

Registered Nursing Associate in Applied Science Degree

Available: Phil Campbell Campus

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Division of Health Studies offers a five-semester Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. Upon satisfactory completion, the Associate of Applied Science Degree is awarded, and the graduate is eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a Registered Nurse. Graduation from the program however, does not guarantee Board of Nursing approval to take the NCLEX-RN licensing examination. See Standards of Conduct section.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program supports the Philosophy and Purpose of the College and serves its community by preparing associate degree nurses for a beginning level of practice in varied health settings. The Nursing Program Director and the nursing faculty have the responsibility for administering and evaluating the Associate Degree Nursing Program according to policies and guidelines established by the College and the Alabama Board of Nursing.

The Purpose of the Associate Degree Nursing Program is to:

1. Prepare entry level Registered Nurses who utilize the nursing process to deliver safe, competent care to clients of all ages who have common health problems.
2. Foster learning as a life-long process to remain competent.
3. Prepare entry level Registered Nurses who contribute to society as citizens and members within the discipline of nursing.
4. Provide education at the Associate Degree level, which forms a basis for entry into baccalaureate nursing education.

APPROVALS AND ACCREDITATION

The Associate Degree Nursing Program is state approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing and nationally accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. Each agency's address is provided:

Alabama Board of Nursing
 RSA Plaza, Ste. 250
 770 Washington Ave.
 Montgomery, Alabama 36104
 phone: (334) 242-4060, Fax: (334) 242-4360
 Website: <http://www.abn.state.al.us>

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
 3343 Peachtree Road NE
 Suite 500
 Atlanta, Georgia 30326
 phone: (404) 975-5000
 Fax: (404) 975-5020, Website: <http://www.nlnac.org>

All agencies utilized for students' clinical experiences are accredited or licensed by their governing body.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

A generic option and a mobility option are offered. The generic option is for students without previous nursing education. Students are admitted in the fall semester and complete five semesters of nursing.

The mobility option is for Licensed Practical Nurses who graduated from a state-approved school of practical nursing and hold a current, active, and unencumbered Alabama Practical Nursing license. This license must be maintained throughout the program. **Proof of licensure must be on file.**

Students are admitted according to the following priority:

1. First time generic students.
2. Mobility LPNs.
3. Second year readmissions.
4. First year readmissions.
5. Transfer applicants

NOTICE: The Alabama College System Standardized Curriculum is continuing to be reviewed and analyzed. Modifications will be made as needed.

The admission criteria is currently under review and is subject to change.

GENERIC OPTION

Minimum admission standards for the Associate Degree Nursing Program include:

1. Unconditional admission to the College.
2. Good standing with the College.
3. Receipt of completed application for the Associate Degree Nursing Program by April 1st for fall admission annually.
4. Have a minimum of 2.50 cumulative grade point average based on the most recent 24 credit hours of college work.
5. Eligibility for:
 - a. English 101 and MTH 100 (Intermediate College Algebra) or higher level as determined by college policy, and
 - b. BIO 201 during the first term of nursing courses. NW-SCC is currently in a state-wide pilot program to give students the option to waive BIO 103 and take BIO 201 and BIO 202 without having BIO 103.
6. Have taken the TEASV and have official scores on file in the NW-SCC nursing office by application deadline. **Test must have been completed within the last three years prior to the application deadline.**
7. Meeting the essential functions required for nursing. (See Essential Functions)

Admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program is competitive, and the number of students is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available.

Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program is developed as a combined sequence of nursing and general education courses. The general education courses are offered on both the Shoals and Phil Campbell campuses. The general education courses can be taken before or during the program but taken no later than the semester specified in the curriculum plan. If a student has major responsibilities such as family or work; been away from school for several years; or do not have a strong academic record, taking the general education courses prior to entry is recommended. Successful completion of science and other courses prior to application may result in higher ranking score and improve the chance of being admitted. Prior credit for general education courses does not shorten the length of the nursing curriculum due to sequencing of the nursing courses.

NOTICE: Your ability to comply with the ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS listed may be evaluated by the nursing faculty at any time that your ability to do so is in question.

THE ALABAMA COLLEGE SYSTEM NURSING PROGRAM ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

The Alabama College System endorses the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with College policy, when requested, reasonable accommodations may be provided for individuals with disabilities.

Physical, cognitive, psychomotor, affective and social abilities are required in unique combinations to provide safe and effective nursing care. The applicant/student must be able to meet the essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations throughout the program of learning. Admission, progression and graduation are contingent upon one's ability to demonstrate the essential functions delineated for the nursing programs with or without reasonable accommodations. The nursing programs and/or its affiliated clinical agencies may identify additional essential functions. The nursing programs reserve the right to amend the essential functions as deemed necessary.

In order to be admitted and to progress in the nursing program one must possess a functional level of ability to perform the duties required of a nurse. Admission or progression may be denied if a student is unable to demonstrate the essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations.

The essential functions delineated are those deemed necessary by the Alabama College System nursing programs. No representation regarding industrial standards is implied. Similarly, any reasonable accommodations made will be determined and applied to the respective nursing program and may vary from reasonable accommodations made by healthcare employers.

The essential functions delineated below are necessary for nursing program admission, progression and graduation and for the provision of safe and effective nursing care. The essential functions include but are not limited to the ability to:

1. Sensory Perception
 - a) Visual
 - i) Observe and discern subtle changes in physical conditions and the environment
 - ii) Visualize different color spectrums and color changes
 - iii) Read fine print in varying levels of light
 - iv) Read for prolonged periods of time
 - v) Read cursive writing
 - vi) Read at varying distances
 - vii) Read data/information displayed on monitors/equipment
 - b) Auditory
 - i) Interpret monitoring devices
 - ii) Distinguish muffled sounds heard through a stethoscope
 - iii) Hear and discriminate high and low frequency sounds produced by the body and the environment
 - iv) Effectively hear to communicate with others
 - c) Tactile
 - i) Discern tremors, vibrations, pulses, textures, temperature, shapes, size, location and other physical characteristics
 - d) Olfactory
 - i) Detect body odors and odors in the environment
2. Communication/ Interpersonal Relationships
 - a) Verbally and in writing, engage in a two-way communication and interact effectively with others, from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds
 - b) Work effectively in groups
 - c) Work effectively independently
 - d) Discern and interpret nonverbal communication
 - e) Express one's ideas and feelings clearly
 - f) Communicate with others accurately in a timely manner
 - g) Obtain communications from a computer
3. Cognitive/Critical Thinking
 - a) Effectively read, write and comprehend the English language
 - b) Consistently and dependably engage in the process of critical thinking in order to formulate and implement safe and ethical nursing decisions in a variety of health care settings
 - c) Demonstrate satisfactory performance on written examinations including mathematical computations without a calculator
 - d) Satisfactorily achieve the program objectives
4. Motor Function
 - a) Handle small delicate equipment/objects without extraneous movement, contamination or destruction
 - b) Move, position, turn, transfer, assist with lifting or lift and carry clients without injury to clients, self or others
 - c) Maintain balance from any position
 - d) Stand on both legs
 - e) Coordinate hand/eye movements
 - f) Push/pull heavy objects without injury to client, self or others
 - g) Stand, bend, walk and/or sit for 6-12 hours in a clinical setting performing physical activities requiring energy without jeopardizing the safety of the client, self or others

- h) Walk without a cane, walker or crutches
 - i) Function with hands free for nursing care and transporting items
 - j) Transport self and client without the use of electrical devices
 - k) Flex, abduct and rotate all joints freely
 - l) Respond rapidly to emergency situations
 - m) Maneuver in small areas
 - n) Perform daily care functions for the client
 - o) Coordinate fine and gross motor hand movements to provide safe effective nursing care
 - p) Calibrate/use equipment
 - q) Execute movement required to provide nursing care in all health care settings
 - r) Perform CPR and physical assessment
 - s) Operate a computer
5. Professional Behavior
- a) Convey caring, respect, sensitivity, tact, compassion, empathy, tolerance and a healthy attitude toward others
 - b) Demonstrate a mentally healthy attitude that is age appropriate in relationship to the client
 - c) Handle multiple tasks concurrently
 - d) Perform safe, effective nursing care for clients in a caring context
 - e) Understand and follow the policies and procedures of the College and clinical agencies
 - f) Understand the consequences of violating the student code of conduct
 - g) Understand that posing a direct threat to others is unacceptable and subjects one to discipline
 - h) Meet qualifications for licensure by examination as stipulated by the Alabama Board of Nursing
 - i) Not to pose a threat to self or others
 - j) Function effectively in situations of uncertainty and stress inherent in providing nursing care
 - k) Adapt to changing environments and situations
 - l) Remain free of chemical dependency
 - m) Report promptly to clinicals and remain for 6-12 hours on the clinical unit
 - n) Provide nursing care in an appropriate time frame
 - o) Accepts responsibility, accountability, and ownership of one's actions
 - p) Seek supervision/consultation in a timely manner
 - q) Examine and modify one's own behavior when it interferes with nursing care or learning

Upon admission, an individual who discloses a disability can request reasonable accommodations. Individuals will be asked to provide documentation of the disability in order to assist with the provision of appropriate reasonable accommodations. The respective College will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to substantially alter the requirements or nature of the program or provide accommodations that inflict an undue burden on the respective College. In order to be admitted one must be able to perform all of the essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations. If an individual's health changes during the program of learning, so that the essential functions cannot be met with or without reasonable accommodations, the student will be withdrawn from the nursing program. The nursing faculty reserves the right at any time to require an additional medical examination at the student's expense in order to assist with

the evaluation of the student's ability to perform the essential functions. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be directed to: ADA Coordinator, Linda Waide, at 331-5321 or lwaide@nwscc.edu

MOBILITY OPTION

In addition to the general admission requirements, students applying to the mobility option **must**:

1. Have completed BIO 201, BIO 202, ENG 101 and MTH 100 (Intermediate College Algebra) or higher with a grade of "C" or higher.
2. Possess and maintain a current, active, and unencumbered Alabama LPN license. Proof must be on file.
3. Be a graduate of a state approved school of practical nursing. Proof must be on file.
4. Must have documentation of employment as an LPN in a health care facility for a minimum of 500-clock hours within the 12 months prior to admission. Proof must be on file.
5. Graduates of the approved Alabama College System PN standardized curriculum may be eligible to enter the ADN program during the third semester without taking NUR 200 if graduation occurred within the previous two years. All other Licensed Practical Nurses' must successfully complete NUR 200.
6. MEET THE ADN APPLICATION DEADLINE: For the mobility option the deadlines are:
 Spring Admission - October 15 (NUR 200 required)
 Summer Admission - February 15 (NUR 200 exempted)

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered unless space is available.

Admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program is competitive, and the number of students is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available. **Meeting minimal requirements does not guarantee acceptance.**

Preference will be given to graduates of Northwest-Shoals Community College LPN program.

Applicants will be notified in writing by the ADN office of acceptance into the ADN program.

The College reserves the right to adjust requirements or use additional criteria to determine admission.

TRANSFER POLICY

Students wishing to transfer must:

1. Must meet minimum admission and progression requirements for NW-SCC and the Nursing program.
2. Must possess a grade of C or better in all general education taken at another institution and possess a minimum of a 2.50 cumulative GPA or higher in the last 24 hours at the time of transfer
3. Students must successfully complete the program:
 - a. Within 48 months from initial enrollment in courses with an NUR prefix for ADN students; or
 - b. Within 24 months from initial enrollment in courses with an NUR prefix for PN & LPN to RN Mobility students.

4. Must be a student in good standing and eligible to return to the previous nursing program.
5. Have Dean/Director of previous nursing program provide a letter of eligibility for progression in previous nursing program.
6. Must complete the last three semesters in the ADN (RN) Program at NW-SCC.
7. Must complete the last two semesters in the PN Program at NW-SCC.

Acceptance of transfer students into nursing programs is limited by the number of faculty and clinical facilities available. Meeting minimal standards does not guarantee acceptance.

Transfer deadline for Fall Semester - May 15

Transfer deadline for Spring Semester - October 15

Transfer deadline for Summer Semester - February 15

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

After acceptance each student must:

1. Submit completed medical examination forms (at student expense) that provide evidence the student is free of communicable disease and chemical dependency, and is physically and psychologically able to participate fully in both classroom and clinical aspects of the program. The nursing faculty reserves the right to require at any time (at student expense) an additional medical examination in order to evaluate the student's state of physical, mental, and/or emotional health such as during pregnancy, infectious diseases, interference with mobility, emotional instability, chemical dependence, etc. When an examination or treatment is required, written proof must be provided by the physician attesting to the student's ability to carry out both classroom and clinical requirements of the program.

NOTE: Northwest-Shoals Community College reserves the right to remove from the program any student who is refused use of facilities by clinical agencies.

2. Meet the Essential Functions with or without reasonable accommodations. These functions relate to physical, mental, and emotional capabilities of prospective students and are available in writing from the Nursing Department. Additional health criteria are required by clinical agencies.
3. Purchase regulation uniforms and specified accessories.
4. Possess current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the health care provider level (BCLS). Community CPR is not acceptable. If a student is not certified with the appropriate CPR, the student may take EMS 100 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation I. This course meets the CPR requirement for two years.
5. Receive certain immunizations at the student's expense.
6. Purchase professional liability insurance through the College.
7. Participate in and pay for periodic standardized tests.
8. Participate in and pay for drug testing as directed by Health Studies Division.
9. Participate in and pay for background checks as directed by Health Studies Division.

NOTICE: The Alabama College System Standardized Curriculum is continuing to be reviewed and analyzed. Modifications will be made as needed.

PROGRAM PROGRESSION POLICY:

In order to continue in the nursing program, the student must:

1. Complete all required general education courses according to The Alabama College System Nursing Education curriculum.
2. Maintain a grade of "C" or better in all required general education and nursing courses and maintain a 2.0 cumulative GPA at NW-SCC.

Please note: The Grading Scale for all Nursing Courses in the Nursing Program is:

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 75-79

D = 60-74

F = 59 and below.

3. Be accepted by clinical agencies for clinical experiences.
4. Earn a satisfactory clinical evaluation in all nursing courses with a clinical component.
5. Maintain ability to meet essential functions for nursing with or without reasonable accommodations.
6. Maintain current CPR at the health care provider level.
7. Maintain an adequate level of health including but not limited to annual PPD, and freedom from chemical dependency and/or mental disorder.
8. Successfully complete the nursing education program:
 - a) Within 48 months from initial enrollment in courses with an NUR prefix for ADN students, or
 - b) Within 24 months from initial enrollment in courses with an NUR prefix for PN & LPN to RN Mobility students.

A student that has an unsuccessful attempt in a nursing course (W, D, or F) cannot progress until the course is completed successfully. Course repetition will be based on instructor availability and program resources. Withdrawal and/or a D or F in one or more nursing courses in a term is considered one unsuccessful attempt.

If a student has been unsuccessful in the associate degree nursing program, the student may apply for admission to the practical nursing program. If a student has been unsuccessful in the mobility program, the student may apply for admission to the generic program.

REINSTATEMENT POLICY: (Readmission)

In order to continue in the nursing program, the student must:

1. Students whose progression through the nursing program is interrupted and who desire to be reinstated in the program must schedule an appointment with a nursing faculty advisor to discuss reinstatement. In order to be eligible for reinstatement, the following criteria must be met:
 - a) Apply for readmission to the college if not currently enrolled.
 - b) Submit application requesting reinstatement to the nursing program by the following deadlines:
Fall Semester - May 15
Spring Semester - October 15
Summer Semester - February 15
 - c) Request reinstatement within one year from the term of withdrawal or failure;
 - d) Demonstrate competency in previous nursing courses. This may be evaluated by testing and/or skills validation.
 - e) Adhere to nursing curriculum and/or program policies and procedures effective at the point of reinstatement.
2. Reinstatement to the nursing program is not guaranteed.
3. Reinstatement will be denied due to, but not limited to, any of the following circumstances:
 - a) Grade point average is less than 2.0 from courses completed at the current institution;
 - b) Refusal by clinical agencies to accept the student for clinical experiences;
 - c) Twelve months have elapsed since the student was enrolled in a nursing course;
 - d) Student has been dismissed from the program. Students dismissed from the previous program for disciplinary reasons and/or unsafe/unsatisfactory client care in the clinical area will not be allowed reinstatement to the nursing program.
4. A total of two unsuccessful attempts (D, F, or withdrawal) in the nursing program will result in dismissal.
5. Students who have two unsuccessful attempts in any nursing program (ADN/PN/Mobility) or combination of nursing programs may apply for admission as a new student to any nursing program within the Alabama College System, provided:
 - a) the student meets current entry requirements;
 - b) the student was not dismissed from the previous program for disciplinary reasons or for unsafe/unsatisfactory client care in the clinical area.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

The nursing student shall comply with the standards that determine acceptable behavior of a nurse in accordance with the Alabama Board of Nursing Administrative Code. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH ANY OF THESE STANDARDS WHILE IN THE NURSING PROGRAM CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL FROM THE PROGRAM.

The following examples of behavior may be grounds for dismissal from the nursing program or for licensure application review by the Alabama Board of Nursing. Any individual who:

1. Is guilty of fraud or deceit in procuring or attempting to procure a license.
2. Is guilty of a crime involving moral turpitude or of gross immorality that would tend to bring reproach upon the nursing profession.
3. Is unfit or incompetent due to the use of alcohol, or is addicted to the use of habit-forming drugs to such an extent as to render the licensee unsafe or unreliable.
4. Is mentally incompetent.
5. Is guilty of unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or injure the public in matters pertaining to health.
6. Has willfully or repeatedly violated any of the provisions of this act.
7. Has been convicted of a felony.
8. Has been convicted of any violation of a Federal or State law relating to controlled substances.
9. Has any other reasons authorized by law.
10. Has been placed on a State and/or Federal abuse registry.
11. Has been court martialled or disciplined or administratively discharged by the military.

Students who have demonstrated any of the behaviors prior to or during attendance of the nursing program will have to provide appropriate explanatory documentation with their state board license application. Any concerns related to the above should be discussed with the nursing advisor.

For additional information or a copy of the complete Code, contact the Alabama Board of Nursing. Website: <http://www.abn.state.al.us/main/downloads/admin-code/contents.html>

ANTICIPATED EXPENSES:

As a student in the ADN program, you can anticipate certain necessary expenses. First of all, the tuition rate is the same as that for other NW-SCC students, but nursing program students will incur other expenses, which are listed below. Note that the amounts listed are approximations and that they are subject to change without notice.

Textbooks	\$ 1,600.00
Standardized Tests	\$ 400.00
Physical Exam, TB Test & Shots	\$ 350.00
Uniforms and Small Equipment	\$ 345.00
Clinical Kit	\$ 55.00
Clinical ID Badges	\$ 10.00
Drug Screening	\$ 70.00
Liability Insurance	\$ 40.00
Graduation Fee	\$ 35.00
Graduation Pictures	\$ 25.00
Graduation Pin	\$40.00 - \$ 200.00
RN Licensure Application Fee	\$ 85.00
RN Temporary Permit (AL)	\$ 50.00
NCLEX	\$ 200.00
Background Check	\$ 45.00
Total =	\$3,350.00 - \$3,5105.00

NOTICE: In addition to the expenses listed, you are responsible for transportation, meals, health care expenses, any liability incurred during and while traveling to and/or from educational experiences.

Registered Nursing 511601 NUR
Associate in Applied Science Degree

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The Associate in Applied Science Degree in Nursing is a five semester program, which prepares the graduate to sit for the Registered Nurse licensure examination. Candidates for the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing must complete the prescribed general education course requirements, plus 42 hours in nursing for a total of 72 hours. See your advisor for program completion options.

Semester I	Semester Hours
+MTH 100(Intermediate College Algebra) or Higher Level*	3
+BIO 201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I	4
NUR 102 Fundamentals of Nursing	6
NUR 103 Health Assessment	1
NUR 104 Introduction to Pharmacology	1
	15
Semester II	
+ENG 101 English Composition I**	3
+BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II	4
NUR 105 Adult Nursing	8
NUR 106 Maternal and Child Nursing	5
	20
Semester III	
+PSY 200 Psychology	3
+BIO 220 Microbiology	4
NUR 201 Nursing Through the Lifespan I	5
	12
Semester IV	
SPH 106 or 107 or 116 Speech	3
PSY 210 Human Growth and Development	3
NUR 202 Nursing Through the Lifespan II	6
	12
Semester V	
+++Humanities Elective	3
NUR 203 Nursing Through the Lifespan III	6
NUR 204 Role Transition for the Registered Nurse	4
(Preceptor 3:1)	13
Total Semester Credit Hours	72

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Registered Nursing 511601 MOB
Mobility (LPN-RN)
Associate in Applied Science Degree

Available: Phil Campbell Campus

PREREQUISITES:

MTH 100 (Intermediate College Algebra) or Higher Level (3 credit hours)*

BIO 201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credit hours)

BIO 202 Human Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credit hours)

ENG 101 English Composition I (3 credit hours)**

Total Prerequisites: 14 credit hours

Must have documentation of employment as an LPN for a minimum of 500-clock hours within the 12 months prior to admission.

Semester II (Spring)

(1st semester for mobility students)	Semester Hours
NUR 200 Nursing Career Mobility Assessment	6

NOTE: Students that graduated from the Alabama College System Practical Nursing Curriculum within 2 years will not be required to take NUR 200.

Semester III (Summer)

+PSY 200 Psychology	3
+BIO 220 Microbiology	4
NUR 201 Nursing Through the Lifespan I	5
	12

Semester IV

SPH 106 or 107 or 116 Speech	3
PSY 210 Human Growth and Development	3
NUR 202 Nursing Through the Lifespan II	6
	12

Semester V

+++Humanities Elective	3
NUR 203 Nursing Through the Lifespan III	6
NUR 204 Role Transition for the Registered Nurse	4
(Preceptor 3:1)	13

Skills Validations required for NUR 200. Upon successful completion of NUR 200, students are eligible to progress into NUR 201. Upon successful completion of the Mobility Program, students will receive 15 to 21 non-traditional credit hours.

Total Semester Credits 72

*May choose from MTH 110, MTH 112, MTH 265, or equivalent.

**Keyboarding skills are essential for the successful completion of English 101.

+Must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher before or during the semester noted above. All other general education courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher in order to graduate.

+++Choose from ART (for transfer program - ART 100); Music (for transfer program - MUS 101); Foreign Language; Philosophy; Religion; Theater; Literature

Computer competency skills are embedded within one or more courses required in this curriculum.