Dear Prospective Nursing Student:

Thank you for your interest in Flathead Valley Community College Nursing Programs. The nursing faculty at FVCC welcome your interest in nursing education and hope this information packet will answer your questions about the profession of nursing in general and the opportunities at Flathead Valley Community College in particular.

Nursing is a profession that awards you a career for a lifetime. The health service field and Nursing more specifically are some of the fastest growing occupational areas in the nation today. The overall demand for nurses is expected to continue to rise. Nurses are highly sought after graduates and have an excellent rate of job placement. Achieving LPN (CAS) or RN (ASN) status may be your initial career goal, but as a graduate, you may find it is just the first step in an advanced nursing education.

The Montana State Board of Nursing currently approves both the Practical and Registered Nursing programs at FVCC. Program approval is necessary for students to be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN national licensing exams.

FVCC has recently revised the Practical Nursing degree to a 3 semester Certificate of Applied Science and the Registered Nursing Degree to a 5 semester Associate of Science in Nursing. The programs have different prerequisite courses that must be completed or be in the process of being completed at the time of application. This packet contains further information on the new curriculums.

The FVCC Practical and (ASN) Registered Nursing Programs have limited enrollment capacity. Therefore, a competitive student selection process is necessary and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria found in the FVCC Practical Nursing (CAS) or Registered Nursing Program (ASN) Application Packets.

For Fall 2017 placement in the Registered Nursing (ASN) program, applications are available March 1st and due the last Friday in April 2017. This is a change from our previous practice of having ASN applications available in the Fall. For Spring 2018 placement in the Practical Nursing (CAS) program, applications are available September 11th and due the last Friday in October 2017. The contents of the specific application packets are subject to change – it is the student’s responsibility to obtain the most current packet before applying for placement. Please carefully review your application to ensure it is complete as missing items may result in an application being disqualified for selection.

Individuals who have completed a Practical Nurse program and are either eligible to take the PN licensing exam or are already licensed practical nurses should contact the FVCC Nursing Program for information on transitioning into the new RN ASN curriculum.

If after reviewing this information packet you have additional questions, please refer to the front cover for contact information to call, email or schedule an appointment. We are looking forward to assisting you in reaching your educational goals.

Sincerely,

Myrna Ridenour, MSN, RN
Nursing Program Director
FVCC NURSING PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Flathead Valley Community College Nursing Program is to provide accessible, high quality nursing education to culturally diverse student populations for the development of nurses for entry level of practice. Nursing education at FVCC prepares individuals to deliver safe, effective, and culturally competent nursing care to diverse individuals, families, and communities across the life span in the dynamic, evolving environments of rural Northwest Montana. Excellence in the delivery of innovative campus-based, distance, and clinical education challenges nursing students to develop a caring, relationship-based, professional identity and sound clinical judgment that facilitates educational mobility, personal growth, and a pattern of lifelong learning.

The Nursing Faculty identify defining principles and integrating concepts that are foundational to nursing practice and nursing education and form the organizing framework that guides the educational outcomes and organizing framework of the curriculum.


Defining Principles

The defining principles of the nursing department encompass the faculty’s beliefs regarding the four major dimensions of nursing theory, plus nursing education:

- Client
- Environment
- Health
- Nursing Education

Client: The client is defined as an individual, family, or community. The individual client is a unique composite of physical, mental, psychosocial, and spiritual dimensions. The client is an open system in a state of constant change (Neuman, 2010). Clients with diverse backgrounds and experiences share similar hierarchical needs, developmental changes, and health patterns across the lifespan that influence health outcomes (Newman, 2011).

Environment: Environmental forces, both internal (physical, physiological, genetic, psychosocial, cultural, developmental, and spiritual) and external (economic, social, geographic, global, and health care access) drive the dynamic interactions that shape the human condition. Multiple determinants of health and changing tensions in the environmental system stimulate adaptive and integrative responses of the client that influence health outcomes (Healthy People Objectives 2020).

Health: Health is a dynamic state of physical, emotional, physiological, mental, psychosocial, cultural, developmental, and spiritual well-being. Health status continually changes and is influenced by multiple determinant factors in the environmental system (Neuman, 2010 and Newman, 2011). Health is defined by the client values and beliefs (Campinha-Bacote, 2012). Rural dwellers define health and health-seeking behaviors in unique ways (Winters, 2012). The client’s sense of optimal health and measurable health indicators signifies a state of balance and achievement of positive health outcomes.
**Nursing:** The practice of nursing is an art and a science that involves a **caring** presence and **holistic** support for diverse clients in a variety of health care settings (Watson, 2012). A body of nursing knowledge, evidenced-based practice, and discrete professional identify and standards shape nursing as a practice discipline. Safe, quality nursing practice focuses on health promotion, disease prevention, risk reduction, health maintenance, illness management and restoration. Nursing judgment and clinical-decision-making are integral components in application of the nursing process as the framework to achieve client goals (Tanner, 2009).

**Nursing Education:** Nursing education promotes development of **professional nursing values and lifelong learning**. Nursing faculty maintain current evidenced-based knowledge and skills to serve as role models, mentors, and facilitators of the learning process. Students and faculty share responsibility to cultivate the knowledge, skills, and nursing judgment to deliver safe, quality nursing care. Nursing faculty establish a respectful learning climate that is responsive to the needs of adult students and the larger community. Excellence in nursing education incorporates classroom, distance learning, technology, simulation, and clinical practicum to introduce foundational principles and build critical thinking skills to solve complex nursing problems (Benner, Sutphen Leonard, and Day, 2010).

**Integrating Concepts**

The nursing faculty selected the following concepts to integrate throughout PN and RN curriculum framework and courses. The concepts guide the educational outcomes of each of the PN and RN program levels.

**Caring:** Caring is the essence of nursing practice. A caring presence reflects the basic concern for human dignity and the recognition of the unique worth of each person. Caring takes place with every nursing interaction. Caring involves the use of cognitive and intuitive knowledge, techniques, or processes that make a difference to one’s sense of well-being. Caring is an intentional activity that promotes health, healing, and hope in response to the human condition. Caring and relationship-based values are demonstrated through one-on-one interactions, group processes, organizational climates, and the larger community structures to support health and wellness (Watson, 2011). Nursing encompasses a culture of caring that considers the whole person, a commitment to common good, and reaching out to the vulnerable (NLN, 2010).

**Nursing Judgment:** Nursing judgment encompasses three processes: critical thinking, clinical judgment, and integration of evidence based practice. Nurses employ these processes in decision making about clinical care, developing and applying research findings to the client/community, and management of resource allocation (NLN, 2010). **Critical thinking** involves questioning, “analysis, synthesis, interpretation, inference, inductive and deductive reasoning, intuition, application and creativity” to reach independent and interdependent decisions for planning and implementing nursing care (AACN, 1998, p. 37). The nursing process provides the necessary framework for critical thinking and decision making. The nurse and client(s) enter a partnership to assess needs, identify health goals, plan care, implement interventions, and evaluate progression toward mutually identified health outcomes.
**Quality and Safety:** Nursing practice is dedicated to minimizing the risk of harm to clients through quality and safe individual nursing performance, efficient use of resources to promote optimal health outcomes, and provision of leadership and accountability. The culture of safety is maintained by use of continual quality improvement methods (NLN, 2010 and QSEN, 2012).

**Communication:** Communication is an interactive process that exchanges information among the nurse, client(s), and the health care team. The communication process uses verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and other media strategies for the purpose of social and emotional support, assessment, problem-solving, negotiation and conflict resolution, client and interprofessional education, and data-gathering and analysis to achieve health outcomes. Effective nursing communication is relationship-centered, respects the perspectives and culture of others, maintains confidentiality, employs a collaborative team approach, and reflects accountability for the outcomes of the communication process (NLN, 2010).

**Diversity and Cultural Competence:** Valuing diversity involves recognition of the differences and similarities individuals, groups, and communities to promote the delivery of culturally safe and congruent care and support a healthy and effective workplace environment. It embraces acceptance and respect for the environment from which the individual comes and to which the individual will return. By recognizing and valuing diversity, the nurse supports different values, beliefs, ways of thinking, being, interacting, learning, and lifestyle, self-care, and health care choices (NLN, 2010).

**Professional Identity:** Professional identity “involves the internalization of core values and perspectives recognized as integral to the art and science of nursing” (NLN, 2010) and represents the framework which shapes ethical standards of practice. It encompasses respect for diversity, autonomy, truth, justice, and dignity. The nurse embraces fundamental values such as accountability, reflective practice, commitment to life-long learning and promotes the ideals of the nursing profession (Benner, et al., 2010).
PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM (CAS) INFORMATION

PRACTICAL NURSING DEFINITION

FVCC’s Practical Nursing program follows the HealthCare Montana Model for Nursing Curriculum, Montana Board of Nursing requirements, and the laws and rules in the State of Montana which govern Practical Nursing.

The focus of FVCC’s Practical Nursing curriculum is to provide education leading to basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological, and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures. The practice of practical nursing uses standardized procedures in the observation and care of the ill, injured, and infirm, in the maintenance of health, in action to safeguard life and health, and in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by a physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments.

The Licensed Practical Nurse uses the nursing process that includes critical thinking and decision-making skills. In their roles as members of the discipline of nursing, practical nurses actively participate in and subscribe to the legal and ethical tenets of the discipline. Licensed Practical Nurses always function under the supervision of a registered nurse, physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist (MCA 37-8-102. Definitions).

Graduates will be eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN).

PRACTICAL NURSING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the Practical Nursing curriculum the graduate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a **caring** presence and relationship-centered interactions to support the dignity and well-being of the client, family, and members of the interprofessional health team.

2. Demonstrate **nursing judgment** and prioritization of care, incorporating evidence-based principles and the nursing process to contribute to the plan of care for a group of clients.

3. Ensure **safe quality** care, utilizing standards of care for nursing procedures, delegation of care to unlicensed personnel, and documentation of health outcomes.

4. Demonstrate therapeutic **communication**, reporting and documentation, and client education strategies.

5. Demonstrate awareness of **culturally diverse** client health practices and **diversity** in the workplace.
6. Uphold the practical nursing scope of practice within the ethical, legal & regulatory frameworks of nursing, demonstrating personal, workplace, and professional nursing behaviors reflecting self-awareness, integrity, and lifelong growth and development.

**Practical Nursing Program Outcomes**

1. Graduates performance on the NCLEX will be at or above the national average.
2. 80% or more of students who enter the program will successfully complete the program.
3. Graduate Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >80% satisfaction
4. Employer Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >90% satisfaction
5. 80% or more of graduates will report being employed or planning to continue on as fulltime students.

**General Nursing Program Standards and Requirements**

To progress successfully through either the Practical Nursing (CAS) or Registered Nursing (ASN) Nursing Program, applicants should have:

- Adequate visual acuity, with or without corrective lenses, to read fine print.
- Adequate hearing ability, with or without auditory aids, to be able to hear heart, lung, bowel sounds, etc. and understand a normal speaking voice.
- Adequate physical ability to perform basic client/patient care which includes the ability to lift a minimum of 25 lbs.
- Sufficient command of the English language to effectively communicate (verbally and in written form) with clients/patients, families, and other healthcare professionals. Individuals who English is a foreign language may be required to show proficiency through testing.

**PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Practical Nursing applicants must complete the FVCC Application for Admission (degree seeking) and follow the steps for enrolling at Flathead Valley Community College. Admission to Flathead Valley Community College does not guarantee acceptance into the Practical Nursing Program.

For Spring placement, students must have successfully completed or be in the process of completing one semester of the prerequisite general education courses listed on page 7 before applying to the Practical Nurse program. Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Practical Nursing Program. There is a formal application process that must be completed before students can take the NRSG courses. This process is outlined in a separate document: the FVCC Practical Nursing Program Application Packet.
The Practical Nursing Certificate of Applied Science is a 3 semester program. This includes one semester of pre-requisite courses which must be completed or in the process of being completed at the time of application.

A minimum of a 2.50 GPA is required in the 4 pre-requisite courses. All non-nursing courses must have a grade of “C” or higher.

The following prerequisite general education courses must be completed or going to be completed by the end of Fall semester in order for a student to apply for the Spring start of the Practical Nursing program. A grade of “C” or higher is required for ALL non-nursing courses. Prerequisite courses may be repeated one time in an attempt to receive a “C” or higher grade. A minimum GPA of 2.50 is required for the pre-requisite courses.

PRACTICAL NURSING CURRICULUM prerequisites:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semester One (can be taken any semester prior to acceptance into PN program)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOH 104</td>
<td>Basic Human Biology with Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 120</td>
<td>Mathematics with Health Care Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYX 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRIT 101</td>
<td>College Writing I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>

Students are presumed to possess basic computer skills (use of word processing & presentation software and ability to use the Internet & send/receive email). Students should enroll in Introduction to Microcomputers, if they need introductory coursework in computer use.

Official transcripts must be on file with FVCC and the registrar will approve courses for general transfer to FVCC. When individuals have completed prior degrees, individual courses will need to be identified as courses equivalent to FVCC courses and then added to the student transcript.

Should you have courses from prior degrees, out of state colleges or non-Montana University System colleges that you wish to be considered as an equivalent or substitution for any of the PN prerequisites, the courses must be evaluated and approved by the Nursing Program Director prior to application review.

The evaluation process involves having faculty who are experts in specific content area review course information and this may take some time. Be prepared to supply course descriptions for the courses to be reviewed. Providing a syllabus for course/courses to be evaluated is even better, if they are available.
APPLICATION AND ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM IS REQUIRED BEFORE STUDENTS MAY BEGIN TAKING THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED PRACTICAL NURSING COURSES:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 130</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 131</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Nursing Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 135</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Practical Nurses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 136</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Practical Nurses Lab</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 152</td>
<td>Gerontology and Community Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 153</td>
<td>Gerontology and Community Nursing Clinical</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 140</td>
<td>Adult Health Nursing</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 141</td>
<td>Adult Health Nursing Clinical</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 142</td>
<td>Nursing Care of Women and Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 143</td>
<td>Nursing Care of Women and Children Clinical</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 148</td>
<td>Leadership Issues for Practical Nurses</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 149</td>
<td>Leadership Issues for Practical Nurses</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>(including prerequisites)</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each nursing course must be passed with a minimum grade of a “C+” (78-79% or higher) for the student to continue in the program (a C will not be accepted). Students receiving a C or lower grade in nursing courses will be required to withdraw from the program. Petitions for re-entry into the program will be considered on a case-by-case basis and all placements in the Nursing Program are dependent upon sufficient financial, faculty and clinical resources.

The Practical Nursing Program standards and requirements (such as grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and strict than general FVCC requirements. To assure progression through the program, the student must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. The student must demonstrate a continuing ability to assure patient/client safety and welfare. Therefore, satisfactory classroom academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program.

Courses must be taken in sequence. It is essential to work with your academic advisor to assure proper selection and sequencing of courses. Third (3rd) semester courses cannot be started until all courses in the second (2nd) semester are successfully completed.

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM PLACEMENT

The Practical Nursing Program has a limited enrollment capacity due to availability of clinical experiences. New students are accepted in the spring semester each year at the FVCC Kalispell and Libby campus. The Libby Campus is a distance delivery site and has a smaller number of
placements. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds available spaces, not all qualified applicants will be accepted. A competitive student selection process is necessary and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria found in a separate document containing the FVCC Practical Nursing Program Application Packet. **The contents of the application packet are subject to change – it is the student’s responsibility to obtain the most current packet before applying for placement.**

**PRACTICAL NURSING APPLICATION REVIEW**

After all COMPLETE applications are reviewed and ranked, and **GPA has been verified with completed pre-requisite grades**, an initial list of qualified applicants is compiled. The most qualified applicants will be asked to participate in small group interviews as part of the **INITIAL selection process** for the program.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following areas during the interview:

- Group Interaction
- Communication skills
- Problem solving/Critical Thinking
- Professional behavior

Once students have been officially notified of **INITIAL** acceptance into the program, they will be required to agree to the following as **the FINAL** process of acceptance into the program.

- A universal background check, which may require drug testing. Any discrepancies on the background check will need documentation regarding circumstances and outcomes. **Discrepancies may result in students being denied access to patient/residents by clinical partners.** Students who are denied access to patients in any facility may find that they are unable to meet course objectives, which will result in failure of the course and program.

- Provide proof of **required immunizations:**
  - Proof of completed Hepatitis B Series including positive or reactive antibody titer results or proof the individual has begun the series.
  - Proof of Measles (Rubeola), Mumps and Rubella immunity either by dates of two vaccinations after your first birthday, a physician diagnosis of disease history or laboratory verification of positive antibody titer, *(need only one of these methods of verification).*
  - Proof of Chicken Pox (Varicella) immunity either by statement that verifies the date and age you had Chicken Pox, or the date you had two vaccinations or laboratory verification of positive antibody titer, *(need only one of these methods of verification).*
  - Proof of one dose of Tdap: Tetanus/ pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination as an adult.
  - Record of two negative TB skin tests in the last 12 months with the second test initiated between 7-21 days after the first negative test was read (if the test is positive, a chest x-ray is required); or Negative Quantiferon TB blood test; or fill out Positive Responder Form

- Provide proof of current personal health insurance. (FVCC Student Health Center does not meet this requirement.)
(ASN) REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

(ASN) REGISTERED NURSING DEFINITION

FVCC’s Registered Nursing program follows the HealthCare Montana Model for Nursing Curriculum, Montana Board of Nursing requirements, and the laws and rules in the State of Montana which govern Registered Nursing.

The focus of FVCC Associate of Science Nursing curriculum is to prepare graduates in the performance of services requiring substantial specialized knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological, and sociological sciences and of nursing theory as a basis for the nursing process. The nursing process is the assessment, nursing analysis, planning, nursing intervention, evaluation in the promotion and maintenance of health, the prevention, case finding, and management of illness, injury, or infirmity, and the restoration of optimum function. The term also includes administration, teaching, counseling, supervision, delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice and the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by physicians, naturopathic physicians, physician assistants, optometrists, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, osteopaths, or podiatrists authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments. Each registered nurse is directly accountable and responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered. MCA 37-8-102. Definitions.
The professional nurse shall assess clients and formulate a nursing diagnosis and shall plan and implement and evaluate nursing care provided in a variety of health care settings. The graduate works together with other members of the health care team to manage the human, physical, financial, and technical needs of the client following ethical and legal standards of the profession of nursing.

Students who successfully complete all of the required courses (a minimum of 72 credits) earn an Associate of Science Registered Nursing degree. Graduates will be eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). Graduates may have taken appropriate coursework empowering them to pursue further educational goals such as a bachelor’s or higher degree, if desired.

Graduates who pass their licensure exam will perform services according to the Montana State Board of Nursing rules found in the Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 24.159 Board of Nursing

(ASN) Registered Nursing Educational Outcomes:

Upon completion of the Associate of Science (ASN)-Registered Nursing curriculum, the graduate will be able to:

1. Demonstrate **caring** relationships and advocacy to promote self-determination, integrity, and growth of the client, family, and members of the interprofessional health team.

2. Demonstrate **nursing judgment** and clinical-decision-making, incorporating evidence-based practices and the nursing process in the delivery of safe, holistic nursing care.

3. **Manage** and coordinate **safe quality** client care and monitor health outcomes in collaboration with the interprofessional health team.

4. Apply effective **communication** strategies and health technology to support interpersonal relationships, collaboration, documentation, and education of clients, families, and health team members.

5. Advocate for **cultural competence** and **diversity** in the workplace.

6. Practice within the ethical, legal & regulatory frameworks of nursing, demonstrating personal, workplace, and **professional** nursing behaviors reflecting self-awareness, integrity, and lifelong growth and development.

(ASN) Registered Nursing Program Outcomes:

1. Graduates performance on the NCLEX will be at or above the national average.
2. 80% or more of students who enter the program will successfully complete the program.
3. Graduate Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >80% satisfaction
4. Employer Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >90% satisfaction
5. 80% or more of graduates will report being employed or planning to continue on as fulltime students
REGISTERED NURSING (ASN) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Associate of Science Registered Nursing program is a 5 semester program. This includes one semester of pre-requisite courses which must be completed or in the process of being completed at the time of application.

A minimum of a 2.75 GPA is required in the 4 pre-requisite courses. All non-nursing courses must have a grade of “C” or higher with the exception of BIOH 201 which requires a “B-” or higher unless it was taken before Fall of 2016.

ASN CURRICULUM prerequisites:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester One</strong> (can be taken any semester prior to acceptance into ASN program)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOH 201</td>
<td>Human Anatomy &amp; Physiology I w/Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHMY 121</td>
<td>Intro. to General Chemistry w/Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take one:</td>
<td>Probability and Linear Math</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M115 or M121* or M152 or M153 or M171</td>
<td>College Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M152 or M153 or M171</td>
<td>Precalculus Algebra</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRIT 101</td>
<td>College Writing I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPLICATION AND ADMISSION TO THE REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM IS REQUIRED BEFORE STUDENTS MAY BEGIN TAKING THE REQUIRED NURSING (NRSG) COURSES. NON-NURSING COURSES MAY BE TAKEN IN ANY SEMESTER OR PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ASN PROGRAM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Two</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOH 211</td>
<td>Human Anatomy and Physiology II w/lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 230</td>
<td>Nursing Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 231</td>
<td>Nursing Pharmacology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 232</td>
<td>Foundations of Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 233</td>
<td>Foundations of Nursing Lab</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Three</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSG 234</td>
<td>Adult Nursing I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 235</td>
<td>Adult Nursing I Clinical</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 236</td>
<td>Health and Illness of Maternal Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 237</td>
<td>Health and Illness of Maternal Nursing Clinical</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 256/258</td>
<td>Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYX 100</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychology</td>
<td>3 or 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Four</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 244</td>
<td>Adult Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 245</td>
<td>Adult Nursing II Clinical</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 246</td>
<td>Health And Illness of Child and Family Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 247</td>
<td>Health And Illness of Child and Family Nursing Clinical</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 254</td>
<td>Mental Health Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 255</td>
<td>Mental Health Concepts Clinical</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Sociology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester Five</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSG 259</td>
<td>Adult Nursing III</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 260</td>
<td>Adult Nursing III Lab</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 261</td>
<td>Adult Nursing III Clinical</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 266</td>
<td>Managing Client Care for the RN</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSG 267</td>
<td>Managed Client Care for the RN Clinical</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOM 250</td>
<td>Microbiology for Health Sciences w/lab</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total including prerequisites</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>72/73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A grade of "B-" or higher is required in BIOH 201 and 211 as well as ALL NRSG courses listed on page 13.

A grade of "C" or higher will be accepted in BIOH 201 and BIOH 211 if the courses were taken in the last 5 years and before Fall of 2016. Be advised that acceptance of C grades will impact individuals grade point average.

Students receiving a B- or lower grade in nursing courses will be required to withdraw from the program. Petitions for re-entry into the program will be considered on a case-by-case basis and all placements in the Nursing Program are dependent upon sufficient financial, faculty and clinical resources.

The Registered Nursing Program standards and requirements (such as grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and strict than general FVCC requirements. To assure progression through the program, the student must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. The student must demonstrate a continuing ability to assure patient/client safety and welfare. Therefore, satisfactory classroom academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program.

Courses must be taken in sequence. It is essential to work with your nursing academic advisor to assure proper selection and sequencing of courses. Third (3rd) semester courses cannot be started until all courses in the second (2nd) semester are successfully completed, etc.

PROGRAM PLACEMENT FOR (ASN) REGISTERED NURSING
The number of students accepted into the ASN Registered Nursing Program is limited due to availability of clinical experiences. Students will start in Fall Semester. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds available spaces, not all qualified applicants will be accepted. A competitive student selection process is necessary and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria found in a separate document containing the FVCC ASN Program Application Packet. The contents of the application packet are subject to change – it is the student’s responsibility to obtain the most current packet before applying for placement.

(ASN) RN APPLICATION REVIEW:
After all COMPLETE applications are reviewed and ranked and prerequisite grades have been verified an initial list of qualified applicants is compiled. The most qualified applicants will be asked to participate in small group interviews as a final step in the INITIAL selection process for the program. Applicants will be evaluated on the following areas during the interview:

- Group Interaction
- Communication skills
- Problem solving/Critical Thinking
- Professional behavior
Once students have been officially notified of **INITIAL** acceptance into the program, they will be required to agree to the following as **the Final** process of acceptance into the program.

- A universal background check which may require drug testing. Any discrepancies on the background check will need documentation regarding circumstances and outcomes. **Discrepancies may result in students being denied access to patient/residents by clinical partners.** Students who are denied access to patients in any facility may find that they are unable to meet course objectives, which will result in failure of the course and program.

- **Provide proof of required immunizations:**
  - Proof of completed Hepatitis B Series including positive or reactive antibody titer results or proof the individual has begun the series.
  - Proof of Measles (Rubeola), Mumps and Rubella immunity either by dates of two vaccinations after your first birthday, a physician diagnosis of disease history **or** laboratory verification of positive antibody titer, *(need only one of these methods of verification).*
  - Proof of Chicken Pox (Varicella) immunity either by statement that verifies the date and age you had Chicken Pox, **or** the date you had two vaccinations **or** laboratory verification of positive antibody titer, *(need only one of these methods of verification).*
  - Proof of one dose of Tdap: Tetanus/ pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination as an adult.
  - Record of two negative TB skin tests in the last 12 months with the second test initiated between 7-21 days after the first negative test was read *(if the test is positive, a chest x-ray is required)*; **or** Negative Quantiferon TB blood test; **or** fill out Positive Responder Form
  - Provide proof of current personal health insurance. *(FVCC Student Health Center does not meet this requirement.)*
REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONAL EFFORT AND COMMITMENT FOR SUCCESS

FVCC’s Nursing Programs, as with most nursing programs, require a substantial time commitment to fulfill the intensive requirements of the program in the classroom, nursing laboratory, and clinical settings. Student success is dependent upon a collaborative working partnership by students and faculty. The nursing program philosophy and faculty view learning as an interactive process with faculty facilitating learning. We are truly committed to assisting you to succeed in the program. However, learners must assume responsibility for their own learning and participate in shaping their own learning experiences. Students must acknowledge and understand the expectations of the program:

1. There is a **minimal** study expectation of two hours of study per week for each credit enrolled. For example, a course that is 4 credits of theory and 3 credits of laboratory has a minimal expectation of 8 hours of study per week for the theory and another 6 hours for the lab. Most students spend more time than the **minimal** study expectation.

2. Although we hold an appreciation for your possible need to work to support yourself and/or a family, most students find it extremely difficult to work full time while attending classes for the Nursing Program. Clinical practicums are scheduled when facilities have available space and are **subject to change with short notice**. Students are expected to be available for the scheduled clinical hours. Clinical hours will include evenings, weekends and night shifts.

3. Students are expected to attend all classes and clinicals. Missed clinical time may result in failure of courses and dismissal from the nursing program. **Please do not make vacation plans that would affect attendance in class or clinical.** Absences cannot be made up due to the fast pace of material presented in class and the limited availability of clinical experiences.

4. In general and given the same amount of student effort, nursing students may not achieve the grades they have received in non-nursing courses. You will be learning a “new language”, be exposed to in-depth, comprehensive nursing concepts and principles which may require more effort on your part to learn and understand. Though grades may have been the primary focus of previous courses, the focus in the nursing program is learning and comprehension of information needed to deliver safe and competent care to patients/residents.

5. You are expected to be prepared for class, lab, and clinical. This will include extensive reading, pre-clinical preparation, and other assignments prior to your attendance in class, lab or clinicals.

6. Most exams given in nursing courses are structured similarly to the nurse licensing exam. This means that most of the items on the exams are application, analysis, and synthesis type questions rather than simple knowledge and recall. These questions require a higher-order of thinking to answer correctly.

7. We will provide you with learning strategies and test-taking strategies that will assist you in developing critical thinking skills necessary for success on the nursing course exams and the NCLEX licensure exam.

8. The nursing program is very different and much more difficult than past educational experiences. It is designed to deliver a quality program that prepares individuals to give safe and competent nursing care, to successfully pass the licensing exam, and to promote lifelong learning.
PROGRAM COSTS

In addition to tuition and fees, nursing students should be aware that required nursing textbooks/reference materials are expensive and that many courses require several texts. The student should also plan for a number of out-of-pocket expenses related to uniforms, clinical supplies and other course/program requirements. If you would like an estimated cost of attending please contact the Nursing department at 406-756-3385 or e-mail cfabel@fvcc.edu.

Many scholarship opportunities exist.  
Visit the FVCC Financial Aid Office in Blake Hall for more information.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

Practical Nursing

Applications for the Practical Nursing program are evaluated in the following areas:

1. Letter introducing oneself to the committee. Please see current application for items to be included in the letter.

2. Two References—One from someone who has worked with the applicant and can provide an evaluation of work ethic. One from faculty of a college or university or an instructor of a course who can address academic performance.

3. Residency- Flathead and Lincoln County residents receive highest consideration as they live in the FVCC service area.

4. GPA—minimum to qualify for consideration is 2.50.

Registered Nursing

Applications for the Registered Nursing program are evaluated in the following areas:

1. Letter introducing oneself to the committee. Please see current application for items to be included in the letter.

2. Two References—One from someone who knows the applicant and can provide an evaluation of work ethic. One from faculty of a college or university or an instructor of a course the applicant has completed and can address academic performance.

4. Residency-Flathead and Lincoln County residents receive highest consideration as they live in the FVCC service area.

5. GPA—minimum to qualify for consideration is 2.75. (Applicants must have a B- in BIOH 201 Human Anatomy and Physiology I, unless taken before Fall 2016).