NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM
One College Drive, Bentonville, AR 72712
Office (479) 619-4151 Fax (479) 619-4254
Website: www.nwacc.edu/academics/nursing
Email: nursing@nwacc.edu

The Nursing Program is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing.
Make a career decision for life ~~ Choose Nursing ~~ Choose NWACC!

BRIDGE TO RN

Come to a Pre-Nursing Advisement Session or contact the Health Professions Academic Advisor.

The Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing is designed to prepare graduates to apply for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and to function as registered nurses in providing client care at the beginning staff level position. One of NWACC's program outcomes is preparing nursing graduates to have the necessary background to continue their professional growth on an individual basis. **LPNs, Respiratory Therapists, Paramedics, Physical Therapist Assistants and persons with Bachelor's degrees in some health-related fields have an opportunity to receive credit for their previous education after successful completion of NURS 9105 Bridge to RN. Those with Bachelor's degrees will be required to interview with the Admissions committee to determine eligibility.**

Bridge to RN is offered via Track III (evening/weekends). Track III nursing courses are taught in hybrid fashion. Students will need access to a computer, printer and the Internet. Students are admitted once a year and up to fifteen (15) students are admitted each fall term (July-December).

For the Bridge to RN student, Track III is approximately 18 months in length::

- July - December
- January - July
- July - December

Students wishing to apply to this program should attend a pre-nursing advisement session. Information can be found at the nursing webpage: http://www.nwacc.edu/academics/nursing/AdvisementSessions.php

Application to the Nursing Program: The application process is subject to revision. Applications for Bridge to RN are available on or about February 1st of each year. Applicants are responsible for returning their application in by the deadline published on the website and per instructions included with the application packet. No late applications will be accepted**.** Applications can be downloaded from the Nursing webpage at: http://www.nwacc.edu/academics/nursing/index.php

- An entrance exam is required each year for all Nursing program applicants. We currently use the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) test, however this is subject to revision each year. Please follow your application instructions carefully regarding how to sign up for and take the entrance exam.
- Applicants accrue points based on the number of required general education courses completed, course grades, and the TEAS score. In the **required science courses**, an "A" = 4 pts., a "B" = 3 pts. and a "C" = 2 pts. In **all other courses**, an "A" = 3 pts., a "B" = 2 pts. and a "C" = 1 pt. They are then placed in ranked order. Selection for admission is made by the Nursing Admission Committee in descending order of scores until the class is filled.
- Notification informing applicants' of the committee's decision will be made mid-June.
- An alternate list is maintained for filling positions that are declined. The alternate list is on file only until the immediate class selection process is completed.

LICENSING BOARDS ADVISORY - ANY INDIVIDUAL HAVING BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF A CRIME MAY BE INELIGIBLE TO WRITE THE NCLEX EXAM FOR LICENSURE AS A REGISTERED NURSE.

CURRICULUM PLAN:

To be eligible for Bridge to RN, the student must have completed the following general education requirements **with at least a "C" or better**, by the end of the NWACC Spring session.

- MATH for AAS (MATH 1003), MATH 1204 College Algebra ***or*** MATH 1103 Survey of College Mathematics (***or*** higher level math)
- BIOL 2214 Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL 2224 Anatomy and Physiology II
- MBIO 2014 General Microbiology
- ENGL 1013 English Composition I
- PSYC 2003 General Psychology
- Anatomy and Physiology credits must be no older than 5 years.
  (If A&PI and/or A&PII are older than 5 yrs, consult with the Department of Nursing.

1st Semester July-December
NURS 9208 Bridge to RN
NURS 9213 Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing
PSYC 2103 Human Growth/Development*
College Elective (3 hours)*

2nd Semester January-July
ENGL 1023 English Composition II*
NURS 9316 Nursing Care of Adults II
NURS 9323 Nursing Care of Childbearing Families*

3rd Semester July-December
AHSC 1123 Electronic Health Records*
NURS 9423 Family Centered Pediatric Nursing
NURS 9406 Nursing Care of Adults III

*To be taken concurrently with nursing courses (unless previously taken)

Some of the above required courses have prerequisites: consult the College Catalog!

Students seeking admission have found it quite advantageous to complete all, or almost all, of the general education prerequisite courses prior to beginning the Nursing Program for two reasons:

- The more required general education courses completed and the higher the grade in those courses, the more points accrued
- The intensity/rigors of the nursing program

Other requirements for Bridge to RN:

- The LPN, Paramedic, Respiratory Therapist, and Physical Therapy Assistant must have a current, unencumbered Arkansas license to practice in their respective fields. All licensed healthcare providers must maintain current licensure to progress through the Nursing Program. If the licensed healthcare provider (student) receives a suspension, revocation or restrictions from the state licensing body overseeing their area of practice while in the Nursing Program, dismissal will result.
- Upon successful completion of Bridge to RN, a "CR" is entered on the student's transcript for NURS 9108 Fundamentals of Nursing and NURS 9206 Nursing Care of Adult I. The Bridge student then advances to NURS 9323 Nursing Care of Childbearing Families and NURS 9316 Nursing Care of Adult II. If successful in NURS 9323 and NURS 9316, the Bridge student advances to NURS 9423 Family Centered Pediatric Nursing and NURS 9406 Nursing Care of Adult III.
- ESL students must complete the COMPASS ESL Listening Test. A score of 92 or above is required for ESL students seeking entrance into Health Professions Programs at NWACC. This score indicates the ability to understand linguistically complex discussions, including academic lectures and factual reports. All ESL students seeking career paths in Health Professions scoring 92 are

required to meet with the Program Director in their specific Health Professions career track for advisement and assistance in finding resources to enhance this necessary skill. Check with the NWACC Testing Center for more information and scheduling.

Considerations while in the Nursing Program:

- Students should plan to devote at least 40-50 hours per week to the Nursing Program sequence.
- Employment: Bridge to RN students will adjust outside work hours to accommodate the requirements of the Nursing Program.
- Students accepted into and entering the Nursing Program are required to have (specifics provided when accepted):
  - Annual proof of negative Tuberculin (PPD) skin test
  - Proof of MMR (NWACC admission requirement) — medically documented proof of diseases, positive titers, or a series of two vaccinations
  - Proof of Varicella - medically documented proof of disease, positive titer, or a series of two vaccinations
  - Verification of Healthcare Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification through the American Heart Association
  - Proof of health insurance
  - Annual clear urine drug screen
  - Annual clear criminal background check
  - Proof of current physical exam (no more than 3 months prior to entry into Nursing Program)
  - Current vaccination for Hepatitis B (not required, but recommended)
  - Purchase of Certified Background package that includes records review and immunization tracker (approx. $125 as of April 2012, includes first year background check and drug screen)

Costs:

- Tuition and fees for:
  - 33-34 hours general education, math and science pre-requisite courses
  - 26 hours nursing courses (Check current College Catalog for tuition/fee costs.)
- Other approximate expenses/requirements for nursing courses:
  - $1200: textbooks
  - $380-$500: uniforms, shoes and miscellaneous clinical/lab equipment
  - $850: standardized examinations
  - $30: liability insurance
  - $???: health insurance (varies r/t insurer)
  - $700: graduation expenses (portrait, school pin, licensure & NCLEX fees, pinning ceremony costs)
  - $200-$400: background check, urine drug screen, TB skin test, CPR cert and physical exam

Financial Aid:

- Please contact the NWACC Financial Aid office for information: http://www.nwacc.edu/LSS/FA/index.php
- There are many sites on the internet to investigate opportunities for nursing-related financial aid. Some of those include:
  - www.discovernursing.com
  - http://www.nsna.org/foundation/
  - http://www.choosenursing.com/paying/noncalfinaid.html
  - http://www.nursingscholarship.us/
  - http://www.scholarships.com/nursing-scholarships.aspx
  - http://www.stunurse.com/TNSFscholarship
  - http://www.asla.info/ *(Arkansas Student Loan Authority)*
  - http://www.adhe.edu/divisions/financialaid/Pages/fa_programs.aspx

Bridge students are invited to join the **Arkansas Nursing Students' Association (ANSA)**, the state chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA). Contact the District II Director for information about joining the NWACC chapter. The ANSA website is www.ark-nursing-students.com, and the NSNA website is www.nsna.org

Revised April 2013