



**FVCC**  
Associate of Science Registered Nurse (RN)  
and  
Certificate of Applied Science Practical Nurse (PN)

**Nursing Programs Information Packet**

**[www.fvcc.edu/nursing](http://www.fvcc.edu/nursing)**

**Nursing Program Assistant**

Cathy Fabel

406-756-3385

[cfabel@fvcc.edu](mailto:cfabel@fvcc.edu)

**Pre-Nursing Advisor**

Kate Scholer

406-756-3859

[kscholer@fvcc.edu](mailto:kscholer@fvcc.edu)



# Nursing

Dear Prospective Nursing Student:

Thank you for your interest in Flathead Valley Community College Nursing Programs.

Nursing is a profession that awards a career for a lifetime. The overall demand for nurses is expected to continue to rise.

The Montana State Board of Nursing (MBON) currently approves both the Practical and Registered Nursing programs at FVCC. Program approval is necessary for graduates to be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN national licensing exams. In October 2023, FVCC LPN and RN programs were fully approved by the MBON through October 2026.

As of November 2019, **“The Flathead Valley Community College Associate Degree in Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) located at 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037, 202-909-2526 through 2026.”**

FVCC’s Practical Nursing certificate is a minimum three-semester Certificate of Applied Science (CAS). The Registered Nursing degree is a minimum five-semester Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN). Each program has different prerequisite courses that must be completed, or be in the process of being completed, at the time of application. This packet contains further information on both programs.

FVCC’s Nursing Programs have limited enrollment capacity. A competitive applicant selection process is necessary and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria found in the FVCC Practical Nursing (CAS) or Registered Nursing Program (ASN) Application Packets.

**Application periods open January 1 each year for each program.** Application due dates and program start dates can be found on the FVCC website and in the applications for each program.

Currently Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who are interested in continuing their education to a RN degree can apply to the ASN RN program during the open application cycle. Please see the current ASN RN application for more details.

The contents and specific requirements for application are subject to change. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the most current information packet and application at [www.fvcc.edu/nursing](http://www.fvcc.edu/nursing) or from the nursing office in the Broussard Center at FVCC before applying for placement. Carefully review your application to ensure it is complete, as missing items may result in an application being disqualified from selection.

If you have additional questions, refer to the front cover for contact information. We look forward to helping you achieve your educational goals.

Sincerely,

Carla Genovese, MSN, CNE, CCRN  
Nursing Program Director



## FVCC NURSING PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Flathead Valley Community College Nursing Program is to prepare students to successfully deliver safe, effective, and culturally competent nursing care to individuals, families, and communities across the life span. The program facilitates educational mobility, personal growth, and a pattern of excellence in lifelong learning.

The Nursing department identifies defining principles and integrating concepts that are foundational to nursing practice and nursing education and form the organizing framework that guides the educational outcomes and organizing framework of the curriculum.

The defining principles of the nursing department encompass the faculty's beliefs regarding the four major dimensions of nursing theory including client, environment, health, and nursing, plus nursing education.

The nursing faculty selected the following concepts to integrate throughout PN and RN curriculum framework and courses; caring, nursing judgement, quality and safety, communication, diversity and cultural competence, and professional identity. The concepts guide the educational outcomes of each of the PN and RN program levels.

These concepts are drawn from the National League for Nursing Competency Statements (NLN), Montana Administrative Code for Nursing, the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Competencies, Institute and Institute of Medicine (IOM), nursing theories (Campinha-Bacote, 2012, Neuman, 2010, Newman, 2011, Watson, 2011, Winters, 2012), and adult learning theory.





## GENERAL NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Nursing Program Outcomes

1. Graduates performance on the NCLEX will be at or above the national average.
2. 80% or more of students who enter the program will successfully complete the program.
3. Graduate Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >80% satisfaction.
4. Employer Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >90% satisfaction.
5. 80% or more of graduates will report being employed or planning to continue on as full-time students.

### General Standards and Requirements

To progress successfully through either the Practical Nursing (CAS) or Registered Nursing (ASN) Nursing Program, applicants should have:

- Adequate visual acuity, with or without corrective lenses, to read fine print.
- Adequate hearing ability, with or without auditory aids, to be able to hear heart, lung, bowel sounds, etc. and understand a normal speaking voice.
- Adequate physical ability to perform basic client/patient care, which includes the ability to lift a minimum of 25 lbs.
- Sufficient command of the English language to effectively communicate (verbally and in written form) with clients/patients, families, and other healthcare professionals. Applicants who English is a foreign language may be required to show proficiency through testing.
- Applicants are presumed to possess basic computer skills (use of word processing & presentation software and ability to use the Internet & send/receive email). Applicants with little or no computer background should enroll in a basic computer course.

## NURSING APPLICATION PROCESS

The FVCC Nursing Programs have a limited enrollment capacity due to availability of resources. New cohorts of students are accepted each academic year at the FVCC Kalispell campus and may be accepted at the Lincoln County campus when there is a demand. The Lincoln County campus is a distance delivery site and has a smaller number of placements. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds available spaces, not all qualified applicants will be accepted. A competitive student selection process is necessary and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria outlined below. This information is also found in FVCC Practical and Registered Nursing Program Application Packets. **The contents and requirements listed in the application packet are subject to change. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the most current packet before applying for placement.**



## I. Apply to FVCC

Nursing applicants must complete the FVCC Application for Admission (degree seeking) and follow the steps for enrolling at Flathead Valley Community College. **Admission to Flathead Valley Community College does not guarantee acceptance into the Nursing Program.**

## II. Transcript Submission and Review

If an applicant has courses from prior degrees, out-of-state colleges, or non-Montana University System colleges that they wish to be considered as an equivalent or substitution for any of the PN or RN prerequisites, the courses must first be evaluated by the FVCC Registrar. Official transcripts must be sent from the colleges or universities to FVCC in order to be evaluated. If courses are not equivalent to FVCC prerequisite courses, applicants may request review by the Nursing Program Director for consideration as substitutions **prior to the application deadline.**

The evaluation process may involve having faculty who are experts in specific content area review course information. Be prepared to supply course descriptions or syllabi for the courses to be reviewed. This process of evaluating classes can take several weeks, so plan ahead.

## III. Kaplan Testing

All applicants are required to take the Kaplan Nursing School Admissions Test as part of the application process. The test determines whether a student has the necessary academic skills to perform effectively in nursing school. Applicants will be assessed in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science. Applicants must achieve a minimum score (defined on each program application) to be considered for admission into the FVCC Nursing program.

***It is highly recommended that students prepare for this exam.*** Applicants may take the exam one time during each application cycle. There is no fee for the exam if it is taken on the FVCC/LCC campus on one of the group test dates proctored by the nursing department. If applicants choose to take the test on another date through the FVCC Testing Center, there is a \$25 fee. Other testing centers outside of Kalispell may be available and there is usually a fee. Please see the most current application packet for more information regarding the Kaplan Nursing School Admission test. **Kaplan testing must be completed prior to the application due date.**

## IV: Submit Program Application

Obtain most current application from FVCC website, FVCC Nursing Dept, or FVCC Health Science Academic Advisor, and complete.

### **Return completed application to:**

FVCC Admissions and Records Office/ASN or PN Program  
777 Grandview Drive  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

COMPLETE applications are reviewed, ranked, and GPA verified with final semester grades.



## Applications are scored based on:

Kaplan Score (Program specific)

GPA (Program specific)

Interview Score

Flathead or Lincoln County Residency

Previous Healthcare Experience

Completion of other Co-requisite Courses (Program specific)

## V. Interview

An initial list of qualified applicants is compiled. The most qualified applicants are asked to participate in an interview as part of the selection process. Applicants will be evaluated on the following areas during the interview:

- Communication skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Professional behavior

**Interviews are in person only.** Interested students must ensure they are available.

## VI. Provisional Acceptance/Background Check and Immunizations

Those qualified applicants who are offered provisional placement into the program are required to agree to the following final step in the process of acceptance into the program.

### **Background Check:**

- Upon provisional acceptance into the FVCC Nursing Program, a background check is required and the following is checked: County Criminal, MT Statewide Criminal, Fraud and Abuse Control Information Systems (FACIS Level 1), ID Trace, and National Sex Offender Public Registry. FVCC clinical partners require the background checks.
- Background checks are completed at the applicant's expense through a company called CastleBranch. Information on how to access and set up an account with CastleBranch to complete the background check will be provided once an applicant is provisionally accepted for placement.
- Any discrepancies found on the background check or self-reported will need documentation regarding circumstances and outcomes in order for the clinical partners to make an informed decision regarding access to patients/residents. **Discrepancies on a background check may result in applicants being denied access to patient/residents by clinical partners.** If an applicant is denied access to patients/residents by clinical partners, they will be unable to meet course objectives, which would result in failure of the course and program.
- Urine testing is part of the required background check and is requested by clinical partners.
- Applicant situations will be reviewed by the nursing program director and clinical partners for determination of access to clinical sites on a case-by-case basis. If an applicant is denied access to clinical sites/patients as a result of findings on a background check, applicants will not be offered final placement in the program.

### **Immunizations and screenings:**

- Immunizations and screenings are required by clinical partner facilities and based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Each applicant must demonstrate



compliance with the requirements upon provisional admission to the nursing program and provide documentation while enrolled in the program of continued compliance of the following:

- Proof of completed Hepatitis B Series including positive or reactive antibody titer results or proof the applicant has begun the series.
- Proof of Measles (Rubeola), Mumps and Rubella immunity either by dates of two vaccinations after your first birthday, a physician diagnosis of disease history, **or** laboratory verification of positive antibody titer (*need only one of these methods of verification*).
  - Proof of Chicken Pox (Varicella) immunity either by a record of two vaccinations **or** laboratory verification of positive antibody titer, or documentation of proof of having chickenpox from your health care provider (*need only one of these methods of verification*).
  - Proof of Tetanus w/ Pertussis (whooping cough): **Tdap** vaccination as an adult (not pediatric DTap and not Td tetanus diphtheria).
  - Record of two negative TB skin tests in the last 12 months with the second test initiated between 7-21 days after the first negative test was read (if the test is positive, a chest x-ray is required); **or** Negative Quantiferon TB blood test; **or** fill out Positive Responder Form.
  - Other vaccinations as required by clinical sites.
- Provide proof of current personal health insurance (FVCC Student Health Center does not meet this requirement).
- Current AHA Healthcare Provider CPR. (Training provided during program orientation)

## VII. Final Acceptance

Once all requirements are met, applicants will receive a letter of final acceptance into the program and a registration form allowing registration in the nursing courses. Nursing courses are closed to online registration.

## PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM (CAS) INFORMATION

### Practical Nursing Definition

FVCC's Practical Nursing program follows the HealthCare Montana Model for Nursing Curriculum, Montana Board of Nursing requirements, and the laws and rules in the State of Montana, which govern Practical Nursing.

The focus of the curriculum is to provide education leading to basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological, and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures. The practice of practical nursing uses standardized procedures in the observation and care of the ill, injured, and infirm, in the maintenance of health, in action to safeguard life and health, and in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by a physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments.



In their roles as members of the discipline of nursing, practical nurses actively participate in and subscribe to the legal and ethical tenets of the discipline. LPNs always function under the supervision of a registered nurse, physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist (**MCA 37-8-102. Definitions**).

Graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN).

### **Practical Nursing Educational Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the Practical Nursing curriculum, the graduate will be able to:

- Implement health promotion and disease prevention that is cost effective, comprehensive and coordinated.
- Engage patient and families as partners in evidenced-based care, while respecting applicant preference.
- Integrate current research findings, expert opinion, clinical reasoning, and patient preferences in implementing a plan of care
- Demonstrate cooperation, coordination, and communication among team members, patients, and community populations to improve quality and enhance patient safety.
- Recognize and assist in ongoing assessment of patient and systems with the goal of providing the highest level of patient care and outcomes.
- Participate in utilization of technology as a member of the care team, to gather data, manage information, and improve communication to support clinical decisions.
- Recognize basic safety principles and utilize safety-enhancing technology to reduce risk of harm to self and others.

### **Practical Nursing Program Requirements**

The Practical Nursing Certificate of Applied Science is a 3-semester program. This includes at least one semester of prerequisite courses which must be completed, or in the process of being completed, at the time of application.

Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Practical Nursing Program. The formal application process must be completed and applicants must be accepted into the program before registration for NRSN courses.

The following prerequisite general education courses must be completed, or going to be completed, by the end of the semester preceding the start of the Practical Nursing program. A grade of “C” or higher is required for **ALL non-nursing courses**. **A minimum GPA of 2.50 is required for the pre-requisite courses.** Prerequisite courses may be repeated one time in an attempt to receive a “C” or higher grade. BIOH 104 must have been completed with a C or higher within 5 years of beginning the program.





**PRACTICAL NURSING CURRICULUM prerequisites:**  
**Pre-requisite courses may be repeated only one time.**

Course	Title	Credits
	<b>Semester One</b> (can be taken any semester prior to acceptance into PN program)	
<b>BIOH 104*</b>	Basic Human Biology with Lab	4
<b>M 120 *</b>	Mathematics with HealthCare Applications	3
<b>PSYX 100</b>	Introduction to Psychology	4
<b>WRIT 101*</b>	College Writing I	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>

\* Additional placement scores/classes may be required.

**BIOH 104** must be taken within 5 years of acceptance into the PN program.

Application and admission to the practical nursing program is required before students may begin taking the following required Practical Nursing courses:

Course	Title	Credits
	<b>Semester Two</b>	
<b>NRSG 130</b>	Fundamentals of Nursing	3
<b>NRSG 131</b>	Fundamentals of Nursing Lab	3
<b>NRSG 135</b>	Pharmacology for Practical Nurses	3
<b>NRSG 136</b>	Pharmacology for Practical Nurses Lab	1
<b>NRSG 152</b>	Gerontology and Community Nursing	2
<b>NRSG 153</b>	Gerontology and Community Nursing Clinical	2
	<b>Semester Three</b>	
<b>NRSG 140</b>	Adult Health Nursing	4
<b>NRSG 141</b>	Adult Health Nursing Clinical	2
<b>NRSG 142</b>	Nursing Care of Women and Children	3
<b>NRSG 143</b>	Nursing Care of Women and Children Clinical	1
<b>NRSG 148</b>	Leadership Issues for Practical Nurses	2
<b>NRSG 149</b>	Leadership Issues for Practical Nurses Clinical	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(Including prerequisites)</b>	<b>41</b>



Each nursing course must be passed with a minimum grade of a “**C+**” (**78% or higher**) for the student to continue in the program. Students receiving a C or lower grade in PN nursing courses will not be able to continue in the program or graduate from the program. A student **CANNOT** progress to the next semester of courses if he/she is not passing current semester nursing courses. If a course has a co-requisite lab/clinical course, students must successfully complete both the classroom and lab/clinical courses to progress to the next semester. Courses must be taken in sequence.

The Practical Nursing Program standards and requirements (such as grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and more strict than general FVCC requirements. To assure progression through the program, the student must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. The student must demonstrate a continuing ability to assure patient/client safety and welfare. Therefore, satisfactory academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program.

## **(ASN) REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **(ASN) Registered Nursing Definition**

FVCC’s Registered Nursing program follows the HealthCare Montana Model for Nursing Curriculum, Montana Board of Nursing requirements, and the laws and rules in the State of Montana, which govern Registered Nursing.

The focus of FVCC Associate of Science Nursing curriculum is to prepare graduates in the performance of services requiring substantial specialized knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological, and sociological sciences and of nursing theory as a basis for the nursing process. The nursing process is the assessment, nursing analysis, planning, nursing intervention, evaluation in the promotion and maintenance of health, the prevention, case finding, and management of illness, injury, or infirmity, and the restoration of optimum function. The term also includes administration, teaching, counseling, supervision, delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice and the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by physicians, naturopathic physicians, physician assistants, optometrists, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, osteopaths, or podiatrists authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments. Each registered nurse is directly accountable and responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered.

### **MCA 37-8-102. Definitions.**

The professional nurse shall assess clients and formulate a nursing diagnosis and shall plan and implement and evaluate nursing care provided in a variety of health care settings. The graduate works together with other members of the health care team to manage the human, physical, financial, and technical needs of the client following ethical and legal standards of the profession of nursing.

Students who successfully complete all the required courses (a minimum of 72 credits) earn an Associate of Science Registered Nursing degree. Graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). Graduates

may have taken appropriate coursework empowering them to pursue further educational goals, such as a bachelor's or higher degree, if desired.

Graduates who pass their licensure exam will perform services according to the Montana State Board of Nursing rules found in the *Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 24.159 Board of Nursing*

### **(ASN) Registered Nursing Educational Outcomes**

Upon completion of the Associate of Science (ASN)-Registered Nursing curriculum, the graduate will be able to:

- Develop and lead programs of health promotion and disease prevention that is cost-effective, comprehensive, and coordinated. Engage patient and families as partners in evidenced-based, ethical care, while respecting applicant preference.
- Analyze and integrate current research findings, expert opinion, clinical reasoning, and patient preferences in developing and implementing plan of care.
- Promote and lead cooperation, coordination, and communication among team members, patients, and community populations to improve quality and enhance patient safety.
- Provide ongoing assessment and analysis of patients and systems with the goal of providing the highest level of patient care and outcomes.
- Demonstrate the ability to utilize technology to gather and analyze data, manage information, and improve communication among team members and across systems to support clinical decisions.
- Participate as a team member to design, promote, and model effective use of technology to reduce the risk of harm to self and others.

### **Registered Nursing (ASN) Program Application Requirements**

The Associate of Science Registered Nursing is a minimum 5-semester program. This includes 14 credits of prerequisite courses which must be completed or in the process of being completed at the time of application. Applicants must complete the FVCC Application for Admission (degree-seeking) and follow the steps for enrolling at Flathead Valley Community College. **Admission to Flathead Valley Community College does not guarantee acceptance into the ASN Registered Nursing Program.**

Applicants must have successfully completed or be in the process of completing the prerequisite courses listed before applying to the Registered Nurse program. Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Registered Nursing Program. There is a formal application process and applicants must be accepted into the program before they may register for NRSG courses. This process is outlined the FVCC Registered Nursing Program Application Packet.

LPNs wishing to continue their education toward an RN degree follow the ASN application process.

**A minimum 2.75 GPA is required in the 4 pre-requisite courses.** All non-nursing courses must have a grade of “C” or higher with the exception of BIOH 201 and BIOH 211 which require a “B-“or higher.

**ASN CURRICULUM prerequisites:**  
**Prerequisite courses may be repeated only one time.**

Course	Title	Credits
	<b>Semester One</b> (can be taken any semester prior to acceptance into ASN program)	
<b>BIOH 201*</b>	Human Anatomy & Physiology I w/Lab	4
<b>CHMY 121*</b>	Intro. to General Chemistry w/Lab	4
<b>M140* or M121*</b>	<b>College Math for Healthcare or College Algebra</b>	<b>3</b>
	Math courses below may be considered for substitution if taken before Fall 2018:	
<b>M115 or M152 or M153 or M171</b>	Probability and Linear Math	3
	Precalculus Algebra	4
	Precalculus Trigonometry	3
	Calculus I	5
<b>WRIT 101*</b>	College Writing I	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>

\* Additional placement scores/classes may be required

**CHMY 121 Chemistry, BIOH 201 A&P I, BIOH 211 A&P II, and BIOM 250 Microbiology** must be taken within 5 years of acceptance into the RN program. Applicants who have completed these courses outside of the 5-year requirement may request evaluation by the Nursing Program Director for a possible exception.





Application and admission to the registered nursing program is required before students may begin taking the required Registered Nursing courses:

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Semester Two</b>		
<b>BIOH 211</b>	<b>Human Anatomy and Physiology II w/lab*</b>	4
<b>NRSG 230</b>	Nursing Pharmacology	3
<b>NRSG 231</b>	Nursing Pharmacology Lab	2
<b>NRSG 232</b>	Foundations of Nursing	3
<b>NRSG 233</b>	Foundations of Nursing Lab	3
<b>Semester Three</b>		
<b>NRSG 234</b>	Adult Nursing I	3
<b>NRSG 235</b>	Adult Nursing I Clinical	2
<b>NRSG 236</b>	Health and Illness of Maternal Nursing	2
<b>NRSG 237</b>	Health and Illness of Maternal Nursing Clinical	1
<b>NRSG 256</b>	Pathophysiology (Requires a B- as is a NRSG course)	3
<b>PSYX 100</b>	<b>Introduction to Psychology*</b>	3 or 4
<b>Semester Four</b>		
<b>NRSG 244</b>	Adult Nursing II	3
<b>NRSG 245</b>	Adult Nursing II Clinical	2
<b>NRSG 246</b>	Health And Illness of Child and Family Nursing	2
<b>NRSG 247</b>	Health And Illness of Child and Family Nursing Clinical	1
<b>NRSG 254</b>	Mental Health Concepts	3
<b>NRSG 255</b>	Mental Health Concepts Clinical	1
<b>SOCI 101</b>	<b>Introduction to Sociology*</b>	3
<b>Semester Five</b>		
<b>NRSG 259</b>	Adult Nursing III	3
<b>NRSG 260</b>	Adult Nursing III Lab	1
<b>NRSG 261</b>	Adult Nursing III Clinical	2
<b>NRSG 266</b>	Managing Client Care for the RN	2
<b>NRSG 267</b>	Managed Client Care for the RN Clinical	2
<b>BIOM 250</b>	<b>Microbiology for Health Sciences w/lab *</b>	4
<b>Total</b>		59
<b>Total including prerequisites</b>		<b>72/73</b>



\* **Non-nursing** courses listed in the curriculum other than pre-requisites can be taken in any semester or prior to acceptance into the ASN program. BIOH 211 and BIOM 250 must have been taken within 5 years of acceptance into the ASN RN program.

LPNs who have completed the pre-requisites as part of their LPN degree will have the 5-year rule waived, depending on work experience. If BIOH 201 and 211 were taken before Fall 2016, a grade of C is acceptable.

The Registered Nursing Program standards and requirements (such as grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and more strict than general FVCC requirements. To ensure progression through the program, individuals accepted into the program must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. Students must demonstrate a continuing ability to ensure patient/client safety and welfare. Therefore, satisfactory academic performance does not, in and of itself, ensure progression through the program.

Once accepted into the ASN program, students must achieve an 80% (B-) or higher in each nursing course to advance through the program. Individuals receiving a C+ (79 %) or lower grade in nursing courses will not be able to continue on to the next semester of the program or graduate from the program. An individual CANNOT progress to the next semester of courses or graduate if he/she is not passing all current semester nursing courses. If a course has a co-requisite lab/clinical course, individuals must successfully complete both the classroom and lab/clinical courses to progress to the next semester or graduate. Nursing Courses must be taken in sequence.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONAL EFFORT AND COMMITMENT FOR SUCCESS

FVCC's Nursing Programs, as with most nursing programs, require a substantial time commitment to fulfill the intensive requirements of the program in the classroom, nursing laboratory, and clinical settings. Student success is dependent upon a collaborative working partnership by students and faculty. The nursing program philosophy and faculty view learning as an interactive process with faculty facilitating learning. We are committed to assisting you to succeed in the program. However, learners must assume responsibility for their own learning and participate in shaping their own learning experiences. Students must acknowledge and understand the expectations of the program:

1. There is a ***minimal*** study expectation of two hours of study per week for each credit enrolled. For example, a course that is 4 credits of theory would require minimal 8 hours of study and a 3-credit lab 6 hours of study per week. Most successful students spend three to four hours of study time per credit.
2. Although we hold an appreciation for your possible need to work to support yourself and/or a family, most students find it extremely difficult to work full-time while attending classes for the Nursing Program. Clinical rotations are scheduled when facilities have available space and are subject to change with short notice. **Clinical/class hours will include evenings, weekends and night shifts.** Students are expected to be available for the scheduled clinical hours.



3. Students are expected to attend all classes and clinicals. Missed clinical time may result in failure of courses and dismissal from the nursing program. Please do not make vacation plans that would affect attendance in class or clinical. Absences cannot be made up due to the fast pace of material presented in class and the limited availability of clinical experiences.
4. Given the same amount of work required, nursing students may not achieve the grades they have received in non-nursing courses. Learning a “new language” and being exposed to in-depth, comprehensive nursing concepts and principles may require more effort to learn and understand. Though grades may have been the primary focus of previous courses, the focus in the nursing program is learning and comprehension of information needed to deliver safe and competent care to patients/residents.
5. Students are expected to be prepared for class, lab, and clinical. This will include extensive reading, pre-clinical preparation, and other assignments prior to your attendance in class, lab or clinicals.
6. Most exams given in nursing courses are structured similarly to the nurse licensing exam. This means that most of the items on the exams are application, analysis, and synthesis type questions rather than simple knowledge and recall. These questions require a higher-order of thinking to answer correctly.
7. Faculty provides you with learning and test-taking strategies to assist you in developing critical thinking and clinical judgement skills necessary for success on the nursing course exams and the NCLEX licensure exam.

## **PROGRAM COSTS**

In addition to tuition, fees, and program fee, nursing students should be aware that required nursing textbooks/reference materials are expensive and that many courses require several texts. Students should also plan for a number of out-of-pocket expenses related to uniforms, clinical supplies, and other course/program requirements. If you would like an estimated cost of attending, please contact the Nursing department at 406-756-3385 or e-mail [cfabel@fvcc.edu](mailto:cfabel@fvcc.edu)

**Many scholarship opportunities exist.  
Visit the FVCC Financial Aid Office for more information.**