



## Registered Nursing A.A.S. FAQs

### Coursework Needed Prior to Applying

**1. What are the courses required prior to applying to the RN program?**

- a. ENG 121 (3 credits)
- b. PSY 235 (3 credits)
- c. BIO 201 (4 credits with lab)
- d. BIO 204 (4 credits with lab)
- e. Either HPR 108 (1 credit) or HWE 100 (3 credits). We recommend taking HWE 100, since most BSN programs require this course.

**2. What grades do I need in the courses required prior to applying?**

You must pass all courses required prior to applying with a grade of C or better in order to apply. The GPA of courses required prior to applying must be a 2.75 (nutrition excluded).

**3. Can I repeat the courses required prior to applying that I already passed? I'd like to get higher grades. Is there a limit to the number of times I can repeat them?**

Yes, you may repeat courses you've passed to receive higher grades. If coursework required prior to applying is retaken, no more than one D or F in each of the courses is allowed in the previous 5 years. We recommend meeting with an advisor and financial aid (if applicable) prior to registering.

**4. I took the courses required prior to applying several years ago. Do I need to repeat them?**

All science courses must be within 7 years of admission into the nursing program. Please contact the nursing department if you're unsure about the course "expiration date." ENG 121, PSY 235, and HPR 108/HWE 100 do not "expire."

**5. Can I take the CLEP exam for any of the coursework required prior to applying?**

Yes, students can take the CLEP exam for ENG 121 and PSY 235, however, there will be no grade awarded, and the courses will not be included in the calculation for GPA points for the nursing application. Please visit our testing center website for more information on [CLEP exams](#). We recommend talking with an advisor prior to taking a CLEP exam.

**6. Should I take MAT 103 now?**

No, wait to take MAT 103 until you've been admitted into the registered nursing program. Our MAT103 course is offered as a cohort and is specially designed for nursing students.

**7. I'm finishing my last course required prior to applying now. Can I still apply?**

No coursework required prior to applying may be "in progress" at the time of application. Your final grades must be posted on your FRCC transcript before the application deadline in order to apply.

### Transferring Coursework

**1. How do I transfer the courses that are required prior to applying into FRCC?**

Follow the steps on our [transfer website](#). First, you will be asked to complete the Transfer Credit Evaluation Form. You must also have your previous college(s) send **official** transcripts **directly** to the Office of the Registrar. Transcripts issued to the student, hand-carried, or faxed cannot be accepted. Please note that the process can take up to **30 days**. If grades for coursework required prior to entry are not posted on your FRCC transcript, you may not apply to the nursing program.

### Admission Requirements

Visit the FRCC/LC Nursing Department [admissions website](#) for an overview of the admission process.

**1. Where do I find the nursing application and how do I know when it is due?**

The nursing application is only available during the application periods on our [admissions website](#). The spring application period is the first Monday in July through the third Friday in August. The fall application period is the third Monday in February through the last Friday in March.

**2. How are points calculated for admission into the nursing program?**

Please review our [registered nursing ranking table](#) to see how points are calculated.

**3. What is the minimum GPA requirement?**

Students must have a minimum 2.75 GPA for courses required prior to applying (nutrition is excluded). Additionally, a grade of C or better is required for these courses. Keep in mind that FRCC has a competitive admissions process, so a higher GPA will award you more points on the [registered nursing ranking table](#).

**4. What is the HESI A-2?**

Students are required to take the HESI Admission Assessment (HESI A2) prior to applying to the nursing program. The required subject areas are: Reading Comprehension, Math, Biology, and Chemistry. You must have a minimum cumulative score of 75% on the HESI to apply to the nursing program. If you've tested in additional subjects, we will average the score for our four required subject areas. The exam can be taken twice in 365 days and test scores can be used for up to 15 months. You may take the exam at the FRCC Larimer Campus Testing Center or a Prometric Testing Center. Visit our Testing Center website to learn more about [registering for the HESI A2](#).

**5. How many students are accepted into the nursing program?**

There are two cohorts each year. One cohort starts in the spring semester and one starts in the fall semester. We accept 45 students into each cohort. We create a list of 12 alternates in case any of the 45 students choose not to join the program prior to the first day of classes. If you are designated as an alternate but not admitted, you must reapply for admission.

**6. Is there a waiting list for the nursing program?**

We do not have a waiting list. If students aren't accepted, they may reapply during the next application period. There's no limit to how many times students can apply, but we highly recommend meeting with an advisor if you're denied acceptance.

**7. Can any nursing coursework be completed prior to applying?**

You may not register for NUR courses prior to your acceptance into the nursing program. We recommend taking BIO 216, BIO 202, and a 3 credit elective in Arts & Humanities or Social & Behavioral Sciences prior to applying. You may also begin some BSN courses. Please meet with an advisor to discuss this option.

**8. I have a previous degree. Does this help my admission status?**

No, we do not award points for previous degrees or certifications.

**9. I am either a GNA, CNA or EMT. Does this help my admission status?**

An introduction to the health care field is valuable, but it will not award you additional points on the [registered nursing ranking table](#).

### Nursing Information Sessions

**1. Do I need to attend nursing information sessions?**

You are not required to attend a nursing information session, but it's highly recommended if you're interested in the registered nursing program or practical nursing program. They are held the second Monday of each month from 5-6PM in BP126. No registration is required, just drop in.

### Final Admission Requirements

**1. I received an email stating my overall score placed me into the nursing program. What do I do now?**

Formal admission into the program occurs when immunization documentation has been received and you have passed the required screenings. We will email and mail instructions for completing the required documentation.

**2. Do I need to pay for a background check?**

Yes, each newly admitted student must pay to complete a criminal background check and evaluation for disqualifying offenses according to the [Colorado Community College System](#).

**3. Do I need to have a drug screen?**

All newly admitted students are required to submit to a drug screening as a condition of acceptance in the registered nursing program. Students, when offered admission to the Registered Nursing Program, will be advised to prepay for a random drug screen through the Colorado Community College System contractor.

**4. What type of CPR certification is required?**

We only accept American Heart Association Basic Life Support Provider certifications. It must be valid through the upcoming semester.

**5. What immunizations will I need?**

Students are required to complete certain immunizations, TB tests, background check, and CPR certification because of clinical placements. Admitted students are provided written instructions of how and when to submit documentation.

Certain immunizations can be completed ahead of time, but cannot expire during the first semester. We ask all new admits to provide documentation of immunizations or positive immune titers for the following:

- Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (within last 10 years)
- MMR (2 doses, at least one month apart)
- Varicella (2 doses, one month apart)
- Hepatitis B (series of 3 vaccines over 4 months)
- Two-Step Tuberculin Skin Test or Quantiferon TB Test (must be renewed annually)
- Influenza (given September 1<sup>st</sup> or later, must be renewed annually)

### Registered Nursing Classes

#### 1. Does FRCC offer part-time or online registered nursing courses?

No, there are no part-time or online options to complete the A.A.S. nursing courses. It is a full-time program offered only in-person. Your BSN courses, however, are only offered in the online format.

### Acceptance into the Registered Nursing Program

#### 1. How are students prepared for the nursing program?

Students attend an all-day 'Boot Camp' **the week before** the semester begins. Items covered include: time management, lifestyle changes, resources/support systems, orientation to our calendar and D2L, tutoring/test anxiety, working outside of school, the flipped classroom, NCLEX style questions, adaptive quizzing, and a short tour.

#### 2. Can I finish the registered nursing program in two years?

The A.A.S. program consists of four semesters of nursing courses (56.5 credits) and 15 credits of courses required prior to applying.

#### 3. Can nursing courses be taken over the summer?

There are no ADN nursing classes offered over the summer, except for the LPN Exit Option course, NUR 169 Transition into Practical Nursing. The summer is a great time to take BSN courses as well as BIO 202, BIO 216, and a 3 credit elective in Arts & Humanities or Social & Behavioral Sciences, if you haven't taken these already.

#### 4. Can you tell me more about how dual-enrollment works?

FRCC Larimer Campus nursing students are required to be dually enrolled in a bachelor degree nursing program (BSN) by the start of the second semester of their ADN program. We have an agreement with three schools: Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, and University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

Representatives from all three schools will visit your first semester of registered nursing classes to introduce their programs. You will be automatically accepted any one of the three schools listed above. BSN courses from all three schools are 100% online.

*FRCC will begin offering a new RN to BSN program in fall 2020. Please visit our website for updates.*

#### 5. Where do nursing students complete their clinicals? What will my clinical schedule be like?

The hospital facilities we use the majority of the time are Poudre Valley Hospital, McKee Medical Center, and Medical Center of the Rockies. Various doctor's offices, clinics, and long-term care facilities are also used.

Clinicals can be 2-5 days in a row and can be as early as 6AM and as late as 11:30PM. We try to meet your needs, but no particular shift or clinical location can be guaranteed. It's also possible you could have 12-hour clinicals, and they can also occur on weekends.

**6. Will my RN license be valid if I move out of state?**

If your RN license is in good standing, you must apply for licensure by endorsement from your new state board of nursing.

**7. Can I work during the registered nursing program?**

We recommend working no more than 20 hours per week while enrolled in our A.A.S. program.

[Registered Nursing Program Denial](#)

**1. I didn't get into the RN program, but I got into the PN program. Is this a good path for me?**

If your ultimate goal is to become an RN, we do not recommend taking the PN classes first, as the FRCC/LC Campus does not have a bridge program. We strongly recommend meeting with an advisor to discuss your career and academic goals if you are undecided about your major.