

## Division of Applied Science & Technology

### Associate of Applied Science Degree – Nursing Track 3: LPN to RN Bridge (156)

#### Program Description

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program (VATNP) is a three college consortium serving Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and Virginia Highlands Community College. The two year Associate of Applied Science degree curriculum in Nursing is designed to prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the health team, rendering direct patient care as beginning practitioners of nursing in a variety of health service facilities. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination leading to licensure as a registered nurse (RN).

Students who are LPNs are required to complete at least 17 hours of the general education courses before beginning the LPN to RN nursing classes. The length of this track depends on the amount of time needed to complete the general education classes. The nursing classes can be completed in one year. Some LPNs may opt for the part-time evening weekend program which requires 2 years of nursing classes after completion of general education requirements. The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program's LPN to RN Bridge Program is designed to grant advanced placement to LPNs who have been admitted to the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program (VATNP) Associate Degree program and meet prerequisite requirements.

If there is sufficient enrollment in the VATNP, 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 AAS 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 AAS program within a two and one-half semester period.

#### PROGRAM OF STUDY

<b>PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES</b>				
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credit</i>	<i>Progress</i>	
BIO 141	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
BIO 142	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	4		
ENG 111	College Composition I	3		
ITE 119	Information Literacy	3		
MTH 126	Math for Allied Health	2		
SDV 100	College Success Skills	1		
<b>FIRST YEAR SUMMER</b>				
NUR 115*	LPN Transition	6		
NUR 136	Principles of Pharmacology I	1		
NUR 137	Principles of Pharmacology II	1		
NUR 226	Health Assessment	2		
<b>FIRST YEAR FALL</b>				
ENG 112	College Composition II	3		
NUR 201	Psychiatric Nursing	3		
NUR 205	Intro to Second Level Nursing	5		
NUR 236	Principles of Pharmacology III	1		
PSY 231	Life Span Human Development I	3		
<b>FIRST YEAR SPRING</b>				
NUR 208	Acute Medical-Surgical Nursing	6		
NUR 237	Principles of Pharmacology IV	1		
NUR 245	Maternal/Newborn Nursing	3		
NUR 254	Dimensions of Professional Nursing	2		
PSY 232	Life Span Human Development II	3		
	Humanities Elective <sup>1</sup>	3		
<b>Total Minimum Credits for Degree</b>		<b>60</b>		

\*Upon completion of NUR 115, credit will be awarded for NUR 105, 108, 109 and 195 (15 credits). These credits will appear on the student's official transcript.

<sup>1</sup>Humanities electives include: ART 101, 102; CST 130, 151, 152; ENG 241, 242, 243, 244, 251, 252; HUM 100, 201, 202; MUS 121, 122; PHI 101, 220, 225, 226, 227; REL 200, 210, 231, 232.

## Admission Requirements for LPN to RN Program

Admission requirements for the LPN to RN nursing program are the same as the regular program with the following exceptions:

- Current LPN license.
- Applicants must have graduated from an LPN program after May 15, 2014 OR must provide documentation of the equivalent of 1 year (2000 hours) of full-time LPN work experience in direct patient care during the past three years with written verification from employer.
- Be an accepted student in the regular VATNP program.
- Completion of 17 credits of support (general education) courses required for graduation from the Nursing program: BIO 141, BIO 142, ENG 111, ITE 119, MTH 126, SDV 100. Additional required general education courses can be completed after acceptance to the program.

## State Approval and Accreditation

The program is approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, 404-975-5000, fax 404-975-5020, website: [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)).

## Program Admission Requirements

Admission to the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program is a selective process. The program is open to applicants who are free of any physical or mental condition which might adversely affect performance as a member of the nursing profession. In addition to the requirements for admission to the college, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Graduation from high school or satisfactory completion of the G.E.D.
2. The completion of one unit each of general biology (with laboratory) and chemistry with no grade below a "C" prior to application deadline (deficiencies can be made up through developmental studies or college courses).
3. Completion of Virginia Placement Tests (VPT) within 2 years prior to application with demonstrated proficiency in MTE 1-4, or SAT math score of 520/ACT math score of 22, or completion of college-level math class equivalent to MTH 151 or higher with a grade of "C" or higher. Those who do not meet this requirement must complete MTE 1-4 prior to application to the program. Students must have satisfactory VPT scores in reading and writing. All prescribed developmental work must be completed prior to application deadline.
4. A 2.5 grade point average (GPA) for high school courses\*\* or a 2.5 curricular GPA for college coursework.
5. College students must be in good standing with the most recently attended institution with a minimum GPA of 2.0.
6. Completion of Health Science Program Application for each academic year interested in being considered for the nursing program.
7. Satisfactory performance (national percentile score of 45 or higher) on a nursing pre-admission test.

\*\* If the student has completed a minimum of 12 college credits that are included in calculating the curricular GPA (non-developmental courses), the 2.5 high school GPA requirement will be waived.

Nursing program application packets will be accepted in the Admissions office between September 1, 2016 and February 1, 2017. Packets must include high school transcript or GED test scores (if applicable). Currently licensed LPN applicants must also include a copy of current LPN license and documentation of graduation from an approved LPN program. LPNs who graduated before May 15, 2014 must provide documentation of the equivalent of 1 year (2000 hours) of full-time LPN work experience in direct patient care during the past three years with written verification from employer.

The Admissions office will suspend processing applications if all transcripts are not attached. Once a packet is submitted, additional documentation will not be accepted. Transcripts from other Virginia Community Colleges are not required; however, any Virginia Community Colleges attended must be listed on both the college application and the Health Science Program application.

All prerequisites (general biology, chemistry, English and math proficiency) must be met and all documents submitted by the February 1 deadline. Further details of the application process can be found at [www.mecc.edu](http://www.mecc.edu) (click Programs and Degrees, Associate of Applied Science, Nursing, and Health Science Program Admission).

Out-of-region applicants will only be considered for openings in the nursing program after all qualified in-region applicants are considered. To be considered in-region, an applicant must be domiciled within the service region for 12 months prior to the program application deadline.

## LPN to RN Transition

Currently licensed LPNs who have been accepted to the nursing program may be offered the option of entering a summer LPN to RN bridge program providing they have completed all the general education courses required as outlined in the Nursing Track 3: LPN-RN Bridge curriculum or Track 4: Part-Time Evening Weekend LPN-RN Bridge curriculum. Applicants must have graduated from an LPN program after May 15, 2014 OR must provide documentation of the equivalent of 1 year (2000 hours) of full-time LPN work experience in direct patient care during the past three years with written verification from employer.

## Transfer of Nursing Credit

Students seeking to transfer credit from nursing programs at other institutions will be considered on an individual basis. Students must meet the admission requirements identified by the college and the VATNP. The student may be asked to provide course descriptions, documentation of completed direct patient care clinical time, course syllabi, achievement or progressive testing scores, demonstration of competency in critical nursing skills, and selected data from the course instructor or program director in order to determine placement in the nursing program. Consideration will be subject to availability of space. Since there frequently are differences among nursing programs, students wishing to transfer should be aware that there may be an interruption in program progression. Applicants must be in good standing at their previous college with a "C" average or better and must provide documentation of eligibility to return to that nursing program. Nursing courses which are being transferred must have been completed within three (3) years prior to admission to the nursing program.

## Program Requirements

Prior to enrollment in any NUR course, the student must provide the following documentation. (For more information see the VATNP website at [www.vhcc.edu/vatnp](http://www.vhcc.edu/vatnp)):

- Required Student Forms
- Annual Student Statement of Health form
- Student Information, Physical and Immunization forms. The VATNP physical examination form must be completed by a medical practitioner, MD, PA or CNP.
  - Immunizations include Tetanus, Mumps-Measles-Rubella (MMR), Varicella, and Hepatitis B
  - Current testing for tuberculosis, either Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test (TB Tine Test is not accepted) or chest X-ray must be provided
  - Documentation of ability to perform physical demands required in direct patient care activities.
- Purchase a background check, drug screen, and Medical Document Package from Certified Background
- Clearance of criminal background check and drug testing
- Proof of CPR certification, American Heart Association, "Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers" completed during the summer (May 16-August 16) prior to admission to NUR courses and maintained throughout the program

The cost of these requirements is the responsibility of the student.

## Special Notes:

- The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny license to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia. Most healthcare organizations are prohibited from hiring persons who have been convicted of certain criminal acts (For a list of crimes under this category refer to BARRIER CRIMES, Code of Virginia 63.2-1726 at <http://hope-tfc.org/FP/Barrier%20Crimes.pdf>). Students with convictions or positive drug tests may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not be able to complete the program requirements.
- Additional annual immunization requirements: Flu immunizations are required by most healthcare agencies and are usually available in fall semester.

## Physical Demands

Program activities include duties that frequently require squatting, bending, kneeling, reaching, and stair climbing; lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds; frequent pushing and pulling up to 200 pounds with assistance; occasional lifting up to 200 pounds with assistance and occasional carrying up to 51-74 pounds. Duties also require constant use of acute sense of sight, hearing, touch, and speech. Environmental conditions include procedures that involve handling blood and body fluids using universal precautions.

## Course Requirements

The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college and selected community agencies such as hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, physicians' offices and comparable facilities. The nursing faculty will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for nursing and direct patient care.

Most previous general education college credits will be accepted regardless of completion date; however, anatomy and physiology and the computer technology requirements will not be accepted if completed more than ten (10) years prior to admission to the nursing program. MTH 126 must be completed within five (5) years of admission to the nursing program. CPR certification must be maintained throughout the program. Students must 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 Dean of the program.

A student must have a "C" or above in theory plus "satisfactory" in clinical performance in all nursing courses to remain in the program. A grade of "C" or above in any related requirements is a prerequisite for continuing in the nursing program. The nursing program faculty reserves the right to recommend, through appropriate channels, the withdrawal of any student who does not exhibit suitable demeanor/attendance.

### Program Progression

Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" in all required courses and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to remain eligible for continued enrollment in the nursing program. In addition during the NUR 105 or NUR 115 course, a Comprehensive Drug Calculation Exam (CDCE) will be administered to verify skills. Students must achieve at least 90 percent of maximum score on the CDCE with no more than three attempts in order to achieve a passing grade in the course.

Any student who earns a final grade lower than a "C" in a required course (either general education or nursing courses) must repeat the course and earn a final grade of "C" or better before taking the next course in the sequence.

A student must obtain permission from the Dean of VATNP to continue in the Nursing Program under the following conditions:

- Repeating a course with a grade below "C";
- Withdrawal from a nursing course;
- Cumulative GPA below 2.0.

### Reapplication/Readmission Requirements

Students who are not successful in the first semester nursing course (NUR 108 or 115) must reapply to the nursing program. A new nursing program application packet must be submitted prior to the application deadline.

A student who wishes to reenter the nursing curriculum at any other level (e.g., NUR 105, 109, 114, 136, 137, 201, 205, 208, 226, 236, 237, 245 or 254) must write a letter to the program dean requesting readmission in the semester prior to the semester of enrollment. Re-enrollment must occur no later than three years from successful completion of NUR 108 or NUR 115 or student will have to repeat all nursing courses. The student may be required to enroll in and satisfactorily complete specific courses before readmission. Additional data may be required. Each student's application for readmission will be considered by the nursing faculty and the decision to readmit will be based on additional data, prior performance in the nursing program, and space availability. Based on the course(s) that must be repeated, the student who is readmitted may be required to complete a skills competency course or demonstrate competency in critical nursing skills before progressing to the next level.

A student who has 2 academic failures or withdrawals in separate semesters will be ineligible for reenrollment in the program. Such a student may not be readmitted if the cumulative grade point average is less than 2.0, including all courses attempted other than nursing.

According to the VCCS Policy 5.7.4, "A student will normally be limited to two enrollments in the same credit course." Any exception to this policy must be approved by the program dean and the vice president of instruction and student services.

### Financial Requirements

In addition to the usual college tuition and fees, the nursing program requires: uniforms with accessories, textbooks, progressive testing and remediation program, physical exam, immunizations, Mantoux Tuberculin Skin Test or chest x-ray, a background check, drug screen, and Medical Document Package, and CPR certification.

Students are also responsible for transportation to and from the college and health agencies used for clinical experience.

## Clinical Contracts

The VATNP has contracts with clinical agencies for both student and patient safety. If students cannot comply with these contractual requirements, they will not be able to participate in clinical activities and will be asked to withdraw from the program. General guidelines follow:

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.

Published policies of the clinical agency must be followed. Each student must successfully complete an orientation program prior to participating in activities at any clinical facility.

Clinical facilities require that all students have documentation of ability to perform the physical demands required in direct patient care activities.

Immunizations must be current.

Student releases clinical agencies, its agents and employees from any liability for any injury or death to him/herself or damage to his/her property arising out of agreement or use of the clinical agency's facilities.

Proof of HIPAA and CPR Certification must be provided.

Clinical facilities require a criminal background check and drug screen clearance as a condition for student placement. Proper uniform must be worn when participating in clinical activities.

### For Further Information Contact:

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