

# NURSING

program guide



## **ADMISSIONS (845) 574-4224**

## **FINANCIAL AID/ SCHOLARSHIPS (845) 574-4992 574-4576**

Prospective students are invited to complete an enrollment application online or at the Admissions Office located in the Technology Center and attend an informational workshop to learn about required documentation, skill assessment, financial aid, honors programs, early admissions, tuition and scholarships.

Tours of the campus are available to allow prospective students and their families to see the college environment first hand.

Each year, RCC students receive more than \$10 million in financial assistance to help them meet the cost of higher education. The College's Financial Aid Office assists students and families complete applications for federal, state and local financial aid programs and subsequently awards aid to all eligible applicants. Free personal counseling and technical assistance is available on a walk-in basis. In addition, the RCC Foundation, a non-profit, charitable organization, annually awards hundreds of scholarships to new and continuing students.

It is the policy of Rockland Community College not to discriminate on basis of age, alienage, color, creed, disability, gender/sex, marital status, national origin, prior non-job related record of conviction, race, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status in its programs and activities.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President, Student Development, Technology Center, Suite 8129, 145 College Road, Suffern, NY 10901, (845) 574-4206

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

This booklet answers some of the most commonly asked questions about the Nursing Program at SUNY Rockland Community College – questions about registration, entrance requirements, and the program itself. Please read it carefully; for any additional information, call the Department of Nursing Office at 845-574-4474.

Refer to the College Catalog for information on policies and services applicable to all students at SUNY Rockland Community College. Because the health field changes so rapidly, adjustments in curriculum requirements and policies are sometimes necessary. The nursing faculty maintains the highest educational standards which may require changes in the information and policies in this booklet without prior notification.

The goals of the Associate Degree Nursing Program at SUNY Rockland Community College are to:

1. meet the needs of the community for individuals who are both informed citizens and registered nurses.
2. provide access into practice as a registered nurse and the foundation for baccalaureate and higher education in nursing for all who desire it.

SUNY Rockland Community College's Nursing Program is registered by the State Education Department and fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC).<sup>\*</sup> Upon successful completion of the SUNY Rockland Community College Nursing Program, students are awarded the Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree and will be eligible to apply to take the National Council Examination required for licensing as a Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN).<sup>\*\*</sup> They will know about common health problems and the methods of treating them, as well as the accepted ethical and legal standards of nursing. Graduates will be prepared to fill staff nursing positions in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other community-based healthcare settings.

In keeping with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the essential skills and abilities of nursing have been identified and listed. The list is available from the Department of Nursing upon request.

A.S. nursing graduates may also continue study toward a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (B.S.). SUNY Rockland Community College nursing alumni have transferred to institutions including SUNY New Paltz, Columbia University, Syracuse University, and New York University.

<sup>\*</sup>The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), 3343 Peachtree Rd., NE Suite 500, Atlanta GA 30326 (phone 404-975-5000) is a resource for program information.

<sup>\*\*</sup>All questions regarding citizenship status and eligibility to take NCLEX should be referred to the New York State Education Department Office of the Professions.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>On the application for the licensing examination there are questions related to the commission of a crime and any pending charges. If the answers are affirmative, there is an automatic referral to the Office of Professions, New York State Education Department, and the case is assigned to an investigator. Depending upon results of the investigation, a hearing may be required and licensure may be denied.

# PHILOSOPHY of the NURSING PROGRAM

## NURSING

Nursing is a health profession that focuses on the alleviation and prevention of disease, and on maximizing the patient's potential for optimal well being. Nursing is a direct, goal-oriented, service profession that responds to the specific needs of the patient. The patient may be the individual, the family, or the community. Nursing is practiced in an ever-expanding variety of settings. The healthcare system is a complex organization of structured and non-structured care facilities, and human resources that provide a wide array of healthcare services.

The Nursing Process is a methodology upon which the practice of nursing is based. It consists of five interrelated steps: assessment, nursing diagnosis, planning, intervention, and evaluation. Effective implementation of the Nursing Process requires cognitive, psychomotor, and affective behaviors derived from learning activities in clinical therapeutics, nursing theory, liberal arts, and sciences.

## ROLE of the ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATE NURSE

The Associate Degree Graduate Nurse is prepared to function in the roles of provider of care, manager of care and member of the discipline of Nursing. In the role of provider of care, the Associate Degree Graduate Nurse is knowledgeable about commonly occurring health problems across the life span, human responses to these problems, and common modalities of medical and nursing management.

The Associate Degree Graduate Nurse provides care for patients as individuals and as members of families, groups, and communities. The individual is a unique, unified whole with physical, psychological, and sociocultural dimensions. The individual is an open system in constant reciprocal interaction with the environment. During the life span, the individual progresses through a series of distinct, predictable developmental stages. At any point in time, an individual may be perceived on a continuum between wellness and illness. Health is a dynamic state of wellness with physical, psychological, spiritual, and social dimensions.

The Associate Degree Graduate Nurse is prepared to provide patient-centered care in acute, long-term and community settings, where policies and procedures are specified and the guidance of an experienced professional nurse is available. This requires the ability to use a collaborative approach involving the patient, family, significant others, and members of the healthcare team in an effort to assist the patient to achieve a maximum state of wellness.

The Associate Degree Graduate Nurse, as manager of care, provides and coordinates care for a group of patients. Practice in this role is characterized by collaboration, organization, delegation, accountability, advocacy, and respect for other healthcare workers. In this role, the Associate Degree Graduate Nurse participates in evaluation of patient care delivery systems, contributes to change, and promotes an environment that fosters team relationships.

The Associate Degree Graduate Nurse, as a member of the discipline of nursing, is accountable to self, patients, other healthcare professionals, the nursing profession, and society. The graduate practices within the ethical and legal framework of nursing; acts to ensure high standards of nursing practice; and is committed to professional growth, continuous learning, and self-development.

(Adapted in part from The American Nurses Association: Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice. Washington, DC, 2004, The Association.)

## **NURSING EDUCATION**

The goal of nursing education is to meet the community's need for individuals prepared to function in a diverse, changing society, both as informed citizens and as Registered Nurses. Nursing education should be open to all who wish to learn without regard to ethnic or racial background, color, religion, gender, nationality, age, marital status, sexual orientation, economic status, developmental stage, or prior educational achievement.

Associate degree nursing education provides access into practice as a Registered Nurse and serves as a basis for further professional study. It provides the foundation upon which the individual moves toward self-fulfillment in personal and professional life, and fosters a commitment to continued learning. Nursing education emphasizes the development of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor behaviors which are essential to nursing practice and contribute to the ability to function as a member of a rapidly changing global society. Since these behaviors require general education competencies (critical thinking, quantitative and communication skills, use of the scientific method, understanding of self and society, international and intercultural awareness, historical and geographical consciousness, awareness of the arts) as well as knowledge of the biological sciences and the theory and practice of nursing, the faculty believes that education for nursing is best delivered in institutions of higher learning.

# TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

The faculty believes that an educational program in nursing should be based on the values of free inquiry and free expression, and should foster the value of service to humanity. The program offers flexible programming in recognition of the fact that individuals come from diverse social, educational, and cultural backgrounds, have varying personal commitments, and learn in different ways and at different rates. The ability, readiness, motivation and responsibility to learn are seen as attributes of the learner which can be facilitated by faculty. Learning is enhanced by building on previous theoretical content and application to practice; thus, learning should be structured to proceed from simple concepts to complex principles. Furthermore, learning is fostered through active involvement of the learner in the teaching-learning process within a supportive environment. The program is structured by content and experiences, taking into consideration individual differences in students.

# PROGRAM of STUDY

The Nursing Program consists of a four-level sequence of Nursing Process courses (I, II, III, IV), NUR 106 – Principles of Drug Administration and Therapy, NUR 103 – Calculations for Pharmacology, in addition to courses in the liberal arts and sciences. Each level of the program consists of two Nursing Process courses which must be completed before a course at the next level is taken.

The two Nursing Process courses in a level may be taken concurrently or in successive semesters. In either case, the arts and science corequisites for each Nursing Process course must be taken prior to/or concurrent with the specific Nursing Process course.

Nursing Process courses at SUNY Rockland Community College are offered in the fall and spring semesters; courses in liberal arts and sciences may be taken in any session in which they are offered including the shorter, more intensive summer and winter sessions.

Students may complete the Nursing Program on either a full- or part-time basis, and as either day or evening students. If students enroll in a daytime clinical laboratory in the first Nursing Process course, they must continue in a daytime clinical laboratory throughout the program unless space is available in the evening section at the time of registration for the next semester. If students enroll in an evening clinical laboratory section in the first Nursing Process course, they will have the opportunity for evening clinical placements in subsequent semesters provided successful completion of each Nursing Process course is achieved each semester. Otherwise, such placements are on a space-available basis each semester.

Part-time students must plan their course work so that Nursing Process courses are taken in consecutive semesters. This is to ensure the student's best preparation possible for the NCLEX-RN examination.

Each Nursing Process course has three components: classroom learning, nursing skills laboratory learning, and clinical learning. In the classroom, students study the theory of nursing including the use of the nursing process as it relates to the basic health needs and common health problems of individuals. In the nursing skills laboratory, students learn nursing procedures necessary for the care of patients with the health problems they are studying. In the clinical placement, students apply the principles learned in the classroom and nursing skills laboratory to provide direct nursing care to patients.

In each Nursing Process course, classroom instruction consists of a two and one half hour lecture, one day/evening each week. The clinical component is scheduled one day/evening per week per course. One class hour is 50 minutes based on a 15 week semester model. Classes/clinicals offered in less than 15 weeks have class model hours adjusted accordingly.

In Nursing Process courses students will learn the three roles of the Associate Degree nurse: provider of care, manager of care, and member of

the discipline of nursing. As students learn these roles, they will have the opportunity to care for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds in acute and chronic in-patient and community based settings.

**Nursing Process IA** presents fundamental concepts related to basic human needs, health assessment, health maintenance, the nursing process and the profession of Nursing. The focus is on wellness in a variety of community long-term care settings.

**Nursing Process IB** presents the fundamentals of nursing care within the context of the basic human needs through the application of the nursing process. The focus is on promoting the optimal level of health in long-term geriatric and community settings.

**Nursing Process IIA** focuses on caring for individuals with common health problems related to the need for psychological regulation and nutrition. In-patient and community psychiatric settings are utilized for the clinical experience.

**Nursing Process IIB** focuses on caring for individuals with common health problems related to the needs for mobility and elimination. Acute care, rehabilitation facilities, and settings in the community are utilized for the clinical experience.

**Nursing Process IIIA** presents the nursing care related to meeting the basic needs of women and the childbearing family. The clinical component includes postpartum, labor, delivery, newborn nursery, and a variety of experience in community settings.

**Nursing Process IIIB** focuses on the nursing care of patients with common health problems related to the need for body defense and the respiratory component to the need for gaseous transfer. Clinical experiences are provided on acute medical-surgical units in local hospitals and in community settings.

**Nursing Process IVA** involves the nursing care of patients with common health problems related to the need for chemical regulation and the cardiovascular component of the need for gaseous transfer. Clinical experiences are provided on acute medical-surgical nursing units and in community settings.

**Nursing Process IVB** focuses on the nursing care of pediatric patients and on the leadership and organizational skills needed to manage the care of any group of patients across the life span. Clinical experiences are provided in pediatric units, in long-term care facilities and in community settings.

Healthcare facilities used for clinical experiences include Northern Manor Multicare Center, Northern Metropolitan, Northern Riverview, Good Samaritan Hospital, Nyack Hospital, Helen Hayes Hospital, Rockland Psychiatric Center, the Robert L. Yeager Health Center, Ramapo Manor Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing, and Calvary Hospital. Other healthcare facilities to which clinical groups may be assigned are located in surrounding areas. A contract between the college and each clinical agency governs the use of the facility and parking regulations for clinical experience. These contracts include the provision that any student who is unacceptable and undesirable to the agency for reasons of health, performance of duties or other reasonable cause will be withdrawn. (See "The Student Code of Conduct" in the Rockland Student Handbook.)

## TIME COMMITMENT

The time necessary to complete the requirements of each course varies with individual ability, motivation, and past experience. In addition to scheduled class and clinical hours each semester, time will be required for Nursing Skills Laboratory assignments (averaging 2 hours per week, per course), library work, conferences with faculty, travel to and from clinical placements, and homework. These requirements should be considered in making plans for transportation, child care and employment. Students holding full-time jobs, or having extensive family commitments may wish to consider part-time enrollment in the Nursing Program.

Nursing skills required in Nursing Process II, III, and IV courses may be completed in the Nursing Skills Laboratory during the winter or summer session immediately before the Nursing Process course is taken. For information about registration for this option contact the Department of Nursing.

Information sessions about the Nursing Program are offered on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Please call the Assistant Placement Coordinator at (845) 574-4474 to confirm date and time.

## FULL-TIME STUDY

Curriculum for full-time students who have demonstrated competency in Clinical Calculations for Pharmacology and who plan to complete the program in two academic years:

◇ NUR 103 Calculations for Pharmacology, 1 credit

Semester I		Class Hours/Week		
		Credits	Lecture	Lab
NUR 111*	Nursing Process IA	3.5	2.5	5
NUR 113*	Nursing Process IB	3.5	2.5	5
ENG 101	English Composition I	3	3	0
PSY 103	General Psychology	3	3	0
BIO 110+	Anatomy and Physiology I	4	3	3
NUR 106	Principles of Drug Administration	1	1	0
		18	15	13
Semester II				
NUR 141*	Nursing Process IIA	3.5	2.5	5
NUR 142*	Nursing Process IIB	3.5	2.5	5
ENG 102	English Composition II	3	3	0
CHM 105+	Principles of General & Biological Chemistry (also offered online)	3	3	0
BIO III+	Anatomy & Physiology II	4	3	3
PED	Physical Education	1	1	0
		18	15	13

**Class Hours/Week**

**Semester III**

		<b>Credits</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Lab</b>
NUR 231*	Nursing Process IIIA	4	2.5	6
NUR 232*	Nursing Process IIIB	4	2.5	6
PSY 191++	Life Span Development	3	3	0
BIO 207+	Microbiology	4	3	3
PED	Physical Education	1	1	0
		16	12	15

**Semester IV**

NUR 241*	Nursing Process IVA	4	2.5	6
NUR 242*	Nursing Process IVB	4	2.5	6
PDA 101**	Pluralism & Diversity in America	3	3	0
	Free Elective	3	3	0
PED	Physical Education	1	1	0
NUR 149~	NCLEX Review	0	*	0
<b>Total Credits in Program: 67</b>		15	12	12

◇ Program requirement (NUR 103 competency must be demonstrated)

\* Prerequisites and/or corequisites are required for all Nursing Process courses.

\*\* No course other than PDA 101 will fulfill the nursing degree requirement.

+ 1) Courses must be completed with a grade of C or higher within 10 years of the date of enrollment in the first nursing course in order to be applied to the AS in Nursing Degree. Requests for exemption from this time policy will be considered by the Chair of the Nursing Program upon receipt of a written request accompanied by documentation which substantiates that the student's knowledge base in anatomy, physiology and chemistry is sound and current. Any exemption to this 10 year limit must also be approved by the Chair of the Department of Science.

2) CHM 101 may be taken in place of CHM 105 for the AS in Nursing. If this option is selected, a transcript showing completion of CHM 101 with a grade of C or better must be presented to the Coordinator of the Nursing Program who will complete a waiver form.

++ Students beginning Nursing Process I in Fall 2005 or later: no course other than PSY 191, Life Span Development will fulfill this requirement.

~ Program requirements include a review course in preparation for the Registered Nurse licensure examination (NCLEX-RN)

## PART-TIME STUDY

Students may take both sections (A & B) of a Nursing Process course in one semester, or, for a lighter course load, section A one semester and section B the following semester. The latter option requires completion of the necessary prerequisites or corequisites for each Nursing Process course as indicated under full-time study.

◇ NUR 103 Calculations for Pharmacology

Note: refer to page 8 & 9 for time commitment

### LEVEL IA

NUR 111 Nursing Process IA  
ENG 101 English Composition I  
PSY 103 General Psychology

### LEVEL IB

NUR 113 Nursing Process IB  
BIO 110 Anatomy & Physiology I  
NUR 106 Principles of Drug Administration

### LEVEL IIA

NUR 141 Nursing Process IIA  
CHM 105 Principles of General & Biological Chemistry  
ENG 102 English Composition II

### LEVEL IIB

NUR 142 Nursing Process IIB  
BIO 111 Anatomy & Physiology II  
PED Physical Education

### LEVEL IIIA

NUR 231 Nursing Process IIIA  
PSY 191 Life Span Development  
PED Physical Education

### LEVEL IIIB

NUR 232 Nursing Process IIIB  
BIO 207 Microbiology

### LEVEL IVA

NUR 241 Nursing Process IVA  
PDA 101 Pluralism & Diversity  
PED Physical Education

### LEVEL IVB

NUR 242 Nursing Process IVB  
Free Elective  
NUR 149 NCLEX Review

# ACADEMIC and PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The minimum grade required in all Nursing Process courses, NUR 103, Calculations for Pharmacology and NUR 106, Principles of Drug Administration is a C+ (75%). The same minimum grade of C+ is required in all Nursing Process courses for completion of the Nursing Program.

Students repeating a Nursing Process course must achieve a grade of B-minimum.

For the most current information, refer to Registration, Progression, Grading and Testing Policies for Required Core Nursing Courses published each semester.

To earn the Associate of Science degree and be eligible for the licensing examination, students must meet all program and state requirements and achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.

To safeguard patients' welfare, nursing students must:

- comply with state, local, and agency health requirements, and be free of any condition, including use of any mind altering chemicals that place the patient in jeopardy
- demonstrate emotional stability
- ensure patient safety and comfort
- practice within legal standards and demonstrate regard for professional ethics.
- comply with agency standards, policies, procedures and all standard infection control practices, and adhere to all HIPAA regulations.
- maintain patient confidentiality at all times
- perform patient care with required knowledge and skill.

If any of the preceding criteria are not met, students may be removed from the program based on a decision by the Nursing faculty and Department Chair.

# LPN to RN EXPRESS

This program is designed to prepare Licensed Practical Nurses to become Registered Nurses in a time-efficient manner by providing credit for prior knowledge and skills.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR THE LPN TO RN EXPRESS PROGRAM

- Graduation from a school of Practical Nursing within the past 12 months
- or
- Consistent employment as an LPN during the past 12 months

**Note:** Proof of Mathematics Assessment Examination is required of all students entering the Nursing Program. See Admission to the Nursing Process Sequence.

### In the LPN to RN Express Program:

- NUR 110, Using Nursing Process and NUR 206, Physical Assessment are required for all transfer and advanced placement students who are exempt from NUR 111 (Nursing Process IA). These courses must be taken before or at the same time as the first Nursing Process course taken at the College.
- LPNs are awarded prior learning credit for Nursing Process IA & IB (7 credits) upon completion of NUR 110.
- LPNs may demonstrate competency on any or all of the following Nursing courses by taking Nursing Department Competency Examinations.
  - NUR 103 Calculations for Pharmacology
  - NUR 106 Principles of Drug Administration
  - NUR 141 Nursing Process IIA
  - NUR 142 Nursing Process IIB
  - NUR 231 Nursing Process IIIA
  - NUR 232 Nursing Process IIIB
- If either NUR 141 or NUR 142, and either NUR 231 or NUR 232 are passed, the other two courses may be taken together in the same semester.
- If needed, NUR 103, Calculations for Pharmacology, NUR 106, Principles of Drug Administration, NUR 110, Using the Nursing Process or NUR 206, Physical Assessment, must be taken prior to or along with the first Nursing Process course taken.

- When the required arts and science courses are completed, it is possible for the nursing component to be completed in as little as one semester if all nursing competency examinations are taken and passed. Completion of the nursing component in one semester would be the unusual case because content in RN courses is presented in greater depth and breadth than in LPN courses. However, the option to earn competency credit for all but the last semester nursing process courses is offered based on SUNY Rockland's firm commitment to upward professional mobility and recognition of existing knowledge and skills. To receive a degree from SUNY Rockland a minimum of 17 credits must be completed in residence.

## LPN to RN EXPRESS SUGGESTED CURRICULUM

Students may take both parts (A & B) of a Nursing Process course in one semester, or, for a lighter course load, Part A one semester and Part B the following semester. The latter option requires completion of the necessary prerequisites or corequisites for each Nursing Process course as shown below.

### Prerequisites or Corequisites

NUR 103	Calculations for Pharmacology or proving competency by examination
ENG 101	English Composition I
PSY 103	General Psychology
BIO 110	Anatomy & Physiology I
NUR 106	Principles of Drug Administration
NUR 206	Physical Assessment
NUR 110*	Using Nursing Process

### LEVEL IIA

NUR 141	Nursing Process IIA
CHM 105	Principles of General & Biological Chemistry
ENG 102	English Composition II

### LEVEL IIB

NUR 142	Nursing Process IIB
BIO 111	Anatomy & Physiology II
PED	Physical Education

### LEVEL IIIA

NUR 231	Nursing Process IIIA
PSY 191	Life Span Development
PED	Physical Education

### LEVEL IIIB

NUR 232	Nursing Process IIIB
BIO 207	Microbiology

### LEVEL IVA

NUR 241	Nursing Process IVA
PDA 101	Pluralism & Diversity
PED	Physical Education

### LEVEL IVB

NUR 242	Nursing Process IVB Free Elective
NUR 149	NCLEX Review

\*Nursing Process Level IA and IB transfer credit will be granted following successful completion of NUR 110, Using the Nursing Process.

# ADMISSION to the NURSING PROCESS SEQUENCE

Before applying to the Nursing Program, students must take the English and Mathematics Assessments given by SUNY Rockland Community College and have scores on file. Their purpose is to identify academic areas which require strengthening so that students can enroll in appropriate support courses if needed. Students who have transfer credit for ENG 101 are exempt from the English Assessment.

There are NO exemptions from the Mathematics Assessment, which has both an arithmetic and an algebra component.

## ENGLISH

Students must place at ENG 101 on the English Assessment Examination or have transfer credit for ENG 101 to apply to the Nursing Program.

## MATHEMATICS

To apply to the Nursing Program, students must place at the MAT 101 or MAT 102 level or have completed all required remedial courses. Students must demonstrate competency in the mathematics needed to accurately complete clinical calculations: drug dosages, intravenous infusion rates, enteral feeding dilutions, etc. Competency may be demonstrated either by passing a drug calculations competency examination with a grade of 75% or higher or by successfully completing NUR 103E, Calculations for Pharmacology, with a grade of 75% or higher. Both of these options require a MAT 101 or MAT 102 placement on the SUNY Rockland Community College Mathematics Placement Examination.

Specific information on dates, times, locations, and fees for competency examinations is available from the Nursing Office. Examination applications and examination guides with sample problems also are available in the Nursing Office. The Competency Examination may be taken only once. If a grade of 75% or higher is not achieved, NUR 103E must be taken. The Competency Examination must be completed prior to or with the first Nursing Process course (IA - NUR 111). In the case of LPN to RN Express students, the Competency Examination must be completed prior to NUR 142 (Nursing Process IIB) or any level III or IV Nursing Process course.

# INTERPRETATION of MATHEMATICS ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION RESULTS

After taking the math assessment examination, students will receive their placement information from the Assessment Office. The possible placements and what they mean for starting the Nursing Process sequence are:

**MAT 101 or MAT 102 or higher:** may apply to the Nursing Program and take the Calculations for Pharmacology Competency Examination and/or NUR 103E

**MAT 101E with MAT 048:** must take this course before applying to the Nursing Program and the Calculations for Pharmacology Competency Examination and/or NUR 103E.

**MAT 065 then MAT 101:** must take MAT 065 before applying to the Nursing Program and the Calculations for Pharmacology Competency Examination and/or NUR 103E. Does not require MAT 101.

**MAT 065 1<sup>st</sup> Semester then MAT 101E with MAT 048 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester:** must take MAT 065 then MAT 101E with MAT 048 before applying to the Nursing Program and the Calculations for Pharmacology Competency Examination and/or NUR 103E.

Once students enroll in NUR 103E, the opportunity to demonstrate competency through examination is waived, and the course must be completed with a grade of 75%.

## TRANSFER CREDIT

To obtain transfer credit for nursing courses taken at another college, students must mail transcripts, along with catalog descriptions and outlines of each nursing course for which transfer credit is desired, to the Chair of the Department of Nursing. The Chair will review the documents and notify students of decisions.

Transfer credit will be granted for Nursing Process courses if the nursing courses to be transferred compare in content and credit hours to those at SUNY Rockland Community College and if the courses were completed for the first time no more than four semesters ago with a grade of C+ or better, in a college-based Registered Nurse program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

Non-nursing licensed healthcare personnel and armed forces medical technicians may receive credit for first semester Nursing Process IA and IB courses (NUR 111, 113) through competency examination. Students with a grade of 75% or higher who have passed a nursing fundamentals course with both theoretical and clinical components more than four semesters ago or in a non-NLNAC accredited program or at a diploma school are also eligible to take a competency examination for advanced placement credit.

To obtain transfer credit for arts and science courses taken at another college, students must have an official transcript mailed to the Records Office.

# ADVANCED PLACEMENT THROUGH COMPETENCY EXAMINATION

NUR 110, Using Nursing Process and NUR 206, Physical Assessment are required for all transfer and advanced placement students who are exempt from NUR 111 (Nursing Process IA). These courses must be taken before or at the same time as the first Nursing Process course taken at the College.

Department of Nursing Competency examinations are given two times a year. Examination dates, times, and locations are available from the Department of Nursing Office.

Licensed Practical Nurses not qualifying for the LPN to RN Express program may receive credit through competency examinations for NUR 111, NUR 113 and any two second or third semester Nursing Process courses.

To take a Department of Nursing Competency Examination, students must request an application form from the Department of Nursing Office and submit the completed application with appropriate payment and any required documents such as an LPN license or a transcript of previous nursing courses to the Department of Nursing Office no later than 10 days before the first examination. Medical technicians must submit documentation from the Armed Forces.

Each nursing competency examination may be taken only once. Examinations are not reviewed with students. However, pass/fail grades are mailed within two weeks. Competency credits are processed immediately for successful candidates.

Competency examinations are valid for admission to the Nursing Process sequence for two years from the date of the examination. Transfer and advanced placement students are admitted to the Nursing Process sequence on a space available basis.

Arts and science corequisites for each Nursing Process course with proven competency must be completed before registering for the next Nursing Process course in sequence.

# TO ENROLL in a NURSING PROCESS COURSE

To enroll in a Nursing Process course:

1. Apply for admission to SUNY Rockland Community College. Check Nursing as area of concentration on the enrollment application.
2. Take the English and Math Assessment Examinations.
3. Complete successfully any required English and/or Mathematics remediation courses.

Enrollment in the Nursing Program is limited by the number of agency placements available for the clinical experience and is on a competitive basis. Students ready to begin the Nursing Process sequence (i.e. admitted to the college and with mathematics and English assessments, and any required remediation completed) must submit the following documents to the Nursing Office on business days between September 15<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> or between February 15<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> (or the first business day thereafter):

1. A Nursing Process Sequence Application Form that is completely filled out\*
2. Transfer Credit Evaluation Form documenting credit awarded by SUNY Rockland for arts and science courses taken elsewhere.
3. Application to take the NLN PAX (pre-entry examination) or a copy of an Individual Performance Report of an NLN PAX examination taken previously. The NLN PAX examination is the primary determinant of seat allocation and entry into the Nursing Process

Students will be sent a letter apprising them of their application status approximately 4-8 weeks after completion of the NLN PAX examination.

\*Students with incomplete applications will not be considered for admission, and their application will be returned to them.

# NURSING ELECTIVES

Descriptions of Nursing Electives can be found in the SUNY Rockland Community College Catalog and on the SUNY Rockland Community College website. The following is a brief overview:

## **NUR 010 Language of Nursing - 3 credits**

Presents terminology basic to nursing, focusing on its meaning and use in the practice of nursing.

## **NUR 105V (Online) Computers in Nursing – 3 credits**

Focuses on the use of computer technology in nursing. It will include an overview of computer systems, their functions, as well as their application in healthcare.

## **NUR 107 End of Life Nursing Care – 3 credits**

Presents information about best practices for quality care at the end of life.

## **NUR 108 Nursing Care Plan Support Module – 1 credit equivalent**

Reinforces and/or clarifies the concepts related to the use of Nursing Process as taught in the eight core clinical courses in the nursing curriculum.

## **NUR 110 Using Nursing Process – 2 credits**

Intensive experience using the nursing process and working with nursing diagnoses. Required for transfer, advanced placement, and LPN to RN Express students who are exempt from Nursing Process IA (NUR 111).

## **NUR 205V (Online) Principles of Pharmacology – 3 credits**

Presents major drug groups in terms of their action, therapeutic use, dosage, side effects, and nursing implications. Accepted as the Pharmacology degree requirement for the BSN degree from SUNY New Paltz.

## **NUR 206 Physical Assessment – 3 credits**

Teaches the skills needed to perform a physical examination. Required for transfer, advanced placement, and LPN to RN Express students who are exempt from NUR 111 (Nursing Process IA).

## **NUR 250 Nursing Seminar in London: Transcultural Nursing – 3 credits**

Twelve day seminar in London during the January intersession. Immersion in British culture along with lectures and field trips related to British nursing and healthcare provide the background for the study of basic transcultural nursing. Accepted by SUNY New Paltz for 3 credits towards the BSN degree in place of the Transcultural Healthcare course.

# PROGRAM COSTS

Students are required to submit the fee and take the NLN PAX examination after submitting a Nursing Application. In addition to tuition and fees paid to the College, which are subject to change, students will need to purchase the required uniform, white shoes and stockings for women and white dress slacks, white shoes and socks for men, the required Nurse Pacs, a watch with a second hand, a name pin, penlight, and textbooks.

Students must have an annual physical examination and PPD that adheres to College and agency policies for immunization and infection control, prior to beginning clinical. The physical examination form is available at the Office of the Registrar and at [www.sunyrockland.edu](http://www.sunyrockland.edu) and must be completed by the student's healthcare provider, signed, and returned to the Assistant for Health Assessment (Records Office). Deadline dates for submission to the Records Office are January 15 for the spring semester and August 15 for the fall semester.

Transportation to and from clinical agencies, as well as any parking fees, are the student's responsibility.

Students are required to maintain a current AHA BLS certification.

In the event that emergency medical treatment is required, students are responsible for all charges incurred.

Financial assistance is available through scholarships, loans, grants, and part-time employment opportunities. For information, call the Financial Aid Office at 845-574-4282.

# OPPORTUNITY for PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT and PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Not only are nursing students eligible for and encouraged to participate in college clubs and events, but they also have the opportunity to benefit from their own organization – the Student Nurses Association (SNA).

The SNA has, with Student Senate funding, sent representatives to state and national nursing conventions, planned special programs for nursing students, and arranged hospital tours and visits to job fairs. Numerous awards and scholarships are available to nursing students.

## **Department of Nursing**

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