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) 286-3636

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

- The Foothills Nursing Consortium (FNC), Associate Degree (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) will prepare students to apply to sit for National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) which is required to practice as a registered nurse.
  b) is designed for four sequential semesters in length.
  c) will be separate from the existing practical nurse programs in the above colleges.

- Advanced Placement nursing students enter spring semester, joining generic students who entered the previous fall semester. Applicants must meet specific criteria before entering the nursing program.

- 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 fifty 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 applicant information packet. If there are 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.

• 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 retesting for designated admissions and challenge examinations.

• 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.

• A current unrestricted North Carolina LPN license, without reprimand against the license, is required for advanced placement into the FNC AD Nursing program. A recent PNE graduate can apply prior to taking the NCLEX-PN. However, the applicant must be a LPN by the program start date in January.

• **A passing score on the nursing challenge exam gives the accepted advanced placement student credit for the following courses:**

  NUR 111  
  NUR 112

* **Suggested review books for the nursing challenge exam are:** the latest edition of Eyles, Mary O., *Mosby’s Comprehensive Review of Practical Nursing for NCLEX-PN* (a free computer disk is included with the book) or *NCLEX PN Review Made Incredibly Easy*, Springhouse Corporation, ISBN: 1582559155. Review books may be purchased at the college’s bookstore.

• Clinical agencies require complete background checks and drug screens, immunizations, specific health screenings and American Heart Association CPR certification for nursing students. The costs of these requirements are the responsibility of students. Specific information will be provided to applicants upon admission selection.
• Admission advisors or 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 General Education/Related Courses are:
  BIO 168**  Anatomy and Physiology I
  BIO 169**  Anatomy and Physiology II
  BIO 275/BIO 175**  General Microbiology
  ENG 111  Writing and Inquiry
  ENG 112  Writing and Research in the Disciplines
  PSY 150  General Psychology
  PSY 241  Developmental Psychology
  Elective  3 hours Humanities Elective
  ACA 122  College Transfer Success
GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2015

The following requirements must be met before a student will be considered for admission to the FNC AD Nursing program as an advanced placement student.

Step One of Admission Process:
Completion of general admission requirements (1-12), by

............................................................................................................August 24, 2015

1. Submit completed application 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. To be eligible to sit for the Challenge exam, the student must either 1) hold a bachelor’s degree, or 2) have an overall calculated college GPA of 2.5. To sit for the Challenge exam, 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 or 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 take 12 college credits before deadline (an advising issue).
   - If there are multiple transcripts with courses taken in the same, most recent time period, then a least one transcript that has a 2.5 cumulative GPA is calculated using a minimum of 12 college credit hours.

5. Required attendance at an Allied Health/Health Sciences Information Session.

6. Submit (3) three references (not relatives or close friends) who you have know at least 6 months; one of which must be a current work or PNE reference. Example: teachers, employers, RN supervisors, counselors. References that are more than one year old at the time of the general admission requirement deadline will not be acceptable. Persons providing references must use the form provided and submit in an envelope sealed by themselves.

7. Placement tests will be administered at 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrated Reading/Writing</th>
<th>DRE 96 - 98 or ENG 85/95</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Math/Algebra</td>
<td>DMA 010 – 050 or Math 60 and Math 70</td>
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9. Prerequisite courses: Students must either have (1) completed courses in high school biology and chemistry (complete high school unit) 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 MAT 70 or satisfactory placement scores. Prerequisite courses are not accepted from the Adult High School Program unless the student is a graduate of the program.

Consortium College Pre-requisite Courses:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Developmental Math/Algebra</th>
<th>DMA 010 - 050 or satisfactory placement test score</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<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 who have completed college level Anatomy & Physiology with a grade of “C” or above can be exempt from the prerequisite biology course.

**Students can apply for AD Nursing admissions while they are in the process of Taking Chemistry 131 and Chemistry 131A for the chemistry prerequisite. Chemistry 131 and Chemistry 131A must be successfully completed with a minimum of a “C” prior to entry into the program.

In addition to the nine general admission requirements listed above, the advanced placement candidates must also:

10. Have evidence of a current unrestricted NC license without reprimand or eligibility of candidacy as a Practical Nurse in the state of North Carolina. The unrestricted license must also be current at the time of entry into the program.

11. Have BIO 168 (Anatomy and Physiology I) in progress if the Anatomy and Physiology series has not been completed.

12. PSY 150 and ACA or other approved college success courses complete or in progress.
Completion of step one and payment (approximately $65.00) for the nursing challenge exam must be met by August 24, 2015.

STEP TWO NACE I testing:

If notified by the admissions office, report for the nursing challenge exam.

September 10, 2015

A minimum score of “77” is required to pass the NACE I (challenge) exam.

The Health Form is distributed/emails to those taking the NACE I 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 a health care provider within 1 week of acceptance letters & begin collection of immunization records. Students are advised to begin the process of health requirements (for example, PPD, Hepatitis series, varicella titer or series), but evidence of these are not required until after program acceptance (see STEP FOUR).

Following testing: The NACE I scores are received by the Director and passing scores are emailed to the Admissions Advisors/Counselor. Top scorers on the NACE I (up to 20 total between the three campuses) will be eligible for Step 3. If the numbers exceed or are less than the available program slots, the Program Director will notify Admissions Advisors/Counselor how many candidates to include in Step 3. In the case of a “tie” PNE GPA will be used as described in Step 3, final selection.

Three references at or above the “recommend” level are required for progression to STEP THREE. Advisors/Counselors may ask applicants to replace one reference that is less than recommend or any of a type not listed as acceptable. In order to proceed to Step 3, the final 3 references must be at or above the “recommend” level.

Notifications of top 20 applicants for a Program Group Information session

September 28, 2015

Eligible applicants must attend a Program Group Information session with the Admissions Advisor/Counselor, the AD Nursing Director and the AD Nursing Assistant Director at the Rutherfordton Learning Center from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on October 7, 2015.
STEP THREE (points tally of academic credentials educational experiences):

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 the highest scores on the NACE I exam and, in the case of a tie, PNE grades. The Director signs a standard letter of acceptance and notifies pending candidates via U.S. Postal Service of their provisional acceptance pending completion of the health form (including immunizations series and screenings), unrestricted practice (and without reprimand) as a LPN in North Carolina, American Heart Association CPR and required FNC Orientation(s)…………………………………………………………………Oct 26, 2015

Advanced Placement students begin Spring 2016

During spring semester, if not already completed, BIO 169 (Anatomy and Physiology II) must be completed with a grade of “C” or better …………..Spring 2016

STEP FOUR (Post acceptance/admission compliance):

Completed health form, including immunizations and specific health screenings are due, to the Admissions Advisor/Counselor. …………November 6, 2015

The student will register for the nursing transition course (NUR 214) upon entrance into the nursing program.

Upon admission to a program with a clinical component, a criminal background and drug testing will be required by the clinical site prior to a participation in the clinical component. Students should be aware that their graduation progress will be limited by the 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.

Students admitted will be assessed a one-time program fee of approximately $740.00 plus tax the first semester. The charge covers a prescriptive learning program to help prepare students for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN)

An immunization tracking fee of $15.00/year will be assessed.

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

Students admitted to the AD Nursing program must attend an orientation program. Students will be notified of orientation dates.

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.
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 therapeutice intervention, insertions of catheters, taking pulses, and change in temperature. Olfactory: discern various odors from patients and environment. For example: foul smelling drainages, 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.

EXAMIES 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