

Please note important deadlines for applying to the nursing programs. Admission requirements will be finalized by February 1 of each year for the subsequent year. Program requirements will be finalized by August 1 of each year for the subsequent year.

Phase I

In addition to the general enrollment process for Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, the applicant must complete the following:

1. To be considered for the nursing class beginning August of each year, all applicants must:
 - a. Submit an "Admission Test Qualification Form" to the Admission office February 1- December 1, of the previous year. Admission Test Qualification forms will be available in Student Services.
 - b. Meet admission requirements (1-7) prior to January 1 of the year to be admitted.
**(Example: Student wants to be considered for admission August, 2010:
(1) student must complete admission criteria (1-7) prior to January 1, 2010
(2) student must submit an "Admission Test Qualification Form" February 1 - December 1, 2009**
 - c. Students will be admitted based on a competitive selection process.
 - d. All applicants who are not accepted must re-submit an "Admission Test Qualification Form" February 1 - December 1 to be considered for the next year's class and meet current program admission criteria.
2. Attend one (1) of four (4) Nursing Information Sessions offered by the nursing education faculty annually; in order to make informed decisions regarding their program selection (must be within one year of the admission year). **FAILURE TO ATTEND WILL DELAY THE ADMISSION PROCESS.** Applicants should direct all questions regarding the program requirements to their assigned nursing faculty advisors. All applicants will be required to sign in.
3. At the end of the Information Session, all applicants are required to complete the "Program Survey" form and sign the "Statement of Understanding Regarding Acceptance for Clinical Training." The clinical training statement pertains to submission of a required criminal history report and mandatory drug screen. Please realize that for admission into the program, a criminal background check (CBC) and Drug Screen is required. Negative clearance from either report may prevent students from participating in clinical practice (which means that they cannot complete program requirements).
4. Submit evidence of high school graduation: official transcript or official GED transcript; and if applicable, official college transcripts. In regards to transfer credit (or credit previously earned at RCCC), related courses within the nursing curriculum – BIO and PSY – must be within 5 years of the program admission year. **High School seniors must submit current high school transcripts by Jan 1 of the admission year and an official high school transcript by June of the same year.**
5. Present evidence of successful completion of the following within the last five years:
 - a. Biology – high school or BIO 106 or higher at a college level
 - b. Chemistry – high school or CHM 090 or higher at a college level
 - c. Computer – CIS 110 or make an acceptable score on the RCCC Technical Proficiency Exam (TPE)
6. Be academically prepared to enroll in ENG 111, Expository Writing, and show proficiency in the mathematics area (Numerical/Pre-Algebra, Algebra I). All applicants for admission into the nursing programs can satisfy this requirement by meeting one criterion from each of the following areas: NOTE: Placement test scores, remedial course work, and demonstrated proficiency in mathematics (Algebra I) must be acquired within 5 years of the program admission year.

Writing (completed within 5 years of the program admission year)

- Standard score of 42 or higher on the ASSET Writing (or)
- Standard score of 71 or higher on the COMPASS Writing (or)
- Satisfactory completion of ENG 090 (or)
- Satisfactory completion (grade C or higher) of at least one college-level (associate degree or higher) course in English composition (or)
- SAT Writing score of 500 or ACT Writing score of 21

Reading (completed within 5 years of the program admission year)

- Standard score of 42 or higher on the ASSET Reading Skills (or)
- Standard score of 81 or higher on the COMPASS Reading Comprehension (or)
- Satisfactory completion (grade C or higher) of a college level (associate degree or higher) course in English composition (or)
- Satisfactory completion of RED 090 (or)
- SAT Reading score of 500 or ACT Reading score of 21

Math-Numerical Skills/Pre-Algebra Skills (completed within 5 years of the program admission year)

- Standard score of 42 or higher on the ASSET Numerical Skills (or)
- Standard score of 47 or higher on the COMPASS Pre-Algebra (or)
- Satisfactory completion of MAT 060 (or)
- Satisfactory completion (grade C or higher) of at least one college-level (associate degree or higher) math course (or)
- SAT Math score of 500 or ACT Math score of 21

Math-Elementary Algebra (completed within 5 years of the program admission year)

- Standard score of 42 or higher on the ASSET Elementary Algebra + 42 or higher on the Numerical Skills (or)
- Standard score of 46 or higher on the COMPASS Algebra + 47 or higher on the Pre-algebra (or)
- Satisfactory completion of MAT 070 (or)
- Satisfactory completion (grade C or higher) of at least one college-level (associate degree or higher) math course within the last 5 years (or)
- SAT Math score of 500 or ACT Math score of 21

The applicant is limited to placement testing twice in a twelve-month period (initial test and one re-test. Applicants should check with Student Services if they have any questions related to placement testing.

7. Applicants must have successfully completed a North Carolina approved Nurse Aide 1 (NA1) program and be currently listed on the Nurse Aide 1 Registry with no substantiated finding of resident abuse, resident neglect or misappropriation of resident property in a Nursing Facility. The applicant must provide an official transcript or original certificate of completion verifying successful completion of a N.C. State approved NA1 training course. The Nurse Aide 1 Training Program must include theory, lab, and clinical components and the applicant must have satisfactorily completed the skills performance check list. Out-of-state NA1 training documents must contain verifiable evidence of successful completion of a 75 hr. course. These hours represent the minimum requirement for meeting N.C. guidelines.

Phase II

8. Program admission testing will be offered as follows:

Category I: Students meeting admission requirements (1-7) prior to January 1 and submitting an Admission Test Qualification form Feb 1 – December 1 of the previous year will be eligible for the Nursing Admission Test.

Category II: Students who will complete program admission requirements by June 15. **Current year High School graduates may be considered under Category II with meeting all required program admission criteria.**

If the program is filled with Category I applicants, Category II applicants will not be considered for that Admission year and must reapply and meet current program admission criteria. There is no waiting list.

- Testing fee must be paid in the Business Office prior to testing
- A photo ID is required for entrance to the test
- Study guides will be available for purchase in the RCCC bookstore (North and South campuses)

Nursing Selective Admission Process

There will be 60 ADN students selected for the day option and 20 students will be selected for the *evening option of the Associate Degree Nursing program. *The evening option offering will be determined annually based upon qualified applicants, staffing and budgetary support. Admission into the nursing program is *competitive and based on a selective point system process*. The Nursing Admission Test is an online multiple choice test that evaluates the basic reading, math, writing and science skills for students seeking entry into a Nursing Program. Applicants must pass each component, Math, Reading, Writing and Science of the Admission Test in accordance with established normed scores. Applicants who have met the Admission Test scores will be awarded points and will be further evaluated on the point system criteria. Fifty percent (50%) of applicant's total points will come from the nursing admission test. Applicants must take the current admission nursing test; only current test scores will be used to rank the applicants. ***High school students pursuing admission to the Nursing programs are encouraged to take advantage of the high school Allied Health, Owens and Huskins and/or Dual Enrollment programs at Rowan Cabarrus Community College while still in high school to remain competitive in the admission process.***

The point system is an objective means for evaluating nursing applicants. Fifty percent (50%) of an applicant's total points will come from the nursing admission test. Fifty percent (50%) of total points will come from the following: 1. related high school and/or college classes completed prior to Jan 1 of the year to be admitted, 2. Post secondary degrees or diploma, 3. Work experience, and 4. County of residence. Nursing applicants will be ranked based upon points earned, and the students with the highest number of points will be selected. If two or more students have the identical point count total, the reading score will be the deciding factor. If further validation is needed, math, science and writing scores will be utilized.

Point System Selective Admission Process (see next page)

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

Associate Degree Nursing Program
Points System Selective Admission Process

A. Admission Test Score

Points will be awarded for each component of the admissions test	Math		Reading		Writing		Science		Total Points earned
	Score	Pts.	Score	Pts.	Score	Pts.	Score	Pts.	Pts.
POINTS EARNED: 80% and above = 12.5pts. 79% - 70% = 10pts. 69% - 60% = 7.5pts.									

****Applicants must pass each component (Math, Reading, Writing, and Science) of the Admission Test in accordance with established normed scores in order to progress in the Point System Process.***

*****Applicants who have met the Admissions Test Scores will be further evaluated on the Point System Criteria.***

******The point distribution is subject to change based on the National Passing Cut Scores.***

Total Points _____
 Max Pts. Awarded 50

B. Non-Nursing Courses

Course	Semester/Year	A	B	C	Total Pts.
Anatomy and Physiology I BIO 168		4	3	2	
Anatomy and Physiology II BIO 169		4	3	2	
Microbiology BIO 275		4	3	2	
Basic Anatomy and Physiology BIO 163 <i>for PN</i>		4	3	2	
Expository Writing ENG 111		3	2	1	
Argument-Based Research ENG 112		3	2	1	
General Psychology PSY 150		3	2	1	
Developmental Psychology PSY 241		3	2	1	
Life Span Development PSY 110 <i>for PN</i>		3	2	1	

Total Points _____
 Max Pts. Awarded _____ 24 _____

C. Post-Secondary Degree or Diploma (Highest Degree)

Degree Received	Institution	Year
Diploma/Certificate = 5 pts.		
Associate Degree = 10 pts.		
Bachelor's = 15 pts.		
Master's = 20 pts.		

Total Points _____
 Max Points _____ 20 _____

D. Satisfactory completion of **(H.S.) High School Allied Health II Course** with a grad of “C” or better within the last 2 years = 4 pts. ***Must be validated by H.S. transcript.**

*High School/**Employer	From/To	High School Allied Health Course/Job Description

“OR”

Work Experience I the Medical/Health Care Field as a Certified Nursing Assistant

6 months = 1 pt., 12 months = 2 pts., 24 months = 4 pts.

****Must be validated on facility letterhead by employer***

Total Points _____
 Max Points _____ 4 _____

E. Rowan or Cabarrus County of Residence

	County	Points	
	Rowan County	2	
	Cabarrus County	2	

Total Points _____

Max Points _____ 2 _____

SUMMATION OF TOTAL POINTS

Section A _____

Section B _____

Section C _____

Section D _____

Total Pts. Earned _____

Max Pts. _____ 100 _____

Phase III

Alternate List for the Nursing Program

Applicants not offered Contingent Program Placement will be ranked and placed on an alternate list and will be admitted in that order, if space becomes available. Applicants remaining after the fall class has been filled will have to reapply for the next program year and meet current program admission criteria.

9. When items 1-8 have been successfully met, the applicant's file is reviewed by the Admissions Committee and contingent program placement is established. Full acceptance/admission into the Nursing program is not granted until the applicant completes the following items:
 - a. Satisfactory completion of the Readiness for Nursing course (grade of 80 or higher) that will be offered through Continuing Education. The student will have one attempt to complete the course in the summer term. Students who fail the course will have the opportunity to enroll again during the next admission year if they qualify for contingent program placement. All applicants will be required to attend. Days and times will be provided through Continuing Education. No absences are permitted in order to receive credit for the course. The sessions will be scheduled beginning the month of March and ending during the first of July. Class sessions will be restricted in class size to no more than 15 per class. Early registration is advised in order to ensure enrollment and to meet this prerequisite for admission into the nursing programs. Information will be mailed to all tentative fall acceptances.
 - b. Criminal Background History Report and Drug Screen as required by clinical sites. Students will be given directives for securing the report.
 - c. Completed physical examination form (exam within the last 6 months) that provides evidence of satisfactory physical, emotional, and mental health. Pre-admission drug screening is required (see Evaluation of Physical and Emotional Health Technical Standards guidelines and Procedure Regarding Acceptance for Clinical Training for Health Programs). Problematic areas will be handled on an individual basis by the Director of Nursing Education after consultation with clinical affiliates.
 - d. Certification in basic life support, CPR, at the Health Care Provider level (adult, child, and infant). Certification can be obtained through Continuing Education or other approved providers, and must be maintained throughout the NUR course sequence.
 - e. All applicants' admission data, including health form, CPR verification, and criminal background check and mandatory drug screen, must be finalized ten (10) business days prior to the first day of fall semester due to required diagnostic testing and reporting of results. Final approval for admission has to be granted by the Director of Nursing Education.
 - f. All students are required to complete the online Fire & Safety / Infection Control program. Directions for program access will be mailed to all contingently accepted nursing students. Failure to complete this required program will prevent the student from entering NUR 111.
10. When problematic, physical, or mental health conditions exist, faculty may require timely medical reports from the student's physician confirming that the individual is physically and mentally competent to enter, or continue, in the Nursing program.

Re-entry Students

Students unable to progress in the nursing program course sequence may re-apply to the nursing program one time. The student desiring to reapply to the program must do so within one year and will be re-evaluated for program placement based on individual circumstances and program requirements.

Acceptance is contingent upon:

- a. Meeting the current admission, advanced placement and graduation requirements in effect at the time of re-application. Nursing Admission Test scores that are within two years of re-entry and are at or above the current passing national average will satisfy this ADN admission criteria. Students' scores that are not at or above the national passing standard will be required to test and meet current program score requirements.
- b. Availability of space.

Final approval for re-entry has to be granted by the Director of Nursing Education following a thorough review of the student's record by the nursing faculty. The Director of Nursing Education will communicate the faculty's decision to the Admission Committee.

Advanced Placement Students

Students applying to enter the program in an advance placement status must follow requirements stated in the Advanced Placement Policy and stipulations specified for admission. Failure to meet pre-requisite requirements will result in denial of admission. Advanced placement for college transfer students is for first level courses only in order to meet RCCC residency requirements. Final approval for advanced placement admission has to be granted by the Director of Nursing Education following a thorough review of the student's record by the nursing faculty. The Director of Nursing Education will communicate the faculty's decision to the Admission Committee.

Legal Requirement for Nurse Licensure

Students enrolled in the RCCC Nursing program(s) complete an application for licensure as a registered nurse or practical nurse by examination. The application for the examination in North Carolina contains a question as to whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted on a misdemeanor/felony excluding minor traffic violations. If the answer is "yes," the applicant is asked to provide an explanation. This question is asked because of the legal requirements for becoming registered as a nurse in North Carolina. Similar requirements exist in other states. **Applications for initial licensure in North Carolina must have a federal criminal background check.**

The Nursing Practice Act, Article 9, Chapter 90 (90-171.37) In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, the North Carolina Board of Nursing shall have the power and authority to deny any application for licensure, if the Board determines that the applicant:

1. has given false information or has withheld material information from the Board in procuring or attempting to procure a license to practice nursing;
2. has been convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any crime which indicates that the nurse is unfit or incompetent to practice nursing or that the nurse has deceived or defrauded the public;
3. has a mental or physical disability or used any drug to a degree that interferes with his or her fitness to practice nursing;
4. engages in conduct that endangers the public health;
5. is unfit or incompetent to practice nursing by reason of deliberate or negligent acts or omissions regardless of whether actual injury to the patient is established;
6. engages in conduct that deceives, defrauds, or harms the public in the course of professional activities or services; or
7. has willfully violated any provision of the Article or of regulations enacted by the Board.

If a student has any question about his/her eligibility to take the licensing examination, he/she may wish to confer with an attorney or the N.C. Board of Nursing. The RCCC Nursing faculty will provide upon request information regarding resources for further information relative to the legal requirements for licensure.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College does not discriminate in its admissions policies and procedures on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, age, religion, or handicap.

For additional information regarding this program, contact Director of Nursing Education Cathy Norris at 704-216-3701 or 704-216-3708, or send an email to norrisc@rowancabarrus.edu .

EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH BASED ON PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS:

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Physical health is defined as being able to perform fine and gross motor skills, being able to perform normal weight-bearing activities, and free of a communicable disease.

Assessment of the student's physical health is made with the use of information from the physical examination, performed by the applicant's physician, and laboratory tests. The following pre-entrance tests/immunizations are required: TB skin test or chest x-ray for TB sensitive or positive individuals; Rubella/Rubeola or Rubella titer for those individuals with birth dates prior to 1957; and Tetanus vaccine or booster within the last ten years. Hepatitis vaccine is recommended. Validation of immunizations is required.

If a physical condition threatens to prevent or prevents satisfactory classroom or clinical performance, the individual in question is counseled and referred to an appropriate professional at the individual's expense. The recommendation of the professional is utilized in advising the individual with regard to continued enrollment in the program. A person may be denied admission or continued enrollment in the program if the physical problem conflicts with safety essential to nursing practice and does not respond to appropriate treatment within a reasonable period of time.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential training elements, cause undue hardship, or produce a direct threat to the safety of the patient or student.

EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Emotional health is defined as reacting appropriately to stressful situations, understanding one's own ability to cope with stressful situations, and behaving appropriately within the current environment.

Assessment of emotional health of applicants is made through the use of physical examinations, and current psychological evaluations, if necessary, from qualified professionals.

When emotional conditions prevent satisfactory classroom or clinical performance, recommendations are made on an individual basis, for consultation with the appropriate professional(s) at the student's expense. The recommendations of the professional(s) are utilized in advising students with regard to continued enrollment in the nursing program. A person may be denied admission or continued enrollment in the program if the emotional problem conflicts with safety essential to nursing practice and does not respond to appropriate counseling/treatment within a reasonable period of time.

In the case of a qualified individual with a documented disability, appropriate and reasonable accommodations will be made unless to do so would fundamentally alter the essential training elements, cause undue hardship, or produce a direct threat to the safety of the patient or student.

PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION OF THE NURSING STUDENT:

1. **Critical Thinking:** Nursing student should possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. For example: student must be able to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; develop or participate in the development of nursing care plans.
2. **Interpersonal Skills:** Nursing student shall possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. For example: student shall establish rapport with clients/patients and health care team members.
3. **Communication Skills:** Nursing student shall possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form. For example: explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret nursing actions and patient/client responses.
4. **Mobility:** Nursing student shall possess physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, stand and walk for extensive periods of time. For example: moves around in patient's rooms, work spaces and treatment areas, administer cardiopulmonary procedures.
5. **Motor Skills:** Nursing student shall possess gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care. For example: calibrate and use equipment, position patients/clients.
6. **Hearing:** Nursing student shall possess auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. For example: hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, cries for help.
7. **Visual:** Nursing student shall possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment. For example: observe patient/client responses.
8. **Tactile:** Nursing student shall possess tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment. For example: perform palpation, functions or physical examination and /or those related to therapeutic intervention, insertions of catheters.
9. **Weight-Bearing:** Nursing student shall possess ability to lift and manipulate/move 45-50 pounds weekly and sometimes daily. For example: position patients/clients, move equipment.
10. **Cognitive Abilities:** Nursing students shall possess ability to be oriented to time, place and person and organize responsibilities, make decisions. For example: student shall assess client/patient complaints and implement appropriate plans.
11. **Occupational Exposures:** Nursing student may be exposed to communicable disease and/or body fluids, toxic substances, medicinal preparations and shall use appropriate precautions at all times. For example: student may be assigned an AIDS client/patient and shall provide total care using universal precautions.

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