FOOTHILLS NURSING CONSORTIUM
General Information

- The Foothills Nursing Consortium includes:

  Cleveland Community College          Cleveland County
  137 South Post Road
  Shelby, NC 28150  (704) 669-4073

  Isothermal Community College          Rutherford and Polk Counties
  Post Office Box 804
  Spindale, NC 28160  (828) 395-1621

  McDowell Technical Community College  McDowell County
  54 College Drive
  Marion, NC 28752  (828) 652-0611

- The Foothills Nursing Consortium (FNC), Associate Degree Nursing (AD Nursing) program is approved by the N.C. Community College System Office and the N.C. Board of Nursing.

- Characteristics of the AD Nursing program:
  a) prepares students to apply to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) which is required to practice as a registered nurse.
  
b) program length is five sequential semesters
  
c) is separate from the existing practical nurse programs in the above colleges.

- Isothermal Community College is the administrative unit and the central location of the three colleges.

- The commuting time to the administrative unit from the other two colleges is approximately thirty minutes or twenty miles. This means the greatest distance between the consortium colleges is approximately one hour or 50 miles.

- Nursing classes will be held on all three campuses at some period of time during the program.

- When possible, non-nursing courses will be scheduled on the campus of the student's county of residence.

- When possible, clinical experiences will be scheduled in or near the student's county of residence.
Please read the entire packet. If there are any questions, contact the Admissions Office at the college of application. Students are responsible for assuring current admission requirements have been met and that all materials have been received by the Admissions Office. The AD Nursing program enrollment is limited. Admission is a competitive process. Meeting minimum admission criteria does not guarantee an applicant an offer of admission. For example, the GPA and PSB score of those offered admission is considerably higher than the established minimum requirements.

Prospective nursing candidates residing in the four-county service area of Foothills Nursing Consortium should apply to the home college within the student’s service area. Other applicants may apply to the college of their convenience.

FNC does not use a waiting list. Therefore, applicant records must be updated annually. If a student has applied previously, the student must reinitiate the process including PSB-RN retesting.

There are essential functions for the AD Nursing program. If these are not attached to this admission packet, please request one from your Admissions Advisors/Counselor.

Admission Advisors/ Counselors can email as a form of communication with the applicant. The invitation to enter the Associate Degree Nursing program will be in the form of a US Postal letter.

A semester curriculum plan is in effect. Previous quarter courses will be considered for credit; however, courses must be evaluated for appropriate credit hours.

**Required Courses:** Students are encouraged to take these general/related (non-nursing) courses prior to entry into the nursing program. Completion of the related courses with a grade of “A” or “B” prior to applying can strengthen the chances of admission.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Education/Related Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 168**</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 169**</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 275/BIO 175**</td>
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<td>ENG 111</td>
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<td>ENG 112</td>
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<td>PSY 150</td>
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<td>PSY 241</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td>ACA 115/ACA 122</td>
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**BIO 111 General Biology is highly recommended prior to BIO 168, 169 and 175.

Completion of related courses will help prepare for, but not guarantee, admission into the program. *PSY 241 and ACA could be delayed until the first semester of the nursing program, if the student desires to be registered for 12 credit hours, “full-time” student status, the first semester of the AD Nursing program.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Step One (Completion of #1-9 of admission criteria), by deadline, January 21, 2015:

1. Complete and submit application for admission to appropriate college.
2. Provide official transcript of high school education and/or GED scores.
3. Submit an official transcript from all colleges, practical nursing programs or other nursing programs attended (course syllabi may be required).
4. GPA 2.5. To be eligible to sit for the PSB-RN, the student must either 1) hold a bachelor’s degree, or 2) have an overall calculated college GPA of 2.5. The GPA is based on a minimum of 12 hours of college credit calculated as follows:
   - Most recent college cumulative GPA if there is a minimum of 12 hours of college credits
   - If less than 12 credit hours of college is earned, then use the un-weighted high school GPA
   - If the applicant has a GED, then advise to take 12 college credits before applying then
   - If there are multiple transcripts with courses taken in the same most recent time period then at least one transcript has a 2.5 cumulative GPA calculated using a minimum of 12 college credit hours.
5. Attendance at an Allied Health/Health Sciences Information Session
6. Submit three (3) references (not relatives or close friends) who have known you for at least 6 months. Example: registered nurses, teachers, employers, supervisors, guidance counselors. References must be no more than one year old at the time of the general admission requirement deadline. Admission Advisors/Counselor may ask applicants to replace one reference that is less than recommend or any references of a type not listed as preferred. References must be received by the admitting college in envelopes sealed by the reference persons on forms provided. In order to proceed to step two (2), the final three (3) references must be at or above the “recommend” level.
7. Placement tests will be administered by the college of application. It is the applicant’s responsibility to contact the college’s testing center and make arrangements for placement testing.
8. Successfully complete all developmental courses required as a result of placement tests.
   - Integrated Reading/Writing    DRE 96 - 98 or ENG 85/95
   - Developmental Math/Algebra   DMA 10 – 50 or Math 60 and Math 70
9. Prerequisite courses: Students must either have (1) completed a high school unit, (courses), in biology and chemistry with a grade of “B” or above or (2) completed courses in biology, and chemistry in college with a grade of “C” or above. Additionally, applicants must have developmental math/algebra DMA 010-050 or Math 70 or satisfactory placement test scores. Prerequisite courses are not accepted from the Adult High School Diploma Program unless the student is a graduate of the program.
Students who have completed college level Anatomy & Physiology with a grade of "C" or above can be exempt from the prerequisite biology course. However, students are encouraged to take Biology 111.

**Consortium College Prerequisite Courses**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Math/Algebra</td>
<td>DMA 010-050 or MAT 070 or satisfactory placement test score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Biology I</td>
<td>BIO 111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Chemistry</td>
<td>CHM 131/131A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students completing Step 1 prior to deadline are eligible for Step 2. The health form is provided to applicants taking the PSB-RN admissions exam. Applicants are advised to begin working on the health form, but it will not be due until a student is accepted into the program. Minimally, a student should schedule an appointment with his/her health care provider within one week of acceptance letters & begin collection of immunization records. Students are advised to begin the process of health requirements e.g. PPD, hepatitis series, varicella titer or series, but evidence of these are not required until after acceptance (see step 4).

**SELECTION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

**DATES**

**Step Two (PSB-RN testing and follow-up):**

10. If notified by (USPS or email) by the Admissions Advisor/ Counselor, eligible applicants report for the PSB-RN exam (FEE $20.00). **Minimum weighted score of 45 on the PSB- iis required.**

In order to determine the PSB-RN scores and rankings, the FNC PSB-RN Score and Ranking Calculation Formula is applied to all tests by the admissions advisors/counselor. The PSB scores and rankings (including categorical scores), based on the formula, are sent to the Director. The Director then identifies the top 80 scorers by combining/merging the rankings and scores of the 3 colleges. The admissions advisors/counselor will use the Points Tally (Step 3) for these top (80) scorers.

11. Notifications will be by U.S. Postal Service or student email to the top 80 applicants (semi-finalists) eligible for a Program Group Information Session. The applicants not eligible for Step 3 will be notified by Admission Advisors/Counselors. **February 25, 2015**

12. Attend the **Program Group Information Session** as scheduled with the Admissions Advisors/Counselor, the AD Nursing Director and Assistant Director. **March 2-6, 2015**
Step Three (Points tally/Rubric of Academic Credentials, High School and College Experiences):

13. Final selection: In order to be considered for admission, each student must meet the stated deadlines and admission requirements in step one and two. If these requirements are satisfied, then the applicant will be selected on the basis of earned points on a points tally sheet (or rubric). These points are determined by:

1) greater than and similar (above 75th) percentiles on the PSB graph,
2) high school rank
3) pre-requisite science grades
4) overall college GPA
5) completion of, and “As” or “Bs” in related courses (1st attempt within application period)
6) PNE, bachelor, or master’s degrees.

Students who are non-completers (college courses from 4 or more colleges without completion of a program or degree) and those who have been unsuccessful in a previous nursing school are encouraged to demonstrate success by:

1) completing a program of study or degree (for example, a practical nursing Program) or
2) maintaining a least a “B” in at least 12 hours of courses after program failure.

14. Program Director and Assistant Director double check the points calculations and send top names to Admissions Advisors/Counselor. A standard letter of acceptance on college letterhead is generated. The Director signs and notifies each candidate via U.S. Postal Service of his/her provisional acceptance.

Program Begins August 2015

Step Four (Post acceptance/admission compliance:)

15. Completed health form, including immunizations and specific health screenings are due to the Admissions Advisor/Counselor. As part of the completed medical forms, the provider must indicate the applicant has “physical and emotional health”...as specified in the essential functions that have been articulated for the AD Nursing program. Throughout the nursing program, students must be able to meet FNC’s essential functions of nursing, with or without, reasonable accommodations.
16. Current listing on the North Carolina Nurse Aide I (NAI) Registry, without findings against the listing, is required for entry into the AD Nursing program. After January, 2014, the NAI program must be approved by North Carolina, thus having a clinical component.

17. Upon admission to a program with a clinical component, a criminal background check and/or drug testing will be required by the clinical site prior to participation in the clinical component. Students should be aware that their graduation progress will be limited by an inability to complete the clinical portion of the program at any clinical site. The cost of any background check will be the responsibility of the student.

18. Students admitted will be assessed a one-time program fee approximately $650.00, plus tax, the first semester. The charge covers a prescriptive learning program to help prepare for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN).

19. Personal health insurance is the responsibility of the AD Nursing student. Neither the college of application nor the clinical agencies provide health coverage for the student.

20. All students must provide proof of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification by the program orientation day.

21. Students admitted to the AD Nursing program must attend the program orientation prior to the first day of class. Students will be notified of orientation dates.

22. Graduates of the AD Nursing program are eligible to apply to sit for the NCLEX-RN which is required to practice as a registered nurse.

QUESTIONS: Contact Tina Porter at 828 395-1621 (tporter@isothermal.edu)
Shellie (Hamrick) Brooks at 704 669-4073 (hamricksn@clevelandcc.edu)
Jane Wyatt at 828 652-0611 (janew@mcdowelltech.edu)
Foothills Nursing Consortium Essential Functions of a Nursing Student

The practice of nursing involves non-academic skills and performance requirements that are essential to participation in an educational program. These are cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance functions. Therefore, the essential eligible requirements for participants in a nursing program shall be further defined according to the following physical and emotional standards:

Nursing students should possess and be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Critical Thinking: critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. For example, student must be able to identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations; collect and analyze data to aid in problem solving; develop or participate in the development of nursing care plans. The student must be able to read and apply information in the clinical setting.

2. Interpersonal Skills: interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, groups, etc. from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds. For example student shall establish rapport.

3. Communication Skills: communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in English verbal and English written form. Must be able to read a patient chart and apply information to the clinical setting. Must be able to spell medical terms. For example: explain treatment procedures, initiate health teaching, document and interpret nursing actions and patient/client responses.

4. Mobility: physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces. For example: frequent trips from work station to the patients’ rooms, moves around a patient’s room, work spaces, and treatment areas. Able to tolerate the 12 hour clinical experience.

5. Motor skills: gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care. For example: calibrate and use equipment, document care, position and move patients/clients, administer cardiopulmonary procedures, and perform skill procedures.

6. Hearing: auditory ability, sufficient to monitor and assess health needs, and identify a change in patient condition. For example: hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultation sounds, and cries for help. Hear, understand, and apply English language.

7. Visual: visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care. For example: observe patient/client responses, specimen color, distinguish between the colors, as in determining stages of healing.

8. Tactile: tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment. For example: perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, insertions of catheters, taking pulses, and change in temperature. Olfactory: discern various odors from patients and environment. For example: foul smelling drainage, burning materials, gases, and spoiled food.

9. Weight-Bearing Strength and Mobility: ability to lift and manipulate/move 45-50 pounds daily. For example: position patients/clients, move equipment.

10. Cognitive Abilities: ability to be oriented to time, place and person, organize responsibilities, and make decisions. For example: student shall assess patient/client complaints, provide prioritized patient care, and implement appropriate plans. The student must be able to provide follow-up evaluative care.
11. Temperament and Emotional Control: Must be able to be patient, calm, and react to perform in a high stress situation. For example: cardiac event, shock, hemorrhage, and high stakes testing.

12. Professional Behaviors: behaviors consistent with forming a safe and effective therapeutic relationship with patients. For example: conveying a caring, respectful, sensitive, tactful, compassionate, empathetic, and tolerant attitude toward patients, family, and members of the interdisciplinary team. Handle multiple tasks concurrently. Provide nursing care in an appropriate time frame. Accept responsibility, accountability, and ownership of one’s actions.

EXAMPLES ARE NOT INCLUSIVE: If a nursing student or applicant believes that he or she cannot meet one or more of the standards without accommodations or modifications, the college must determine, on an individual basis, whether or not the necessary accommodations or modifications can be reasonably made. Requests for accommodations should be directed to Donna Short, Director, Student Enrichment Center and Disability Services Coordinator at McDowell Technical Community College. From that contact, accommodations will be arranged, if applicable, at other Consortium colleges.

A change in the student’s health during the program of learning so that the essential functions cannot be met, with or without reasonable accommodations, may result in withdrawal 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.

FOOTHILLS NURSING CONSORTIUM
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Essential Functions Student Statement

I have reviewed the Essential Functions for the Associate Degree Nursing Program and I certify to the best of my knowledge that I have the ability to perform these functions. I understand that admission, progression, and graduation are contingent upon the ability of each individual to demonstrate the essential functions delineated for the Associate Degree Nursing Program with or without reasonable accommodations.

Signature ___________________________________________ Date _______________________

Printed Name ________________________________________

3/2013