

NURSING PROGRAM

FALL 2010



INFORMATION PACKET

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Accredited by:

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
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Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
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Approved by:

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Introduction

The PVCC nursing program leads to an Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing. Associate degree nursing programs, such as the one at PVCC, prepare graduates to perform bedside nursing care primarily in an acute care (hospital) or long-term care (nursing home) setting.

There are 2 other types of basic nursing programs that prepare students for licensure as a registered nurse. A diploma nursing program is offered by a hospital school of nursing. The graduate of a diploma program is eligible to take the State Board of Nursing licensing exam, but is not awarded an academic degree. Like associate degree nurse graduates, the diploma nurse performs bedside nursing care in an acute or long term care setting. A baccalaureate nursing program consists of 4 years of study at a college or university. Graduates are prepared not only to do basic nursing care, but also to function in leadership roles within an acute care setting and as caregivers in community settings (for example, as a home health care nurse). Baccalaureate graduates are awarded a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) upon completion of their course of study and are eligible to study for an advanced degree in nursing.

If you are interested primarily in taking care of patients at the bedside or if you wish to obtain an associate degree in nursing as a first step to pursuing a bachelors or higher degree, then the PVCC nursing program is an excellent choice.

STUDY OPTIONS

Applicants may select consideration for admission to either the day or evening/weekend study option (check: “day”, “evening/weekend” or “either” on the application). Once a student has been admitted into either the day or evening/weekend program of study, he/she is expected to remain in that program of study. For example, a student admitted to the day program may not register for evening/weekend nursing courses and vice versa.

The nursing program may be completed in 4 semesters of full-time study, but we strongly recommend part-time study.

NOTE FOR EVENING/WEEKEND STUDY OPTION: for courses that require 2 clinical days per week, you may be assigned to clinicals that occur over one evening from 3pm-11pm and Saturdays 7am-2:30pm OR on Saturdays and Sundays 7am- 2:30pm or 3pm – 11pm. Please plan and make your decision accordingly.

NURSING PROGRAM COURSE OF STUDY

FULL TIME STUDY OPTION

FIRST YEAR

Summer Semester

NUR 100 Intro to Nursing & Health 1

Fall Semester

ENG 111 College Composition I 3
 BIO 141 Human Anatomy & Physiology I 4
 NUR 108 Nursing Principles & Concepts 6
 SDV 1__ Student Development 1
 NUR 226 Health Assessment¹ 2

Spring Semester

ENG 112 College Composition II 3
 BIO 142 Human Anatomy & Physiology II 4
 NUR 112 Nursing II 7
 NUR 230 Pharmacology 3

TOTAL

17 credits

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17 credits

SECOND YEAR

Fall Semester

NAS 185 Microbiology 4
 NUR 202 Medical-Surgical Nursing 4
 NUR 201 Psychiatric Nursing 4
 ITE 119 Information Literacy 3
 PSY 230 Developmental Psychology 3

Spring Semester

_____ Humanities elective³ 3
 NUR 254 Nursing Dimensions 1
 NUR 245 Maternal/Newborn Nursing 4
 NUR 246 Parent/Child Nursing 4
 SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology 3

TOTAL

18 credits

TOTAL

15 credits

Total minimum credits for Nursing Major - AAS Degree = 67

¹NUR prefix courses must be successfully completed in the sequence listed i.e. first semester NUR courses are prerequisites for second semester, etc.

²CPR for Healthcare Provider course must be completed prior to beginning NUR 108. A current Healthcare Provider CPR card may be presented in the division office to receive credit for this course.

³Humanities elective may be selected from courses in art, literature, foreign language, humanities, music history and appreciation, philosophy, religion, and drama. History and speech classes do not satisfy the humanities elective requirement

Successful completion of BIO 141, 142 and all first year nursing courses with a grade of "C" or better is required in order for the student to begin second year nursing courses.

Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the student to the nursing program must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions of a registered nurse.

1. **Speech:** Establish interpersonal rapport and communicate verbally and in writing with clients, physicians, peers, family members, and the health care team from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds.
2. **Hearing:** Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone and hear faint body sounds.
3. **Vision:** Visual acuity sufficient to identify and distinguish colors, read handwritten orders and any other handwritten or printed data such as medication records or scales, chart data, and provide for the safety of clients' condition by clearly viewing monitors and other equipment in order to correctly interpret data.
4. **Mobility:** Stand and/or walk eight hours daily in the clinical setting. Bend, squat, or kneel. Assist in lifting or moving clients of all age groups and weights. Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (move around client to manually compress chest and ventilate). Work with arms fully extended overhead.
5. **Manual Dexterity:** Demonstrate eye/hand coordination sufficient to manipulate equipment (syringes, infusion pumps, life support systems)
6. **Fine Motor Ability:** Ability to use hands for grasping, pushing, pulling, and fine manipulation. Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.
7. **Mentation:** Ability to remain focused on multiple details and tasks for at least an eight-hour period of time. Assimilate and apply knowledge acquired through lectures, discussions, and readings.
8. **Smell:** Olfactory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
9. **Writing:** Ability to organize thoughts and present them clearly and logically in writing.
10. **Reading:** Ability to read and understand written directions, instructions and comments in both classroom and clinical settings.

APPLYING TO THE NURSING PROGRAM

Nursing Program Prerequisites

Only applicants who have completed all program prerequisites prior to February 15, 2010 will be considered for admission.

The following courses must be satisfactorily completed in order to be considered for admission to the PVCC nursing program. Please remember that the admissions process in the nursing program is competitive: only applicants meeting the criteria listed below at the highest level are admitted. Courses must be verified by an official transcript. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum **does not** guarantee admission.

1. English 1-5 (Developmental English courses) or COMPASS placement demonstrating competency in this content.
 - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level composition course with a grade of “C” or better
 - b. SAT verbal and writing score of 520 or an ACT score of 21
2. BSK 8 & 9 (Developmental Math courses) or COMPASS placement testing **within the past 8 years** demonstrating competency in this content.
 - a. Completion of an acceptable college-level math course **within the past 8 years**. Technical math and certain liberal arts math courses will not satisfy this prerequisite.
 - b. SAT quantitative score of 480 or ACT score of 20
3. Biology and Chemistry (High School level)
 - a. Completion of high school biology and chemistry courses with a “C” or better.
 - b. Completion of acceptable college-level biology and chemistry courses. Courses such as “consumer chemistry” do not satisfy the chemistry prerequisite.
 - c. Completion of NAS 2 – Foundations of Life Science
 - d. Satisfactory completion of NAS 2 Placement Test
4. TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Exam
 - a. Completion of the TEAS exam is a prerequisite for those students who do not have a previous college degree (Associates, Bachelors, or higher)

Instructions for completion of the TEAS exam:

- TEAS exams must be scheduled through the Learning Center.
Call 434-961-5320 to schedule an appointment.

- A picture form of Identification must be presented at the time of the exam.
- The exam cost is \$25.00 and a credit card is required for on-line payment. *Please bring a credit card as the Learning Center cannot accept cash or check payments for this exam.*
- Practice exams and study information is available through ATI. Please see the TEAS brochure available outside the Nursing office or at the Learning Center, or contact ATI directly at www.atitesting.com ; 1-800-667-7531(toll free).
 - The TEAS may be taken up to 2 times per admission cycle
 - TEAS scores are valid for up to 2 years.

FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION DECISIONS

ADMISSION

Regular Decision: Regular decision applicants will have **completed all prerequisites and application requirements for admission by February 15, 2010**. Transfer students who meet these criteria will also be considered at this time. Students will be notified of regular decision admissions by **April 15, 2010**.

Space Available: Applicants and transfer students who fail to meet the February 15, 2009 deadline will be considered only after all regular decision applicants. These applicants must have **completed all prerequisites, application requirements and meet criteria established by the admissions committee no later than 14 days prior to the beginning of the semester in which admission is being sought**.

Re-admission: Students seeking re-admission into the program will be considered on a space-available basis. Applicants for re-admission must have submitted their letter requesting re-admission by **October 15** for spring re-admission and **March 15** for fall re-admission. Students desiring re-admission into NUR 108 must apply as **new** applicants.

CHANGING STUDY OPTIONS AFTER ADMISSION

Nursing students are admitted to either the day or evening/weekend study options. It is expected that students will remain in this study option throughout their course of study. However, there are times when circumstances in a student's life change and a need to change study options occurs. When space is available, such requests will be honored up to the last day to add a class in each semester.



QUESTIONS COMMONLY ASKED ABOUT THE PVCC NURSING PROGRAM

1. **WHAT COURSES AT PVCC SHOULD I TAKE IF I AM PREPARING FOR ADMISSION INTO THE NURSING PROGRAM?**

Any developmental courses which are recommended as a result of assessment testing should be taken immediately.

An important factor considered in admissions decisions is the amount of general education coursework (and the grades earned in those courses), particularly in the sciences, completed by the applicant by the February 15, 2010 application deadline. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to take at least some of the general education courses (especially the science courses) required for nursing, both to lighten the student's course load once he/she is admitted to the nursing program and also to strengthen the student's qualifications for admission.

2. **HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM?**

The nursing program curriculum, including general education courses, can be taken within a 2-year period. However, this full time course load is a very difficult and time-consuming one, especially if the student has work or other non-school obligations. For this reason, many students elect to take many or all of their general education courses before beginning the sequence of nursing courses. The number of general education courses, particularly in the sciences, which have been successfully completed is one of the factors used to make admission decisions.

3. **AM I A REGISTERED NURSE WHEN I COMPLETE AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM?**

NO. Once you have earned the Associate in Applied Science degree in Nursing, you are eligible to take the State Board Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN). Upon passing this examination, you are issued the registered nurse license (R.N.).

4. **ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED IN THE NURSING PROGRAM?**

Yes. In addition to tuition and the cost of transportation to clinical sites and parking, students are responsible for the following items (estimated):

- | | |
|---|---|
| • Criminal Background Search/ Drug Screen | \$90 – First Year |
| • Uniforms/Supplies | \$300.00 - (total for 2 yrs) |
| • Books | \$500.00 – First Year
\$250.00 – Second Year |
| • Learning System | \$125.00 per semester (This fee includes NCLEX review session at the end of the last semester.) |

5. **WHERE ARE THE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS IN THE PROGRAM?**

Martha Jefferson Hospital, University of Virginia Health System, Western State Hospital, Kluge Children's Rehabilitation Center, Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, The Colonnades, The Cedars, The Laurels, Our Lady of Peace, Health South and Augusta Medical Center are settings where students do clinical rotations. Other facilities may also be used.

6. **IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES?**

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in the Office of Admissions and Records, the Coordinator of Enrollment Services and Records will complete a transcript evaluation and send you written confirmation of courses accepted for transfer to PVCC.

7. **IF I AM TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER NURSING PROGRAM, CAN I GET CREDIT FOR SOME OF THE NURSING COURSES?**

Yes. Once your transcripts are on file in the Office of Admissions and Records, make an appointment with the Program Head for Nursing. Nursing courses with identical course numbers taken within the VCCS will automatically be transferred. The Nursing Program Head and nursing faculty will evaluate nursing coursework taken elsewhere. You will be required to provide course outlines, syllabi and skills checklists in order to determine what work may transfer. For further details, contact the Division of Math, Science & Human Services Division Office at 434-961-5445. Please keep in mind that all nursing courses must be completed within a 5-year time limit and that includes nursing courses taken outside PVCC.

Transfer students are admitted on a space-available basis and priority will be given to those who transfer without a failure at another school. Please note that transfer students who failed at another Virginia community college nursing program will have only one admission to the PVCC nursing program with no offer of readmission. Transfer students who have not failed at another Virginia community college nursing program will be allowed the standard one readmission to our program.

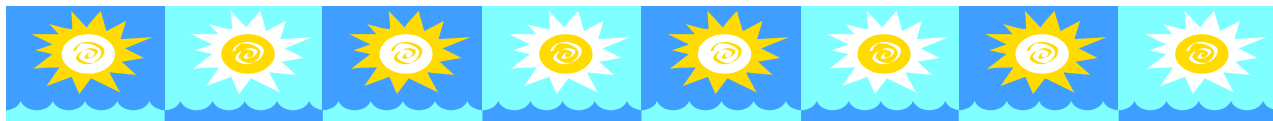
8. **IF I AM GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN JUNE, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ADMISSION INTO THE NURSING PROGRAM?**

All previously identified program prerequisites must be completed by February 15, 2010.

It is highly recommended that students coming immediately out of high school enroll and complete the majority of the general education requirements of this program before actual admission into Nursing; however, applicants with strong academic records, especially in science and math, who are spring high school graduates will be considered by the Admissions Committee.

9. IS THERE FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE TO NURSING STUDENTS?

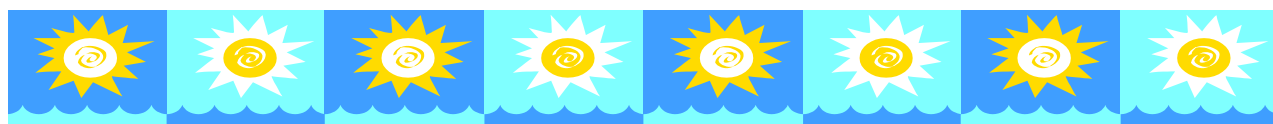
Yes. There are a number of financial aid opportunities. For further information, please contact the FINANCIAL AID OFFICE (434-961-6545) at your earliest convenience. It is best to complete your financial aid application by March 31 for the following fall semester.



Recommendations From First Year Nursing Students For Prospective Nursing Students

The Piedmont Virginia Community College Nursing Program requirements are rigorous, stressful and time consuming. In order to make your program more satisfying, we, who have learned through experience, urge you to consider the following recommendations submitted by members of our class.

- Be sure you are competent in basic math skills before entering the program. These skills are very important when giving medications.
- Complete the BIO 141-142 series and NAS 185, if possible, before beginning the nursing program. Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, and Nursing all have a heavy workload.
- Complete all your general education requirements if possible before beginning the nursing program. Nursing clinical days begin at 7:00 a.m. and require much preparation before each clinical day. Nursing theory has much reading required.
- Meet with your assigned nursing advisor to plan your curriculum in advance. The nursing faculty are willing to help you plan a schedule that will work for you.
- Try not to work more than a maximum of 16 hours/week at an outside job. Students who work more than this are often unable to pass the nursing courses.
- Be sure to keep the evening before clinical days open for clinical preparation. These will not be evenings when you should schedule yourself to work!



Nursing Program Admission Checklist

**Use this as a tool for yourself to complete the
Nursing Application Requirements
by February 15, 2010**

Application Requirement	How Met?	Date Completed
Complete PVCC Application	On-line Application	
Complete Nursing Program Application www.pvcc.edu/nursing	On-line Application	
Submit College Transcripts to Registrar's Office	Have colleges send official transcripts to PVCC Office of Admissions and Records	
Submit High School Transcript or GED to Nursing Office – Division of Math, Science, and Human Services	Have High School send transcript to Nursing Office	
Completion of Biology and Chemistry requirement	HS transcript, college transcript, completion of NAS 2, or test-out of NAS 2	
Completion of English prerequisite requirement	COMPASS test, college transcript	
Completion of Math prerequisite requirement	COMPASS test, college transcript	
Completion of TEAS test if no college degree	On-line test scheduled through Testing Center	
Attendance at Nursing Application Orientation Session for 2010	Sign attendance roster at live session or e-mail code verifying completion of on-line session.	
Completion of Nursing Interest paragraph	Complete paragraph of up to 300 words and send to Nursing Division Office, or complete during live orientation session.	