

Nursing

Overview

Associate of Applied Science

PURPOSE: The Nursing AAS program is designed to prepare diverse individuals to practice evidence-based nursing successfully as a professional member of the interdisciplinary health care team. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, the student is eligible to apply to take the licensing examination (NCLEX-RN®) required to become a Registered Nurse.

OCCUPATIONAL OBJECTIVES: To secure and sustain employment as a professional nurse providing nursing care to individuals, families, communities, and/or populations in a variety of health care settings

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: General college curricular admission and program-specific criteria

PROGRAM NOTES: The Virginia State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny licensure to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia. Any student convicted of illegal offenses other than minor traffic violations should discuss and clarify these matters with the coordinator of the Nursing AAS program prior to admission for clarification. A background check is required to apply for the NCLEX-RN® licensure exam.

A criminal background check and drug screen are required of all entering students and, depending on the facility, random drug screens may occur. A student with an unsatisfactory background check and/or drug screening will be unable to progress in the Nursing AAS program.

A student who has an absence greater than 12 months within the Nursing AAS program must meet current admission and curriculum requirements. A student seeking to resume enrollment must meet with the coordinator of the Nursing AAS program prior to reenrollment.

A student accepted to the Nursing AAS program must sign an Assumption of Risk document that serves to provide a general outline of hazards encountered within nursing. This list includes exposure to infectious, biological, chemical, environmental/mechanical, and psychosocial hazards, as well as loss of personal property.

Non-nursing courses must be completed prior to or concurrent with the approved curriculum sequence.

Once admitted, BIO 142, BIO 150, ENG 112, and a humanities/fine arts elective (CST 229 or PHI 101 or PHI 220 or PHI 225 or PHI 227) must be completed prior to or within the identified semester with the co-requisite nursing courses.

A minimum grade of "C" is required in each course within the program of study. Students receiving less than "C" in a general education course will be unable to continue in the Nursing program until the grade requirement is met.

Student Outcomes for the AAS in Nursing:

A student who completes the AAS in Nursing will be expected to

1. Provide patient-centered care promoting therapeutic relationships, caring behaviors, and self-determination across the lifespan for diverse populations;
2. Practice safe nursing care that minimizes risk of harm across systems and client populations;
3. Demonstrate nursing judgment through the use of clinical reasoning, the nursing process, and evidence-based practice in the provision of safe, quality care;
4. Practice professional behaviors that encompass the legal/ethical framework, while incorporating self-reflection, leadership, and a commitment to recognize the value of lifelong learning;
5. Manage client care through quality improvement processes, information technology, and fiscal responsibility to meet client needs and support organizational outcomes; and
6. Demonstrate principles of collaborative practice within the nursing and interdisciplinary teams fostering mutual respect and shared decision-making to achieve stated outcomes of care.

Application requirements are the following:

1. Selection of Health Science I CSC (plan code 221-190-01) on the Reynolds admission application.
2. High School Diploma, Home School Certificate of Completion, or General Equivalency Diploma (GED) completion with official verification on file in Admissions & Records
3. Completion of all Reynolds Community College admission requirements
4. Science Requirements: Evidence of completion with a grade of "C" or higher in high school biology or transferable college-level science course
5. Math Requirements: Evidence of Virginia Placement Test at level 5 or higher, or successful completion of the developmental modules, or meet waiver criteria per the Reynolds Catalog.
6. Complete the test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT) with a standard score of 84 or above, and a minimum speaking score of 26 is required for ALL non-native English speakers. Completion of ENG 111 does not satisfy this requirement. 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. TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two years.
7. Submission of official college transcripts to Admissions & Records for consideration of transfer credit for courses required by the Nursing AAS program. All decisions for transfer credit are determined by Admissions & Records. The applicant is solely responsible for reviewing transfer credits posted by Admissions & Records.
8. Completion of the Kaplan Test with the following minimum scores: reading--73% or higher; math--75% or higher; science--55% or higher; writing--52% or higher. This application test is free and available through the Reynolds testing center. Testing center dates and times are provided at reynolds.edu/get_started/programs/snah/announcements.aspx. The Kaplan Test may be repeated

REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- once. After the second attempt, a student must wait at least 24 months before reattempting.
- Applications are ranked based on Kaplan admission scores. The required math, reading, and science scores are each weighted 30%; the writing score is weighted 10%.
 - Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or higher.
 - Curricular GPA of 2.5 or higher in the eleven (11) credits of general education pre-requisite courses with a grade of "C" or above (BIO 141, ENG 111, SDV 100, and PSY 230).
 - Mandatory attendance at a Nursing AAS Program Information Session within six (6) months of applying to the Nursing AAS program. Information sessions are scheduled periodically throughout the semester. Dates, times, and location are provided at reynolds.edu/get_started/programs/snah/announcements.aspx.
 - An accepted student must accept or deny admission electronically, as directed, via the Accepted Student Response Form by the identified date or forfeit their seat.

Admission to the Nursing AAS program is competitive, and only a limited number of applicants will be accepted. Fully qualified applicants will be ranked according to Kaplan Test scoring. Qualified applicants not admitted may reapply for admission.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Students entering the Nursing program must possess the following functional skills:

- Sufficient eyesight to observe patients, read records, manipulate equipment, and visually monitor patients in dim light;
- Sufficient hearing to communicate with patients and members of a health care delivery team, monitor patients using electronic equipment, hear necessary sounds during operation of equipment, and hear a patient whispering;
- Satisfactory speaking, reading, and writing skills to communicate effectively in English in a timely manner;
- Sufficient bilateral finger dexterity to manipulate equipment;
- Ability to lift, stoop, or bend in the delivery of safe nursing care;
- Satisfactory physical strength and endurance to stand for extended periods, push equipment, and move immobile patients; and
- Satisfactory intellectual and emotional functioning to ensure patient safety and to exercise independent judgment and discretion in performing assigned care.

Application Deadlines for Full-time Day Option:

- Fall start: 3rd Monday in May
- Spring start: 3rd Monday in August

TRANSFER OPTIONS: Applicants seeking to transfer into the Nursing AAS program are required to meet all admission requirements. Transfer students from other nursing programs may be accepted on a space available basis.

- The Nursing Student Affairs Subcommittee will review applications for students seeking transfer of nursing courses. Applicants must demonstrate that a nursing course, with corresponding credits, was completed within the previous 12 months.

- Nursing transfer applicants must have a written statement from the dean or director of the nursing program the student is leaving, indicating that they are in good standing and eligible to return to the previous institution.

EXPECTATIONS: The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college and selected community agencies, such as acute care (hospitals) or long-term care facilities, clinics, or comparable agencies and facilities. During these experiences, the nursing faculty will observe, monitor, and evaluate the student's ability to achieve program outcomes through direct patient care. Professional conduct and meeting program and course requirements related to dress code, program, and health care orientation are required.

CLINICAL CONTRACTS: Individual contracts are in effect with each affiliate clinical agency, and these contracts differ in requirements for students. In general, contracts include the following:

- Clinical agencies reserve the right to dismiss a student from their agency at any time with due cause. This will be done with advance notice, except in an emergency.
- Student must wear the proper uniform, conforming to program and health care agency standards.
- Student must follow published hospital policies.
- Student must meet health, immunity, and immunization requirements.
- Student releases the facility, its agents, and its employees from any liability for any injury or death to self or damage to personal property arising out of the clinical agreement or use of the facility. (Assessment of Risk document is signed and on file, once the student is accepted into the program.)
- Student is financially responsible for any medical care required while in the clinical setting.
- Student must have a current American Heart Association CPR BLS for Health Care Provider Certification.
- Demonstration of professional behavior is expected at all clinical learning experiences. Faculty will direct a student to leave the learning environment if unacceptable behaviors are observed.
- Student must complete a criminal background check and drug screen, which may be repeated during the program of study. The health care agency may deny a student participation in direct patient care based on results of background and drug screen.
- Student must attend the health care agency's orientation as scheduled to remain enrolled in a clinical nursing course.
- Student must submit required clinical documents with each clinical rotation. A student who does not meet published deadlines for submission forfeits his/her enrollment.
- If a student is dismissed by a clinical facility, alternate placement will require disclosure of information related to the dismissal. The student must consent to disclosure through completion of a FERPA form.

Contracts for each agency are available in the School of Nursing and Allied Health Office in the Division Office and may be reviewed by students upon request.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS: In addition to the regular college tuition and fees, the nursing program requires the following:

Associate Degrees & Certificates

Uniforms, Shoes, and Stethoscope	\$350.00
Special Testing across the Curriculum	\$600.00
Books and Supplies	\$1,500.00
Physical Exam -- Proof of Immunity, Immunizations, TB Testing (student's own physician) -- varies depending on health insurance coverage	\$500.00
NCLEX-RN® Application (licensure exam and initial RN license)	\$400.00
Castlebranch® Document Manager® Background Check, Drug Screening, and Re-checks	\$225.00

These costs are approximate and subject to change. The student should also consider transportation and parking costs for clinical assignments.

NURSING STUDENT HANDBOOK: Please see <http://www.reynolds.edu/curriculum/documents/RN-Student-Handbook.pdf> to view the *Nursing Student Handbook*.

PROGRESSION THROUGH THE PROGRAM: Reynolds offers this program in affiliation with the health care agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves and relies on its community affiliates to provide clinical education opportunities for its many courses. The rapid changes in health care law, standards of practice, technology, content of credentialing examinations, and availability of qualified faculty increasingly necessitate sudden changes in the program's course content, policies, procedures, and course scheduling. As a result, the college cannot guarantee every student continuous and uninterrupted clinical and course instruction as outlined in the printed catalog curriculum for this program. Circumstances beyond the control of the college may necessitate the postponement of course offerings or changes in the sequencing and/or location of scheduled courses or clinical assignments. Additionally, the college may have to change the instructor for courses after instruction has started.

If a student is dismissed by a clinical facility, alternate placement may require disclosure of information related to the dismissal. The student must consent to disclosure.

CONTINUATION IN THE PROGRAM:

- A student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
- A student must achieve a course grade of at least "C" (80) in each nursing course and at least "C" in each non-nursing course to progress through the Nursing AAS degree.
- The clinical portion of designated nursing courses is evaluated as "Pass/Fail." A student who does not meet the clinical learning outcomes will fail the course.
- A student must take identified general education courses either prior to, or concurrent with, nursing courses in the identified semester. A student is eligible to progress to the next semester based on successful completion of the prerequisite and co-requisite courses.

- A student who fails any two nursing courses or is not successful after two attempts (withdrawal or fail) in the same course may not continue in the Nursing AAS.
- A student may enroll only in the courses listed in his/her qualified semester.
- A student who fails clinical based on any aspect of professional behavior will not be eligible for re-admission. Application to the Reynolds Practical Nursing program may be at risk.

PROGRESSION STATUS: Reynolds has entered into an implied contract with all accepted Nursing AAS students via the Reynolds catalog. The catalog indicates that once accepted into the Nursing program a student can complete the program within two years, assuming the student attends four consecutive semesters. (Summer is a session, not a semester.) Continuation in the program is conditional upon those factors identified in the "Progression through the Program" statement.

Progression 1 students are those who have never failed, dropped, withdrawn, or taken a leave of absence for any reason. Progression 1 students may register for any available space in a course for which they are eligible during the assigned registration period.

Progression 2 students are those who have withdrawn, failed, or taken a leave of absence. These students have stopped program progress and will be enrolled based on a random lottery drawing for available seats. Progression 2 students will not participate in the online registration process. The Nursing AAS degree's Promotion and Graduation Committee will place these students into available seats via a random lottery drawing. Progression 2 students will return to Progression 1 status after successful completion of the course from which they withdrew or failed.

NCLEX-RN Licensure Examination Pass Rates for Reynolds

Nursing AAS Graduates: Reynolds Nursing Graduates' pass rates for the NCLEX-RN licensure examination are provided below for 2013-2017.

Year	Program Yearly Pass Rates		
	AAS in Nursing (traditional)	LPN-AAS in Nursing (traditional)	Part-Time LPN-AAS in Nursing
2013	81.00	100	92.00
2014	88.04	NA*	87.50
2015	96.21	75	88
2016	94.74	100	85.71
2017	92.64	93.75	88.88

*NA = No graduates in this category tested that year

Nursing AAS Completion Data: This program completion data represents a student's progression through the curriculum, based on up to six (6) semesters within the full-time Nursing AAS curriculum, or 10 semesters within the part-time LPN to Nursing AAS curriculum (150% of the published curriculum timeline).

REYNOLDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Class that started Spring 2014 and graduated on or before December 2016: 72.5%
- Class that started Fall 2014 and graduated on or before May 2017: 58.9%

Nursing AAS Employment Data: Employment data is dependent upon graduate responses to program contact. It represents reported employment six to nine (6-9) months after graduation. Data timeline: January 1 to December 31.

- 2016: 90%

PROGRAM ACCREDITATION:

The program is

- approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, VA 23233-1463, (804) 367-4515, and
- accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing may be contacted at 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000.

Roadmap

COURSE	TITLE	LEC. HRS.	LAB. HRS.	CRS. CRE.
Prerequisites for Application				
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3	0	3
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
SDV 100	College Success Skills	1	0	1
BIO 141 ¹	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4
TOTAL		10	3	11
Semester 1				
BIO 142	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4
NSG 100 ²	Introduction to Nursing Concepts	3	3	4
NSG 106	Competencies for Nursing Practice	1	3	2
NSG 130	Professional Nursing Concepts	1	0	1
NSG 200	Health Promotion and Assessment	2	3	3
TOTAL		10	12	14
Semester 2				
BIO 150	Introductory Microbiology	3	3	4
NSG 152	Health Care Participant	2	3	3
NSG 170	Health/Illness Concepts	4	6	6
TOTAL		9	12	13
Semester 3				
ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
NSG 210	Health Care Concepts I	3	6	5
NSG 211	Health Care Concepts II	3	6	5
TOTAL		9	12	13
Semester 4				
_____ ³	Humanities/Fine Arts Elective (CST 229 or PHI 101 or PHI 220 or PHI 225 or PHI 227)	3	0	3
NSG 252	Complex Health Concepts	4	0	4
NSG 230	Advanced Professional Nursing Concepts	2	0	2
NSG 270	Nursing Capstone	0	12	4
TOTAL		9	12	13
PROGRAM TOTALS		48	51	64
Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in Nursing				64

Associate Degrees & Certificates

¹ Prerequisites for BIO 141: Grade of "C"/passing score in high school biology and chemistry or BIO 1 and CHM 1 within past seven (7) years, TEAS science sub-score of 75%, or BIO 101.

² American Heart Association BLS for Health Care Providers CPR required to participate in clinical.

³ A student who withdraws from NSG 106 must also withdraw from NSG 100.

⁴ Humanities/Fine Arts Elective--CST 229 or PHI 101 or PHI 220 or PHI 225 or PHI 227.