Fall 2016

Application Deadline is February 15, 2016

Nursing
Associate of Applied Science Degree

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION
Disclaimer

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PVCC reserves the right to make changes to any provision or requirement within these sources, as well as changes to any curriculum or program, whether during a student’s enrollment or otherwise.

Hard copies of the Admission Requirements and Program Information booklets may be obtained in the Admissions and Advising Center and in the lower-level of the Keats Science Building.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Piedmont Virginia Community College is an equal opportunity institution providing educational and employment opportunities, programs, services, and activities. PVCC does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, family medical history or genetic information, military service, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), sexual orientation, or any other non-merit base factor. The College also prohibits sexual harassment including sexual violence or misconduct. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding any of these policies: Human Resources Manager, 501 College Dr., Main Building, Room M810, Charlottesville, VA 22902; 434.961.6567.
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Introduction

The PVCC nursing program leads to an Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing. The program prepares graduates to perform bedside nursing care primarily in an acute care or long-term care setting.

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 bachelor’s or higher degree, then the PVCC nursing program is an excellent choice.

PVCC also offers a program to prepare students to become a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN). Graduates of this program are prepared to function as care providers in extended-care facilities and primary-care settings such as doctor’s offices and clinics. (Please see the information in the PRACTICAL NURSE PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION booklet.)

Applicants who already have a bachelor’s degree in another discipline may be interested in the Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program offered through PVCC and Old Dominion University (ODU). Students may enroll in courses at both colleges and complete the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and BSN in two academic years. (Please see the SECOND DEGREE BSN PROGRAM brochure available from ODU).
**Nursing Program Mission Statement**

The mission of Piedmont Virginia Community College is to offer accessible, affordable, high quality educational programs that promote student success and community vitality.

In support of the college mission, the mission of the PVCC nursing program is to provide high quality nursing education to a diverse student population in preparation for entry-level, professional nursing practice in a variety of settings. This mission is accomplished through innovative programs that reflect the current needs and trends of healthcare and our community. Our programs are developed and implemented by faculty who are committed to education of the highest standards and who promote clinical practice, scholarly activity, and life-long learning to advance the profession of nursing.

**Nursing Program Philosophy Statement**

The nursing program is organized around the concept of nursing as defined by the International Council of Nurses (2010):

“Nursing encompasses autonomous and collaborative care of individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick or well, and in all settings. Nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of ill, disabled and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, research, participation in shaping health policy and in patient and health systems management, and education are also key nursing roles.”

The conceptual framework guiding the nursing program philosophy and curriculum is based on the National League for Nursing Education Competencies Model. This model integrates several components which are essential in a comprehensive, successful nursing program. At the foundation are the Core Values: caring, diversity, ethics, excellence, holism, integrity, and patient-centeredness (National League for Nursing, 2010).

Keeping the core values in mind, the person with health care needs and the student with learning needs comprise the central focus for curriculum development in the PVCC nursing program. The foundational core values inform the integrating concepts within the NLN model that provide further structure for the development of nursing knowledge and competencies: 1) context and environment, 2) knowledge and science, 3) personal/professional development, 4) quality and safety 5) relationship-centered care, and 6) teamwork (National League for Nursing, 2010). The nursing process is also used as a basis for introducing critical thinking and nursing practice. Additional concepts have been derived from the Quality and Safety Competencies (2007) from the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) and have been incorporated into the curriculum.
Nursing Education

Associate-degree level nursing education is a process that facilitates attainment of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for quality, entry-level nursing care and is based on recognized principles of adult and collaborative learning. Basic assumptions include self-direction, utilization of life experience, and activity- and problem-centered learning. The curriculum incorporates evidence-based nursing theory and practice, ethical principles, general education, and the sciences in an environment conducive to learning. The learning process is based on the concepts of critical thinking and making connections and occurs from simple to complex.

It is the belief of the nursing faculty that students learn and develop their highest potential in a supportive but challenging environment with clear expectations. The teaching-learning process is a shared responsibility between faculty and students with faculty serving as guides and facilitators of learning. The successful teaching-learning process requires an environment that promotes learning, considers the needs of the individual, and provides opportunities for student participation and educational goal attainment. The nursing student is responsible for actively participating in learning experiences and developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to provide quality entry-level nursing care.

This program of learning prepares the graduate of our associate degree program for the roles of provider of care, manager of care, and member of the profession of nursing within a variety of structured health care settings.

Program Competencies

The graduates of PVCC associate degree nursing program are prepared to meet the educational competencies as defined by the National League for Nursing (NLN), the Virginia Nurse Practice Act, and the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses. The Associate Degree-prepared nurse’s role is characterized by evidence-based clinical practice with the provision of care for individuals in structured settings.

The curriculum incorporates the NLN educational competencies as put forth in the NLN competencies for graduates of associate degree and diploma programs (NLN, 2010). The core competencies, as listed and defined below, are integrated into the three roles of nursing practice for the associate-degree nurse: provider of care, manager of care, and member within the discipline of nursing.

Human Flourishing
Advocate for patients and families in ways that promote their self-determination, integrity, and ongoing growth as human beings.

Nursing Judgment
Make judgments in practice, substantiated with evidence, that integrate nursing science in the provision of safe, quality care and that promote the health of patients within a family and community context.
Professional Identity
Implement one's role as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving identity as a nurse committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy, and safe, quality care for diverse patients within a family and community context.

Spirit of Inquiry
Examine the evidence that underlies clinical nursing practice to challenge the status quo, question underlying assumptions, and offer new insights to improve the quality of care for patients, families, and communities.

Program Student Learning Outcomes
Each nursing course has student learning outcomes identified in the course syllabus which are the focus of classroom discussion, academic testing and clinical expectations and support the attainment of the program-level outcomes.

The PVCC nursing program prepares graduates to perform the role of the AD nurse in structured settings, providing direct care to clients with common health problems which have predictable outcomes. The graduate will be able to:

1. Collaborate and communicate with interdisciplinary teams to deliver holistic care that is safe, culturally and developmentally appropriate, and centered on building positive, healthy relationships with individuals and families.

2. Promote optimal health for patients at various points along the health continuum by integrating principles from the physical, biological and social sciences when planning and delivering individualized nursing care.

3. Apply evidence-based practice, research, and critical thinking to the steps of the nursing process in making clinical judgments to ensure safe, quality nursing care.

4. Demonstrate professional values and behaviors while providing safe, compassionate, culturally sensitive and fiscally appropriate nursing care to a diverse patient population.

5. Challenge current nursing practice by analyzing tradition, research, evolving technologies and patient preferences to improve the quality of care and safety within health care settings.
References


Essential Functions and Standards for Successful Performance

To successfully complete the classroom and clinical components of the program, the nursing student must, either independently or with reasonable accommodation, be able to perform all of the following essential standards and functions of a nurse. Students who are unable to meet these standards are not eligible for admission to the program.

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 and Comprehension**: Auditory acuity sufficient to respond to verbal instruction, perceive and interpret various equipment signals, use the telephone, understand and respond appropriately to verbal directions 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. Lift 50 pounds independently and 125 pounds with assistance.

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. Have tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment and manipulation of equipment.

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.
Health Status

All individuals admitted to the Nursing Program will be required to submit documentation of a complete health assessment by his/her health-care provider. This will include documentation that specific immunizations and tests have been completed. A list of these immunizations may be obtained from the Health and Life Sciences Division Office in the Keats Science Building, Room K224A.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

All PVCC Nursing students must complete the Authorization Form for Background Check and Drug Screening. No other processes may be substituted for this requirement. Forms and information will be made available to students upon acceptance into the Nursing Program. This testing is completed through an outside vendor and all fees will be paid directly to this vendor.

The Background Check, completed through our vendor, will search for misdemeanors and felonies of any type. However, only “barrier crimes” will result in failure of the background check. Barrier crimes are those that would prevent a student from obtaining employment in a hospital, nursing home, home care organization or hospice. Generally, criminal convictions for offenses involving abuse or neglect disqualify an applicant from employment. For a more complete list of barrier crimes, please check the Virginia Department of Nursing website: https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/nursing_guidelines.htm, click on Guidance Document 90-55. Barrier crimes are listed in the Appendix at the end of the document.

Students who have criminal convictions, but who passed the background check for barriers to employment, should be aware that (1) any felony conviction, or (2) any misdemeanor conviction that involves moral turpitude (lying, cheating, stealing), may result in applicant not being allowed to sit for licensing exam. However, each applicant is considered on an individual basis. There are NO criminal convictions that are an absolute bar to nursing licensure. For further information, please check the Virginia Department of Nursing website: https://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing/nursing_guidelines.htm and click on Guidance Document 90-55.

The Drug Screen tests for Amphetamine (methamphetamine), barbiturates, benzodiazepine, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, methaqualone, opiates (codeine, morphine), phencyclidine and propoxyphene.

Any of these drugs found in the student’s drug screen, will result in the student failing the drug screen. In cases of failure, Certified Background will reach out to the student and, if the student failed due to a valid prescription, the student can send Certified Background prescription documentation, which may result in the student passing the drug screen. However, if no prescriptions covers the failure, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the program.
Program Behavior Expectations

The PVCC Nursing Program reserves the right to refuse admission to applicants if such refusal is considered to be in the best interest of the program. The Nursing Program will not accept any student who has been dismissed from another college or program due to misconduct or threatening behavior or who has been determined to be a potential threat. Students may be denied admission to the program if there is sufficient reason to believe that they present a danger to themselves, other members of the college community or clients in the clinical setting.

Study Options

Applicants may request consideration for admission to the day or the evening/weekend study option (check: “day,” “evening/weekend” or “either” on the application). Students admitted into either the day or evening/weekend program of study are expected to remain in that program of study. Requests to change study options must be made in writing to the Director of Nursing Programs prior to the start of each semester.

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

NOTE FOR DAY STUDY OPTION: Due to clinical site availability, it is possible that some day students will be required to attend a weekday evening clinical during select semesters, generally during the second year. Students will be informed of this requirement as soon as possible to allow for schedule planning.
**Nursing Program Prerequisites**

Only applicants who have completed all program prerequisites prior to February 15, 2016 will be eligible for admission. Staff will not be available to assist with submission of application materials after 5 pm on February 15. We strongly recommend you complete the process before February 15.

The following items must be satisfactorily completed in order to be considered for admission to the PVCC nursing program. This is a competitive admissions process with limited enrollment and not all applicants will be granted admission. Completion of these prerequisites and any of the general education courses in the curriculum does not guarantee admission.

1. **Demonstrated competency in reading and writing (eligible to enroll in ENG 111)**
   
   a. Successful completion of developmental English courses (ENG 1, 3, 4, 5 or ENF 1, 2, 3) OR
   
   b. COMPASS placement score showing proficiency in this content by placement into ENG 111 OR *(within last 8 years)*
   
   c. Virginia Placement* score showing proficiency in this content by placement into ENG 111 *(within last 2 years)* OR
   
   d. Completion of an acceptable college-level composition course with a grade of “C” or better OR
   
   e. SAT verbal and writing score of 500 or PSAT of 52 *(within last 2 years)*
   
   f. ACT score of 18 *(within last 2 years)*

2. **Demonstrated competency in Algebra**

   a. Successful completion of developmental math courses (MTH 2, BSK 6, 8, and 9 OR MTE 1-5) *(within last 8 years)* OR
   
   b. COMPASS Algebra score of at least 40 *(within last 8 years)* OR
   
   c. Virginia Placement* math score showing proficiency in MTE 1-5 *(within last 2 years)* OR

*Test scores are valid for two (2) years after the date of the test. Students who take the placement test and who do not enroll in developmental math are allowed to take one (1) retest within twelve (12) months. Students who attempt developmental mathematics will be ineligible for a retest. For students who test out of developmental math, test scores are valid for 8 years.
d. Completion of an acceptable college-level Algebra course (within last 8 years) with a grade of “C” or better (Technical math or statistics courses will not satisfy requirement. Official transcript required.) OR

e. SAT quantitative score of 520 or PSAT of 52 (within last 2 years) OR

f. ACT score of 22 (within the last 2 years)

3. Demonstrated competency in science

a. Completion of 1 semester general college biology with a grade of “C” or better OR

b. Completion of 1 semester general college chemistry with a grade of “C” or better OR

c. Completion of NAS 2 – Foundations of Life Science with a grade of “P” OR

d. Completion of NAS 2 challenge exam with a 70% or better

(BIO 141, BIO 142 and BIO 150 will not meet the above prerequisite.)

4. Curricular GPA of 2.8 or above

The curricular GPA is the grade point average of all the general education courses (non-NUR courses) listed on the AAS of Nursing curriculum sheet that the student has completed by the application deadline. This would include ENG 111/112, BIO 141/142, BIO 150, SDV 100/101/108, SOC 200, PSY 230, ITE 119 and humanities elective.

5. Science GPA of 2.0 or above

The science GPA is the grade point average in the following courses that the student has completed by the application deadline: BIO 141, BIO 142, and BIO 150.

6. 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 (associate, bachelor’s, or higher).

b. A minimum score of 45% is required.

c. Instructions for completion of the TEAS exam:

- TEAS exams must be scheduled through PVCC’s Testing 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 $45 and a credit card is required for online payment. *Please bring a credit card as the Testing Center cannot accept cash or check payments for this exam.*

• Practice exams and study information are available through the ATI Web site below.

• Please see the TEAS brochure available in Health and Life Sciences Division Office or at PVCC’s Testing Center, or contact ATI directly at www.atitesting.com or 1.800.667.7531 (toll free).

• The TEAS may be taken up to two times per admission cycle.

• TEAS scores are valid for up to two years. For your TEAS score to be valid, the results must be dated between February 15, 2014 and February 15, 2016.

7. **Nursing Interest Essay**
   
a. Written essay of 300 words to evaluate written communication skills.
b. Must be done in PVCC’s Testing Center. Call 434.961.5320 to schedule an appointment.
c. Can only be done once and cannot be prepared ahead of the appointment.
d. Essays are not saved from year to year. Students not admitted for their desired year who apply for admission in subsequent years will have to redo the essay for each admission cycle.

8. **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)**

a. Completion of the TOEFL iBT with a standard score of 84 or above and a minimum speaking score of 26 is required for ALL nonnative English speakers. Completion of ENG 111 does not satisfy this requirement.

b. These scores are based on recommendations from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for the level of English proficiency required to perform entry-level nursing safely and effectively.

c. Any nonnative English speakers who do not take the TOEFL iBT and are determined to be unable to understand and speak English at the required proficiency will be dismissed from the Nursing Program.

d. TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two years.
9. **ALL** prerequisites must be completed and documentation received as described below no later than the application deadline of 5 pm, February 15, 2016. Late documentation will not be considered.

   a. **Submitted to the PVCC Admissions and Advising Office:**

      Official non-VCCS transcripts. You must also submit a Transcript Evaluation Form ([http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf](http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf)) for any course for which you want credit as part of the Nursing curriculum that was taken at a college other than PVCC (including other VCCS colleges).

   b. **Supporting documentation uploaded through the application**

      [To upload documents, follow the instructions on the health science application site.]

      Students should upload any supporting documents (*if used to document prerequisites and/or general education courses included in curriculum*), which may include: official or unofficial non-VCCS transcripts, TOEFL iBT scores, SAT/ACT scores.

      It is recommended that students store their supporting documents on a thumb drive for ease of uploading into the application and for any future use. These uploaded documents will be maintained only for the current application.

      **Students should not request copies of transcripts from the Registrar’s Office.**
# Curriculum for Nursing Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Education Courses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 111</td>
<td>College Composition I</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>SAT or placement score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 112</td>
<td>College Composition II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENG 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 141</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>College level BIO or CHM w/grade of C or better or pass NAS 2 within last 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 142</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology II&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>BIO 141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDV 100/101/108</td>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ITE 119</td>
<td>Information Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PSY 230</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Placement into ENF 2 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 150</td>
<td>Introduction to Microbiology&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>College level BIO w/grade of C or better within last 5 years and MTE 1-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 200</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Placement into ENF 2 or above</td>
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<tr>
<td>___ ___</td>
<td>Humanities Elective&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nursing Courses</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Year (Fall)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 100&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Introduction to Nursing and Health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Admission to nursing program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 108</td>
<td>Nursing Principles and Concepts I</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Admission to nursing program</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 226</td>
<td>Health Assessment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Admission to nursing program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Year (Spring)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 112</td>
<td>Nursing II</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Successful completion of first-semester nursing courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 230</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Successful completion of first-semester nursing courses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year (Fall)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 202</td>
<td>Medical-Surgical Nursing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Successful completion of all first-year nursing courses and BIO 142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 201</td>
<td>Psychiatric Nursing&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt; (fulfills the WIC requirement)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Successful completion of all first-year Nursing courses and ENG 111/112, ITE 119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year (Spring)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 254</td>
<td>Nursing Dimensions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Successful completion of all third-semester nursing courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 245</td>
<td>Maternity/Newborn Nursing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Successful completion of all third-semester nursing courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 246</td>
<td>Parent/Child Nursing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Successful completion of all third-semester nursing courses and PSY 230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<sup>1</sup>BIO 141, BIO 142 and BIO 150 – A grade of “C” or higher is required. These courses must be repeated if they were taken more than eight years prior to application for admission to program.

<sup>2</sup>Lists of courses that fulfill the requirement for Humanities Elective can be found on the second page of the curriculum sheet Nursing Program Curriculum. Introductory (101 or 102 level) foreign language courses will not meet the Humanities Elective requirement for this program.

<sup>3</sup>Students are expected to take NUR 100 in summer prior to taking NUR 108 in the fall.

<sup>4</sup>NUR 201 has a prerequisite of ENG 112. The course (NUR 201) fulfills the Writing Intensive Course (WIC) requirement for this degree program. Students who are awarded transfer academic credit for this course at another institution may fulfill the Writing Intensive Course (WIC) requirement for this degree program by completing another Writing Intensive Course (WIC).
Factors Considered for Admission Decisions

Admission to the Nursing Program is competitive and will be based on a ranking system that includes student performance on all of the Nursing Program prerequisites. Each student's past and potential educational achievement is measured against all other students applying. Applicants must submit all official documentation and demonstrate minimum requirements for consideration by the posted deadline to be considered for acceptance. Coursework in progress at time of deadline will not be considered during the application process. Students meeting all of the minimum requirements for admission are not guaranteed acceptance. Priority for admission is given to highly qualified students who are residents of the PVCC service region (Albemarle, Buckingham, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson).

Due to the large number of applicants, Nursing Program personnel are not able to schedule individual appointments to review application documents. In an effort to provide students with the most current and comprehensive data, information sessions are held throughout the fall and early spring semesters. During these sessions, the Director of Nursing Programs will review the application process, prerequisites and the competitive ranking criteria. All applicants are highly encouraged to attend one of these sessions. This information will also be available as an online presentation. In addition, there are advisors available in PVCC’s Admissions and Advising Center in the Main Building on weekdays.
Evaluation Process

1. Nursing applicants complete online Nursing Program application and complete all required prerequisites prior to February 15 deadline. Applications or documentation received after the deadline will not be considered. THIS PROGRAM APPLICATION IS IN ADDITION TO THE PVCC COLLEGE APPLICATION.

2. The Director of Nursing Programs conducts a preliminary screening of all applicants to determine those who have met the minimum prerequisites and thus are eligible for admission.

3. Applicants are ranked according to the following criteria in order of importance:
   a. The number of general education courses completed by the application deadline
   b. The GPA earned in those completed courses
   c. The number of science courses completed by the application deadline (BIO 141, BIO 142, BIO 150). These courses must be completed within the last eight years.
   d. The GPA earned in those completed science courses
   e. The TEAS scores
   f. The quality of the nursing essay
      The 300-word nursing admission essay is intended to evaluate each applicant’s written communication skills. The essay is prompted by a choice of questions and is completed in word-processing format in the PVCC Testing Center by appointment. It is not a test of knowledge and cannot be prepared ahead of the scheduled appointment.

4. Applicants will be accepted, placed on the waiting list, or not accepted. Notification of status will be emailed to students’ VCCS email address on April 15, 2016. Letters to all applicants will be mailed the week of April 18, 2016.

   a. A waiting list of qualified applicants will be maintained in the event that selected students are not able to accept their place in the program. The waiting list will only be maintained until the first week of August 2016 and is not continued from year to year. Students not admitted for their desired year will have to reapply for admission in subsequent years.

   b. Students seeking readmission into the program or advanced placement transfers will be considered on a space-available basis. Applicants for readmission must have submitted a letter requesting readmission by November 15 for spring readmission and April 15 for fall readmission. Students desiring readmission into NUR 108 must apply as new applicants.
1. **WHAT COURSES 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, 2016 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 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 two-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 of Applied Science degree in Nursing, you are eligible to take the State Board Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN). You must pass this examination in order to receive your registered nursing license.
4. WHAT ARE THE COSTS INVOLVED IN THE NURSING PROGRAM?

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

Books (including Kaplan online learning system): $1668
Supplies: $130
Health Screening: $100-$500 (depending on health care provider and immunizations required)
Background Check/Drug Screen: $112
NCLEX-RN Exam: $200
Virginia License Application: $130

5. WHERE ARE THE CLINICAL ASSIGNMENTS IN THE PROGRAM?

Martha Jefferson Hospital, University of Virginia Health System, Western State Hospital, Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge, The Colonnades, The Laurels, Our Lady of Peace, HealthSouth and Augusta Health are settings where students do clinical rotations. Other facilities may also be used. Please note that while we make every effort to consider driving distances in all clinical assignments, we cannot guarantee to accommodate any individual schedule or site request. Carpooling with fellow students is highly encouraged. STUDENTS WILL BE EXPECTED TO ATTEND CLINICAL SITES THAT MAY BE OUTSIDE OF THE CHARLOTTESVILLE/ALBEMARLE AREA.

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 PVCC’s Office of Admissions and Records, you MUST request that the Registrar complete a transcript evaluation and send you written confirmation of courses accepted for transfer to PVCC. The Transcript Evaluation Request form can be found online at http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf.

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

Yes, you may be able to get credit for some nursing courses. Once your transcripts are on file in PVCC’s Office of Admissions and Records, contact the Director of Nursing Programs to ask to be considered as a nursing transfer student. Nursing courses with identical course numbers taken within the VCCS will automatically be transferred if the grade is a “C” or higher. The Director of Nursing Programs 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. Please keep in mind that all nursing courses must be completed within a five-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, 2016**.

   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.

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 Current 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:

- Be sure you are competent in basic math and algebra skills before entering the program. These skills are very important when giving medications. You will be required to pass a drug dosage calculation quiz every semester in order to continue in the program.

- Complete the BIO 141-142 series and BIO 150, 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 theory has much reading required.

- 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!

- Make good use of the Kaplan online resources and practice tests. They really help you prepare for the class exams and help to reinforce the class concepts.

- Make sure you have Internet access or can schedule sufficient time to use the computers at the College. Much of the course content in nursing is web-enhanced and often requires online work as a prerequisite for attending class or labs.
A Message from the PVCC Math Department Regarding Placement Tests

Dear Student,

Please keep in mind the following suggestions as you prepare to take your placement exam. Most students place appropriately. On occasion, however, students are not prepared and do not place into the proper level. This letter is written especially to help prevent placing below your true level.

- Take the exam very seriously. The exam determines your starting level in mathematics and, therefore, how many mathematics courses you will need to finish your program.

- Give yourself the time you need. The test is not timed! If you are pressed for time, come back early on a different day and take the test when time will not be a factor. Use the time to carefully and seriously answer the questions. A little time wisely spent on the placement exam can save a semester or more of work!

- Brush up on your mathematics before the test, but don’t try to cram and learn things beyond your knowledge. You can obtain practice problems from PVCC’s Testing Center. The Jessup Library at PVCC has math texts on reserve for your review. You may also visit the PVCC First Quadrant Math Center for personal assistance prior to taking the math placement test. The Testing Center is located in PVCC’s Main Building, room M607. The First Quadrant Math Center is located in M253.

- Many students will have to take both mathematics and English placement tests. Consider taking these placement tests on separate days to minimize the effect of test fatigue.

- Test scores are valid for two (2) years after the date of the test. Students who take the placement test and who do not enroll in developmental math are allowed to take one (1) retest within twelve (12) months. Students who attempt developmental mathematics will be ineligible for a retest.

- In summary, do yourself justice and place where you truly are in math by being serious and smart about your time.
# Nursing Program Admission Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PREREQUISITES</th>
<th>Ways prerequisites can be met</th>
<th>How did you meet prerequisite?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completion of science prerequisite requirement</td>
<td>(1) HS transcript, (2) college transcript, (3) completion of NAS 2 or (4) test-out of NAS 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of English prerequisite requirement</td>
<td>(1) Placement test, (2) college transcript, (3) SAT or ACT score</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of math prerequisite requirement</td>
<td>(1) Placement test, (2) college transcript, (3) SAT or ACT score</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Requirement</th>
<th>How Met?</th>
<th>Completed?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete PVCC Application <a href="http://www.pvcc.edu/admissions/apply-now">http://www.pvcc.edu/admissions/apply-now</a></td>
<td>Online Application</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete Nursing Program Application <a href="http://www.pvcc.edu/htsapplication">www.pvcc.edu/htsapplication</a></td>
<td>Online Application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Nursing Interest Essay</td>
<td>Complete in PVCC Testing Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete TEAS test (if applicant does not have an Associate’s degree or higher)</td>
<td>Online test scheduled through PVCC’s Testing Center.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>If non-native English speaker, include copy of results of TOEFL iBT in upload of supporting documents. (TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two years.)</td>
<td>To find test site, go to TOEFL iBT web site at: <a href="http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=toefl">http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=toefl</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit official transcript(s) for non-VCCS colleges to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising. Request transcript evaluation for transfer credit (for any college other than PVCC).</td>
<td>Have colleges send official transcripts to PVCC Office of Admissions and Advising. Complete request form (<a href="http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf">http://www.pvcc.edu/files/media/form_transcript_evaluation_request.pdf</a>) to have courses evaluated for transfer credit.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the online application, upload supporting documents (used to document prerequisites and/or general education courses included in curriculum), such as:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- official or unofficial transcript(s) for non-VCCS colleges</td>
<td>Obtain any required documents and upload in application.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- TOEFL scores</td>
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For instructions on how to upload your supporting documents, please check the application site.