

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE (156)

Nursing

Purpose: The curriculum is designed to prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the health team implementing direct patient care as beginning practitioners in a variety of health service facilities. At the successful completion of the program, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) leading to the designation of registered nurse.

Mission: The VWCC Associate Degree Nursing Program mission is to prepare professionally educated nurses who are culturally competent, compassionate health care providers able to meet the changing health care needs of patients, families, and communities.

Program Objectives: Employment opportunities for the registered nurse include staff positions in hospitals, nursing homes, health departments, physicians' offices, clinics, day care centers, and home health agencies.

Developmental Requirements: Students who do not place into college-level English on the placement test will be required to take developmental courses.

Students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the placement test in the following mathematical units will be required to complete developmental courses: MTE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Admission Requirements: Applicants must meet the requirements for admission to credit-level coursework established by the college.

Applicants must meet the developmental requirements listed above prior to applying for admission to the AAS Nursing Program.

Completion of one unit of high school Biology and Chemistry with a grade of "C" or better is required before applying to this program.

The applicant's cumulative high school grade point average (GPA) must be at least 2.5. If the applicant has been to college, the applicant's cumulative college GPA must also be at least 2.5 based on at least 12 credit hours of college credit in a 12-month time frame. The GPA is determined at the end of fall semester prior to admission. High school graduates and GED holders who earned less than a 2.5 GPA during high school will be considered for admission if they have generated a college GPA of 2.5 or above based on at least 12-semester college credit hours within a 12-month period.

For application materials and additional program information, please see our website at <http://www.virginiawestern.edu/academics/smh/health/nursing/index.php>.

Curriculum Admissions Guidelines and Procedures

1. Applicants to the nursing program are strongly encouraged to meet with the Health Careers Information Specialist prior to enrollment in any course included in the nursing program or in any course to correct an academic deficiency. **Please note:** Receipt of completed academic transcripts and results of placement evaluations are required prior to this meeting.
2. The nursing program accepts new students each fall. Applications must be completed no later than March 1. The complete application includes: an application to the college, official transcripts from all colleges attended (transcripts from VWCC or other Virginia community colleges are not required), official transcripts showing completion of a high school diploma or records showing completion of GED with scores, results of the nursing entrance test which is taken at the student's expense (nonrefundable), and a current Nursing Application form. Nursing Application forms are available in the Admissions Office, the Health Professions Information Office, and on our website (listed above).
3. BIO 141 must be completed with a grade of "C" or better by the end of the spring semester preceding enrollment in NUR 121. BIO 142 must be completed with a "C" or better by the end of the summer session preceding enrollment in NUR 121. NAS 185 must be completed prior to entering NUR 238. (BIO 141, BIO 142, and NAS 185 must be repeated if they were completed more than five years prior to the date of admission into the program.)
4. Applicants should be aware that meeting the curriculum admission standards does not guarantee program admission. In May, all applicants will receive a letter to notify them of their status with the program.

Program Notes: This program is approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing and is a member of the National League of Nursing. The VWCC Nursing Program does not participate in voluntary NLN-AC accreditation.

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Nursing cont'd

Clinical agencies require that students have periodic background checks and drug screenings completed at the student's expense before beginning clinical rotations in the agency. A positive background check may include fingerprinting and drug screening and may deny a nursing student access to clinical agencies. Inability to participate in clinical rotations will disqualify the student from completing the nursing program.

Conviction of a felony, misdemeanor or any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a registered nurse may constitute grounds for denial of licensure; this is a decision that can only be made by the State Board of Nursing. In the state of Virginia, if someone has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor they may not be allowed to take the RN licensing exam. The question of eligibility to take the RN licensing exam cannot be determined until application for licensure is received by the State Board of Nursing (BON). VWCC has no control over whether or not the VA-BON or Boards of Nursing in other states will allow the student to take the NCLEX-RN exam.

Although this program is not designed for transfer, articulation agreements with four-year institutions may be available. Contact the VWCC program head for details.

CURRICULUM AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

CREDITS

GENERAL EDUCATION CORE COURSES

BIO 141 -142 ⁵ ... Human Anatomy and Physiology I-II	8	
ENG 111*	College Composition I	3
HLT/PED ⁶	Health or Physical Education.....	1
NAS 185*	Microbiology	4
PSY 200	Principles of Psychology	3
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3
SDV 100	College Success Skills.....	1
	(or SDV 101 or SDV 108)	
E ³	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective (List A)	3

NURSING AND RELATED COURSES

HLT 141 ⁴	Intro to Medical Terminology	1
NUR 121-122 ¹ .	Nursing Fundamentals I-II	20
NUR 135 ²	Drug Dosage Calculation	2
NUR 238-239 ¹ .	Integrated Nursing Principles I-II	20
Total Minimum Credits for Degree		69

¹ Includes instruction in fundamental mathematical skills and drug dosage calculations.

² **NUR 135 is a prerequisite for NUR 122. It is strongly recommended that the student take NUR 135 the summer semester prior to NUR 121.**

³ Electives must be chosen from the specific list referenced in the curriculum requirements above. List A and List B electives can be found on the Approved List of Transfer courses.

⁴ HLT 143 cannot substitute for HLT 141 unless the sequence is completed; both HLT 143 and HLT 144.

⁵ Must be completed by the end of summer session preceding NUR 121.

⁶ HLT 105 or CPR certification can be used to satisfy this requirement.

* This course has a requisite. Requisites for all courses are listed in the course description section at the back of the catalog.

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

FIRST YEAR

FALL

HLT 141

HLT/PED

NUR 121

NUR 135-RN

SDV 100

SPRING

NAS 185

NUR 122

SECOND YEAR

FALL

ENG 111

NUR 238

PSY 200

SPRING

NUR 239

PSY 230

Humanities/Fine Arts

*Support courses (non-NUR courses) and NUR 135 may be taken prior to entry into the program.