

**ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE
IN NURSING ^{TP}
Nursing Associate Degree leading to RN**

About Our Program

The two year Associate in Applied Science degree curriculum in Nursing is designed to prepare selected students to qualify as contributing members of the health team, rendering direct patient care as beginning practitioners of nursing in a variety of health service facilities. Upon successful completion of the curriculum, students will be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination leading to licensure as a registered nurse (RN).

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program is a three college consortium serving Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest VA Community College and VA Highlands Community College.

Opportunities for Employment

Employment opportunities for the Registered Nurse include but are not limited to, staff positions in hospitals, nursing homes, health departments, physicians offices, clinics, civil service, home health agencies, and day care centers.

Special Approval and Accreditation

The program is approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission, 61 Broadway, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10006, 1-800-669-1656, www.ninac.org.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the VATNP is a selective process. The nursing program is open to both male and female applicants who are free of any physical or mental condition which might adversely affect performance as a member of the nursing profession. In addition to the requirements for admission to the college, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Graduation from high school with an overall "C" average or satisfactory completion of the G.E.D.

2. The completion of one unit each of algebra, biology and chemistry with no grade below a "C" before application to the program (deficiencies can be made up through developmental studies or college courses).
3. The student's high school record of achievement and any college work attempted must reflect a minimum of a "C" average.
4. College students must be in good standing with the institution. A cumulative grade point average of 2.0 must be achieved on all college work.
5. Satisfactory performance on a nursing pre-admission test and attendance at a general information session. An interview with a faculty member may be requested.
6. Completion of college placement tests (ASSET or COMPASS) and prescribed developmental work.
7. Completion of the special physical and dental examination, including the immunization schedule prior to beginning nursing courses.
8. Completion of Health Science Program Application for each academic year interested in being considered for the nursing program.

Special Note

The State Board of Nursing has the authority to deny license to any applicant who has violated any of the provisions of 54.1-3007 of the Code of Virginia. Virginia law may affect an individual's ability to find employment in certain settings as a Registered Nurse. Licensed nursing homes and similar organizations are prohibited from hiring persons who have been convicted of certain criminal acts. Any student entering the nursing program who has committed any legal offences other than minor traffic violations should discuss these matters with the Dean of the Nursing Program prior to application.

Nursing classes begin in the fall semester each year. Complete Health Sciences Program applications must be received in Enrollment Services/Admission by the published deadline on the application for admission. Out-of-region applicants will be considered for openings available on May 1. Qualified students will be admitted on an equal basis. To be considered in-region, an applicant must be domiciled within the service region for 12 months prior to the program application deadline.

Advanced Placement

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program's advance placement or "Bridge Program," is designed to grant advanced placement to LPNs who have been admitted to the VATNP and meet pre-requisite requirements.

If there is sufficient enrollment in the VATNP, students who meet the eligibility requirements for the advanced placement will take "Bridge Course" in the summer term and then be eligible to take the sophomore level courses. This program is designed to recognize the common abilities of nurses and to bridge the difference between LPN and RN knowledge base and to allow these students to finish the A.A.S. program within a shortened period of time.

Students who are LPNs are required to complete specified general education courses before beginning the LPN to RN nursing classes.

Transfer of Nursing Credit

Students seeking to transfer credit from nursing programs at other institutions will be considered on an individual basis. The student may be asked to provide course descriptions, course syllabi, achievement test scores and selected data from the course instructor in order to determine placement in the nursing program, subject to availability of space. Since there frequently are differences among nursing programs, students wishing to transfer should be aware that there may be an interruption in program progression. Applicants must be in good standing at their previous college with a "C" average or better. All regular admission requirements must be met.

Program Requirements

The student is required to complete a sequence of courses and learning experiences provided at the college and selected community agencies such as hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, physicians' offices and comparable facilities. The nursing faculty will observe and evaluate the student's suitability for nursing and direct patient care.

The nursing program faculty reserves the right to recommend, through appropriate channels, the withdrawal of any student who does not exhibit suitable demeanor/attendance.

Students must complete all nursing courses listed in the first year of the curriculum before being allowed to enter the second year. Exceptions due to unusual circumstances must be approved by the program dean.

Students must complete all general education and related courses either before or concurrent with nursing program requirements. A student must have a "C" or above in theory plus "satisfactory" in clinical performance in all nursing courses to remain in the program. A grade of "C" or above in any related requirements is a prerequisite for continuing in the nursing program. A grade of "C" or above in any related requirements is a prerequisite for continuing in the nursing program. Most previous college credits will be accepted; however, BIO 141-142 (anatomy and physiology) must be completed within the ten (10) years prior to admission to the nursing program or concurrent with the nursing program. CPR certification must be maintained throughout the program.

Physical demands in this program include duties that frequently require squatting, bending, kneeling, reaching, and stair climbing, lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds; frequent pushing and pulling up to 200 pounds with assistance; occasional lifting up to 200 pounds with assistance and occasional carrying up to 51-74 pounds. Duties also require constant use of acute sense of sight, hearing, touch, and speech. Environmental conditions include procedures that involve handling blood and body fluids using universal precautions.

Criminal Background Check/Drug Screening

Background checks for criminal history and sex offender crimes against minors are required for entrance into some clinical agencies. Students with convictions may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Clinical agencies may require drug testing prior to placement of students for clinical rotations. Students with positive drug test results may be prohibited from clinical practice and may not complete the program. Cost of criminal background checks and drug testing will be the responsibility of the student.

Program Progression

Any student who earns a final grade lower than “C” in any nursing course; MTH 126 or BIO 141-142 must repeat the course and earn a final grade of “C” or better before taking the next course in the sequence. In addition, a Comprehensive Drug Calculation Exam (CDCE) will be administered at the beginning of NUR 112 to verify skills. Students must achieve at least 90 percent of maximum score on the CDCE with no more than three attempts in order to continue in NUR 112.

A student must obtain permission from the Director to continue in the Nursing Program under the following conditions:

1. repeating a course with a grade below “C”;
2. withdrawal from a nursing course;
3. cumulative GPA below 2.0.

Virginia Community College System policy states that no course may be taken more than twice (original enrollment and one repeat). Any exception to this policy must be approved by the program dean and the vice president of instruction and student services.

Reapplication

A student not admitted to the nursing curriculum who is still interested must reapply by contacting the Office of Enrollment Services/Admissions prior to February 1.

Readmission Requirement

According to the VCCS Policy 5.7.4, a student will normally be limited to two enrollments in the same credit course. A student who wishes to re-enter the nursing

curriculum must write a letter to the program dean requesting readmission at least one semester prior to the semester of enrollment. The student may be required to enroll in and satisfactorily complete specific courses before readmission. Additional data may be required. Each student’s application for readmission will be considered by the nursing faculty and the decision to readmit will be based on additional data, prior performance in the nursing program and **space availability**. The student must repeat the nursing course in which a grade of less than “C” was earned. Students who are not successful in NUR 111 must reapply to the nursing program.

A student will not normally be allowed to repeat more than one nursing course. A grade of “unsatisfactory” in the clinical portion of any nursing course results in an “F” grade for the course regardless of the theory grade. Such a student may not be readmitted if the cumulative grade point average is less than 2.0 including all courses attempted other than nursing. Re-enrollment must occur no later than three years or the student will have to repeat all nursing courses. Any exception to the above policy must have the approval of the dean of the nursing program.

Financial Requirements

In addition to the usual college tuition and fees, the nursing program requires: uniforms, books, liability insurance, CPR certification, HIPAA certification, and achievement tests. Associated costs for criminal background checks and drug screens are the responsibility of the student.

Students are also responsible for transportation to and from the college and health agencies used for clinical experience.

Clinical Contracts

Individual contracts are in effect with each affiliate clinical agency and these contracts differ in requirements made of students.

The general stipulations are as follows:

1. Clinical agencies reserve the right to dismiss a student from their agency at any time with due cause. This will be done with advance notice, except in an emergency;
2. Proper uniform must be worn;

3. Published policies of hospital must be adhered to;
4. Immunizations must be current and include Hepatitis B and MMR. Proof of negative Tuberculin skin test (PPD) or chest Xray must be shown on admission to the program and before beginning the second year. Previous positive reactors are exempt but must see the Program Dean.
5. Student releases hospital, its agents and employees from any liability for any injury or death to him/herself or damage to his/her property arising out of agreement or use of hospital's facilities. Contracts for each agency are available in the Nursing office and may be reviewed by students upon request.
6. Certain clinical facilities require a criminal history record check as a condition for placement. All nursing students will be required to provide proof of the background checks. Associated costs for the background checks are the responsibility of the student.

Program Contacts

Ms. Kathy Mitchell, *Program Dean*

Faculty Contacts: Ms. Mary Phillips,

Ms. Deborah Clarkston,

Ms. Donna Cluesman, Ms. Johanne Watson,

Ms. Deborah Wright

Location: Robb Hall - First Floor

Nursing Associate Degree leading to RN
Track 1: 2-Year Plan
(Track 2 is not offered at MECC)

The VATNP offers an opportunity for recent high school graduates and other eligible adults to complete the nursing degree program after two years of full time attendance (4 semesters and 1 summer session.) This is a rigorous and academically challenging program.

Track 1: 2-Year Curriculum Plan

*Lec.Lab Crse
Hrs.Hrs. Cr.*

FIRST YEAR

First Semester

BIO 141*	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	4
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
MTH 126	Math for Allied Health	2	0	2
NUR 111	Nursing I	4	9	7
NUR 136	Prin. of Pharmacology I	1	0	1
SDV 100	Orientation	1	0	1
	Total	14	12	18

Second Semester

ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
BIO 142*	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	4
NUR 112	Nursing II	4	12	8
NUR 137	Prin. of Pharmacology II	1	0	1
	Total	11	15	16

Summer Semester

NUR 226	Health Assessment	3	0	3
	Total	3	0	3

SECOND YEAR

Third Semester

ITE 115	Basic Computer Literacy	3	0	3
NUR 211	Second Level Nursing I	4	12	8
NUR 236	Prin. of Pharmacology III	1	0	1
PSY 231	Life Span Human Dev. I	3	0	3
	Total	11	12	15

Fourth Semester

NUR 212	Second Level Nursing II	4	12	8
NUR 237	Prin. of Pharmacology IV	1	0	1
NUR 254	Dimensions of Professional Nursing	2	0	2
PSY 232	Life Span Human Dev. II	3	0	3
	Elective	3	0	3
**Hum./Fine Arts				
	Total	13	12	17

69 credits required to graduate

*BIO 231-232 Human Anatomy & Physiology I-II. Students may substitute these courses with approval of their academic advisor.

**Elective must be chosen from Humanities/Fine Arts.

^{TP}This program is part of the Tech Prep Initiative; students having successfully completed certain high school courses may qualify for advanced standing and receive free credit in equivalent college courses. Please see your advisor for additional information.



**Nursing Associate Degree leading to RN
Track 3 - Part-Time, Evening/Weekend**

About Our Program

The VATNP part-time evening/weekend program is designed for LPNs who are interested in becoming RN's but have other responsibilities that interfere with their abilities to attend day classes. Classes will be provided in a combination of evening, weekend, and distance learning. The program is designed as a slower pace to be completed in 4 years. General education courses listed in Year 1 must be completed before the student will be able to begin Year 2.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Admission requirements for the nursing program, the student applying for the Part-Time Evening/Weekend Program and must have completed 23 credits of support (general education) courses required for graduation from the Nursing 112, MTH 126, ITE 100 or 115, and SDV 108. Additional required general education courses can be completed after acceptance to the program.

YEAR TWO

Summer Session

NUR 136	Prin. of Pharmacology I	1	0	1
NUR 137	Prin of Pharmacology II	1	0	1
PSY 231	Life Span Human Dev. II	3	0	3
Total		5	0	5

Fall Semester

NUR 111	Nursing	4	9	7
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Spring Semester

NUR 112	Nursing II	4	12	8
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YEAR THREE

Summer Semester

NUR 226	Health Assessment	2	3	3
PSY 232	Life Span Human Dev. II	3	0	3
Total		5	3	6

Fall & Spring Semesters

NUR 211	Second Level Nursing I	4	12	8
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YEAR FOUR

Summer Semester

NUR 236	Principles of Pharm. III	1	0	1
NUR 237	Principles of Pharm. IV	1	0	1
Total		2	0	2

Fall & Spring Semester

NUR 212	Second Level Nursing II	4	12	8
NUR 254	Dimensions of Professional Nursing	2	0	2
Total		6	12	10

69 credits required to graduate

*Upon completion of NUR 115, credit will be awarded for NUR 111 and NUR 112 (15 credits). These credits will appear on the student's official transcript.

**Elective must be chosen from Humanities/Fine Arts.



2006-07
Community College

**Nursing Associate Degree leading to RN
Track 4 - LPN to RN Bridge**

About Our Program

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program's advance placement or "Bridge Program," is designed to grant advanced placement to LPNs who have been admitted to the VATNP Associate Degree program and meet pre-requisite requirements.

If there is sufficient enrollment in the Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program, students who meet the eligibility requirements for the advanced placement will take "Bridge Courses" in the summer term and then be eligible to take the sophomore level courses and graduate within one (1) academic year with an A.A.S. degree in Nursing.

This program is designed to recognize the common abilities of nurses and to bridge the difference between LPN and RN knowledge base and to allow these students to finish the A.A.S. program within a two and one-half semester period.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Admission requirements for the nursing program, the student applying for the LPN to RN Bridge Program must have been an accepted student in the regular VATNP program and be a licensed LPN. They must complete at least 17 credits of support (general education) courses required for graduation from the Nursing program: BIO 141, BIO 142, ENG 111, ENG 112, MTH 126, ITE 100 OR 115, AND SDV 100. Additional required general education courses can be completed after acceptance to the program.

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Hrs.Hrs. Cr.*

PRE-CLINICAL STUDIES

BIO 141	Health Science I	3	3	4
BIO 142	Health Science II	3	3	4
ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
MTH 126	Math for Allied Health	2	0	2
SDV 100	Orientation	1	0	1
	Total	15	6	17

Summer Semester

NUR 115*	LPN Transition	4	3	5
NUR 136/137	Principles of Pharmacology I & II	2	0	2
NUR 226	Health Assessment	3	0	3
	Total	9	3	10

Fall Semester

ITE 115	Basic Computer Literacy	3	0	3
NUR 211	Second Level Nursing I	4	12	8
NUR 236	Principles of Pharmacology III	1	0	1
PSY 231	Life Span Human Devp. I	3	0	3
	Total	11	12	15

Spring Semester

NUR 212	Second Level Nursing II	4	12	8
NUR 237	Principles of Pharmacology IV	1	0	1
NUR 254	Dimensions of Professional Nursing	2	0	2
PSY 232	Life Span Human Dev. II Elective	3	0	3
**Hum./Fine Arts				
	Total	13	12	17

59 credits required to graduate

*Upon completion of NUR 115, credit will be awarded for NUR 111 and NUR 112 (15 credits). These credits will appear on the student's official transcript.

**Elective must be chosen from Humanities/Fine Arts.



Nursing Associate Degree leading to RN
Track 5 - LPN to RN Bridge Part-time Evening/Weekend
 Pre-Clinical Studies Must Be Completed Before Entering Program

About the Program

The VATNP part-time evening/weekend program is designed for LPNs who are interested in becoming RN's but have other responsibilities that interfere with their abilities to attend day classes. Classes will be provided in a combination of evening, weekend, and distance learning. General education courses listed in Year 1 must be completed before the student will be able to begin Year 2.

Admission Requirements

In addition to the Admission Requirements for the nursing program, the student applying for the Part-Time Evening/Weekend Program must have a licensed LPN and have completed 29 credits of support (general education) courses required for graduation from the Nursing program. Of these, the student MUST have completed BIO 141, BIO 142, ENG 111, ENG 112, MTH 126, ITE 100 or 115, and SDV 108. Additional required general education courses can be completed after acceptance to the program.

*Lec. Lab Crse
Hrs. Hrs. Cr.*

YEAR ONE

Summer Semester

ENG 111	College Composition I	3	0	3
ITE 115	Basic Computer Literacy	3	0	3
Total		9	0	9

Fall Semester

BIO 141	Hum Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	4
ENG 112	College Composition II	3	0	3
PSY 231	Life Span Human Dev. I	3	0	3
SDV 108	College Survival Skills	1	0	1
Total		10	3	11

Spring Semester

BIO 142	Hum Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	4
MTH 126	Math for Allied Health	2	0	2
PSY 232	Life Span Human Dev. II	3	0	3
Total		8	3	9

YEAR TWO

Summer Session

NUR 115	LPN Transition	4	3	5
NUR 136	Prin. of Pharmacology I	1	0	1
NUR 137	Prin of Pharmacology II	1	0	1
Total		5	3	7

Fall & Spring Semester

NUR 211	Second Level, Nursing I	4	12	8
Total		4	12	8

YEAR THREE

Summer

NUR 226	Health Assessment	3	0	3
NUR 236	Principles of Pharm. III	1	0	1
NUR 237	Principles of Pharm. IV	1	0	1
Total		5	0	5

YEAR FOUR

Summer Semester

NUR 212	Second Level Nursing II	4	12	8
NUR 254	Dimensions of Professional Nursing	2	0	2
Total		6	12	10

59 credits required to graduate

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE



2006-07

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