

Frequently asked questions about the nursing programs

1. I am interested in applying to one of the nursing programs as VGCC. What do I do first?

Call one of the pre-health counselors, either Maria Bailey at 252-738-3343, Seletha Pherribo-Bumphus at 252-738-3317, or Veta Cappetta-Pierce at 252-738-3212. Check the www.vgcc.edu Campus Cruiser link "Pre-Health News" weekly. Submit your application by the deadline date on the Program Brochure.

2. Is there an admission test?

The nursing programs use the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) as an admission test once you have met the college application requirements. It is a test of your academic preparedness to succeed in the nursing program of your choice. A points allocation formula will be used to rank students for admission utilizing the highest Composite TEAS score, BIO 168 grade for ADN applicants/BIO155 for PN applicants, GED/AHDS/QPA rank, and County of Residence. The students with the highest ranking will be eligible admission. In case of a tie, the date of application will be used to break the tie. The TEAS study guide may be purchased in the bookstore. The TEAS is offered only on the Main Campus six times per year. The student may take the TEAS three times total. A fee will be charged for all re-tests.

3. How long is the program?

The Associate Degree Nursing Program lasts four (4) semesters. The summer semester can be used for taking BIO175, ENG112, and/or PSY150 if still needed.

The Practical Nursing Program lasts three (3) consecutive semesters.

4. How long is the waiting list to get into the program?

VGCC does not have a waiting list. Students must apply every year and a points allocation formula is utilized to determine admission.

5. Do you offer a weekend or night program?

This type of program is not offered at this time.

6. What kind of health forms or immunizations do I need prior to entering into a nursing program?

[Go to Health information link](#)

7. What if I have a criminal record in my background? What should I do?

[Go to Criminal Background link](#)

It is our suggestion that you take action to remove or expunge any records that you have on your record prior to entering the program.

8. Will I have drug testing while I am in nursing school?

If a clinical facility requires drug testing, the answer is yes. The only other time that you might be required to be tested is if a faculty member determines that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that you are under the influence of alcohol or non-prescribed controlled substances, under the influence of chemicals that alter cognitive function, and/or abusing prescribed medications. Being found to be under the influence of the above listed substances is grounds for dismissal from the nursing program. Refusal to be tested is grounds for dismissal as well.

9. Where will I be going for clinical?

The nursing programs use a variety of clinical sites and we are always exploring new places to use. Presently we send students to UNC Hospitals, DUKE, REX, Maria Parham Hospital, Granville Medical Center, Franklin Regional Medical Center, Community Healthcenter (South Hill, VA), Warren Hill's Convalescent Center, Brantwood, Person Memorial Hospital, John Umstead Hospital, Federal Medical Center Complex, Hillcrest Convalescent Center, and Murdoch. Students are rotated through a variety of clinical affiliates. The proximity of the students' homes in regards to the distance traveled to the clinical site is not a determining factor in the decision as to where a student will be placed for clinical. The final decision for clinical assignment may not be available until the day classes start for the semester.

10. Will I need a computer while I am in nursing school?

It is not absolutely necessary to own a computer but it is highly recommended. We also recommend that you have DSL fast internet service. If you do not own a computer, VGCC's computer labs are open 8:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. daily during the week. Another way to access the internet is through your local county library. The nursing programs classes are web-enhanced classes. Each student will be assigned an email address through the school. This is the most common way instructors contact students. Also all courses in the nursing programs are blackboard or moodle-enhanced through which announcements, course documents, and assignments are posted. This modality is the best way for all students and faculty to keep informed.

11. What if I have to work while I am in school?

The nursing classes are very rigorous and require a great deal of time for reading and studying. We recommend that you work no more than 20 hours per week while in school. Even 20 hours per week can be disruptive to your success. The less you work the better you will be able to be successful while in the nursing programs.

12. What if I need financial aid?

[See financial aid link](#)

13. Once I'm in the program will I have someone to help me stay on track?

Each student in the nursing programs will be assigned a nursing instructor advisor. He/she will help you register each semester, meet with you for remediation if you score below passing on any exam, and help you navigate the system until you graduate. This person will be a true ally while you are in school. Plan to meet with him/her regularly.

14. Is there anything special that I need to wear while I am in the nursing program?

We have a dress code for campus and for clinical. [See nursing handbook link](#). Once you are admitted we will provide an opportunity for you to purchase your nursing uniforms at orientation.

15. What is the grading policy while I am in nursing school?

You must achieve a "B" or greater in every nursing course. You must achieve a "C" or greater in all related courses. The nursing department uses a 10 point scale, so a B is 80-89, and an A is 90-100.

16. What is NCLEX and how can I be assured that I will pass?

NCLEX stands for National Council of Licensure Exam. The NCLEX is a standardized exam that each state board of nursing uses to determine whether or not a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing practice. There is a NCLEX-RN for the Associate Degree Nursing graduate and a NCLEX-PN for the Practical Nursing graduate. Completing the program at VGCC does not assure you that you will pass this standardized exam. The nursing programs require that students participate in an NCLEX Review course during their last semester starting with all classes admitted fall 2009. There will be a fee added to your tuition and fees the last semester you are in the program to pay for the review course. For ADN students the extra fee is usually around \$300.00 and for the PN students the fee is usually around \$225.00 (fees are subject to change based on current rates at any time). Financial aid can be used to help pay for this fee.

17. What is ATI Testing package?

This is a total testing package which is designed to provide you with the best chance for program completion and NCLEX success. This package includes study materials both books and DVD's (which can be downloaded to iPods) containing content reviews, unlimited non-proctored online exam questions, and proctored online exams. Students are required to purchase the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) materials each semester depending upon the content being covered in class that particular semester. There will be a fee added to your tuition and fees each semester to cover the cost. (Cost varies due to market.) Financial aid can be used to help pay for this fee.