN, HESI, and ATI may be accepted if approved by the Nursing Program Head. The nursing entrance examination must be taken within three years of application to the clinical component of the program.
- 1 unit of high school biology with laboratory, with a grade of "C" or higher (or BIO 101)
- 1 unit of high school chemistry with laboratory, with a grade of "C" or higher (or CHM 101 or CHM 111)
- College Preparedness Test score demonstrating competency in arithmetic (or MTH 02), or SAT math score of 520/ACT math score of 22, or completion of college-level math with a grade of "C" or higher
- 1 unit of high school algebra (with a "C" or better) or MTH 03, or SAT math score of 520/ACT math score of 22, or completion of college-level math class equivalent to MTH 151 or higher with a grade of "C" or higher
- a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher in BRCC college course work
- successfully completed BIO 141 and 142 with a grade of "C" or higher. BIO 141 and 142 must have been successfully completed within 10 years of application to the clinical component of the program. Students who are registered for BIO 142 in the spring semester may be given conditional acceptance pending completion with a grade of "C" or higher.
- submitted a Nursing Clinical Component Application form by the stated deadline date.
- submitted official transcripts of all secondary and post-secondary schools attended (excluding VCCS colleges), including LPN transcripts and current LPN license for students who completed LPN training)
- thoroughly reviewed all information presented in the current online Nursing Program Information session and completed the post-test with a score of 70 or higher. A copy of the post-test must be submitted with the application. These materials can be accessed at <http://community.brcc.edu/nursing/>.

### **Admission Preference**

Preference for admission to the clinical component of the program is given to applicants who have:

- documented residence in the BRCC service region for 12 months continuously prior to the clinical application deadline, in accordance with the criteria described earlier in this narrative
- completed more of the general education courses required for graduation, compared to other applicants
- a higher grade point average in the general education courses required for graduation, compared to other applicants
- a higher grade point average for BIO 141-142, compared to other applicants
- previous paid work experience in a health care setting

### **Special Admission Criteria for Recent High School Graduates**

A limited number of recent high school graduates (not to exceed 10% of successful applicants) may be admitted to the clinical component of the program. Since recent high school graduates have not had the opportunity to enroll in the required general education courses in the program, there are special admission criteria that are outlined below. Students should be aware that this option is a rigorous and academically challenging program that requires five semesters (including summer) of full-time attendance. The special admission criteria are:

- high school cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher
- applied to the College

- attained a 45% score on the math and reading comprehension portions of the nursing entrance examination required by the program.
- 1 unit of high school biology with laboratory, with a grade of “C” or higher (or BIO 101)
- 1 unit of high school chemistry with laboratory, with a grade of “C” or higher (or CHM 101 or CHM 111)
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores of 530 or higher /reading, 530 or higher/writing, 520 or higher/math, or BRCC College Preparedness Test (COMPASS) scores of 81 + for reading, 76+ for writing, 34+ for arithmetic, and 36+ for algebra. Students who score 34 or higher for arithmetic do not need to take MTH 02. Students who score 36 or lower for algebra must take MTH 03 unless they have achieved a grade of “C” or higher on a High School Algebra course.
- High School Transcript: current high school students must submit an official transcript. A final official transcript is required in June for high school candidates with tentative acceptance.
- Admission preference will be given to high school candidates who have successfully completed Advanced Placement (AP) courses, who have a higher high school grade point average than other high school applicants, or who have completed dual enrollment courses through the Tech-Prep Consortium.

### Admission Criteria for Students Seeking Program Readmission

Any student who fails the clinical component or receives a final grade lower than 80% in any of the courses in the clinical nursing sequence may not continue in the major. The student must reapply to the program and, if accepted, repeat the course and earn a final grade of 80% or higher before taking the next course in the sequence. Readmission to the program is competitive and is not guaranteed. Students must apply for readmission to the clinical component and document completion of all regular admission criteria. Students will only be readmitted once to the clinical component of the nursing program. In order to graduate, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0. Students who apply for readmission after two years from the time they left the program must start at the beginning of the nursing course sequence. Students seeking readmission to the program must:

- complete an exit interview with the Nursing program head prior to leaving the program.
- document completion of all regular admission criteria by stated deadlines.
- submit a written plan of action for completion of the required general education courses in the program.
- successfully complete a skills exam and written exam with a score of 80% or better.

### Advanced Standing for LPN Students

LPN students must apply for admission to the clinical component of the program and document completion of all regular admission criteria (including submission of an official transcript from their LPN program and a copy of their current Virginia unrestricted LPN license). Once accepted, LPN students complete three semesters of study, beginning in the summer. LPNs who have graduated from nursing school within the last five years and have received a score of 50% or greater on the NLN medication administration test or received a score of 60% or greater on the ERI medication administration test are exempt from NUR 136. Similarly, LPNs who have graduated from nursing school within the last five years and have received a score of 50% or greater on the NLN maternity nursing test or received a score of 60% or greater on the ERI maternity nursing test are exempt from NUR 245. Other standardized exit tests for maternity nursing and medication administration may be accepted if approved by the Nursing Program Head.

## Full-time Curriculum

Course No.	Title	Credits
<b>Fall Semester (1st semester)</b>		
ENG 111	College Composition I	3
BIO 141	Human Anatomy and Physiology I <sup>a</sup>	4
NUR 108	Nursing Principles and Concepts I <sup>b</sup>	6
NUR 136	Principles of Pharmacology I	1
SDV	Student Development	<b>1</b>
		15
<b>Spring Semester (2nd semester)</b>		
ENG 112	College Composition II	3
BIO 142	Human Anatomy and Physiology II <sup>a</sup>	4
NUR 109	Nursing Principles and Concepts II	6
NUR 137	Principles of Pharmacology II	<b>1</b>
		14

### Summer Semester (3rd semester)

NUR 226	Health Assessment	3
NUR 247	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3
ITE 119	Information Literacy	3
PHI 225	Selected Problems in Applied Ethics <sup>c</sup>	3
	12	

### Fall Semester (4th semester)

NUR 245	Maternal-Newborn Nursing	3
NUR 213	Second Level Nursing III	7
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology <sup>d</sup>	3
	13	

### Spring Semester (5th semester)

NUR 214	Second Level Nursing IV	7
NUR 254	Dimensions of Nursing	2
SOC 215	Sociology of the Family	3
	12	

**Total credits required** **66**

<sup>a</sup> NAS 161-162 may also be taken.

<sup>b</sup> LPNs who qualify for this option do not take NUR 108 and NUR 109 but take NUR 115 and NUR 136 in the summer.

<sup>c</sup> Students may also choose from ART 101-102, ENG 241-242, ENG 243-244, ENG 251-252, HUM 100, HUM 201-202, MUS 121-122, PHI 101, PHI 220, PHI 226, PHI 227, REL 231-232, SPD 151-152, or foreign language (including ASL).

<sup>d</sup> PSY 231/232 may be substituted.

## Part-time Curriculum

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This option is for those students who need some prerequisites and/or must work and wish to attend part-time. This option can take three years or longer because students may wish to take only one pre-clinical class per semester.

### Pre-Clinical studies for Traditional Students

ENG 111 and 112: College Composition I-II.

BIO 141 and 142: Human Anatomy and Physiology I-II (NAS 161-162 may substitute)

SOC 215: Sociology of the Family

PHI 225: Selected Problems in Applied Ethics (see footnote "c" under full-time curriculum.

PSY 230: Developmental Psychology (PSY 231/232 may be substituted)

ITE 119 Information Literacy

SDV: Student Development

### Clinical Component: 5 semesters

Fall:	NUR 108: Nursing I
	NUR 136: Principles of Pharmacology I
Spring:	NUR 109: Nursing II
	NUR 137: Principles of Pharmacology II
Summer:	NUR 226: Health Assessment
	NUR 247: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing
Fall:	NUR 245: Maternal/Newborn Nursing
	NUR 213: Second Level Nursing III
Spring:	NUR 214: Second Level Nursing IV
	NUR 254: Nursing Dimensions

## Part-Time LPN-RN Transition Curriculum

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This option is for those students who are LPNs, need some prerequisites, and/or work and wish to attend part-time. This option can take two years or longer.

### Pre-Clinical studies for LPN Students

ENG 111 and 112: College Composition I-II.

BIO 141 and 142: Human Anatomy and Physiology I-II (NAS 161-162 may substitute)

SOC 215: Sociology of the Family

PHI 225: Selected Problems in Applied Ethics (see footnote 'c' under full-time curriculum)

PSY 230: Developmental Psychology (PSY 231/232 may be substituted)

ITE 119 Information Literacy

SDV: Student Development

### Clinical Component: 3 semesters

Summer: NUR 115: LPN Transition

NUR 136: Principles of Pharmacology I <sup>a</sup>

NUR 226: Health Assessment

NUR 247: Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

Fall: NUR 245: Maternal/Newborn Nursing <sup>b</sup>

NUR 137: Principles of Pharmacology II

NUR 213: Second Level Nursing III

Spring: NUR 214: Second Level Nursing IV

NUR 254: Nursing Dimensions

All of these options are fully explained in the online Nursing Information Session at <http://community.brcc.edu/nursing/>.

<sup>a</sup> LPNs who have graduated from nursing school within the last five years and have received a score of 50% or greater on the NLN medication administration test or received a score of 60% or greater on the ERI medication administration test are exempt from NUR 136.

<sup>b</sup> LPNs who have graduated from nursing school within the last five years and have received a score of 50% or greater on the NLN Maternity test or received a score of 60% or greater on the ERI Maternity nursing test are exempt from NUR 245. Other standardized exit texts for maternity nursing and medication administration may be accepted, if approved by the Nursing Program Head.