

J. Sargeant Reynolds  
Community College



**School of Nursing and Allied Health**

# **PARAMEDIC TO RN**



## **Information Package**

Update 30-Mar-06



**Nursing Program**  
**P.O. Box 23285**  
**Richmond, VA 23285-5622**

Dear Paramedic:

Nationally registered in-state paramedics holding current registration have the opportunity to earn the AAS degree in nursing through J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in a way designed to accommodate the unique scheduling needs of many paramedics. This program, approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing, is available through the Internet to accepted students in the Richmond area in Virginia. Accepted paramedics currently receive a total of eight (8) advanced placement credits toward the 69 credits normally awarded for the six nursing courses. This significantly decreases the cost for completing the nursing program for students in this track. Paramedics still take all of the nursing courses within the curriculum over a span of four (4) semesters. The paramedic to RN track is part of the nationally accredited nursing program at JSRCC that has been in existence since 1973. More than three classes of paramedics have completed the program and all have been very successful in gaining licensure to practice as an RN! We only take a class of 12 paramedics each August so there are space limitations.

Paramedic applicants must meet the same admission criteria as all nursing program applicants and must also complete all general education courses identified in the nursing curriculum. Paramedics, however, are awarded credit for the required health or physical education course upon graduation from the program. Adherence to all nursing program and college policies required of the traditional student is also expected. The major difference for the student in the paramedic track is the decrease in credits already mentioned as well as the way the courses are delivered.

The theory content of nursing in the paramedic track is presented over the Internet utilizing faculty prepared notes. Instruction in required nursing skills utilizes CDs purchased by the paramedic student, with these skills assessed by nursing faculty prior to student practice in the clinical setting. Clinical experiences will be supervised and guided by a registered nurse employed by a hospital with supervision and coordination of this experience by the JSRCC nursing faculty member. Some of the hospitals used for clinical practice are outside the Richmond area.

Use of technology- including the Internet, email and fax - as well as precepted clinical experiences allows greater flexibility with the rather unique work schedule expected of most paramedics. This more self-directed course design does require that the paramedic student be highly motivated and self-disciplined in allotting time for adequate study and assignment completion.

We feel that paramedics are uniquely able to do this. Read carefully the information in this packet about admission requirements and follow through on these. A word of caution - many applicants choose to delay fulfilling high school and placement test requirements, opting instead to work on the required college courses. This only delays admission and entry into the program; therefore, you should start with high school and placement test requirements. We look forward to hearing from you and to help you work through the process of admission. Please free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Email is probably the speediest way to reach me. We hope to see you here soon, ready to be oriented to your first nursing course!! Let us know how we can help.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Z. Abell, RN, MS  
Paramedic to RN Coordinator  
jabell@jsr.vccs.edu  
(804) 523-5779; Fax: (804) 786-5298 – attn. Abell

**1. Nursing Program Curriculum Admission Requirements:**

- Applicants should submit JSRCC admission form to JSRCC, indicating Paramedic to RN as their curriculum.
- Applicants should have completed biology, chemistry and a year of algebra in high school with a grade of at least a C. (If any of these are lacking, CHM 01, BIO 01 and MTH 03 must be completed.) Official transcripts from HS should be sent to the JSRCC registrar.
- All applicants, including those with 4-year college degrees, **must** complete the JSRCC math placement test.
- Students are required to complete all general education and science courses in the attached first curriculum block – ENG 111 through STD 100 - with a C or higher before enrolling in nursing 108. These courses may be completed at other colleges and transferred to JSRCC. Official transcripts of all courses must be submitted to the JSRCC registrar in a timely manner. Be advised that transfer courses do not affect your JSRCC grade point average.
- Students are encouraged to complete the remaining general education courses in the second and third curriculum blocks – ENG 112, NAS 162, PSY 230 - prior to registering for NUR 108. JSRCC does accept BIO 232-232 or BIO 141-142 in lieu of NAS 161-162.
- Students must achieve a grade of at least a C in all general education, science and nursing courses in the curriculum and maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

**2. Comparison of Current Basic Nursing program with Paramedic to RN Nursing track:**

- Paramedics receive 8 advanced placement credits for having current national paramedic registration at the conclusion of the nursing program. Paramedics are awarded HLT or PE credits for completion of paramedic curriculum. Courses that will be awarded advanced credit are indicated by \*\*\* on the attached nursing curriculum.

**3. Application for Nursing 108**

- Interested applicants should submit the Application for NUR 108 form along with a copy of the current national paramedic card to the coordinator of the track. This form is used to create a database on applicants that is updated as admission requirements are completed.
- Entering classes will be limited to a specific number of registrants from the Richmond metropolitan area, based on earliest completion of admission and curriculum prerequisites for NUR 108. In other words, applicants who have met all admission requirements and completed all NUR 108 prerequisites will be notified by the Paramedic to RN track coordinator of eligibility to register.

**4. Procedure for entry into Paramedic to RN track.**

- a. Submit the completed JSRCC Admission Form to JSRCC with nursing as the curriculum chosen.
- b. Submit the completed Application for NUR 108 form and the current copy of national paramedic registry card to the Paramedic to RN coordinator. This may be faxed to the number shown on the previous page.
- c. Have official high school and college transcripts sent to the JSRCC Registrar.
  - i. Advise the Paramedic to RN coordinator about HS and college course completion for determination of enrollment status by providing that information on the NUR 108 Application form.
- d. Take the JSRCC math placement test. (Must be done by ALL applicants.)
- e. Arrange to take a computer skills test through the testing center – 523-5470- unless applicant has college credit for ITE course within the past 5 years. Satisfactory completion of the computer skills test will result in credit for ITE 115 by ABLE.
- f. Complete dental, medical and immunization requirements prior to first clinical nursing experience. (These forms will be distributed during a general orientation to the program scheduled by the coordinator.)

**5. Placement Testing at JSRCC: what you need to know**

- Review needed areas for placement testing – see college website for guides to questions that may be included on the placement tests.
- Schedule placement testing at any JSRCC campus. Math placement testing must be done even if college math has been completed.
- Reading and writing placement testing are required if college English has not been completed.

**6. Transcripts**

- Have an official copy of HS and college work sent to JSRCC Office of Admissions and Records
- Have an unofficial copy sent to your home in case this is needed for discussion with the coordinator.

**7. How to Engage in Internet Instruction and Be Successful (attached at the end)**

**8. Listing of Needed Hardware and Software for Internet Program Delivery (attached at the end)**

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Paramedic to RN Program Procedures for Admission**

Directions: Check off each step as you complete it. To qualify to register for NUR 108, all of the steps below should be completed. Completion of these steps leads to qualification for entry into Nursing 108. Enrollment into NUR 108 is contingent on space availability.

1.	Be a current nationally registered Paramedic. Xerox a copy of your registration card and attach this to Letter of Intent to Enroll in Nursing 108 form. These can be faxed to Coordinator at 786-5298.
2.	Complete and submit the JSRCC application form, indicating "Paramedic to RN" on line #14. Mail to J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) Admissions office at P.O. Box 85622, Richmond, Virginia 23285-5622.
3.	Request official transcripts from high school, and/or GED, and any previous colleges attended. Submit to J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College (JSRCC) Admissions office at P.O. Box 85622, Richmond, Virginia 23285-5622.
4.	Complete high school requirements: High school or college Algebra, Biology, and Chemistry with final grade of "C" or better. MTH 03=Algebra, BIO 01=Biology and CHM 01=Chemistry. These prerequisites can be taken at JSRCC or any local community college. Send transcripts to JSRCC.
5.	Schedule and take required college placement tests in reading, writing and mathematics. Reading and writing tests are waived for students who have completed college level English. Students who have not completed college level English and whose placement tests were taken more than one year ago must retake reading and writing placement tests. <u>All nursing applicants must take the basic mathematics placement test</u> regardless of previous math courses taken in high school or college. Placement tests can be taken on any of the three college campuses. To schedule an appointment for placement testing, call one of the following offices: Downtown Campus/523-5470. (See Placement Test info on the JSRCC website.)
6.	Advise the program coordinator of placement test completion. The program coordinator will help interpret scores and determine if further courses may be necessary prior to starting NUR 108. At that time, you will be assisted in registering for any remedial courses if indicated. Call 1-800-711-1628 and ask to speak to the Paramedic to RN Program Coordinator, Judy Abell, (804) 523-5779.
7.	Return Application for NUR 108 form. <b>Be sure to attach a copy of your current national Paramedic registration card.</b>
8.	Complete the first semester of nursing curriculum college credits: ENG 111, MTH 120, NAS 161 (Anatomy and Physiology), SOC 200, and STD 100 (Orientation). Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher in all required general education and science courses of the nursing curriculum preceding admission into your first clinical nursing (NUR) course, and make a grade of "C" or higher in all courses in the curriculum. Submit these transcripts promptly.
9.	Complete physical and dental examinations including immunizations in the term immediately preceding enrollment in the first clinical nursing course (NUR). Forms will be distributed during orientation session prior to start of NUR 108. Applicants must be free of any physical or mental condition, which might adversely affect their acceptance or performance as nurses.

**If enrollment is limited due to space availability, the selection of the students who may enroll will be those with the earliest completion dates for numbers one through eight of the above steps.**

## **Legal Restrictions**

The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny licensure to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54-367.32 of the Code of Virginia. There is also a July 1999 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 Program Head prior to admission.

**JSRCC Paramedic to RN Track  
Application for Nursing 108**

<b>Applicant Name:</b>	<b>Mailing Address:</b>
<b>Home &amp; cell phone:</b>	<b>Home email address:</b>
<b>Work phone:</b>	<b>FAX number:</b>
<b>EMT-P Number:</b>	<b>Expiration date:</b>
<b>S.S. #</b>	<b>JSRCC EMPLID #:</b>
<b>Date of Birth:</b>	<b>County of Residence:</b>
<b>Place of employment:</b>	<b>General work schedule:</b>

*Changes in phone numbers or email addresses should be provided to Coordinator of Paramedic to RN track.*

**Please provide the following information:**

<b>Course &amp; Grade Received</b>	<b>Where taken</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	<b>Transcript sent</b>
High school: Biology Chemistry Algebra			
Eng 111 Eng 112			
NAS 161 NAS 162 Accept BIO 141-142, 231-232 also			
SOC 200			
PSY 230			
MTH 120 (or higher)			
IST 100 (or pass proficiency exam)			
STD 100			
Elective			

Are you willing to be assigned to clinical agencies in the Richmond area? Yes\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_

Date desired to enroll in NUR 108: \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of current EMT-P card attached: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### NURSING PROGRAM CURRICULUM

Nursing courses in basic\* RN curriculum and paramedic\*\* to RN curriculum. Paramedics omit nursing courses with \* and substitute those with \*\*. Courses with \*\*\* will show on graduate's final transcript.

<i>COURSE</i>	<i>TITLE</i>	<b>LECTURE CREDITS</b>	<b>LAB CREDITS</b>	<b>COURSE CREDITS</b>
<i>ENG 111</i>	College Composition I	3	0	3
<i>MTH 120</i>	Introduction to Mathematics	3	0	3
<i>NAS 161</i>	Health Science I	3	3	4
<i>SOC 200</i>	Introduction to Sociology I	3	0	3
---- ----	Health or Physical Education	0-2	2-4	2***
<i>STD 100</i>	Orientation	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>13-15</b>	<b>5-7</b>	<b>16</b>
ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
NAS 162	Health Science II	3	3	4
NUR 111*	Nursing I	5	9	8
NUR 108**	Nursing Principles & Concepts I	3	6	6**
NUR 105***	Nursing Skills			2***
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9** - 11*</b>	<b>9** - 12*</b>	<b>15* **</b>
PSY 230	Developmental Psychology	3	0	3
NUR 112*	Nursing Fundamentals II	4	9	7
NUR 226*	Physical Assessment	1	3	2
NUR 112**	Nursing Fundamentals II	3	6	5
NUR 226**	Health Assessment	1	3	2
NUR 137***	Principles of Pharmacology	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7** - 8*</b>	<b>9** - 12*</b>	<b>12* **</b>
NUR 204*	Mental Health Nursing	3	9	6
NUR 204**	Mental Health Nursing	3	6	5
NUR 299***	Mental Health Nursing - Paramedic Advanced Placement			1
NUR 206*	Maternity/Women's Health	3	9	6
NUR 206**	Maternity/ Women's Health	3	6	5
NUR 299***	Maternity/ Women's Health - Paramedic Advanced Placement			1
---- ----	Elective	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7* **</b>	<b>12** - 18*</b>	<b>13* **</b>
NUR 207*	Pediatric Nursing	3	9	6
NUR 207**	Pediatric Nursing	3	6	5
NUR 299***	Pediatric Nursing - - Paramedic Advanced Placement			1
NUR 208*	Acute Medical-Surgical Nursing	3	9	6
NUR 208**	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3	6	5
NUR 299***	Acute Medical-Surgical Nursing Paramedic Advanced Placement			1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>12** - 18*</b>	<b>13* **</b>
<b>Total Minimum Credits for AAS Degree in Nursing</b>				<b>69</b>

Note: Paramedic to RN students take courses indicated with \*\*. These are equivalent to the nursing courses in the basic program indicated with a \*. These differences allow for paramedic RN student to receive advanced placement credits for prior education and experience with current national registry status. At the conclusion of the AAS program, the courses listed above \*\*\* are included on the student's final transcript. Paramedics receive credit for the HLT-PE requirement based on their paramedic curriculum completion. Students **need** credit for IST (100) either through course completion or proficiency exam.

<sup>1</sup> CPR certification (American Heart Association, "BLS for the Healthcare Provider") is required for all entering students.

## **Listing of Needed Hardware and Software for Enrollment in an Internet Course**

### **Hardware Needs:**

The following hardware items are needed to be in an Internet course:

- Pentium PC with at least 100 MHZ (but faster is recommended)
- 28.8 K modem (but 56 K, ISDN, cable modem. or T1 access recommended)
- CD ROM drive (12X recommended)
- Access to a telephone for you and your instructor to contact one another (voice mail is helpful)
- Access to an internet service provided (ISP) such as America Online, Mind Spring, EROLS, etc) but the browser should be either Internet Explorer or Netscape

### **Software Needs:**

- A web browser that is either Internet Explorer 5.0 or Netscape 4.7
- Word processing package – Microsoft Word 7.0 preferred \*
- A Windows Operating environment
- Free download of Adobe reader
- PowerPoint Microsoft software

**\* Please do not try to use Microsoft Works as this creates problems with certain programs.**

Note: JSRCC programs that are delivered by Internet use Blackboard software for housing the course materials. You will be expected to complete an online and or on-campus Orientation to Blackboard and to Distance Education prior to the start of your first allied health or nursing distance education class using Blackboard.

## TO ENGAGE IN INTERNET INSTRUCTION AND BE SUCCESSFUL

This questionnaire will assist you in determining if you can be a successful student enrolled in an Internet course or program. Internet course work requires both skills in the use of computers, computer software, and Internet use. Further, you will need to be organized and self-directed in your learning process. To determine your level of preparation and readiness for this mode of instruction, answer the following questions with yes or no. If you cannot answer yes to most if not all of the questions in each category, discuss your results with your faculty advisor who may be able to refer to a resource for development of the needed skills before you enroll in your Internet course (s).

NEEDED ITEM OR SKILL	YES or NO
<b><i>Study Skills: I will -</i></b>	
1. set aside study time on a regular basis such as daily or several times per week.	
2. seek instructor's help promptly when I cannot complete the assignments or understand the material.	
3. space my learning over time and avoid the "cram" approach.	
4. arrange to schedule and meet my clinical and lab on time and according to the semester plan and instruction guidelines.	
5. seek out discussion with classmates on line or by phone to review, study, answer or ask questions, etc.)	
6. submit work on time	
<b><i>Computer Skills: I -</i></b>	
1. use the Internet.	
2. have an e-mail address that I will share with instructor.	
3. send and receive e-mail information.	
4. send and receive an attachment.	
5. have an ISP (internet service provider).	
6. have ready access or own a 486 DX / 66 MHz or higher PC processor, with 12 MB RAM (browser), Windows 95 / 98 operating system, mouse, SVGA monitor	
7. copy and paste from or to Word, Excel, PowerPoint	
8. recognize and use a hot link to access a web site.	
9. find, download, and install utilities and plug-ins for browsers.	
10. scan and remove a computer virus.	
11. bookmark a favorite or needed web site.	
12. access Internet Explorer browser or Netscape browser	
<b>Computer Etiquette: I engage in appropriate netiquette such as I -</b>	
1. behave in a courteous manner	
2. demonstrate patience (with classmates and instructors)	
3. respect the instructor's electronic office hour limitations	
4. will e-mail by signing my name, adding information to subject line, adding a salutation, using respectful language	