

## Nursing, AAS

### School of Health Professions

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#### Program Description

The Westmoreland County Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program is a selective admission program that prepares students for a career path in nursing. Nursing students are equipped with the skills needed to assess clinical scenarios, navigate patient interactions and work successfully in a variety of health care settings. Enrollment is limited by the clinical placement necessary to complete the nursing course requirements.

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326; phone 404-975-5000. The ACEN is responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing education programs and is nationally recognized as a specialized accrediting agency for both postsecondary and higher degree programs in nursing education. The Nursing program is approved by the PA State Board of Nursing, <https://www.dos.pa.gov>. The Nursing program utilizes Standardized testing to assess student performance.

#### Getting Started: General Application Process for Health Professions Programs

- Apply to be a Westmoreland County Community College Student.
- Submit official transcript from all secondary schools attended, graduate equivalency degree (GED) programs and any other formal educational program beyond high school.
- Applicants for the Westmoreland County Community College Health Profession programs must be a Westmoreland County Community College student and have an active Student ID and college email account.
- Applicants for the Health Professions Programs must also have attended any college required planning sessions and placement assessment(s) and completed any developmental course work based upon the assessment evaluation prior to applying for the selected Health Profession.
- 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 College by the deadline.
- Qualified applicants to the Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Nursing Program will be invited to take the standardized entrance examination. The score on this examination is utilized in the selective admissions process. You may only take this examination once per admission cycle.
- Preference for admissions will be given to students who exceed minimum criteria.

#### Special Admission and Selection Criteria for the Associate Degree Nursing Program

Guidelines: Applicants to the associate degree nursing program must demonstrate compliance to the following criteria...

#### Minimum Criteria:

- Graduate of accredited secondary school program or hold a graduate equivalency degree (GED) certificate prior to selection.
- Accredited secondary school program 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 laboratory 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, BIO 107, or higher level course in discipline with a "C" grade or better. Placement testing demonstrating the applicant to be at the college level meets the high school algebra requirement for this criterion.
- Students must attend a placement assessment and educational planning session and complete any developmental courses 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.

#### *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

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#### **Final Admission Criteria**

Students accepted into the School of Health Professions 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.

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/Coreq(Co)	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, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better) and 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 with a "C" grade or better	
	4	NSG 112	Intro to Professional Nursing & Healthcare Across the Lifespan	3	F, Sp	BIO 171, CPT 150; Co: BIO 172, NSG 114	
	5	NSG 114	Health & Physical Assessment	3	F, Sp, Su	BIO 171, CPT 150; Co: BIO 172, NSG 112, NSG 116	
	6	NSG 116	Foundations of Nursing Care	7	F, Sp	BIO 171, CPT 150; Co: BIO 172, NSG 114	
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, BIO 172, CPT 150, NSG 112, NSG 114, NSG 116; Co: PSY 160	
2nd Fall	9	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement; Co: ENG 095 or ENG 099 or Placement	
	10	NSG 225	Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family/Infant/Child	4	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	11	NSG 240	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	12	NSG 255	Advanced M/S Aging Adult	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	13	BIO 265	Microbiology	4	F, Sp, Su	BIO 155 or BIO 171 and CHM 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better), ENG 085 or placement	
2nd Spring	14	NSG 260	Advanced M/S Care of Chronically Ill	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	15	NSG 270	Advanced M/S Care of Acutely Ill	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	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 46
	18	NSG 280	Manager of Nursing Care	4	F, Sp	All Level I & II ADN Nursing & Support Courses; Co: Level II support courses	

Total Program Credits

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PDV 101 - First Year Seminar is required for all first-time credential-seeking students.

Nursing Courses (NSG) must be passed with a B or better.

Support courses are those courses without an NSG prefix and must pass 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/Coreq(Co)	Options Available
1st Fall	1	BIO 171	Anatomy & Physiology I	4	F, Sp, Su	CHM 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better) and 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 with a "C" grade or better	
	4	ENG 161	College Writing	3	F, Sp, Su	ENG 085 or Placement; Co: ENG 095 or ENG 099 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 BIO 171 and CHM 107, CHM 155, CHM 225 or high school chemistry (C or better), 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; Co: BIO 172, NSG 114	
	10	NSG 114	Health & Physical Assessment	3	F, Sp	BIO 171, CPT 150; Co: BIO 172, NSG 112, NSG 116	
	11	NSG 116	Foundations of Nursing Care	7	F, Sp	BIO 171, CPT 150; Co: BIO 172, NSG 114	
3rd Fall	12	NSG 124	Medical Surgical Care of the Adult	9	F, Sp	BIO 171, BIO 172, CPT 150, NSG 112, NSG 114, NSG 116; Co: PSY 160	
3rd Spring	13	NSG 255	Advanced M/S Aging Adult	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	14	NSG 225	Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family/Infant/Child	4	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	15	NSG 240	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
4th Fall	16	NSG 260	Advanced M/S Care of Chronically Ill	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	17	NSG 270	Advanced M/S Care of Acutely Ill	3	F, Sp	All Level ADN nursing and support courses; Co: Level II ADN nursing and support courses in assigned sequence semester	
	18	NSG 280	Manager of Nursing Care	4	F, Sp	All Level I & II ADN Nursing & Support Courses; Co: Level II support courses	

Total Program Credits

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