

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

The Department of Nursing is an integral part of the College and offers educational opportunities to qualified individuals who seek a career in nursing. Students pursue a planned course of study, which will help them develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially in preparation for nursing practice as a Registered Nurse (RN).

The Associate Degree Nursing curriculum provides knowledge, skills, and strategies to integrate safety and quality into nursing care, to practice in a dynamic environment, and to meet individual needs which impact health, quality of life, and achievement of potential.

Course work includes and builds upon the domains of healthcare, nursing practice, and the holistic individual. Content emphasizes the nurse as a member of the interdisciplinary team providing safe, individualized client-centered care while employing evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and informatics.

Prospective students need to be aware that clinicals, skills lab, and computer laboratory experiences may be taught during day, evening, night, or weekend hours and at different locations based on the availability of appropriate learning experiences for each nursing course. Certain hours for clinicals, skills lab, or computer laboratory experiences cannot be guaranteed. Transportation to clinical sites is the responsibility of the student.

Because of the academically demanding program of study in the nursing curriculum, it is highly recommended that a student who anticipates enrolling in the nursing program completes several required general education courses prior to admission.

Upon graduation, the student receives an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing degree and is eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) which is required for practice as a Registered Nurse (RN). Permission to take the licensing examination is granted by the state examining board. **Please note:** Graduates who have been arrested/convicted of a moral and/or legal violation of the law may not be granted permission to take the licensing examination. Once licensure has been granted, employment opportunities are vast within the global health care system and may include positions with acute, chronic, extended, industrial, and community health facilities.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the Associate Degree Nursing program, the graduate will upon licensure:

1. Practice professional nursing behaviors incorporating personal responsibility and accountability for continued competence.
2. Communicate professionally and effectively with individuals, significant support person(s), and members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
3. Integrate knowledge of the holistic needs of the individual to provide an individual centered assessment.
4. Incorporate informatics to formulate evidence-based clinical judgments and management decisions.
5. Implement caring interventions incorporating documented best practices for individuals in diverse settings.
6. Develop a teaching plan for individuals, and/or the nursing team, incorporating teaching and learning principles.
7. Collaborate with the interdisciplinary healthcare team to advocate for positive individual and organizational outcomes.
8. Manage health care for the individual using cost-effective nursing strategies, quality improvement processes, and current technologies.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING ADMISSION POLICY AND PROCEDURES

To enter the nursing program, a student must first be admitted to RCC. Admission to RCC, however, does not guarantee admission into the nursing program. A letter from the Admissions Office will be sent to the student upon acceptance into the nursing program. A letter from the Registrar will be sent to the student regarding transfer equivalency.

The following policies and procedures are utilized in admitting qualified students:

I. Admission Requirements – Applicants for the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program must:

- A. Be a high school graduate or equivalent.
- B. Score at the indicated levels or above on the RCC Placement Assessments:
ACCUPLACER
 - 1. Reading Standard score 80
 - 2. Sentence Skills Standard score 86
 - 3. Arithmetic Standard score 55
 - 4. Algebra Standard score 55

Applicants who fail to meet minimum scores on the placement assessment may retake the ACCUPLACER a maximum of two times in a 12-month period. (The two reassessments refer to either part or complete testing. If indicated levels are not achieved, the required developmental courses will need to be taken and completed with a “C” or better.)

- C. Meet with a counselor. Once the counselor has determined that minimum admission requirements have been met, each applicant must schedule a time to complete the required departmental admission test (TEAS: Test of Essential Academic Skills). Scores from the admission test will be used in the point calculations for admission.
- D. Have physical and emotional status compatible with the ability to provide safe nursing care.
 - 1. The following activities are examples of activities which a student in the nursing program would be required to perform in order to successfully complete the program. If an accepted applicant believes that he or she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodations or modifications, the applicant should consult with the Nursing Department Chair. A student who believes he or she qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act must see the VP for Student Development. Reasonable accommodations may be made for some disabilities; however, each candidate is expected to perform in a safe and reasonably independent manner.
 - a. Critical Thinking: Students shall possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. Example: Students must be able to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations and to develop or participate in development of nursing care plans.
 - b. Ethical behavior: Students will provide services with respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the client unrestricted by consideration of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems. Example: Students will care for clients assigned regardless of race, religion, or diagnosis.
 - c. Interpersonal skills: Students shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds. Example: Students shall establish rapport with clients and health care team members.
 - d. Communications skills: Students shall possess communication

abilities sufficient for verbal and nonverbal interaction with others. Example: Students shall be able to explain treatment procedures and provide patient teaching to clients and families, document client response, and report to others the client's response to nursing care.

- e. Mobility: Students shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces and stand and walk for extensive periods of time. Example: Students will be able to move around in client's room, move from room to room, move in small work areas, and administer CPR.
 - f. Motor skills: Students shall possess gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care. Example: Students shall be able to calibrate equipment, position clients, administer intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, and oral medications, insert catheters, and apply pressure to stop bleeding.
 - g. Hearing skills: Students shall possess auditory ability sufficient to monitor health needs and collect data. Example: Students shall be able to hear alarms, listen to heart and breath sounds, and hear a cry for help.
 - h. Visual skills: Students shall possess visual ability sufficient for observation and data collection. Example: Students shall be able to observe color of skin and read the scale on a syringe.
 - i. Tactile skills: Students shall possess tactile ability sufficient for data collection. Example: Students shall be able to detect pulsation and feel skin temperature.
 - j. Weight-bearing: Students shall possess the ability to lift and manipulate/move 40-50 pounds. Example: Students shall be able to move equipment and position clients.
- E. Attend orientation session with the Nursing and Admissions staff.
 - F. Complete the pre-nursing program. Attendance at a minimum of 90% of the class meetings of each required module is mandatory for successful completion of the pre-nursing requirement.
 - G. Hold a current, non-restrictive listing as a Nurse Aide I. This requirement would be waived for students holding a current, non-restrictive license as a Practical Nurse or for a student who has successfully completed NUR 111. Lab demonstration of basic nursing skills may be required to validate knowledge.
 - H. The following courses must not be more than five (5) years old at the time of admission to the program to receive credit for graduation: all courses with BIO and NUR prefixes and PSY 241. If either BIO 165 or BIO 166 is greater than five (5) years old at the time of admission, the applicant must complete BIO 163. (The applicant may elect to retake BIO 165 and BIO 166.)

II. Procedure for Admission

- A. Submit a completed RCC application.
- B. Submit official copies of transcripts from all secondary and post-secondary institutions or a copy of GED transcript, if applicable.
- C. Submit proof of Nurse Aide I listing.
- D. Take the RCC Placement Assessment and achieve at required levels or take the required classes.
- E. Schedule an appointment with a counselor to complete the TEAS, once a counselor has determined that minimum requirements are met.
- F. After all transcripts are received by RCC and the TEAS and CPT/ACCUPLACER scores are achieved or required courses completed, a personal interview with the Nursing Admissions Committee may be scheduled.

- G. Submit a physical examination completed by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant on the form provided by RCC. The applicant must show physical and psychological ability to perform normal nursing duties. Physical examination and lab data should be no more than three months old at the time of initial enrollment. Annual TB test results and proof of current CPR status must be submitted.
- H. Students must purchase or show evidence of having professional liability insurance prior to enrollment in courses with NUR prefix.
- I. Students are responsible for obtaining their own health insurance policy. Neither RCC nor the affiliating institutions are responsible for medical expenses incurred as a result of illness or injury sustained during class, lab, or clinical experiences. (e.g., strained back, needle-stick).

III. ADN Admission Criteria

Decisions regarding admission into the ADN Program are based upon the TEAS and achievement in related courses. Each admission criterion is assigned a point value. The points are used to rank applicants for the purpose of selection into the program. In the event that applicants have identical total admission points, the person with the earliest file completion date will be ranked higher. If the points are still identical, the person with the highest grade in BIO 165 will be ranked higher. Should applicants still be tied, the applicant with the highest grade in BIO 166 will be ranked higher. If the applicants are still tied, then the applicants' GPA for courses required in the nursing curriculum will be used to break the tie.

IV. ADN Applicant Deadlines and Admission Decisions

The deadline for applications including receipt of all transcripts and record of adequate test scores is January 31, assuming that the desired admission date is the fall semester following the application deadline. Applicants meeting admission criteria may be scheduled for an interview beginning in late February through April. Applicants will be notified of admission status by May 31.

V. Alternate List for ADN Program

Qualified applicants not accepted because of space limitations will be placed on an alternate list in rank order and notified in that order of any vacancies related to that semester's admissions. Students must reapply for the next year if not admitted. Applications are not automatically carried over from year to year. No special consideration will be given to applicants who were on the alternate list the previous year. Applicants who want to improve their position are encouraged to meet with the Nursing Department Chair or counselor to discuss a plan of study.

VI. Credit by Transfer

Transfer credit for non-nursing courses in the Nursing curriculum from accredited post-secondary educational programs will be determined on an individual basis in accordance with RCC's transfer policy as stated in the general catalog. Transfer of credit for nursing courses in the ADN Program from an accredited nursing educational program must be on an individual basis and in accordance with RCC's transfer policy. In addition, there must be approval by the Nursing Department Chair. An interview with the Nursing Admissions Committee may be scheduled. Students may be required to pass a written competency examination and perform appropriate nursing skills for a course previously taken to ensure competency.

VII. ADN Progression Policy

Students enrolled in a nursing curriculum must obtain a grade of 78 or higher in all courses with BIO, NUR, and PSY prefixes in order to progress and graduate in the nursing curriculum. A program GPA of 2.0 is required for a student to remain in the nursing program and for graduation. Calculations of GPAs are limited to required courses in the nursing curriculum. Courses taken outside the curriculum are not considered part of the program GPA. Readmission to the nursing sequence will be in accordance with readmission policies on a space available basis.

Criminal background checks and/or drug testing may be required by clinical agencies prior to a student's participation in the clinical component of a NUR course. Failure to meet clinical agency requirements will result in the student not having the opportunity to meet clinical objectives; therefore, the student will not be allowed to progress in the nursing curriculum.

It is important to note that the clinical site, not the College, determines whether the result of the criminal background check/drug screening disqualifies the student from clinical activities. The hospital or other clinical agency, in its sole discretion, may request the removal of any student who, based on the results of the criminal background check/drug screening, the agency deems as inappropriate to provide care, treatment, or services.

VIII. Readmission

Students enrolled in but not completing the NUR 111 course may request readmission to the ADN Program. No special consideration will be given. Readmission is contingent upon the student meeting the criteria of the readmission policy and available space.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING READMISSION POLICY

I. Students, enrolled in but not completing or not achieving a grade of 78 or better in NUR 111, seeking readmission will be considered in the applicant pool for the year they seek to return. Students will be expected to meet current admission criteria. No special consideration will be given. The following procedure will be followed:

- A. Students must reapply for admission to the ADN Program and meet with a nursing counselor.
- B. Students who are currently enrolled in related coursework at RCC need not retake the assessment; however, they may reassess if desired.
- C. Students selected for admission will be scheduled for an orientation session with other applicants and will follow routine admission procedures.
- D. An interview with the Nursing Admissions Committee may be scheduled.
- E. Readmission will be limited to one (1) time.

II. Readmission after completing NUR 111 with a 78 or better is contingent upon the following process:

- A. Each request for readmission will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- B. All requests for readmission must be submitted in writing to the Nursing Department Chair and forwarded to the nursing counselor.
- C. All requirements of the current admissions policy must be met.
- D. If readmitted for advanced standing, all requirements of the progression policy must be met.
- E. Readmission is on a space available basis as determined by the Nursing Admissions Committee. (The Nursing Admissions Committee consists of the Nursing Department Chair, the Health Sciences Division Chair, the Registrar, the nursing counselor, the Director of Enrollment Management, and two nursing faculty members. The Vice President for Student Development serves as an ex-

- officio member of this committee.)
- F. An application from a student dismissed for behavior that impaired judgment, required an inordinate amount of instructor time, or violated a drug/alcohol policy must be reviewed by the Nursing Department Chair and the Vice President for Student Development.
 - G. Readmission will be limited to one (1) time. A student who is accepted for readmission and does not enroll for the semester accepted shall go through the entire admission procedure the next time an application is made.
 - H. Students accepted for readmission shall submit (1) an updated physical and emotional health report, (2) transcripts of course work taken at other colleges since last time enrolled at RCC, and (3) current TB and CPR status.
 - I. An interview with the Nursing Admissions Committee may be scheduled.
 - J. Students may be required to pass a written competency examination and perform appropriate nursing skills for a course previously taken to ensure competency.
 - K. No competency exams are administered for a course not taken.

NURSING DISMISSAL POLICY

In addition to the nursing progression policy, the nursing faculty reserves the right to dismiss a student from the nursing program for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to function within the North Carolina Nurse Practice Act, ANA Code of Ethics, and Standards of Practice.
- B. Negligent acts that result in harm or potential harm to a client.
- C. Infraction of health agency policies while on affiliation in that agency.
- D. Violation of the client's right to privacy by not protecting information of a confidential nature.
- E. Performance and/or behavior deemed unsafe as characterized by dangerous, inappropriate, irresponsible or unethical behaviors that actually or potentially places the client, family, healthcare team members, faculty or peers in jeopardy.
- F. Behavior which reflects impaired judgment and/or behavior which requires an inordinate amount of instructor time as determined by the Nursing Department Chair. Impaired judgment is defined as a failure to assess or act appropriately on information that a majority of students at the same level would recognize as important to client health and safety.
- G. Behavior or appearance which provides reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or illicit drugs. The student may be required to submit to drug screening at the student's expense. Facilities which provide clinical experiences reserve the right to require testing in compliance with drug and alcohol policies of the institution. Failure to comply will result in dismissal from the program. The clinical facility has the right to deny the student clinical access to the facility. Should the student be denied clinical privileges, the student will be dismissed from the program.
- H. A positive drug screen or criminal background check determined unsatisfactory by any clinical agency.

Any student who is recommended for dismissal from a Nursing curriculum will have a conference with the instructor and Nursing Department Chair to discuss the reason(s) for dismissal. The student will also receive a letter stating the reason(s). If the student disagrees with the dismissal, he/she should contact the Vice President for Student Development. The Vice President for Student Development, in consultation with the Nursing Department Chair, will make a recommendation to readmit or decline readmission into the current course/semester. If the student disagrees with the recommendation of the Vice President for Student Development, he/she may appeal to the President of the College. This appeal must be filed with the President within seven (7) days of the date of the decision. After the appeal is filed, the student will meet with the college President. The President's decision will be final.

Any student dismissed from the Nursing program under the Nursing Dismissal Policy has thirty (30) days to notify the Nursing Department Chair in writing of his/her intent to request readmission to the Nursing program in a subsequent semester. The applicant must meet with the Nursing Admissions Committee for determination of eligibility for readmission. The decision regarding readmission will be made by the Nursing Admissions Committee. Readmission is not guaranteed. The decision of the Nursing Admissions Committee is final.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
(A45110)

		(Class)	(Lab)	(Clinical)	Credit
A. General Education Courses					
1. <u>Required Courses</u>					
BIO 165	Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	0	4
ENG 111	Expository Writing	3	0	0	3
ENG 112	Argument-Based Research	3	0	0	3
	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective*	3	0	0	3
SOC 210	Introduction to Sociology	3	0	0	3
(Class)(Lab) (Clinical) Credit					
B. Major Courses					
1. <u>Core Courses**</u>					
NUR 111	Intro to Health Concepts	4	6	6	8
NUR 112	Health-Illness Concepts	3	0	6	5
NUR 113	Family Health Concepts	3	0	6	5
NUR 114	Holistic Health Concepts	3	0	6	5
NUR 211	Health Care Concepts	3	0	6	5
NUR 212	Health System Concepts	3	0	6	5
NUR 213	Complex Health Concepts	4	3	15	10
(Class)(Lab) (Clinical) Credit					
2. <u>Other Major Courses</u>					
BIO 166	Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	0	4
BIO 275	General Microbiology	3	3	0	4
CIS 110	Introduction to Computers	2	2	0	3
PSY 150	General Psychology	3	0	0	3
PSY 241	Developmental Psych	3	0	0	3
Total Credit Hours					76

*Electives are listed in RCC Catalog.

**To receive a degree, diploma, or certificate from RCC, a student must have a grade of "C" or better in all core courses for the program of study.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE FOR ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

First Year—Fall Semester				
	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
BIO 165	3	3	0	4
CIS 110	2	2	0	3
NUR 111	4	6	6	8
PSY 150	3	0	0	3
TOTAL				18

First Year—Spring Semester				
	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
BIO 166	3	3	0	4
ENG 111	3	0	0	3
NUR 112	3	0	6	5
NUR 114	3	0	6	5
PSY 241	3	0	0	3
TOTAL				20

First Year—Summer Semester				
	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
NUR 113	3	0	6	5
TOTAL				5

Second Year—Fall Semester				
	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
BIO 275	3	3	0	4
ENG 112	3	0	0	3
Humanities	3	0	0	3
NUR 211	3	0	6	5
NUR 212	3	0	6	5
TOTAL				20

Second Year—Spring Semester				
	Class	Lab	Clinical	Credit
NUR 213	4	3	15	10
SOC 210	3	0	0	3
TOTAL				13

TOTAL CREDITS:

76

***Approved Electives are listed on the page before the Course Descriptions. The Humanities elective is required for graduation. It may be taken any semester that the schedule permits.**

NUR 111	Intro to Health Concepts	4	6	6	8
Prerequisites:	Admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program				
Corequisites:	BIO 165, CIS 110, PSY 150				

This course introduces the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts within each domain including medication administration, assessment, nutrition, ethics, interdisciplinary teams, informatics, evidence-based practice, individual-centered care, and quality improvement. Upon completion, students should be able to provide safe nursing care incorporating the concepts identified in this course.

NUR 112	Health-Illness Concepts	3	0	6	5
Prerequisites:	NUR 111				
Corequisites:	BIO 166, ENG 111, PSY 241				

This course is designed to further develop the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of acid-base, metabolism, cellular regulation, oxygenation, infection, stress/coping, health-wellness-illness, communication, caring interventions, managing care, safety, quality improvement, and informatics. Upon completion, students should be able to provide safe nursing care incorporating the concepts identified in this course.

NUR 113	Family Health Concepts	3	0	6	5
Prerequisites:	NUR 111, NUR 112, NUR 114				

This course is designed to further develop the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of oxygenation, sexuality, reproduction, grief/loss, mood/affect, behaviors, development, family, health-wellness-illness, communication, caring interventions, managing care, safety, and advocacy. Upon completion, students should be able to provide safe nursing care incorporating the concepts identified in this course.

NUR 114	Holistic Health Concepts	3	0	6	5
Prerequisites:	NUR 111				
Corequisites:	BIO 166, ENG 111, PSY 241				

This course is designed to further develop the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of cellular regulation, perfusion, inflammation, sensory perception, stress/coping, mood/affect, cognition, self, violence, health-wellness-illness, professional behaviors, caring interventions, and safety. Upon completion, students should be able to provide safe nursing care incorporating the concepts identified in this course.

NUR 211	Health Care Concepts	3	0	6	5
Prerequisites:	NUR 111, NUR 112, NUR 113, NUR 114				
Corequisites:	BIO 275, ENG 112				

This course is designed to further develop the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of cellular regulation, perfusion, infection, immunity, mobility, comfort, behaviors, health-wellness-illness, clinical decision-making, caring interventions, managing care, and safety. Upon completion, students should be able to provide safe nursing care incorporating the concepts identified in this course.

NUR 212	Health System Concepts	3	0	6	5
Prerequisites:	NUR 111, NUR 112, NUR 113, NUR 114				
Corequisites:	BIO 275, ENG 112				

This course is designed to further develop the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of grief/loss, violence, health-wellness-illness, collaboration, managing care, safety, advocacy, legal issues, policy, healthcare systems, ethics, accountability, and evidence-based practice. Upon completion, students should be able to provide safe nursing care incorporating the concepts identified in this course.

NUR 213 Complex Health Concepts

4 3 15 10

Prerequisites: NUR 111, NUR 112, NUR 113, NUR 114, NUR 211, and NUR 212

Corequisites: SOC 210

This course is designed to assimilate the concepts within the three domains of the individual, healthcare, and nursing. Emphasis is placed on the concepts of fluid/electrolytes, metabolism, perfusion, mobility, stress/coping, violence, health-wellness-illness, professional behaviors, caring interventions, managing care, healthcare systems, and quality improvement. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide quality, individualized, entry level nursing care.