

Nursing A.A.S. Advisement Tip Sheet

2010-2011

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

Registered Professional Nurses (RN) play vital roles at all levels of the health care system. They are caregivers, counselors, educators, and advocates who work with people of all ages to promote and maintain health. Nursing is a continually growing field that offers diverse opportunities and challenges in a variety of settings.

Admission to the nursing program is selective. Selection will be based on: high school or college grade point average (whichever is more recent), grades in prerequisite science and math courses, and a personal statement of application.

A student who meets the minimum eligibility requirements is not guaranteed admission to the nursing program. Although a GPA of 2.5 allows a student to apply to the nursing program, the average GPA of students who are selected for admission is at least 3.0. Similarly, although C grades in pre-requisite biology and chemistry courses allow a student to apply to the nursing program, the average biology and chemistry grade of accepted students is at least B+.

PRIORITY COURSES

Priority courses for first semester if student is part-time or only able to take 12-13 credits:

Students should focus on completing the nursing program's prerequisite courses: SEE ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS in the Frequently Asked Questions section.

PLEASE NOTE: students who plan to apply for the Nursing program for the following fall should have already completed at least two of the following three courses PRIOR to application, and should at least be enrolled in the third course at the time of application: MATH095, CHEM101, BIOL101. A student who needs to take MATH095 should always take it in the first semester of attendance, since it is a pre-requisite for CHEM101!

If the student has met the admission eligibility prerequisites, then any non-NURS course in the nursing curriculum can be taken. BIOL131 and BIOL132 are particularly helpful to take before starting the sequence of NURS courses.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) must complete all liberal arts courses, NURS102 in the spring before admission and then ONLY NURS208 and NURS225. They are exempt from NURS110 and NURS120. Any LPN should make an appointment with Colleen Armstrong to review requirements.

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COURSE SEQUENCING DETAILS

First Semester: NURS110 (Fall only)

Second Semester: NURS120 (Spring only)

All courses listed in the first two semesters of the nursing program must be completed before the student can continue on to third semester nursing courses.

Third Semester: NURS208 (Fall only)

Fourth Semester: NURS225 (Spring only)

GUIDELINES FOR CHOOSING COURSES

The nursing program includes a Humanities elective. This can be taken at any time.

Students are required to take a Math elective as part of the Nursing program. While MATH109 is acceptable, please be aware that students also need to take MATH095 unless they have met the appropriate placement test score to demonstrate college-level math skills. Also, students who plan to transfer should be encouraged to take MATH200.

BIOL201 and BIOL202 may be substituted for BIOL131 and BIOL132. Students must take both courses in the same pair. Both course pairs are transferable.

ENGL 204 may not be substituted for ENGL 201.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

TC3 graduates who pass the NCLEX-RN licensing examination are eligible for employment in hospitals, nursing homes, doctors' offices, industries, schools, hospices, family planning agencies, and a variety of other community settings. Graduates have found employment in health care facilities throughout the country.

TRANSFER INFORMATION

TC3 encourages our nursing graduates to continue their education. Provided below is a list of area institutions that have formal transfer agreements with TC3 and to which nursing graduates have transferred:

Binghamton University -Decker School of Nursing
Elmira College
Le Moyne College
SUNY Upstate Medical University-College of Nursing
SUNY Institute of Technology

For specific transfer information, contact the office of Counseling, Career and Transfer Services and the Coordinator of Transfer Services.

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Baccalaureate (BS) programs in nursing all have their own requirements. For example, some require a developmental psychology course, some require 2 semesters of college-level chemistry, most require a 3-credit statistics course, etc. The student should check on the requirements of specific programs and plan accordingly.

Students who are interested in becoming Advanced Practice Nurses (nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse educators, nurse anesthetists, etc.) should seek out baccalaureate programs that prepare them to easily transition into masters (MS) programs. Advanced Practice Nursing roles require a master's degree in nursing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Is there an application deadline?

A. Yes, the application deadline is February 15th for students wanting to start in August of the same year.

Application deadlines for transfer applicants:

To enter the 2nd semester (Spring) Dec. 1.

To enter the 3rd semester (Fall) May 15.

To enter the 4th semester (Spring) Dec. 1.

Q. What are the eligibility requirements?

A. There are two sets of minimum eligibility criteria. These are listed as Option 1 and Option 2.

Option 1: For applicants who graduated from high school within the past five years:

- Final high school academic average ≥ 80
- High school course work includes:
 - ✓ NYS math courses A and B
 - ✓ Biology
 - ✓ Chemistry
 - ✓ With Regents scores of $\geq 80\%$ in each course
- All other criteria being equal, preference is given to students who have graduated from a high school in Tompkins, Cortland or Tioga County.

Option 2: For applicants who graduated from high school more than 5 years ago or earned a GED:

- 12 credits of course work at TC3 or another regionally accredited college with an overall grade point average of ≥ 2.0
- College course work must include:
 1. an algebra course (MATH095 or higher) with a grade of $\geq C$
 2. BIOL101 and CHEM101 (both taken within the past five years) with a grade of $\geq C$ OR BIOL104 (taken within the past five years) with a grade of $\geq C$.

For both Options 1 and 2:

- Applicants with more college credits with grades $\geq C$ are ranked higher than those with fewer credits. When all other academic criteria are equal, preference is given to students who have completed course work at TC3.

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- All other criteria being equal, preference is given to students who reside in Tompkins, Cortland or Tioga County.

Q. Are there minimum required grades for courses?

A. A grade of C or above is required in each nursing course and in each biology course in the Nursing program.

Q. How do I improve my chances of being admitted into the nursing program?

A. Things that will help:

- An overall GPA well above the minimum of 2.0. Depending on the applicant pool, applicants may need at least a 3.0 GPA or higher to be admitted to the nursing program.
- Good grades in required science courses. Although C grades are the minimum, there may be other applicants with higher grades in science courses. Applicants with science grades above C will have a better chance of being admitted to the program.

Q. Is there a time limit for completion of the program?

A. Yes, the nursing program must be completed within 5 years of the time a student first enrolls in NURS110: Fundamentals of Nursing. Students who exceed the five-year time frame may apply to restart the program.

Q. Can the nursing program be completed on a part-time basis?

A. Yes, many students complete the non-NURS courses before applying for admission into NURS courses. The non-NURS courses can be taken over as many semesters as the student chooses. However, science credits must have been earned within the past five years in order to apply to the nursing program. For example, a student should not take BIOL101 and then wait eight years before applying for admission into the nursing program. The five-year limit also applies to science courses taken at other colleges. Once the student starts the sequence of NURS courses, he or she will have a course load of 7-10 credits. Although this is part-time, it is not far off from being a full-time load.

Q. Can a student work while in the nursing program?

A. Yes, many students have jobs while in the nursing program. Twenty hours per week is a reasonable workload. More than this makes it very difficult for students to be successful in nursing courses.