Nursing - LPN to Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing

Overview

PURPOSE: The LPN to AAS degree in Nursing is designed to provide LPNs the opportunity to earn an AAS degree in Nursing. Upon satisfactory completion of the program outcomes, the graduate will be eligible to make application to take the NCLEX-RN licensure exam to become a Registered Nurse.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: General college curricular admission, and program-specific criteria.

PROGRAM NOTES:

1. The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny licensure to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia. Any student entering the Nursing program who has committed any illegal offenses other than minor traffic violations should discuss these matters with the coordinator of the Nursing program prior to admission for clarification. A background check is required for NCLEX-RN application.
2. A criminal background check and drug screen are required of all entering students and, depending on the facility, random drug screens may occur.
3. Inability of a student to be placed in a clinical site due to a negative background check or drug screening may result in an inability to progress in the nursing course and removal from the program.
4. Students who have a break in their enrollment at the college need to meet the currently published admission requirements as well as the courses identified in the current curriculum. It is recommended that students meet with a nursing advisor. A non-break in enrollment is enrollment in at least one course each spring and fall for continuous progression.
5. The program is transitioning to a Virginia Community College System common nursing curriculum in Fall 2017. The revised curriculum will: (1) be predominantly scheduled in 16 week courses; (2) change general education course requirements; (3) change the application process and criteria; and (4) may eliminate any summer nursing course offerings. It is critical that prospective students monitor the program’s web page and roadmap available through the reynolds.edu LPN to AAS Nursing site.
6. Students accepted into the AAS Nursing program are expected to sign an Assumption of Risk document that serves to provide a general outline to hazards encountered within nursing. This list includes exposures to infectious, biological, chemical, environmental/mechanical, psychosocial hazards, as well as loss of personal property.

Reynolds offers part-time evening/weekend and full-time LPN to AAS in Nursing degree options.

• The full-time option is offered during the day and typically admits students in the spring if a sufficient qualified applicant pool is identified. This option is designed for students who do not have to work full-time and can be completed in two academic years (four semesters).

• The part-time evening/weekend option anticipates an admission cycle each spring. The evening/weekend option is structured for a student to progress sequentially over approximately three (3) years. This option was established to facilitate the student who has family and employment obligations and seeks a student commitment of approximately 10 to 14 hours per week of class and clinical experiences.

Student Outcomes for Nursing AAS Degree (LPN to AAS in Nursing):

Students who complete the Nursing AAS degree will be expected to:

1. Provide patient-centered care promoting therapeutic relationships, caring behaviors, and self-determination across the lifespan for diverse populations.
2. Practice safe nursing care that minimizes risk of harm across systems and client populations.
3. Demonstrate nursing judgment through the use of clinical reasoning, the nursing process, and evidence-based practice in the provision of safe, quality care.
4. Practice professional behaviors that encompass the legal/ethical framework while incorporating self-reflection, leadership, and a commitment to recognize the value of lifelong learning.
5. Manage client care through quality improvement processes, information technology, and fiscal responsibility to meet client needs and support organizational outcomes.
6. Demonstrate principles of collaborative practice within the nursing and interdisciplinary teams fostering mutual respect and shared decision-making to achieve stated outcomes of care.

Admission to the AAS Nursing program is competitive, and only a limited number of students will be accepted. Fully qualified students will be ranked according to Kaplan Nursing Admission Test achievement and a complete application. It is imperative that applications be complete, that all procedures be followed, and that applicants prepare themselves academically to be competitive in the review process.

Application requirements are the following:

1. Submission of official high school transcript, GED, or certificate of completion of home schooling transcripts to Central Admissions and Records.
2. Completion of one unit of high school biology with a grade of “C” or better; BIO 1 at Reynolds is the high school equivalent course, or provide an acceptable substitute for this requirement.
3. Completion of one unit of high school chemistry with a grade of “C” or better; CHM 1 at Reynolds is the high school equivalent course, or provide an acceptable substitute for this requirement.
4. Completion of one unit of high school or college algebra with a grade of “C” or better. Applicants who do not have high school algebra with a grade of “C” or better can complete this requirement by passing MTE modules 1 through 6 at Reynolds.
5. Completion of Reynolds’ English and mathematics placement tests and all required developmental courses.
based on the test results. MTE 5 on the math placement test is required. Please see the information titled Placement Test Waivers in the College Catalog for other waiver criteria.

6. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)
   • Completion of the TOEFL iBT with a standard score of 84 or above and a minimum speaking score of 26 is required for ALL non-native English speakers. Completion of ENG 111 does not satisfy this requirement.
   • These scores are based on recommendations from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing for the level of English proficiency required to perform entry-level nursing safely and effectively.
   • Any non-native English speakers who do not take the TOEFL iBT and are determined to be unable to understand and speak English at the required proficiency will be dismissed from the nursing program.
   • TOEFL iBT scores are valid for up to two years.

7. Submission of official college transcripts to Central Admissions and Records for consideration of transfer courses required within the AAS Nursing curriculum. It is the applicant’s responsibility to review transfer courses posted. Transfer courses must match courses offered at Reynolds and have a grade of “C” or above.

8. Completion of the Kaplan Nursing Admission Test with a reading score of at least 73 percent, math score of at least 75 percent, science score of at least 55 percent, and a writing score of at least 52 percent. This application test is free and available through the Reynolds Testing Center. Testing Center dates and times are provided at reynolds.edu/get_started/programs/snah/announcements.aspx. The Kaplan Nursing Admission Test may be repeated once. A two-year interval is required once the test has been taken twice.

9. Applications are ranked based on Kaplan admission scores. The required math score is weighted 30 percent, the reading score is weighted 30 percent, the science score is weighted 30 percent, and the writing score is weighted 10 percent.

10. Receipt of a “C” grade or better in general education courses taken at Reynolds that meet the Nursing AAS degree’s curriculum requirements.

11. Students must have completed 11 credits of general education courses with a grade of “C” or above: BIO 141, ENG 111, SDV 100, and PSY 230.

12. Achievement of a curricular GPA of 2.5. This grade point average is based on the identified four (4) prerequisite courses (11 credits). Repetition of any of the four courses is included in the GPA calculation.

13. Attend a Registered Nurse Information session within six (6) months of applying to the program. These mandatory information sessions are scheduled periodically throughout the semester. Dates, time, and location are provided at reynolds.edu/get_started/programs/snah/announcements.aspx.

14. Non-nursing courses must be completed prior to or concurrent with the approved curriculum sequence.

15. Once admitted, BIO 142, BIO 150, ENG 112, and a humanities/fine arts elective (CST 229 or PHI 101 or PHI 220 or PHI 225 or PHI 227) must be completed prior to or within the identified semester with the co-requisite nursing courses.

16. A minimum grade of “C” is required in each course within the program of study. Students receiving less than “C” in a general education course will be unable to continue in the Nursing program until the grade requirement is met.

17. Provide proof of unrestricted license as a Practical Nurse in Virginia.

Qualified applicants who were not admitted may reapply for admission to the LPN to AAS Nursing degree program.

FUNCTIONAL SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Students entering the LPN to AAS degree in Nursing must possess the following functional skills:

• Sufficient eyesight to observe patients, read records, manipulate equipment, and visually monitor patients in dim light.
• Sufficient hearing to communicate with patients and members of a healthcare delivery team, monitor patients using electronic equipment, hear necessary sounds during operation of equipment, and hear a patient whispering.
• Satisfactory speaking, reading, and writing skills to effectively communicate in English in a timely manner.
• Sufficient bilateral finger dexterity to manipulate equipment.
• Ability to lift, stoop, or bend in the delivery of safe nursing care.
• Satisfactory physical strength and endurance to be on one’s feet for extended periods and to move immobile patients.
• Satisfactory intellectual and emotional functioning to ensure patient safety and to exercise independent judgment and discretion in performing assigned care.

Application Deadlines for LPN to AAS in Nursing:

Note: If applying to more than one program, a separate application is required.

Full-time Day

• Spring start: 3rd Monday in August

Part-time Evening and Weekend

• Spring start: 3rd Monday in August

EXPECTATIONS: The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college and selected community agencies, such as acute care (hospitals), rehabilitation or long-term care facilities, clinics, or comparable agencies and facilities. During these experiences, the Nursing faculty will observe, monitor, and evaluate the student’s ability to achieve program outcomes through direct patient care experiences. Professional conduct and meeting program and course requirements related to dress code, program, and healthcare orientation are required.

CLINICAL CONTRACTS: Individual contracts are in effect with each affiliate clinical agency, and these contracts differ in
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS: In addition to the regular college tuition and fees, the Nursing program requires the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms, Shoes, and Stethoscope</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Testing across the Curriculum</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and Supplies</td>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Exam, Proof of Immunity, Immunizations, TB Testing (student's own physician) -- varies depending on health insurance coverage</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCLEX-RN Application (licensure exam and initial RN license)</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlebranch®, Document Manager®, Background Check, Drug Screening, and Re-checks</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These costs are approximate and subject to change. The student should also consider transportation and parking costs for clinical assignments.


PROGRESSION THROUGH THE PROGRAM: Reynolds offers this program in affiliation with the healthcare agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves and relies on its community affiliates to provide clinical education opportunities for its many courses. The rapid changes in healthcare law, standards of practice, technology, content of credentialing examinations, and availability of qualified faculty increasingly necessitate sudden changes in the program's course content, policies, procedures, and course scheduling. As a result, the college cannot guarantee every student continuous and uninterrupted clinical and course instruction as outlined in the printed catalog curriculum for this program. Circumstances beyond the control of the college may necessitate the postponement of course offerings or changes in the sequencing and/or location of scheduled courses or clinical assignments. Additionally, the college may have to change the instructor for courses after instruction has started.

CONTINUATION IN THE PROGRAM:

- Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.
- Students must achieve a course grade of at least "C" (80) in each nursing course and at least "C" in each non-nursing course to progress through the Nursing AAS degree.
- The clinical portion of designated nursing courses is evaluated as “Pass/Fail.” A student who does not meet the clinical learning outcomes will fail the course.
- Students may take some general education courses with nursing courses. Students are eligible for progression to the next semester at the conclusion of each course in the program based on successful completion of the prerequisite and co-requisite courses.
- Students who fail any two nursing courses or are not successful after two attempts (withdraw or fail) in the same course may not continue in the Nursing program.
- Students may enroll in only one clinical nursing course at a time.
- Students who fail clinical based on any aspect of professional behavior will not be eligible for re-admission. Application to the Reynolds Practical Nursing program may be at risk.

PROGRESSION STATUS: Reynolds has entered into an implied contract with all accepted Nursing program students via the Reynolds catalog. The catalog indicates that once accepted into the Nursing program a student can complete the program within two years, assuming the student attends four consecutive semesters. (Summer is a session, not a semester.) Continuation
in the program is conditional upon those factors identified in the “Progression through the Program” statement.

**Progression 1** students are those who have never failed, dropped, withdrawn, or taken a leave of absence for any reason. Progression 1 students may register for any available space in a course for which they are eligible during the assigned registration period.

**Progression 2** students are those who have withdrawn, failed, or taken a leave of absence. These students have stopped program progress and will be enrolled based on a random lottery drawing for available seats. Progression 2 students will not participate in the online registration process. The Nursing AAS degree's Promotion and Graduation Committee will place these students via a random lottery drawing into available seats. Progression 2 students will return to Progression 1 status after successful completion of the course from which they withdrew or failed.

**NCLEX-RN Licensure Examination Pass Rates for Reynolds Nursing AAS Graduates:** Reynolds Nursing Graduates' pass rates for the NCLEX-RN licensure examination are provided below for 2011 - 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Program Yearly Pass Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AAS in Nursing (traditional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>95.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>96.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>81.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>88.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>96.21</td>
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*NA = No graduates in this category tested that year

**ROADMAP:**

- Full-time LPN to AAS Nursing Program Option: Please meet with your Nursing advisor for an update on this curriculum.
- Part-time LPN to AAS Nursing Program Option: Please meet with your Nursing advisor for an update on this curriculum.

**PROGRAM ACCREDITATION:** The program is

- approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, VA 23233-1463, (804) 367-4515; and
- accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing may be contacted at 3343 Peachtree Rd. NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000.