

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



School of Nursing and Allied Health Information Package

A.A.S. Degree Nursing Program

Leading to Licensure as a Registered Nurse



“J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution providing access to educational and employment opportunities without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran’s status, political affiliation or disability.”

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The material contained in this brochure is for your information only and is subject to change without notice.



Dear Applicants:

Thank you for requesting information on the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program that prepares graduates for licensure as a Registered Nurse. Registered Nurses play a big role in health care delivery in hospitals, nursing homes, and other agencies, and so you are choosing to enter a profession that is of great importance to society as well as being personally satisfying.

There are several qualities that nurses should possess. Nurses must be: critical thinkers who can manage math and sciences applications; good at communicating both verbally and in writing with a diverse population; physically adept at handling equipment and performing various tasks; effective managers of other individuals; and very importantly, empathetic and caring. If you possess at least a few of these qualities, we would like to help you develop the others.

Any nursing curriculum is demanding so you should consider your situation carefully as you make this decision. While all the general education courses can be taken in day or evening classes, most clinical nursing courses must be taken during daytime hours. While many students continue their employment while in college, it is extremely difficult to work full-time while taking your clinical nursing courses. You need to consider this as you make your educational choice.

As you are probably aware there is currently a very significant shortage of Registered Nurses throughout the United States, and this shortage is predicted to continue for at least twenty years. Registered nurses are very much in demand in the job market and salaries are still rising in response to this shortage. Newly Registered nurses in the Richmond area are now being offered base salaries of approximately \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year and these salaries are expected to rise in the near future.

This information packet provides general admission information for all applicants. There are also sections for those qualifying for advanced placement credits, including Licensed Practical Nurses and transfer nursing students. Information for graduates with four year college degrees is also included. Please pay particular attention to the information that applies to your personal status.

Nursing is a very rewarding profession and we hope that you are seriously interested in this educational choice. Please follow carefully the admission steps in the sequence shown in the appropriate section of this packet.

Sincerely,

Nancy O'Donnell
Coordinator, Nursing Programs

A.A.S. Degree Nursing Program

Summary of Steps Needed for Admission

Step One: Enroll in and complete Pre-Nursing and Allied Health (CSC Program)

All applicants interested in pursuing a Nursing AAS Degree (in preparation to become an RN) must first apply to JSRCC community college and complete the requirements for the **Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Career Studies Certificate Program**. *Entry into the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health CSC Program does NOT ensure entry into the Nursing (AAS) Program.*

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Where to find information on requirements to fulfill the *Pre-Nursing and Allied Health CSC*

- **Nursing Information Sessions** (Attendance is required for all nursing applicants.)
- **In person advising:** *Student Success Centers* and
- **The following brochures:**
 - *Advising Sheet: NURSING APPLICANTS with College Credits,*
 - *Advising Sheet: NURSING APPLICANTS with no prior College Credits*

Brochures and dates for Information Sessions are available at Student Success Centers, at School of Nursing and Allied Health at Downtown Campus, 804-523-5375, and on-line:

<http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/curriculum/programs/marketingprograms/NursingAAS.htm>

Step Two: Then apply to enter Nursing Program (AAS Degree)

After completing the requirements of the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health CSC, all those interested in entry into the Nursing Program at JSRCC must submit an application for acceptance into that program.

In order to obtain an application for Clinical Nursing Courses you must attend an information session. Acceptance into the Nursing Program is a competitive process—depending upon one's academic performance--*not all students who fulfill minimum requirements will be accepted.*

Where to find information on Step Two

- **Nursing Information Sessions**
- **In person advising:** *Nursing Admissions Coordinator (Downtown) 804-523-5165*
- **This packet:**
 - *Part I -- How to Apply to the JSRCC Nursing Program*

Contact the Nursing Program at School of Nursing and Allied Health at Downtown Campus, 804-523-5375 or 523-5476, and on-line:

<http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/curriculum/programs/marketingprograms/NursingAAS.htm>

Step Three: Once Accepted into Nursing Program, then fulfill additional health and safety requirements prior to entry into first Nursing courses.

Once students have received notice that they have been accepted into the Nursing Program, they must complete a number of *health and safety requirements* before enrolling in clinical nursing courses. Failure to do so could result in losing one's spot in the Nursing Program.

This information will be discussed at the Orientation Session prior to the first clinical nursing course.

Part I -- How to Apply to the JSRCC Nursing Program?

Complete Step One: Fulfill Requirements of Pre-Nursing and Allied Health CSC

- See these brochures for **detailed** information:
 - *Advising Sheet: NURSING APPLICANTS with College Credits,*
 - *Advising Sheet: NURSING APPLICANTS with no prior College Credits*
- ***Brief Overview of Requirements:***
 - Meet minimum admission requirements
 - Send official college and high school transcripts to college registrar
 - HS diploma/GED with biology, algebra and chemistry (or college equivalent) with at least C (Waived only for qualified transfer nursing students)
 - Satisfactory completion of required college placement tests
 - *Reading and Writing* placement tests for those without college composition
 - *Math* placement test for all applicants
 - Complete any courses required as result of placement tests
 - Kaplan Nurse Admissions Test – reading and math score of at least 45 each (waived for candidates with an AAS, BS, BA, Masters Degree, or LPNs). The test is good for 3 years.
 - Completion of 26 credits of required general education (Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Career Studies Certificate)
 - Curricular GPA at least 2.5
 - Complete all required general education courses (26 credits) with grade of C or by transfer by another college.

Complete Step Two: How to Apply to the Nursing Program?

- **All Applicants must submit portfolio containing the following items by specified dates to School of Nursing Room 525:**
 - Complete *Application for Clinical Nursing Courses*
 - This is the official application form for entry into the Nursing Program (AAS).
 - This form may be obtained only at the information sessions.
 - *Unofficial* high school and college transcripts
 - Copy of *Kaplan* Nurse Admissions Test Scores
 - Copy of *Math* Placement Test Scores
 - **Deadlines:**
 - **For spring class** – 5 pm on September 15 (or closest business day)
 - Notification of acceptance – October 15
 - **For summer class** – 5 pm on March 15 (or closest business day)
 - Notification of acceptance – April 15
 - **For fall class** – 5 pm on April 15 (or closest business day)
 - Notification of acceptance – May 15

NOTE: *Students must have completed all the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health CSC courses before submitting their application to the Nursing Program.*

Portfolio of applicants will be evaluated as follows:

- The allotted number of applicants with highest point total each semester will be accepted for specified entry level course.
- **Applicants who have a prior degree** will have their points tabulated according to:
 - GPA
 - Degree earned
- **Applicants who do not have a prior degree** will have their points tabulated according to:
 - GPA
 - Kaplan Nurse Admissions Test
- **Point value for qualifications are:**
 - **Curricular GPA:** (Only courses in the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health curriculum will be included. JSRCC and transfer credits from other colleges receive same weight.)
 - >3.7 5 pts
 - 3.4 – 3.69 4 pts
 - 3.1 – 3.39 3pts
 - 2.8 – 3.09 2 pts
 - 2.5 – 2.79 1 pt
 - **Previous education:**
 - AAS degree 2 pt
 - BS or BA 4 pts
 - Master’s 5 pts
 - **Kaplan Nurse Admissions Test Scores: Points are awarded separately for Math and Verbal.**
 - >85 5 pts
 - 75 – 84 4 pts
 - 65 – 74 3 pts
 - 55 – 64 2 pts
 - 45 – 54 1 pt
- **Early Admission--**Applicants who turn in a completed packet in advance of the application deadline with a GPA of greater than 3.5, and who have completed all support classes, may be offered early admission.

Advanced Placement Students:

A. Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) seeking admission

1. Must meet general admission requirements and complete application form.
2. Must have active, *unrestricted* license as LPN throughout duration of program.
3. Must take NUR 115, *Transition to Registered Nursing* prior to entry into clinical nursing courses. Students will take NUR 226 concurrently with NUR 115. Students must successfully complete both NUR 115/226 in order to progress.
 - a. Students who successfully complete NUR 115/226 will receive credit for NUR 111 and are eligible to enroll in the second level (NUR 112, 204, or 206) of the professional nursing program on a space available basis.
 - b. Students who receive a grade of D or less may re-enroll in NUR 115 or may choose to apply for admission to NUR 111 as a traditional student.
4. Must enter clinical nursing courses within one calendar year of completion of NUR 115 or re-enrollment in NUR 115 will be necessary.

B. Students from another Nursing Program seeking to Transfer into JSRCC Nursing Program

The records/requests of applicants entering the traditional program requesting advanced placement status as a transfer student will be evaluated *individually*. Since transferring nursing applicants will have completed admission requirements at the transferring institution, JSRCC Nursing Program admission requirements are modified. *Students who meet all eligibility requirements may be accepted on a space available basis.*

1. Student must have written validation of eligibility to return to previous nursing program.
2. If student is not eligible for return to previous nursing program, an application for entry into NUR 111 will be required with applicant meeting all JSRCC program admission criteria.
3. If the nursing school that the student is coming from does not have a policy regarding the amount of failures one can have and remain in that program, then the JSRCC policy of two failures/withdrawals will be utilized. Students who have two failures in core nursing courses from another nursing program will not be eligible for transfer to JSRCC.
4. Unofficial transcripts and copies of course packets from previous nursing program must be submitted with portfolio to the Nursing Office, Room 525 for evaluation by the Admissions and Transfer Committee of the Nursing Program.
5. Successful applicants will be informed as to the procedure for the required orientation to the JSRCC Nursing Program.

Part II -- After Acceptance, What is Needed to Begin Clinical Nursing Courses?

The following information will be discussed more thoroughly at the Orientation Session prior to the first clinical nursing course.

Pre-Entrance Health Requirement

Completion of physical and dental examinations, including immunizations, is required in the term immediately preceding enrollment in the first clinical nursing course for **all applicants**. Forms will be provided at time of acceptance into a clinical nursing course. Applicants must be free of any physical or mental condition that might adversely affect safety and performance as a nurse. Validation of freedom from tuberculosis is required annually of all nursing students through skin testing or chest X-ray.

Functional Skills Requirement

Students entering the nursing program must possess the physical ability to:

- 1) aid in the lifting and moving of patients;
- 2) hear audible alarms and sounds;
- 3) auscultate certain physical parameters – such as blood pressure, heart and lung sounds; and
- 4) interact effectively with patients, families and health care team members.

This is validated on the pre-entrance physical exam and includes:

- 1) Sufficient eyesight to observe patients, read records, manipulate equipment, and visually monitor patients in dim light
- 2) Sufficient hearing to communicate with patients and members of health care delivery team, monitor patients using electronic equipment, and hear necessary sounds during operation of equipment
- 3) Satisfactory speaking, reading and writing skills to effectively communicate in English in a timely manner
- 4) Sufficient gross and fine motor coordination to manipulate equipment, lift, stoop or bend in the delivery of safe nursing care
- 5) Satisfactory physical strength and endurance to be on feet for extended periods and to move immobile patients
- 6) Satisfactory intellectual and emotional function to ensure patient safety and to exercise independent judgment and discretion in performing assigned tasks

Clinical facilities used by the program mandate additional requirements for students that include updated immunizations, dress codes and conformance with professional standards.

Legal Restrictions

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. There is also a July 1992 change in Virginia law that prohibits licensed nursing homes, home care organizations, licensed homes for adults, and licensed adult day care centers from hiring any individual who has been convicted of a broad range of criminal acts. Any student entering the program who has committed any illegal offenses other than minor traffic violations should discuss these matters with the Nursing Coordinator prior to application.

Background Checks

Background checks are required of all students. Details concerning cost and vendor use will be provided in a letter sent to applicants informing them of their acceptance for entry into clinical nursing courses. The background check must be completed the first week of enrollment in the first clinical course. **Applicants may not be allowed to continue in clinical area if deemed ineligible per that facility.**

Part III – General Information about Nursing Program

Estimated Program Costs: August, 2009

Tuition 67 credits x \$101.30	6,787
Uniforms and Shoes	300
Books, Instruments & Supplies	1,500
Special Tests	600
Medical & Dental Examinations (Personal Physician and Dentist)	500
Graduation	500
Travel to Clinical Agencies	Variable
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	\$10,187

How to Apply for Financial Aid (Loans/Grants)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check this site for detailed information: http://www.reynolds.edu/studentaffairs/faid.htm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit FAFSA to Federal Government http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/ Reynolds code is: 003759
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Financial Aid Advisors : 523-5455 Downtown 523-5368 Parham Rd Campus 662-6400 Western Campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadlines for submitting FAFSA: Fall semester=April 15 Spring semester=September 15 Summer semester=March 15
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- Be sure to respond to all Financial Aid correspondence *as quickly as possible* to ensure your aid will not be delayed. One of the most common reasons students do not receive aid is that they delay in responding to the Financial Aid officer.

How to Apply for Scholarships

- JSRCC scholarships are handled *separately* from financial aid. If you are applying for a JSRCC scholarship, your application materials should be submitted to the Scholarship Office. Submitting JSRCC scholarship application materials to the college's Financial Aid office could cause your application to be delayed or misdirected.
- Please contact the JSRCC Scholarship Office to obtain an application: 804-523-5084
- An on-line application is available: http://www.reynolds.edu/jsr_fnd/forms/scholarshipapp.htm
- Numerous scholarships have separate applications available at the Scholarship website: http://www.reynolds.edu/jsr_fnd/supportfdn/areas/scholarships.htm
- **Deadlines** for submitting application to the Scholarship Office are:
March 30th for the next Fall Semester
October 1 for the next Spring Semester

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM CURRICULUM

Required College Course	TITLE	LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	COURSE CREDITS
ITE 115 or CSC 155 *	<i>Either computer course or computer competency test</i>	3	0	3
Required General Education Courses*	TITLE	LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	COURSE CREDITS
ENG 111 *	College Composition I	3	0	3
MTH 120 *	Introduction to Mathematics	3	0	3
NAS 161 *	Health Science I	3	3	4
NAS 162 *	Health Science II	3	3	4
SDV 100 *	College Success Skills	1	0	1
PSY 230 *	Developmental Psychology	3	0	3
SOC 200 *	Principles of Sociology	3	0	3
_____*	Humanities Elective http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/catalog/ (Page 48)	3	0	3
_____*	Elective (computer class or test may fulfill this)	2	0	2
TOTAL		24-26	6-10	26
Required Clinical Nursing Courses	TITLE	LECTURE HOURS	LAB HOURS	COURSE CREDITS
NUR 111 ^{1,2}	Nursing I	5	9	8
NUR 226 ²	Health Assessment	1	3	2
NUR 112	Nursing Fundamentals II	4	9	7
NUR 204 ³	Mental Health Nursing	3	9	6
NUR 206 ³	Maternity/Women's Health Nursing	3	9	6
NUR 207	Pediatric Nursing	3	9	6
NUR 208	Acute Medical - Surgical Nursing	3	9	6
TOTAL		21	56	41
Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in Nursing				67

* Courses thus indicated complete the Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Career Studies Certificate. All of these courses must be satisfactorily completed prior to enrollment in NUR 111. Students must pass the computer competency exam or complete [ITE 115](#) or [CSC 155](#) or equivalent prior to NUR 111.

¹ CPR certification (American Heart Association, "BLS for the Health Care Provider") is required of all entering students.

Copy of CPR card must be presented to faculty at time of initial clinical course enrollment.

^{1,2} NUR 111 and NUR 226 must be taken at the same time.

³ NUR 112, NUR 204, and NUR 206 must be completed prior to NUR 207 and 208.

Clarification of Program Length

The college offers this program in partnership with the healthcare agencies and practitioners in the communities the college serves. The college relies on its community partners to provide clinical education opportunities for its students, expert clinical preceptors, and course instructors for many courses. The often rapid changes in healthcare law, standards of practice, technology, and content of credentialing examinations increasingly necessitates sudden changes in the programs' 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 content or instructor for courses after instruction has started.

Accreditation

The A.A.S. degree nursing program is approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. (NLNAC) The NLNAC may be contacted at 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326; (800) 669-1656 or www.nlnac.org.

CHECKLIST FOR RN APPLICANTS

Students must complete all requirements of Pre-Nursing and Allied Health CSC (For details see: *Advising Sheet: NURSING APPLICANTS – discussed on page 4 of this document*).

Checklist for the Traditional RN applicant for Nursing Portfolio

_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of high school transcript
_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of college transcripts (if applicable)
_____ Date Completed Kaplan Nurse Admissions Test /Math placement scores
_____ Date Completed Completion of all 26 general education courses
_____ Date Completed Clinical Nursing application form

Checklist for the LPN to RN applicant for Portfolio

_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of high school transcript
_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of college transcript (if applicable)
_____ Date Completed Completion of all 26 general education courses
_____ Date Completed Clinical Nursing application form
_____ Date Completed Math Placement Scores

Checklist for Transfer student from Core Clinical Nursing Program

_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of high school transcript
_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of college transcript and nursing transcript
_____ Date Completed Letter from Director of Nursing at current nursing school stating student is in good standing and can return to that School of Nursing
_____ Date Completed Clinical Nursing application form
_____ Date Completed Math Placement Scores

Checklist for Associates/Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree

_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of high school transcript
_____ Date Completed Unofficial copy of college transcript
_____ Date Completed Completion of all 26 general education courses
_____ Date Completed Clinical Nursing application form
_____ Date Completed Math Placement Scores