 **Frequently Asked Questions – RN Program**

*Revised March 2015*

1. ***What are the pre-requisites to the RN program?*** The applicant must meet the requirements listed below before admission to the clinical nursing courses required in the RN Program.   
   (*Clinical* nursing courses include: NUR 111, 115, 118, 221, 222, 247, 254 & NUR 135\*)   
   \**NUR 135 may be taken prior to admission to the RN Program with advisor’s consent*

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**  
***(Interested students should contact the nursing office for academic advising)***

* Be accepted as a student to the college.   
  *Please note: Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the Nursing Program*
* Graduation from high school or satisfactory completion of the GED.
* Complete the College Placement test, if no prior college course work in English & Math. If scores indicate, the applicant will be required to successfully complete developmental courses in English and/or math before submitting a nursing application*.   
  Developmental Math requirements include competency in Modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6*
* Complete two units of high school science (college prep level biology & chemistry) with no grade below a "C." Deficiencies can be made up through approved developmental or college level courses. Deficiencies must be completed **before** submitting a nursing application.
* A cumulative college grade point average of **2.5** or better in all related general education requirements completed before admission into the nursing program courses.
* **After** meeting the above criteria, submit an Application for Nursing Program form along with required paperwork, i.e. high school transcripts, college transcripts, etc. ***during the published application period.***
* Pre-RN Admission Examination: The Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) test or equivalent is the final step in the admission process. *Once you have met the above criteria* **and** *your application file has been approved*, you will be scheduled for this timed test. Applicants must have satisfactory scores in reading comprehension, vocabulary, chemistry and mathematics. This score is based on a minimum percentile established by the VCCS. Top scores from each testing group are admitted to the nursing program.
* There is an optional HESI Pre-Admission Exam Review Book ISBN 9781455703333 available for purchase on-line or on closed reserve in the LRC. There is also information available on the HESI website: <http://www.testprepreview.com/hesia2.htm> and a HESI app available for download.  
    
  **APPLICATION PROCESS**
* Applications to the nursing program are processed during the *specified application period.* ***There is an application period each Fall & Spring semester. Specific dates are advertised on the Nursing & Health Science page of the PHCC website*** [*http://www.patrickhenry.edu/healthcareers*](http://www.patrickhenry.edu/healthcareers) *or from the HOME page go to the “Quick Links” tab & scroll down to Health Careers.*
* Applicants are responsible for making certain that all application materials are on file in the nursing department. The materials needed are:
  1. The completed nursing application.
  2. Official high school transcript or GED.
  3. Official transcripts from all colleges other than PHCC.

*Transcript request forms are available in the Admissions Office.*

* Students who have attended other schools within the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) need to sign a *“permission to evaluate”* form in the Admissions Office.
* As soon as the application and all supporting materials are received in the nursing office, **during the published application period**, the application will be processed.
* Emails will be sent from the nursing office to all applicants at the PHCC email address listed on their application. Pre-admission testing (HESI) will be offered to those students who meet all pre-admission requirements. (see page 1)
* Students who meet criteria, meaning score within the state regulation (45th percentile ranking) will be given priority. **NOTE:** When admission must be limited because of the number of qualified applicants exceeding available space, admission to the program will be given to applicants who scored at or above   
  the 45th percentile ranking, and are also residents of the college service area of Martinsville, Henry, Patrick, and Franklin counties. If seats are still available, applicants who scored at or above the 45th percentile ranking, who live outside of the college service area will be offered admission starting with the higher percentile ranking, until all seats are filled.
* Applicants who are not accepted will be eligible to **reapply** during the next application period, at which time applicants meeting admission requirements will be allowed to repeat the admission test (reading comprehension, vocabulary, chemistry, and mathematics). The most recent scores will be used for admission consideration.

1. ***What is the College Placement test? How is that different from the Nursing pre-admission test?***
   * The College Placement test is a placement test for the college (English and math) & will need to be taken prior to enrolling in any PHCC class.**\***   
     **\*If a student has been awarded previous college credit in English and Math, the placement test may not be required.**
   * The **Nursing** Pre-Admission Test (HESI) is done ONLY after meeting the pre-requisites to the Nursing Program
2. ***Do I have to repeat Algebra if I had it in high school?*** If the Virginia Placement Test results indicate that content from Algebra in high school was not retained the course, or courses, depending on the placement test scores, will have to be repeated.
3. ***How long is the RN program?*** The RN program is 4 semesters in length or two years. Core Nursing Courses\* must be taken in the sequence listed in the catalog. General Education Requirements may be taken as listed or be taken prior to starting the program.***See Sample Schedule listed below:***

***FIRST YEAR***

***First Semester***

BIO 231 – Human Anatomy & Physiology (4)

NUR 135 – Drug Dosage Calculations (2)

\*NUR 111 – Nursing I (7)

PSY 230 – Developmental Psychology (3)

SDV 108 – College Survival Skills (1)

\*SDV 101 – Orientation to Careers (1) *Co-requisite to NUR 111*

***Second Semester***

BIO 232 – Human Anatomy & Physiology (4)

NUR 247\* - Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing (3)

NUR 118\* – First Level Nursing II (8) **Total Semester Hours: 69**

SOC 200 – Principles of Sociology (3)

***SECOND YEAR***

***Third Semester***

ENG 111 – College Composition I (3)

HLT 230 – Principles of Nutrition & Human Development (3)

NUR 221\* - Second Level Nursing Principles & Concepts I (9)

CST 110 – Introduction to Communication (3)

***Fourth Semester***

ENG 112 – College Composition II (3)

NUR 222\* – Second Level Nursing Principles & Concepts II (10)

NUR 254\* – Dimensions of Professional Nursing (2)

1. ***What is the Nursing (HESI) Pre-Admission test?***
   * The Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) is a computerized and timed pre-admission test.
   * Areas tested are: Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Chemistry, and Mathematics.
   * Simple calculators and scratch paper are provided during the proctored testing.
   * Resources for review include, but are not limited to, SAT/ACT Review guides, GED review books, and other resources on-line. There is a book available to help review for the test, but as with any comprehensive test, it is just a review. The ISBN # for this book is: 978-1455703333 and is available for review in the PHCC Learning Resource Center or can be purchased off-campus.
2. ***Is there a waiting list for the RN program?***
   * There is no waiting list. Students who are *not accepted* to the nursing program, *may re-apply* during the next published application period.
3. ***Why is it important to see an advisor if I am interested in the RN program?***
   * Admission to the RN program requires *specific* pre-requisites before a student can apply to the program
   * An advisor can help the student make course choices that will make the best use of his/her time
   * Advising hours & contact information are posted on the Health Career page of the PHCC website. [www.patrickhenry.edu/healthcareers](http://www.patrickhenry.edu/healthcareers)
4. ***Is there a separate application for the RN program?*** Yes, see above information.
5. ***How do I transfer credits from other colleges?***Official transcripts should be sent to the Office of Admissions and Records at the time of application to PHCC. These transcripts will be evaluated by the Coordinator for Admissions & Records and credit will be awarded based on that evaluation. If a student has attended another community college in the state of Virginia there is a form to be signed by the student giving the Coordinator for Admissions & Records permission to evaluate the student’s transcript.
6. ***Can credits from another school of nursing be transferred?***Nursing transfer credits will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Nursing Program Head & Faculty   
   AFTER a student has met the admission requirements. Students will need to mark “Transfer” on their   
   nursing application and provide copies of official transcripts and completed nursing course syllabi.   
   *Admission is on a space available basis.*
7. ***What is my program of study before I am accepted into the nursing program?*** 
   * If a student chooses *“nursing”* as their program of study they will be placed in the “Health Science Certificate” program until being formally accepted to the Associate Degree nursing program. Once accepted, the nursing office will then notify the Admissions office to make the curriculum change
   * A student who tests on level for Math and English may also choose “Associate of Arts & Science/Science: Pre-BSN” as their program of study.
8. ***What is the “Science: Pre-BSN” degree?***  This program of study, an Associate degree, differs from the Associate Degree in Nursing by 37 credits. This degree prepares a student to attend a 4-year college/university.This degree is intended for:
   * Associate Degree Nursing graduate completers (RNs) who plan to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree   
      in Nursing (RN - BSN) at a 4-year college/university **(2 + 1 +1 plan)**
   * Students who are planning to apply to an Associate Degree Nursing program **(1 + 2 + 1 plan)**

**This degree is also intended for:**

* + Students who wish to transfer and apply to a *traditional* Bachelor of Science Degree program\*   
     (2 + 2 plan)

1. ***What degree is awarded from PHCC for the RN program?*** Graduates earn an Associate of Applied Science Degree: Health Technology/Nursing (A.A.S)
2. ***Why is my high school transcript so important?***
   * Pre-requisites to the RN program include two High School Sciences courses (Biology & Chemistry).
   * The State Board of Nursing requires that the college have an official high school transcript or GED for each RN candidate to verify high school pre-requisites & high school graduation or GED.
3. ***What if I have a police record – will I be allowed to be admitted to the nursing program?   
   How do I know if I will be able to be employed as a RN when I finish the program?***
   * Nursing courses have a mandatory clinical component and certain clinical facilities will not allow a student with certain types of convictions to participate in clinical in their facility.   
     *This will prohibit the student from completing the nursing program.*
   * Criminal Background Checks are required by every student entering the program.
   * It is the student’s responsibility to research licensing restrictions with the Virginia Department of Health Professions – State Board of Nursing**;** Phone Number (804)367-4515 Web Address: http://www.dhp.state.va.us/Nursing/  **Any student who has a felony conviction is advised to come to the Nursing Office, Philpott 109, to speak with the Nursing Program Head, Amy Webster.**
4. ***What fees are involved other than tuition?*  
   Financial Requirements:** In addition to the usual college tuition and fees, this program requires additional expenses. **Approximate** costs include:
   * $230 – Uniforms
   * $100 – Physical Examination
   * $700/$1200 – Nursing Books
   * $138.83 – AHA BCLS CPR certification
   * $48 (minimum) – Criminal Background Check
   * $38 (minimum) – Drug Screen
   * $390 – Application for Licensure fees
   * Graduation Pin (cost depends on price of gold or silver
   * Transportation to clinical agencies, seminars, etc., as required
5. ***Can I receive financial aid for the program?***Qualified students are eligible for financial aid. You will need to contact the Financial Aid Office located in Walker Room 245. Phone number is: (276)656-0317
6. ***When do classes meet? Can I take evening nursing classes?***
   * **Core Nursing classes** are taught during the day, with some clinical hours in the evening.
   * *Graduation requirements* may be taken during the evening or on-line, if offered.
7. ***What is meant by NCLEX- RN? Who pays for that? Is there a preparation class for that?***
   * NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse) is the state licensing examination to practice as a registered nurse. It is the student’s responsibility to pay for the exam.
   * Optional NCLEX review courses are offered independently from the college. Students may opt to take a review class to prepare for the NCLEX-RN examination.
8. ***Will a student who passes the NCLEX Examination to become a RN have to be re-tested if they pursue a Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing (BSN)?***
   * No, once a student passes the NCLEX Examination they will not have to be re-tested if they continue their education track of RN-BSN.
9. ***What are the NCLEX Examination rates as compared to other schools in Virginia?*** 
   * The chart below reflects NCLEX-RN pass rates for the past 5 years.
   * Pass rates are calculated based on the first testing attempt & reflect two graduate groups/year.

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| **NCLEX-RN Pass Rates** | | | |
| **YEAR** | **National** | **State** | **PHCC** |
| **2014** | 81.78% | 82.9% | 78.05% |
| **2013** | 83.04% | 83.06% | 84.38% |
| **2012** | 90.34% | 90.43% | 92.11% |
| **2011** | 89.32% | 89.5% | 86.96% |
| **2010** | 89.91% | 86.26% | 77.78% |