

NURSING PROGRAM FAQ SHEET

Updated 1/2009

1. **How do I apply to the Associate Degree Nursing Program?**
 - a. Fill out an ARCC application, if not already done
 - b. Attend a Nursing Information session within 12 months of applying to the program (mandatory for application)
 - c. Take ACT exam (**Not required with previous bachelor's degree or higher**)
 - d. Must have Chemistry 1020 and Biology 1106 or 2113 (or equivalents) with a grade of C or better, no earlier than 7 years prior to start of program
 - e. Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher, and student must be in good academic standing
 - f. Turn in program application during published application dates
 - g. Attach official transcripts from all other schools, including high school (unless a previous college degree was awarded) and official ACT score to the nursing application. Official transcripts must be unopened in original school envelope. An ARCC transcript does not need to be attached.
2. **I'm currently an LPN. What do I need to do to get started in your LPN Mobility program?**
 - a. See a – g above
 - b. Graduation from a state-approved Practical Nursing Program
 - c. 6 months (**full-time equivalency**) recent work experience (employer letter attached to application), or graduation from a Practical Nursing program no longer than 2 years prior to the start of the program
 - d. Current Minnesota LPN license in good standing. Copy of license showing effective dates must be attached to application.
3. **When will ARCC accept applications, and for what campus, term/year? When is the application deadline?** Check our nursing home page website for current application deadlines – at http://webs.anokaramsey.edu/nursing_program. Applications will only be accepted during the posted dates for each individual program.
4. **Do my high school biology and/or chemistry courses meet the admissions requirement for biology and chemistry?** No, they are not equivalent to required biology and chemistry courses.
5. **What GPA do I need in order to be admitted? How do you determine/calculate GPA? Is admission based primarily on GPA?** Students need a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 for admission to the nursing program. The GPA calculation is cumulative; that is, it is based on all college coursework, from all colleges attended and all courses taken. While a higher GPA can better the standing for program acceptance, admission is not based entirely on GPA.
6. **How is admission to the program determined?** Once all admission criteria is met (see numbers 1 and 2 above), admission into the Nursing Program is based on a ranking system using a combination of cumulative GPA, ACT exam score, completion of Anatomy & Physiology courses, completion of nursing program general education courses, any required science courses which were repeated after achieving less than a C in the original course, and ARCC resident credits. Only courses completed (with grades attached) prior to the application period will be used for this purpose. A sample scoring rubric is shown in the nursing general information packet. A minimum rubric score of 6.0 must be achieved for admission consideration.
7. **Do you give half credits for general education courses if I only finished half of a 2-course sequence?** No. For example, if a two-course sequenced General Psychology or English Composition course was taken during quarters, both courses must have been completed for them to count as general education requirements.
8. **Do I need to take the additional writing portion of the ACT?** No.
9. **What do I need to do to become a Registered Nursing Assistant? Where can I get the training? Where can I take the test-out? Is it required to apply to the program? Do I need to remain on the registry during the entire program?** To become a CNA/NAR, a student must pass a written test and a skills test. Prior to sitting for the test, students generally go through a 75-hour training session. These training sessions are mainly available at technical colleges, but are also available at the Cambridge Campus of ARCC and some area nursing homes. Once students have passed the exam, they remain on the national registry for 2 years unless working as a nursing assistant (which keeps the registration current). CNA/NAR registration is not required prior to application. Registry must be current at the time of starting the program but does not need to remain current while in the program. Students whose registration has lapsed may choose to retest at a technical college that provides the retesting option. See link on our nursing web page for a list of training sites.
10. **How do I obtain the required CPR certification? Is it required to apply to the program?** CPR certification at the Health Professional level is available through ARCC's HPER 1103 course, as well as a number of community agencies. Check with local community education programs. Only the BLS for Healthcare Providers from the American Heart Association certification is accepted. This is not required prior to application, but must be current when classes start and remain current throughout the entire program. On-line certification is not accepted. It must have both a comprehensive and skills component.
11. **Do you offer a nursing refresher course?** No.

- 12. How do my courses from other colleges transfer?** ARCC will transfer college-level coursework completed at a degree-granting college that is accredited by one of the regional associations of colleges and schools. An official transcript from each institution is required. Students may check their course work transferability by checking <http://www.mntransfer.org> or <https://mn.transfer.org/cas/>. Transferability of courses varies, and although a course may have the same or a similar name, that does not guarantee it will transfer as an equivalent course.
- 13. I've started a nursing program at another college. Can I join into your core program mid-stream?** No. Each college designs and sequences its nursing program courses. Other college's core nursing classes would not necessarily cover the content in the same sequence as those at ARCC.
- 14. Do you have a Practical Nursing Program?** No. Practical Nursing programs are generally offered at technical colleges. For those who already have an LPN license, we offer an LPN Mobility program.
- 15. How many students apply to the program? How many students are admitted? Is there a waiting list?**
Cambridge Campus Two-Year Track Program: 32 students admitted each spring semester; Coon Rapids Campus Two-Year Track Program: 56 students admitted every fall and spring semester; and a maximum of 32 students admitted each spring into the LPN Mobility program at Coon Rapids Campus.
- Currently, many more students apply each year than ARCC can accept. A limited number of students will be placed on a ranked alternate list. Students placed on this list will be eligible for last-minute admission to the program but will **not** be guaranteed admission in the next year's program. All students wishing to gain admission into future classes must reapply, including those not admitted from the alternate list.
- 16. How long is the program? What degree do I earn? Does it transfer?** Once in the 2-year track program, it takes 4 semesters (2 years) to complete. The LPN Mobility option takes 3 semesters (spring, fall and spring) to complete. It usually takes additional time due to prerequisites, and students often work on general education requirements while waiting for program admission. Students earn an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing. Some 4-year colleges offer completion programs in which Associate degree RNs may continue to pursue their bachelor's degree in Nursing. These are typically 2-year programs, scheduled to accommodate working adults.
- 17. Do you have an evening program?** No. However, some clinical assignments may be offered in the evening.
- 18. Is there an accelerated program?** No. We offer a mobility program for current LPNs who wish to become RNs. Some four-year colleges, such as Metropolitan State University, offer accelerated programs for students with a previous bachelor's degree to go on for their MSN.
- 19. Can I apply to the program if I don't have all of the preadmission courses complete? Can I apply before my final biology/chemistry course grades are posted?** No, all grades must be posted and final prior to applying to the program. If any of the criteria is missing, applications will be considered incomplete and returned to applicant.
- 20. What hours and days will I be in class (or at clinical sites) during the nursing program? What clinical sites are used?** Nursing course schedules typically require classroom and clinical activities at least 3 days a week. Clinicals may be during the evening. Students may have to travel quite a distance to clinical sites. Clinical learning occurs in hospitals and nursing homes in the Twin Cities metropolitan area, St. Cloud, Cambridge and other outlying cities.
- 21. When will I be notified if I am accepted into the program?** You will be notified of acceptance approximately three months after the application deadline.
- 22. I've received my acceptance letter; when do I register for classes? What should I bring to orientation?** Admitted students will be notified of a mandatory nursing orientation session. (This will be in addition to the regular new student orientation.) Orientation will include information on registration, clinical requirements, email accounts, nursing ID badges, nursing math requirement, and uniform orders. Uniforms will be ordered at orientation and payment must be made at that time. Additional information will be sent to students after acceptance into the program.
- 23. How many hours can I work and still do well in the nursing program?** Many students hold part-time jobs while attending classes. However, nursing faculty consider that school must be a student's primary priority while enrolled in the program. Student employment is secondary and faculty will not compromise the quality of the learning experience to adjust to individual student job demands. No special consideration will be given to students who have work/school time conflicts.
- 24. What does it mean to be in good academic standing? If I am denied due to poor academic standing, what can I do?** A student must not be on suspension at the time of application or when starting the nursing program (see college catalog for description of suspension criteria). If a student is on suspension prior to application, they should meet with an advisor or counselor.
- 25. How can I get more specific information about your nursing program?** Required nursing program information sessions are regularly scheduled throughout the year. For dates, see link at http://webs.anokaramsey.edu/nursing_program. A complete nursing information packet is also available on-line and on both campuses.

The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice. Please refer to the Nursing Program web site for the most complete up-to-date information.