NURS: Nursing, Associate in Applied Science – 201401 to Present

For Students Enrolled in:
NURS: Nursing, Associate in Applied Science – 201401 to Present

Program Description: The mission of the DCCC associate degree nursing program is to provide a curriculum where students, committed to the value of caring, can develop competencies essential to safe, effective nursing practice in a variety of health care settings within the community.

The nursing curriculum prepares students for positions as beginning staff nurses in a variety of settings; i.e. acute- and long-term/transitional care facilities and community settings.

Upon successful completion of the curriculum, students receive an associate in applied science (AAS) degree and are eligible to sit for the state licensure examination to become registered nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Most nursing students attend classes at the College and off-campus sites. For residents of Chester County, two sections are available with some nursing classes at The Chester County Hospital.

Selected clinical laboratory learning experiences, under the direct guidance of nursing faculty, are provided at a variety of health-care agencies. The purpose of these experiences is to provide the student with the opportunity to apply classroom learning in direct patient-care situations.

All nursing applicants are required to complete and submit a criminal record check and a Child Abuse Clearance form.

Under Pennsylvania law, the State Board of Nursing may not issue a license to an applicant who has been convicted of a felonious act prohibited by the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, or convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance in a court of law of the United States or any other state, territory or country unless 10 years have elapsed since the date of conviction and the applicant can demonstrate that he/she has made significant progress in personal rehabilitation.

Students who have been convicted of a prohibitive offense contained in Act 13 and/or Act 169 (detailed list available for review in the Admissions and Allied Health offices) may not be able to complete their studies because clinical experiences needed for course/program success may be prohibited. If a student cannot complete their clinical studies, they will not be accepted into the nursing program.

The nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, 3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326, 404-975-5000, www.acenursing.org. It is also approved by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners, P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649, 717-783-7142, www.dos.state.pa.us. Program outcomes are defined and measurable.
Program Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this curriculum, students should be able to:

- Integrate theories and concepts of bio psychosocial sciences and liberal arts in the application of the nursing process.
- Provide responsible, accountable nursing care for multicultural individuals and groups in a variety of healthcare settings.
- Utilize critical thinking, therapeutic nursing interventions, and communication skills and techniques to meet the basic needs of individuals of all ages experiencing common and/or complex health problems.
- Practice within the ethical and legal framework of nursing.
- Use patient advocacy skills while managing care that contributes to positive outcomes.
- Demonstrate commitment to continuous personal and professional development.
- Contribute to the improvement of nursing practice through committee participation and membership in professional nursing organizations.

Students must progress through the curriculum in sequence.

All nursing students who have a course with a clinical component will need to have on file in the Health Center the results of a complete physical examination including: laboratory tests, a complete blood count, a 9 panel drug screen, serology and TB testing. A complete physical examination is required prior to taking the first nursing course. Additionally, these students must have medical health insurance and be in compliance with recommendations for the Hepatitis B vaccine. Certain manual dexterity and sensory skills that enable the student to competently perform required technical skills are necessary for successful completion of the nursing program. Health problems that can interfere with the applicant’s ability to demonstrate achievement of program competencies are considered individually.

Credits for BIO 150 and BIO 151 must be current within five academic years of the date of beginning the first clinical nursing course and students must achieve a "C" grade in BIO 150 and BIO 151.

Any remediation in English and reading must be satisfied before beginning Fundamentals of Nursing (NUS 110). All NUS 110 students must meet a math requirement either by passing a Math Equivalency Test given during Spring orientation sessions or by passing NUS 102, Math for Nurses. The competency to solve basic mathematical problems related to drug dosage calculation is a component of Nursing 110. PLEASE NOTE: Entry into Nursing Concepts and Practice I (NUS 111) will be denied to any student who has not mastered the mathematical competencies of NUS 110. It is recommended that Math for Nurses (NUS 102) be taken prior to Nursing 110. NUS 102 requires mathematics at the developmental level (MAT 060).

Students can repeat the following nursing courses (NUS 110, NUS 111, NUS 210 or NUS 211) at a specific level only once!

Students who fail or withdraw from a nursing course and wish to repeat said course must:
• Have a GPA of 2.5 or greater.
• The number of times for readmission to the nursing program will be once for each level of the program (either NUS 110 or 111; either NUS 210 or 211).
• A student will be kept on the readmission waiting list for no longer than three years.
• Successful completion of a mandated "Sim Lab Skills Testing" is a condition of readmission (skills to be determined by the appropriate level faculty).
• Implementation of the revised readmission policy will be Fall 2010, effective with the incoming Nursing 110 class.

CPR certification is required for all students in the program. You must submit a photocopy (both sides) of "Health Care Provider" (American Heart Association at 610-940-9540, which is renewable every two years) or "Course for the Professional " (American Red Cross at 610-566-4580, which is renewable annually) to the College Health Nurse by the last Thursday in July of each academic year. "BCLS" and "Heart Saver" are not acceptable! Certification must be inclusive until the end of May. Certifications that expire prior to May will not be accepted even if recertification prior to May is provided by an employer.

Students are responsible for purchasing uniforms and other related materials deemed necessary for the clinical laboratory experiences of the program. Each semester students are assessed additional costs ($60 per semester) for standardized tests to compare achievement against national norms. In addition, each student must carry professional liability insurance to protect him/herself and the health agency in the event of any legal action following any error in nursing practice. A $5.00 fee will be added to your tuition bill each semester in which you participate in a clinical experience.

**Special Options:**
1. Licensed Practical Nurses, corpsmen, and candidates who have had one year of successful previous nursing school experience may qualify for advanced placement in the program. In addition, an advanced placement option is available to LPNs who have graduated from an NLNAC accredited program with a minimum of 1,000 clinical work experience as an LPN. Students will receive credit for the first year of the nursing program after meeting certain criteria. Contact a counselor in the Assessment Center for additional information.

2. A five-semester evening/weekend option is available. Course sequencing begins in January. Criteria for admission and progression are the same as for the generic curricula.

**Program of Study and Graduation Requirements**

The degree of associate in applied science is awarded upon successful completion of the nursing course sequence with a grade of "C" or better in all nursing courses; a satisfactory grade for related clinical experiences and satisfactory completion of performance practicums and course requirements; attainment of a grade point average of 2.0 ("C" average) and completion of 70 or 71 credit hours. A "C" grade in nursing is equivalent to the numerical grade of 75.

**Semester by Semester Plan:**
Semester 1:
BIO 150
ENG 100
PSY 140
NUS 110

Semester 2:
BIO 151
ENG 112
PSY 210
NUS 111

Semester 3:
PSY 220
SOC 110
NUS 210

Semester 4:
NUS 211
Humanities or Social Science Elective
Nursing Electives:

Notes:
Program Electives:
NUS 220
NUS 221
NUS 222

Total Credits: 70