



## NURSING (RN) APPLICATION PROCESS AND FULL-TIME DAY PROGRAM

FALL 2009

*\* This application is currently being reviewed. The college reserves the right to revise this application at any time.*

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program (VATNP) is a limited enrollment program that accepts a maximum of 50 students per year in the Full-time Day Program at each of the three participating colleges (Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and Virginia Highlands Community College).

### 1. Admission Requirements

- a. State recognized high school diploma, home school diploma (at least 18 years of age), or GED
- b. A full year of high school or one semester of College coursework in **Algebra 1**, **General Biology**, and **Chemistry**, with final grades of “C/75” or better. If no final grade is listed on the high school transcript a grade of at least “D” followed by a grade of at least “C” will be satisfactory. A grade of less than “B” followed by a grade of “D” will be unsatisfactory. Any combination of two semester grades of “C” or better in Algebra 1 and/or Algebra 2 will be satisfactory for the Algebra 1 requirement. (Algebra 1 part 1, Basic Algebra, Applied Biology, or Consumer Chemistry, do NOT satisfy these requirements. Algebra 1 part 1, followed by Algebra 1 part 2 does satisfy the Algebra 1 requirement. BIO 141, BIO 231, and NAS courses do not satisfy the General Biology prerequisite.) **An incomplete in any coursework does not constitute satisfactory completion. A placement test score may not be used to satisfy any prerequisite requirements. The College reserves the right to extend any deadlines and to selectively include any additional group of students in the admission testing process without further notice.** Applicants are solely responsible for determining which pre-requisites have not been met and scheduling their classes in a manner that best prepares them for the admission process. In order to be considered for the 2009 Program, all prerequisites must be **completed** with a grade of ‘C’ or better or ‘S’ for developmental work by the February 1, 2009 deadline.
- c. A minimum Curricular GPA of 2.5 or better and good academic standing (minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better) at the most recent education institution attended. Any student not in good academic standing (Cumulative GPA of 2.0) at the most recent education institution attended will be required to complete a minimum of 12 curricular credits with achievement of a 2.5 GPA or better. If all curricular courses have been successfully completed, the applicant may take transfer level courses to meet the 12 credit requirement or repeat curricular courses to improve individual course grades. Standing grades of d’s and f’s will be calculated into the Curricular GPA regardless if they were taken at MECC or another college. The minimum 2.5 Curricular GPA and good standing requirement must be achieved by the February 1, 2009 deadline. Applicants that do not meet these requirements by the deadline will not be eligible for the 2009 program.
- d. Completion of college placement tests (ASSET or COMPASS) indicating placement into English 111 and Math 126, or satisfactory completion of required developmental courses by February 1, 2009.
- e. Have not been enrolled in NUR 111 more than one time. After two attempts in NUR 111 students are ineligible for admission consideration unless permission is obtained from the Program Director.
- f. Applicants are responsible for completing all prerequisites (with a grade of ‘C’ or better) and/or submitting the following items by **February 1, 2009**:

MECC standard application for admission

MECC Nursing Program Application Packet (Accepted August 15, 2008 – February 1, 2009)

Official copy of High school/college transcript(s) attached to the Nursing Program Application (applicant’s responsibility to request transcripts)

Official copy of GED Scores attached to Nursing Program Application (if applicable)

Current copy of LPN License attached to Nursing Program Application (if applicable)

Nursing applicants will be notified in writing after **October 15, 2008** if items are missing in the application file. Applicants may verify the status of an application by visiting or calling the Enrollment Services/Admission Office (523-2400) **after** October 15. Applicants who have not received written notification by **February 12** that they are scheduled for admission testing are responsible for contacting Enrollment Services/Admission to determine if they are eligible to participate in the admission testing process. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the College has their correct address and telephone number.**

- g. **All candidates who have met the minimum admission requirements and have submitted a Nursing Program Application Packet with transcripts attached between August 15 and February 1 will be scheduled to complete the Nursing Admission Test (ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills)–“TEAS”;** however, applicants that do not have all documents on file and all prerequisites completed with a grade of ‘C’ or better by February 1, 2009 will not be eligible to participate in entrance testing or be considered for admission to the program. Applicants will receive written notification stating eligibility to test. The applicant will be asked to contact Enrollment Services/Admission to schedule the test. Tests will be scheduled through **February 16**. **A minimum National Percentile score of 45 or higher is required on the test. Applicants are only permitted to complete the test one time and are encouraged to order/complete online practice tests prior to scheduled test date.** Information and an online practice test for the “TEAS” is available at [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com). If you have questions about “TEAS” or the website prior to taking the admission test, contact the MECC Nursing Department at (276)-523-2400, ext. 456.
- h. **A test fee of twenty-five (25) dollars must be paid at the College Business Office on the scheduled test date. BRING A PHOTO ID AND THE TEST FEE RECEIPT TO ENROLLMENT SERVICES; THESE WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE TESTING CENTER.** If you have not received an appointment to test by **February 12**, you are responsible for calling Enrollment Services/Admission promptly to determine if you are eligible to test. **The College is not responsible for undeliverable mail.**

- i. The Admission Testing Center guidelines Include:
- Calculators are provided for the test.
  - No food, drinks, or smoking allowed in testing area
  - Once seated you may not leave the test center until the test is completed or a break period is announced
  - **Photo ID is required for admission to test center (driver's license, student ID, etc.)**
  - **Paid test receipt should be presented to enter test center**
  - All scratch paper must be returned after the test
  - **Arrive at test site at least 15 minutes before the test**
  - Failing to follow all instructions given by test administrator may result in removal
- j. Anyone who has been convicted of a federal or state felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations) and anyone with a history of drug or alcohol habituation should arrange for a conference with the Director or a nursing faculty member upon application to the program.

2. Selection of the Freshman Class (AFTER ADMISSION "TEAS" TESTING)

a. Criteria

<u>CRITERIA</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>	<u>TO CALCULATE APPLICANT'S SCORE</u>
<b>GPA (curricular or high school/GED)</b> <i>Curricular GPA will be used if 12 or more credits of Non-Nursing Course requirements have been completed (Required GPA: 2.5)</i>	40%	GPA: _____ x 10 = _____ <b>Max: 40 points</b>
<b>Non-Nursing Course Requirements Completed (Total Credits Possible: 29)</b>	20%	Number of Credits: _____ x .69 = _____ <b>(Example: 29 x .69= 20)</b> <b>Max: 20 points</b>
<b>Nursing Admission Test Score (TEAS)</b> <b>Minimum Score Requirement: 45th National Percentile</b>	40%	% Score on test: _____ x .40 = _____ <b>Max: 40 points</b>
<b><u>BONUS POINTS</u></b>		
<b>Points for Grade in Anatomy/Physiology</b> A=3, B=2, C=1 per semester <b>(Anatomy/Physiology I-II must be completed within ten years prior to admission to the Nursing Program)</b>	1-6 points	<b>Points for Grade in Anatomy/Physiology</b> A=3, B=2, C=1 per semester <b>Max: 6 points</b>
<b>LPN License <u>on file by February 1</u></b>	5 points	<b>If licensed LPN Enter 5 Points</b> <b>Max: 5 points</b>
		<b>TOTAL SCORE</b> _____

- b. Priority will be given to all qualified applicants who are domiciled residents of Lee, Wise, Scott, Dickenson Counties and the City of Norton, and to Virginia domiciled residents not having access to a given program at their local community college. A domiciled resident is one who has lived in the locality or state for the twelve consecutive months before February 1, 2009. Applicants moving out of the locality or state between February 1 and the first day of classes will lose their preferred status and any offer of admission to the program will be withdrawn. In addition, residents of localities with which the college has clinical-site affiliation (Sullivan County, TN) may receive equal consideration for admission. Applicants who do not meet requirements for domicile should meet with a faculty advisor to discuss other educational opportunities. **After February 1, the College reserves the right to decline additional applications for the nursing program for the 2009-year.**
- c. Based on the applicant's total score, a class of 50 students and a numbered alternate list will be determined by the Admission Committee. Individuals will be moved from the alternate list into the nursing program, as space allows, through the last day of regular registration for the fall semester. If the College is unable to contact the next qualified student on the alternate list by phone, or if the student is unable to immediately commit to accept, the student will be removed from the alternate list and the next qualified student on the list will be contacted with the offer. A student declining an offer to move from the alternate list into the nursing program will no longer retain alternate list status. The alternate list will be maintained at ten students through the first day of registration for the fall semester by moving in students who tested below the alternate list. Candidates remaining on the alternate list after the first day of registration for the fall semester or those scoring below those placed on the alternate list will be notified promptly in order that other educational alternatives may be considered.
- d. All applicants should receive written notification of acceptance/non-acceptance **after** April 1. **If the applicant's acceptance of an admission offer is not returned by the stated deadline, the offer will be withdrawn without notice.** Letters may be sent by certified mail and will have to be signed for at the post office. **The College is not responsible for undeliverable mail.** Appeals of an Admission Committee decision must be made in writing to the Program Director and may be referred to the Admission Committee.

- e. Individuals accepted into the program must pass a physical examination given by a licensed physician, and be free of any physical or mental condition, which would adversely affect performance as a member of the nursing profession. A tuberculin test is required on admission and at the conclusion of the first year of the program, except for previous positive reactors who must have a chest x-ray. Immunizations must be current, including MMR and Hepatitis B (Hep B vaccinations or declination form). Students must also be certified in CPR.

### 3. Non-Nursing Course Requirements

These are the ten required program courses that will be used to calculate the non-nursing courses completed for the scoring system.

ITE 115*	BIO 141/ NAS 161 or BIO 231**	SDV 100
ENG 111 and 112	BIO 142/NAS162 or BIO 232**	Humanities Elective****
MTH 126	PSY 231 and 232***	

\*IST 114, CIS 100, 110, or 150 may be used if ITE 115 has not been completed.

\*\*Two semesters of college biology is a prerequisite to BIO 231. Anatomy and Physiology I-II **must** be completed within ten (10) years prior to admission to the nursing program.

\*\*\*If PSY 235 was completed prior to fall 1993 the student may request the MECC Program Director to substitute PSY 235 for PSY 231.

\*\*\*\*Recommended Humanities Elective Courses (Choose one): ART 101 or 102, ASL 101 or ASL 102, ENG 241, 242, 243, 244, 251, 252, FRE 101 or 102, HUM 100, 201, or 202, MUS 121 or 122, PHI 101, 102, 220, 225, 226, or 227, REL 231 or 232, SPA 101 or 102, SPD 151 or 152.

The only nursing program general education requirements waived based on a bachelor's degree are ENG 111 and 112.

Students are encouraged to choose an elective that will transfer to four-year schools. At least one fine art course is usually required in most bachelors' programs. Foreign language or sign language would be an additional skill that would be good for a nurse. The elective should be chosen in consultation with your faculty advisor.

### 4. Reapplication to the Nursing Program

If a student is not admitted to the program but wishes to reapply for the next year's class, he/she **MUST** complete a new Allied Health Program Application form and submit it to Enrollment Services/ Admission prior to February 1 of the next year.

### 5. Transfer Into the Nursing Program

Students wishing to transfer from other colleges' nursing programs will be given consideration by the Program Director on an individual basis. Applicants must be in good standing at their previous college with a "C" average or better. All stated Admission Requirements must be met.

### 6. Evaluation During the Nursing Program

Upon admission and during the course of the program, the VATNP faculty will carefully observe and evaluate the student's suitability for nursing. Students are expected to complete all courses listed in the first year of the curriculum before being allowed to enter the second year. Exceptions due to unusual circumstances must be approved by the program Director. Any student who earns a grade **lower than "C" in any nursing course or MTH 126, BIO 141/BIO 231 or BIO 142/BIO 232 must repeat the course and earn a final grade of "C" or better** before progressing to the next nursing course or graduating from the nursing program. If a student repeats a nursing course, or BIO 141/BIO 231 or BIO 142/BIO 232, and fails to receive a grade of "C" or higher, she/he will automatically be dropped from the nursing program. A student may not repeat a nursing course more than one time. A grade of "unsatisfactory" in the clinical portion of any nursing course results in an "F" grade for the course **regardless** of the theory grade. Any exception to the above policy must have the approval of the Director of the nursing program. Students who must repeat a nursing course will be admitted to that course on "space available" basis.

### 7. Financial Requirements

In addition to the usual college tuition and fees, the purchase of items such as uniforms, accessories, liability insurance, achievement tests, and transportation costs are the financial responsibility of the individual student. Students who fail to meet these responsibilities will not be able to continue in the program.

### 8. Licensure Requirements

Qualifications for a Registered Nurse licensure have been established by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and can be found in [Nursing Law of Virginia](#) which may be seen in the Director's Office or in the Assistant Director's office on any campus.

Upon satisfactory completion of the two-year program, the student should apply to graduate and will be awarded the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Health Technology with a major in Nursing.

**If you have additional questions, please contact the MECC nursing faculty. The nursing faculties are Johanne Watson, Donna Cluesman, Deborah Clarkston, and Deborah Wright. You may reach them by phone at 276-523-2400 ext. 457, 300, 222, or 425 respectively. Their emails are [jwatson@me.vccs.edu](mailto:jwatson@me.vccs.edu), [dcluesman@me.vccs.edu](mailto:dcluesman@me.vccs.edu), [dclarkston@me.vccs.edu](mailto:dclarkston@me.vccs.edu), [dwright@me.vccs.edu](mailto:dwright@me.vccs.edu).**

## LPN to Associate Degree Nursing

### Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program Advance Placement Program for LPNs

#### Bridge Course – Full-time Day

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program's advance placement or "Bridge Program," is designed to grant advanced placement to LPNs who have been admitted to the VATNP Associate Degree Full-time Day Program and meet pre-requisite requirements.

If there is sufficient enrollment in the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program, students who meet the eligibility requirements for the advanced placement will take "Bridge Courses" in the summer term and then be eligible to take the sophomore level courses and graduate within one (1) academic year with an A.A.S. Degree in Nursing.

This program is designed to recognize the common abilities of nurses and to bridge the difference between LPN and RN knowledge base and to allow these students to finish the A.A.S. program within a two and one-half semester period.

***TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE BRIDGE PROGRAM, An Applicant Must:***

1. be a licensed LPN
2. be an accepted student in the regular VATNP program.
3. provide current CPR certification.
4. complete the required physical examination and criminal background check.
5. provide proof of immunizations including Hepatitis B, MMR, and PPD (tuberculin skin test).
6. have completed 17 hours of support (general education) courses required for graduation from the Nursing program. Of these, the student ***MUST*** have completed Anatomy and Physiology I-II courses within ten (10) years prior to admission to the nursing program (BIO 141 or BIO 231 AND BIO 142 or BIO 232) and ***MUST*** have completed MTH 126.

LPNs who are admitted to the regular program will be given the choice of remaining in the fall class or taking the Bridge Course (if all the above requirements have been met). This selection will be made in rank order. If none of the LPNs in the original 50 selected for the class meet the pre-requisites, then the alternate list will be used to select students for the Bridge Program (providing the pre-requisites have been met).

Questions about the Bridge Program should be directed to any nursing faculty member on the MECC campus (offices are located in Robb Hall) or the VHCC Nursing Department at 276-739-2439, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### ***Our Customer Service Promise***

Our promise in Enrollment Services/Admission is to provide you with accurate, timely, and courteous processing of all your materials as you apply for admission to the Nursing Program. This includes processing your application materials and responding to you no later than 14 working days after they are received. You can help us provide our best level of service by promptly responding to our requests for additional information needed to complete your file.

If you encounter any service from us that you believe is not accurate, timely, or courteous, please bring it to my attention immediately while there is time to resolve any problems you have with our service:

Kristy Hall, Director of Enrollment Services  
Godwin Hall – Room G161

[khall@me.vccs.edu](mailto:khall@me.vccs.edu)

276-523-7474

MECC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice-President of Financial and Administrative Services, 3441 Mountain Empire Road, Big Stone Gap, VA 24219, 276-276-523-2400 (Virginia Relay users dial 711).