Purpose:

- To prepare Associate Degree RN graduates to enter university BSN bridge programs.
- To provide a curriculum of study for eligible students who are waiting to apply to the Associate Degree RN program.
- To assist Health Science Certificate completers who are waiting to apply to the Associate Degree RN program.
- To prepare transfer students to enter university BSN programs.

Occupational Objectives:

Recommendation 4 from the Institute of Medicine’s Initiative on The Future of Nursing 2010 report reads as follows: “Increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree to 80 percent by 2020.” It further stated, “Academic nurse leaders across all schools of nursing should work together to increase the proportion of nurses with a baccalaureate degree from 50 to 80 percent by 2020. These leaders should partner with education accrediting bodies, private and public funders, and employers to ensure funding, monitor progress, and increase the diversity of students to create a workforce prepared to meet the demands of diverse populations across the lifespan.”

The A.A.S. Science: Pre-BSN is PHCC’s response to this recommendation.

Patrick Henry Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the associate degree.

Patrick Henry Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policy: Affirmative Action Coordinator, Francis T. West Hall, room 148, (276) 656-0214.

Stephanie Wagoner, Instructor of Nursing at PHCC, earned an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing from PHCC in 1995. She continued her education and earned a Bachelor of Science through NCI from Radford University in 2008.

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Opportunities:
Registered nurses constitute the largest healthcare occupation, with 2.7 million jobs in 2012. More new jobs are expected to be created for registered nurses than for any other allied health occupation. Job opportunities are expected to be excellent. A nurse can earn a competitive salary and specialize in areas such as pediatrics, geriatrics, emergency medicine, critical care, etc. The median annual wage for registered nurses was $65,470 in May 2012.

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow by 19 percent from 2012 to 2022, much faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will be driven by technological advances in patient care, which permit a greater number of health problems to be treated, and by an increasing emphasis on preventive care. In addition, the number of older people, who are much more likely than younger people to need nursing care, is projected to grow rapidly.

Other federal projections indicate the U.S. nursing shortage will grow. Even as health care continues to shift beyond the hospital to more community-based primary care and other outpatient sites, federal projections say the rising complexity of acute care will see a demand for RNs in hospitals to climb by the year 2022.

Important Qualities:
- **Critical Thinking Skills.** RNs must be able to assess changes in the health state of patients, including when to take corrective action and when to make referrals.
- **Compassion.** RNs should be caring and empathetic.
- **Detail oriented.** RNs must be responsible and detail oriented because they must make sure that patients get the correct treatments and medicines at the right time.
- **Emotional stability.** RNs need emotional stability to cope with human suffering, emergencies, and other stresses.
- **Organizational skills.** RNs often work with multiple patients with various health needs. Organizational skills are critical to ensure that each patient is given proper care.
- **Physical stamina.** RNs should be comfortable performing physical tasks, such as helping to lift and to move patients. They may be on their feet for most of their shift.
- **Speaking skills.** RNs must be able to talk effectively with patients to assess their health conditions. They need to explain how to take medication or to give other instructions. They must be able to work in teams with other health professionals and communicate the patients’ needs.

*Information obtained from the United States Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics; Occupational Outlook Handbook

Advantage of BSN:
There are two primary routes to becoming a registered nurse: an associate degree in nursing, or ADN, and a bachelor's degree in nursing, or BSN. Each path to becoming an RN has its advantages and disadvantages. However, more professional nursing organizations, as well as hospitals and health care facilities, are encouraging nurses to seek their BSN rather than ending their education with an ADN. Licensed ADN graduates can work as registered nurses with excellent salaries while they continue their education towards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Advantages of pursuing a BSN include:

- Improved Knowledge & Skill Set
- Greater Opportunity for Advancement
- Increased Employability
- With additional advanced education, registered nurses with a BSN can become independent clinical specialists like nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, or nurse practitioners.

For more information visit the Patrick Henry website www.patrickhenry.edu/healthcareers or contact Amy Webster, Program Head for Nursing/Health Sciences at (276)656-0297