

Nursing, AAS

School of Health Professions

Program Description

Admission to the nursing program is selective and enrollment is limited by the clinical placement necessary to complete the nursing course requirements. All applicants must meet specific criteria before being admitted to any of the program options.

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326; phone 404-975-5000. The ACEN is responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing education programs: Associate Degree. The ACEN is nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for both postsecondary and higher degree programs in nursing education. The Nursing program utilizes Standardized testing to evaluate student performance.

Special Admission and Selection Criteria

Purpose: Admission to the nursing program is a selective process because enrollment is limited by the clinical placement necessary to complete the nursing course requirements. Therefore, all applicants applying for admission must meet the criteria.

Guidelines: Applicants to the associate degree nursing program must submit the appropriate forms to the Admissions Office.

Criteria:

- Graduate of accredited secondary school program or hold a graduate equivalency degree (GED) certificate prior to selection.
- High school transcript validating the successful completion of academic work equivalent to a standard high school program with a minimum of 16 units:
 - English (4 units)
 - Social studies (3 units)
 - Mathematics (2 units, one in algebra required)
 - Science (2 units - one in chemistry with a lab and one biology with a laboratory)
 - If high school algebra, chemistry and biology were not successfully completed with a "C" grade or better, applicants may meet these application requirements by completing MTH 052, MTH 052A, CHM 107, and BIO 107 with a "C" grade or better.
- Students must attend a placement assessment and educational planning session and complete any developmental courses that may be required based on the placement evaluation prior to applying for the Nursing program.
- Applicants who have completed 15 or more credits towards a GPA at WCCC must attain a 2.5 GPA:

- Students with less than 15 credits will be evaluated based on:
 - A minimum 2.5 GPA overall if the applicant has completed 15 or more college-level credits at post-secondary institutions OR
 - A minimum 3.0 High School GPA OR
 - A minimum 165 on GED (minimum 15 on HiSET subtests)
- If GPA is less than 2.5, one or more of these courses may be repeated to meet the requirements before testing.
- Transfer courses are not calculated into the GPA
- Preference may be given to applicants who exceed the minimums.

Application Process for Health Profession Programs

- Complete and submit an Application for Admission to Westmoreland County Community College.
- Complete and submit an application for the specific Health Profession Program (Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Expanded Functions Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, Nursing*, Phlebotomy/Specimen Processing*, Surgical Technology or Radiology).
- Submit all required documents to the Admissions Office by the deadline.
- Submit official transcript from all secondary schools attended, graduate equivalency degree (GED) programs and any other formal educational program beyond high school.

For Fall Start:

Application Deadline January 12 prior to fall start Acceptance Notification Mid-March

For Spring Start

Application Deadline May 15 prior to spring start Acceptance Notification Mid-August

Final Admission Criteria

Students accepted into the School of Health Professions including Nursing, Dental Programs, Radiology, Sonography, Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy, Surgical Technology and Specimen Processing are required to have a health clearance, criminal background check, child abuse history and drug screening at the student's expense.

The Program Director of each Health Profession Program gives the accepted student directions for setting up a password-secure Castle Branch Account.

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Castle Branch is the background screening and compliance tracking company, which provides Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs with student background screening services.

Castle Branch background screening and compliance management includes:

- Background Checks (FBI Fingerprint Check, Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearances)
- Urine Drug Screen
- Immunization and Record Tracking
- Houses Tuberculosis screening results
- CPR Training Documentation
- Liability Insurance (if applicable for program)
- Houses the results of the Required Health Physical

Final admission is conditional pending:

- Receipt of Urine Drug Screen to determine if there are any substances that will prevent the applicant from participating in clinical experiences or bar entry into Health Profession Programs.
- Receipt and evaluation of Criminal Background Check to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.
- Receipt of proof of vaccinations including, but not limited to, MMR, Varicella, Tdap, HepB, Flu, and COVID-19 that are necessary to participate in clinical experiences.
- Receipt of Child Abuse History to determine if there is any conviction that may bar the applicant from entering the Health Profession Programs.

Essential Cognitive, Physical and Behavioral Functions

The Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession Programs including Nursing, Dental Programs, Radiology, Sonography, Medical Assisting, Surgical Technology, Phlebotomy and Specimen Processing require that students meet certain functional abilities essential to each program. A detailed list is available in each program's handbook.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

Caring (QSEN: Patient Centered Care)

1. Provide safe, quality, evidenced-based, patient-centered care with respect for diversity across the lifespan.

Competency (QSEN: Safety)

2. Implement technical aspects of care by following the standards of safe, professional practice.

Communication (QSEN: Teamwork and Collaboration)

3. Implement therapeutic and professional communication when participating in the collaborative care of patients and their families.

Clinical Judgment (QSEN: Evident-Based Practice and Informatics)

4. Use the nursing process, critical thinking, and clinical reasoning to manage patient care.
5. Use information technologies to coordinate safe care for individuals and their families.

Commitment (QSEN: Quality Improvement)

6. Incorporate nursing actions within the legal and ethical framework of nursing practice by conducting self in a civil and professional manner

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Fall Entry/Day Program

Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Term Offered	Prereq(s)	Options Available
Apply to Nursing Program by January 12 for Fall Start							
1st Summer	1	BIO 171	Anatomy & Physiology I	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 107, 155, 264 or HS Chemistry & ENG 095 or Placement	
	2	CPT 150	Microcomputer Concepts	3	F, Sp, Su		
1st Fall	3	BIO 172	Anatomy & Physiology II	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171	
	4	NSG 112	Intro to Professional Nursing & Healthcare Across the Lifespan	3	F, Sp	BIO 171 & CPT 150	
	5	NSG 114	Health & Physical Assessment	3	F, Sp	BIO 171 & CPT 150	
	6	NSG 116	Foundations of Nursing Care	7	F, Sp	BIO 171 & CPT 150	
1st Spring	7	PSY 160	General Psychology	3	F, Sp, Su		
	8	NSG 124	Medical Surgical Care of the Adult	9	F, Sp	BIO 171, 172, CPT 150, NSG 112, 114 & 116	
2nd Fall	9	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement	
	10	NSG 225	Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family/Infant/Child	4	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	11	NSG 240	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	12	NSG 255	Advanced M/S Aging Adult	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	13	BIO 265	Microbiology	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 155 or 171; CHM 107, 155, 264 or HS Chemistry; & ENG 085 or Placement	
2nd Spring	14	NSG 260	Advanced M/S Care of Chronically Ill	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	15	NSG 270	Advanced M/S Care of Acutely Ill	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	16	ENG 164	Advanced Composition	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 161	
	17	Elective	Mathematics Elective: MTH 157 or 160 Recommended	3	F, Sp, Su	Placement	Column IV on p 49
	18	NSG 280	Manager of Nursing Care	4	F, Sp	All Level I & II ADN Nursing & Support Courses	

Total Program Credits

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PDV 101 - First Year Seminar is required for all first-time credential-seeking students. Students must pass all program courses with a C or better.

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Spring Entry/Part-Time Evening Program

Sugg. Term	Seq #	Course ID	Course Title	Cr.	Term Offered	Prereq(s)	Options Available
1st Fall	1	BIO 171	Anatomy & Physiology I	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 107, 155, 264 or HS Chemistry & ENG 095 or Placement	
	2	CPT 150	Microcomputer Concepts	3	F, Sp, Su		
1st Spring	3	BIO 172	Anatomy & Physiology II	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171	
	4	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement	
	5	PSY 160	General Psychology	3	F, Sp, Su		
Apply to Nursing Program by May 15 for Spring Start							
Summer	6	BIO 265	Microbiology	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 155 or 171; CHM 107, 155, 264 or HS Chemistry; & ENG 085 or Placement	
2nd Fall	7	ENG 164	Advanced Composition	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 161	
	8	Elective	Mathematics Elective: MTH 157 or 160 Recommended	3	F, Sp, Su	Placement	
2nd Spring	9	NSG 112	Intro to Professional Nursing & Healthcare Across the Lifespan	3	F, Sp	BIO 171 & CPT 150	
	10	NSG 114	Health & Physical Assessment	3	F, Sp	BIO 171 & CPT 150	
	11	NSG 116	Foundations of Nursing Care	7	F, Sp	BIO 171 & CPT 150	
3rd Fall	12	NSG 124	Medical Surgical Care of the Adult	9	F, Sp	ALH 120, BIO 171, 172, CPT 150, NSG 112, 114 & 116	
3rd Spring	13	NSG 255	Advanced M/S Aging Adult	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	14	NSG 225	Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family/Infant/Child	4	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	15	NSG 240	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
4th Fall	16	NSG 260	Advanced M/S Care of Chronically III	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	17	NSG 270	Advanced M/S Care of Acutely III	3	F, Sp	All Level I ADN Nursing & Support Courses	
	18	NSG 280	Manager of Nursing Care	4	F, Sp	All Level I & II ADN Nursing & Support Courses	

Total Program Credits

69

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