

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 Services. 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. Submit proof of completion of a state-approved CNA program and hold a current, non-restrictive listing as a Nurse Aide I with no pending or substantiated findings. 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 successful completion of a state-approved CNA program and 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. LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) Advanced Placement Admission Policy

The advanced placement option is designed for the LPN who is returning to college to earn an ADN. The LPN applicant desiring advanced placement must meet all admission requirements of the ADN program. The LPN desiring advanced placement may enter the ADN program in NUR 112 in the spring semester provided space is available and stated pre-requisites are met.

The LPN admitted for advanced placement:

1. will hold a current, unrestricted license as a LPN.
2. will have met the admission requirements of the ADN program. (The LPN student is exempt from the pre-nursing and CNA requirements.)
3. will have successfully completed (78% competency level) BIO 165, CIS 110, and PSY 150. If either BIO 165 or BIO 166 is greater than five (5) years old at the time of admission, the LPN must complete BIO 163 or retake BIO 165 and BIO 166.
4. will have a minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA.
5. must pass the Medication Competency Test (three attempts) prior to admission with an 85% or greater.
6. will receive proficiency credit for NUR 111 upon successful completion of NUR 112, NUR 113, NUR 114, NUR 211, NUR 212, and NUR 213.

VIII. 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. In addition, nursing students will be required to pass a Medication Competency Test as defined in the Course Syllabus and Instructor's Course Requirements in order to administer medications in the clinical site and progress to the next nursing course. 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.