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.

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 College (in conjunction with Fort Sanders Hospital), Carson Newman University, Lincoln Memorial University, and King University.

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 Tennessee Wesleyan College, East Tennessee State University, and Lincoln Memorial University, allowing PSCC’s AASN in Nursing 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 (KNUR) in your My Pellissippi account.

If your major is not listed as KNUR, you should make an appointment to meet with a pre-nursing advisor to make certain your major is listed correctly. **ALL PRE-NURSING ADVISING IS DONE BY SPECIALIZED PRE-NURSING ADVISORS IN THE PSCC PRE-NURSING ADVISING OFFICE LOCATED IN THE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CENTER, 123 GOINS BUILDING ON THE HARDIN VALLEY CAMPUS (694-6460, pre-nursing@pstcc.edu). YOU SHOULD SEE AN ADVISOR IN THAT OFFICE DURING PRIORITY REGISTRATION TIMES, OR ANY TIME YOU NEED ADVICE CONCERNING YOUR COURSE CHOICES.**

You may obtain additional information from that office, from the table outside AL218, and from our PSCC website: [www.pstcc.edu/pre-nursing](http://www.pstcc.edu/pre-nursing).

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