

M E R C E R C O U N T Y



C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

Math, Science and Health Professions

Nursing Program
Admission Information Packet



*Mercer County Community College
Division of Math, Science & Health Professions*

*Nursing Program
Admission Information Packet*

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Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the Mercer County Community College Nursing Education Program. Nursing is an exciting profession where you are offered a wide variety of practice opportunities. The Nursing Program at Mercer County Community College is the first step of your journey.

Nursing at Mercer includes preparation in general education with a focus on the sciences. The curriculum is designed to provide the student with a well-rounded educational experience. Admission to the professional nursing portion of the curriculum is by petition. Students desiring admission submit a petition request that is reviewed for courses completed, GPA and Admission Exam information.

The Nursing Program at Mercer offers day and evening/weekend options for study. Each August, a new class is admitted to the day program. Nursing classes are scheduled during daytime hours. Each January, a new class is admitted to the evening/weekend program. This affords the opportunity for a nursing education to students who must work during the day. Nursing classes are scheduled during evening hours. For both program options, lab and clinical experiences are scheduled according to facility availability and are subject to change. Clinical experiences and college labs may be scheduled during any week or weekend day or evening for the day, evening program.

Mercer County Community College's Nursing Program faculty have experience in a wide variety of clinical specialties. Clinical experiences are provided in area hospitals, nursing homes, schools and outpatient clinical settings.

Upon graduation, our students are prepared to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). In addition, the nursing program has many articulations with BSN completion programs, including on-campus options with Rutgers University – Camden and Felician College.

This information packet contains specific information about the Nursing Program at Mercer County Community College. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me, or schedule an appointment to meet with me through the nursing program specialist, Stephanie Horner, at (609) 570-3391.

I look forward to meeting with you as you begin your journey toward your professional nursing career.

Sincerely,



Donna M. Penn, RN, MSN, CNE
Director of Nursing Education

Nursing Program Accreditation

The college's nursing program is fully accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing, 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102, (973) 504-6430 and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (formerly NLNAC), 3343 Peachtree Rd. NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000.

Admission Requirements

The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program combines coursework in nursing and general education with clinical experiences in regional health care facilities under the supervision of college faculty members. The program is accredited by the New Jersey Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (formerly NLNAC). Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Graduates are encouraged to pursue a baccalaureate degree in nursing and credits may be applied in whole or in part in accordance with the policies of the accepting institution.

Successful graduates of the program are awarded the Associate in Science Degree and are prepared to:

1. Function within the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act while maintaining the Code of Ethics and accepting responsibility for self-growth and life-long learning.
2. Assess the patient's health status in a comprehensive and holistic manner.
3. Provide individual patient care in a safe physical and psychological environment.
4. Analyze, synthesize and evaluate patient-related data to develop and implement individualized patient care and teaching plans.
5. Evaluate the achievement of patient outcomes.
6. Incorporate within nursing practice advocacy for patient's rights taking into consideration cultural diversity, socioeconomic and political forces.
7. Collaborate with others to respond to the needs of individuals, families, and groups across the health-illness continuum.
8. Use effective verbal and written communication skills, incorporating lifespan considerations.

Upon enrollment in the college, students must declare their program of study (major) as Health Science Nursing. Students must be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident. Qualified out of county applicants will be considered for admission only after all qualified Mercer County residents are accommodated.

Admission requires a high school diploma or the equivalent; satisfactory performance on the college skills placement test or completion of any required academic foundations courses.

MCCC's Nursing Education Program uses a rubric for admissions, assigning point values based on (see sample rubric in the Appendix):

- Date of Matriculation (when you declared Health Science Nursing as your major)
- Cumulative Mercer GPA
- Number of Pre requisite courses in progress or not completed (with the exception of NRS102)
- HESI Admission Assessment Exam

All of the following pre requisite math and sciences courses must have been taken within the last **10 years** at the time of petition:

- MAT125 or MAT135 or MAT140 or MAT200
- BIO103 – Anatomy & Physiology I
- BIO104 – Anatomy & Physiology II
- BIO201 – Microbiology
- CHE107 – General & Physiological Chemistry

Applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- All pre requisite coursework required for the nursing program must be completed in three (3) or fewer attempts.

- All pre requisite coursework required for the nursing program requires a grade of “C” or better to be considered for admission.
- All students must have a Mercer cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. ***GPA’s are not rounded.***
- All students must complete the pre nursing courses, Entry Into Professional Nursing (1 credit) (NRS 101) and Health Assessment Across the Lifespan (2 credits) (NRS 102) prior to admission. NRS102 should be in progress at the time a student petitions.
- All students must achieve an 80% or higher on the HESI Admission Assessment exam in three (3) or fewer attempts. ***HESI scores are not rounded.***
- All students petitioning for the nursing program must attend a 1-hour information session prior to petitioning for the nursing program. Information regarding these information sessions can be found on the nursing website, under the “Admissions Information” link.

Enrollment in nursing courses is limited, with priority given to applicants who have satisfactorily completed the general education and science prerequisite courses.

Admissions Assessment Examination

All nursing program applicants are required to achieve a passing score (80% or higher) on the HESI Admission Exam ***prior*** to petitioning for the program. This score will not be rounded. Students are limited to three (3) attempts to pass the exam in order to qualify to petition for the nursing program. No student will be accepted into the professional phase of the Nursing Program without achieving this score. Dates for the exam and registration instructions are posted on the nursing website (www.mccc.edu/nursing). All students are required to register for this exam through the Nursing Program office. Students not achieving the passing score will be required to complete exam remediation activities and wait thirty (30) days before registering for their next test date. The Admission Assessment Exam contains content in math, English and the sciences (biology, chemistry and anatomy & physiology). A study guide is available for purchase in the campus bookstore. Please see the full HESI Admission Exam policy in the appendix.

Registration for NRS101 and NRS102

Registration for NRS101 (Entry into professional Nursing) and NRS102 (Health Assessment Across the Lifespan) is done in person in the Nursing Program office (MS127) during the college registration periods. These courses can be taken in any order, together or separately. Students must have completed ENG101 and MAT037 or MAT042 or higher to take NRS101. Students must have completed BIO103 and BIO104 to take NRS102. It is strongly **encouraged** that NRS102 be taken the ***semester before*** petitioning for the professional phase of the program. NRS101 and NRS102 are pre-requisites for NRS110.

Please be aware of registration dates for these courses. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, so students should plan accordingly.

Acceptance to the Professional Phase Nursing Program

Students must earn a minimum grade of C in all required courses to graduate.

Once accepted into the professional phase of the nursing program, students must:

- obtain a physical examination from a licensed practitioner on a form provided by the nursing program.
- provide proof of current CPR certification for Healthcare Providers or Professional Rescuer.

- obtain professional liability insurance for a Registered Nurse student.
- complete a criminal background check with the company utilized by the nursing program.
- obtain a urine drug screen.
- Proof of immunity for Rubella, Rubeola, Hepatitis B and Varicella by providing lab report of titers.
- provide proof of current flu shot vaccination. Students must provide proof of vaccination and update with the new season vaccination by October 15th each year. Flu shots are available from September through April each year. No flu vaccine is available during the summer.
- provide proof of current health insurance.

Once accepted into the Nursing Program, students are expected to successfully complete all professional phase nursing courses within six (6) semester of starting NRS110 for the first time. Failure to successfully complete all required professional phase nursing courses within the six (6) semesters will result in dismissal from the nursing program.

All pre nursing students are assigned a nursing faculty advisor and are encouraged to schedule advisement appointments each semester.

Upon completion of the program, the New Jersey Board of Nursing reserves the right to determine the eligibility for licensure of any student with a history of substance abuse or criminal offenses.

Please refer to the information regarding nurse licensure by examination found at http://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/nursing/nurse_app.pdf.

Health Profession Programs Suspension/Expulsion Policy

Policy

Student/ learners who are or have been subjected to disciplinary action for violation of the College's Policies regarding Academic Integrity which have resulted in suspension or expulsion by the Mercer County Community College Academic Integrity Committee are no longer eligible to participate in any of the Health Professions programs.

MCCC Health Professions programs: Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology, Radiography, and Physical Therapist Assistant

Suspension is a non-learner status during which a student/learner will not lose previously accrued academic credits but may not continue to participate in any of the Health Professions programs. Students who have been suspended from the College will not be considered for re-admission or initial admission to any of the Health Professions programs.

Nursing Program Curriculum

Pre Nursing Phase

Code	Course (lecture/lab/clinical hours)	Credits
BIO	103 Anatomy and Physiology I (3/3)	4
BIO	104 Anatomy and Physiology II (3/3)	4
BIO	201 Microbiology (3/3)	4
CHE	107 General and Physiological Chemistry (3/2)	4
ENG	101 English Composition I (3/0)	3
ENG	102 English Composition II (3/0)	3
MAT	125 Elementary Statistics I*	3
PSY	101 Introductory Psychology (3/0)	3
PSY	207 Developmental Psychology: Across the Lifespan**	3
—	—	3
General education electives Select three credits from***: Historical Perspective; Diversity and Global Perspective; Visual & Performing Arts; Foreign Language; Interdisciplinary General Education; Humanities; Philosophy.		
HPE	110 Concepts of Health and Fitness (HPE111 is an acceptable alternative)	2-3
Professional Phase		
NRS	110 Fundamental Concepts of Nursing (3/4/6)	6
NRS	120 Alterations in Health I (3/3/14)	3
NRS	121 Alterations in Health II (3/3/14)	3
NRS	122 Concepts in Mental Health Nursing (3/0/9)	2
NRS	220 Alterations in Health III (3/3/14)	3
NRS	221 Alterations in Health IV (3/3/14)	3
NRS	222 Maternal Family Nursing (3/0/9)	2
NRS	230 Alterations in Health V (3/3/14)	3
NRS	231 Alterations in Health VI (3/3/14)	3
NRS	240 Transition into Practice (3/0/27)	4
Total		68-69

*MAT135, 140 (4 credits) or MAT200 (3 credits) are acceptable alternatives

** SOC101 (Introduction to Sociology) is an acceptable alternative

*** PHI102 or PHI205 are recommended

Petition Process

There are two different program options available to students wishing to enter the Nursing program: a daytime program that starts in August of each academic year and an evening program that starts each January.

When students have met all admission requirements and are ready to begin the professional nursing portion of their education, candidates complete a petition form and return it to the nursing program office. Petitions are submitted:

- from September 1 - October 1 for the evening program that begins each January
- from March 15 – April 15 for the day program that begins in August.

Petitions will not be accepted before or after these dates. Petitions are available one week prior to the start of a petition period outside the nursing program office (MS127). They are also available on the nursing program website at www.mccc.edu/nursing and click on the Admissions link.

Students submitting petitions electronically will receive immediate notification that the petition was received and will also receive a confirmation email from the nursing program specialist. **If you do not receive these notifications, contact the Nursing Program office.**

All petitions received during the petition period will be reviewed for admission into the nursing program. All students who petition will receive notification by mail, within 4-6 weeks of the end of the petition period, as to their acceptance status. The letter will contain information about the student's next steps in the admission process. If a student is not accepted they will be informed in writing of the reason for non-acceptance. They will need to re-petition for entry into another class during the next petition period. Petitions will not be held from semester to semester and there is no wait list for the nursing program. Seats in each nursing class are limited.

What happens after I am accepted?

When you are accepted to the nursing program, you will receive an acceptance letter and information as to how to proceed. You will also be receiving information on the following:

- Criminal Background Checks - Clinical facilities are mandating criminal background checks for nursing students. Students accepted into the nursing program will be instructed how to complete their background check. In addition, a more comprehensive background check is required by the Board of Nursing at the time of licensure. Failure to pass the background check may prevent a student from meeting the course/program student learning outcomes. Background checks will be repeated annually while enrolled in the nursing program.
- Health Records - You will receive a Physical Examination Form for the Nursing Program that must be completed by your healthcare provider. The laboratory tests and immunizations must be within one year of beginning NRS110. Proof of current flu vaccination will also be required and will need to be updated annually by October 15th each year. Flu vaccines are available from September through April each year.
- Health Insurance – All students are required to provide proof of current health insurance annually.
- CPR Certification - You will also need to be CPR certified and submit proof of such certification. The class must encompass adult, child and infant victims, as well as AED training. ***CPR certification as a Healthcare Provider or Professional Rescuer are the only certifications accepted.***
- Liability Insurance - All students are required to purchase liability insurance for **Registered Nurse Student**. Information for purchasing this insurance will be provided. Liability insurance is updated annually while reenrolled in the nursing program.
- Drug Screen – All students will be required to complete a 5 or 7 panel urine drug screen and submit a copy of the lab results prior to beginning NRS110. Any student who receives a positive drug screen will be evaluated to determine their eligibility to begin the professional phase of the nursing program. Drug screens will be repeated annually while enrolled in the nursing program.

Students will be required to submit proof of the above requirements by the date specified in their acceptance letter. Any student not meeting this deadline will forfeit their seat for the semester.

All students will be required to purchase a uniform for clinical experiences. You will receive information regarding ordering once accepted into the nursing program.

LPN - RN Advanced Placement

The LPN-RN advanced placement option offers licensed practical nurses (LPNs) the opportunity to gain experiential credit for their LPN license. LPN licensure waives the prerequisite requirement to take NRS101 and NRS102 and gives the licensed LPN credit for Fundamental Concepts of Nursing (NRS 110).

Applicants must:

- possess a high school diploma (or equivalent).
- have graduated from an accredited LPN school.
- possess a valid New Jersey LPN license.
- complete all the prerequisite course and admission requirements for the nursing program.

Admission to the professional phase of the program requires:

- a minimum GPA of 2.5. GPA's are not rounded.
- a passing score (80% or higher) on the HESI Admission Assessment Exam. Scores are not rounded.
- Attendance at a 1-hour information session.

Six academic credits are given for Fundamental Concepts of Nursing (NRS 110). The student is then able to apply for acceptance into the second semester nursing courses, Alterations in Health I (NRS 120), Alterations in Health II (NRS 121), and Concepts of Mental Health Nursing (NRS 122). Students must earn a minimum grade of "C" in all courses to graduate.

Please note that admission to either of the LPN-RN Advanced Placement program options are on a space available basis only. Students are ranked utilizing the admission rubric outlined on page 5.

For students to apply for this option they must submit a letter, requesting admission to the second semester of nursing as an LPN. This letter must be submitted by the petition deadlines outlined on page 9. The daytime program option for these students begins in spring and the evening option begins in fall.

Students who complete the college's Nursing program earn the Associate in Science (A.S.) degree and are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Transfer of Credits / Degrees

Students may request that Mercer County Community College (MCCC) accept credits earned at other accredited colleges. Potential transfer credits are evaluated for their applicability to MCCC degree or certificate programs. The Nursing Program only reviews transcripts of those students enrolled at MCCC with their major declared for Nursing or Health Science Nursing. Approved transfer credits are entered on the student's transcript only after the student has been accepted in a degree or certificate program and have taken at least one class at MCCC. Foreign transcripts require translation or evaluation by an approved outside agency. **Please note: It takes approximately 4-6 weeks from time of receipt in the Nursing office to fully complete the evaluation of your transcripts. Please be sure to request official transcripts from your previous college as soon as possible. Transcripts are not evaluated by appointment.**

International Students

Transferring Credits to MCCC

If you have completed college or university courses in another college in the United States or in your home country, the courses and credits may apply to your degree program at Mercer County Community College (MCCC). The courses must be evaluated before they can be transferred to MCCC.

Transferring Credits from Another College in the United States

If you have completed college courses at another college in the United States and want to transfer the credits, you must submit your official transcript to Mercer County Community College to:

Admissions

Mercer County Community College

1200 Old Trenton Rd.

W. Windsor, NJ 08550

Transferring Credits From Your Home Country

If you have completed university level courses in your home country and are interested in transferring credits to Mercer, you must first submit your official transcript and a certified English translation to a transcript evaluation service. Visit these websites of credential evaluation services for guidelines, procedures, policies and fees for an academic document review:

- **World Education Service**
- **American Education Research Corporation (AERC)**
- **International Consultant of Delaware, Inc.**
- **International Education Research Foundation**

Send your completed credentials evaluation to Mercer for your admission file at this address:

Mailing Address:

Coordinator of International Students

Mercer County Community College

P.O. Box 17202

Trenton, NJ 08690

Cooperative Nursing Program

Mercer County Community College has developed a cooperative nursing program with a local school, St. Francis School of Nursing. St. Francis School of Nursing is an independent nursing program from Mercer County Community College and handles their own advisement and admission processes.

Please contact the school directly by calling (609) 599-5190 or visiting their website at <http://www.stfrancismedical.org/education/school-of-nursing.aspx>.

APPENDIX

Mercer County Community College
Division of Math, Science and Health Professions
Nursing Program

HESI ADMISSION EXAM POLICY

Purpose: All students applying to the Mercer County Community College Nursing Program are required to take and achieve a passing score on the HESI Admission Assessment exam prior to petitioning to the program.

Procedure:

1. Students must register for the exam by reviewing the available test dates and following the registration instructions located on the HESI Information link of the nursing website at www.mccc.edu/nursing.
2. Students are required to arrive promptly for the exam. Students are required to call or email, prior to the test start time, if they are unable to attend a test they were registered for. A late arrival constitutes a “no show” for the exam. Any student who registers for a given exam date and does not attend that scheduled test date must wait at least 30 days before being allowed to reschedule. Two or more successive “no shows” for an exam will require students to wait until the next semester to register for another exam date.
3. This is a timed exam. Students are allowed a maximum of 4 hours to complete the exam. If you have a 504 form and receive special accommodations for testing, this information must be provided at the time of registration and the form must be provided to the Testing Center at the time of testing. Once testing has begun, it cannot be stopped for any reason. Should a student choose to leave at any point during the exam, the score achieved at that point will be the score recorded. Any student who does not pass the exam will be required to reschedule another testing date.
4. Students are required to complete **all** sections of the exam in order for their final grade to be accepted. Students who do not complete and/or skip sections will be required to retake the exam.
5. A study guide is available for purchase at the college bookstore. Purchase of this study guide is optional. "Evolve Reach Admission Assessment Examination Review", 2008, 2nd edition (ISBN 978-1-4160-5635-5)
6. Students are required to achieve a cumulative passing score of 80% or better in order to petition for the nursing program. **Scores will not be rounded.**
7. Students who do not achieve the passing score will be required to complete the remediation available by following the instructions for “Accessing Your Remediation” located on the HESI Information link of the nursing website. This will need to be verified before a student can register for another test date. Students are required to wait 30 days, after an unsuccessful attempt, to register for another test date.

8. Students will be required to achieve the passing cumulative score by their third (3rd) attempt or will not qualify for admission to the nursing program.

Effective Date:

Revised Date:

Approved by:  , Director

**Mercer County Community College
Division of Math, Science and Health Professions**

**Nursing Program
Contact Information**

For further information, please contact:

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