INTERESTED IN NURSING SCHOOL?

Ways to Become a Registered Nurse

There are two different avenues to becoming an RN (registered nurse). One is to earn an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN, ASN, AAS or AASN); the other method is to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN). After being granted either degree, the graduate must then pass the Tennessee State Nursing Board licensing exam (NCLEX) in order to become an RN. Here at PSCC. Students have the option of earning an AASN or completing the necessary prerequisites to transfer to a four year institution to earn a BSN.

An Associate Degree usually requires about a year of pre-requisite courses, followed by two years of Nursing School (in which the student takes approximately 10-12 hours each semester). Area colleges that offer ASN or AAS degrees include: Pellissippi State Community College, Roane State Community College, Walters State Community College, and Lincoln Memorial University.

BSN degrees require about two years of pre-requisite courses, followed by two years of Nursing School (in which the student completes about 15-17 credits per semester). Area colleges offering BSN degrees are: University of Tennessee, East Tennessee State University, Tennessee Wesleyan University, Carson Newman University, Lincoln Memorial University, and King University. Typically, the University of Tennessee does not admit transfer students into its traditional BSN program.

In addition to traditional BSN degrees, all of the area BSN colleges offer BSN degrees for those who are already RNs (RN to BSN programs). In fact, PSCC has articulation agreements with The University of Tennessee, Tennessee Wesleyan University, East Tennessee State University, and Lincoln Memorial University, allowing PSCC’s AASN graduates to transition smoothly into their RN to BSN programs.

You need to think about which schools you want to apply to early since all schools have slightly different requirements and admissions criteria. It’s best to visit the schools and talk with their representatives in order to make a good choice. Pellissippi State advisors can assist you in choosing appropriate pre-requisite courses for the nursing school(s) to which you wish to apply. Please be advised that entrance into nursing schools is not automatic; students must apply, showing evidence of high grades and other criteria. Students should apply to the university/college, as well as to the nursing school. Note that application dates are often well in advance of the entrance date.

Advising for Pre-Nursing Majors

If you are planning on attending Nursing School, your major should be listed as pre-nursing in your My Pellissippi account.

If your major is not listed as pre nursing, you should make an appointment with a pre-nursing advisor to make certain your major is listed correctly. At the Hardin Valley campus, the majority of the prenursing advisement is done by full time professional advisors in the Student Assistance Center, Room 123 Goins Building. During peak registration times, faculty advisors also assist in advising. There are faculty advisors for pre nursing at the site campuses Straw Plains, Magnolia, Division, and Blount County. Throughout the semesters, a full time prenursing advisor visits the site campuses. To schedule an appointment with a prenursing advisor, please call 865-694-6400 for assistance.

You may obtain additional information from the Student Assistance Center and from our PSCC website: [www.pstcc.edu/pre-nursing](http://www.pstcc.edu/pre-nursing).

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