Program Guide for Nursing Holistic Admissions

Using This Guide

Welcome! Thank you for your interest in the nursing program at Clark College! The nursing program is a limited entry selective holistic admissions program. This guide is a resource that provides information and answers questions about the holistic admissions application process. Your responsibility as a prospective nursing student is to actively seek out, read, learn, and use the program information available to you. The more you learn, the better prepared you will be!

1) **Read this Nursing Advising Guide and Review the Nursing Webpages**
   You will find answers to most nursing-related questions in this guide and on the [nursing website](#). Please carefully and thoroughly review and use all resources. Make a note of any additional questions you may have to discuss at a future academic advising appointment.

2) **Visit Career Services and Meet with a Career Advisor**
   As you consider a career in nursing, it is important that you bring self-awareness and the ability to accurately self-appraise whether your values, personal attributes, experiences, and academic achievement support your being successful in the program and profession. It is important to remain curious and open regarding the various healthcare career pathways and be willing to consider an alternate plan, as the nursing program has limited entry, and acceptance is not guaranteed. Career Services is open to the public and career advisors can assist with your career exploration and planning. Contact: careerservices@clark.edu

3) **Apply to Clark College and Complete the General Admissions Process**
   If you decide to pursue nursing at Clark, you must apply to Clark College. The Welcome Center can assist with the application and admissions process: start@clark.edu.

   NOTE: *Prospective transfer students who have attended other colleges or universities must apply to Clark College before applying via the Nursing CAS System.*

4) **Visit Advising Services and Meet with a Healthcare Advisor**
   After you have completed the Clark College admissions process and reviewed the nursing website information, you may meet with a Healthcare Advisor to help you create an individualized academic plan for courses that apply to nursing. Plan ahead and bring a copy of unofficial transcripts. At your appointment, we can answer your questions, assist you with class selection and term-by-term planning, and provide guidance and referrals to support your success. If you are not accepted, you can also meet to discuss how to strengthen your application for a future selection cycle. For an appointment, please use the self-scheduling tool on the [Advising homepage.](#)

Disability or ADA Accommodations

Accommodation for students with disabilities for the holistic assessment and/or course accommodation will be considered when students request Clark's Disability Support Services (DSS) department. Students should connect with DSS early if they want extended time on the holistic assessment.

In order to fully evaluate requests for accommodations, the DSS process generally includes a review of a student's documentation, the fundamental requirements of the program or course, and the self-report or story taken during the initial Access Meeting. DSS asks for documentation of a student's disability if they have it. DSS also has a process when a student doesn't have documentation. Documentation guidelines and steps to get started with DSS are on their website: www.clark.edu/dss. DSS is often booked two to three weeks out with student appointments. Due to this, it may take a student two to three weeks to complete the holistic assessment from when they are first invited to take it, (if they are awaiting their DSS appointment).

Students with disabilities are qualified to participate in clinically based healthcare professions with the use of approved reasonable accommodations (as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act). To be qualified for nursing programs at Clark College those individuals must be able to meet the essential abilities with or without reasonable accommodation.   Accommodations for the classroom, laboratory, or clinical setting will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for individual student disability needs and according to the reasonableness of the essential functions and learning of the program. Accommodations that compromise patient care, or that fundamentally alter the essential functions of the program or activity, are not considered to be reasonable. For further information regarding reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities, please contact the Disability Support Services Office at 360-992-2314 or via email at dss@clark.edu

Table of Contents

Nursing Program Overview

The registered nurse is a licensed health care professional able to work in hospitals, clinics, acute care, physicians' offices, emergency centers, long-term care facilities, and home health care agencies. Registered nurses work with patients throughout their lifespan in a variety of healthcare settings, including medical/surgical, obstetrics, mental health, long-term care, and in the community. They design plans of care, perform patient assessments, administer medications, give injections, serve as advocates for patients, and refer patients to the proper resources. Critical thinking and decision-making ability, as well as a life-long commitment to learning, are a few of the important assets needed in this demanding but rewarding profession.

Graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing program receive an Associate in Arts Nursing DTA/MRP degree and are qualified to take the National Council Examination (NCLEX-RN) for licensure as a Registered Nurse. Clark College's Associate Degree in Nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners is on the nursing webpages.

For Financial Aid purposes, the Associate Degree in Nursing DTA/MRP is open enrollment, which enables all students who wish to pursue this degree to complete the "Nursing Degree Requirements" (courses in the areas of English, Biology, Chemistry, Psychology, etc.). The "Nursing Degree Requirements" provide the foundation for the subsequent "Nursing Core" classes (courses with "NURS" prefix). Although the program of study for the nursing transfer degree is open enrollment, there is an application process for students to be able to begin the "Nursing Core" classes due to clinical space limitations.

Nursing Degree versus Pre-Nursing Degree… What's the Difference?

Clark offers two nursing-related AA degrees. Though this guide is focused solely on the Nursing AA-DTA/MRP, a brief comparison is provided for reference.

NURSING AA-DTA/MRP	PRE-NURSING AA-DTA/MRP
Associate in Arts Direct Transfer Degree	Associate in Arts Direct Transfer Degree
Includes General Education / Nursing-Related Requirements	Includes General Education / Nursing-Related Requirements
Includes Clark Nursing Program / Nursing Core Requirements	DOES NOT include Clark Nursing Program / Core Requirements
Results in completion of AA-DTA with RN program	Results in completion of AA-DTA WITHOUT RN program
Prepares students for application to the WSU- Vancouver Concurrent Enrollment program to complete BSN coursework during the summers while completing the associate degree in nursing at Clark. For students who wish to wait to complete their BSN, the degree articulates with many "RN to BSN" programs in Washington state.	Prepares students for application to BSN programs, where RN coursework will be completed after transfer, at the transfer university.

Nursing Degree Requirements – Nursing Associate of Arts DTA/MRP

Minimum Nursing Degree Requirements – Required prior to Program Application

COURSE	TITLE	UNITS	OFFERED
BIOL& 160	General Biology w Lab	5 units	Every Term
BIOL& 241	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	5 units	Fall, Winter, Spring
BIOL& 242	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	5 units	Winter, Spring, Summer
BIOL& 260	Microbiology	5 units	Every Term
CHEM& 121	Intro to Chemistry: Pre-Health	5 units	Every Term
ENGL& 101	English Composition I	5 units	Every Term
ENGLISH	English Composition II (recommended)	5 units	Every Term
NUTR& 101	Nutrition	3 units	Every Term
PSYC& 200	Lifespan Psychology	5 units	Every Term

- Minimum degree requirements must be completed before the nursing program application.
- Clark's three-term series of Anatomy & Physiology is also acceptable: BIOL& 251 (Fall Only), BIOL& 252 (Winter Only), BIOL& 253 (Spring Only)
- All science courses must be completed within seven (7) years of nursing program start (except BIOL& 160). For example, for fall 2024 nursing program entry, science courses must be no older than fall 2017.
- A minimum combined GPA of 3.0 (B) is required for all courses listed above.
- A minimum grade of 2.0 (C) is required for each program course.

Additional Nursing Degree Requirements – Required Before Program Core
(Classes with NURS prefix)

HUMANITIES	Refer to Transfer Degree Distribution List	10 units	Options Offered Every Term
MATH& 146	Introduction to Statistics	5 units	Every Term
PSYC& 100	General Psychology	5 units	Every Term

- Additional degree requirements may be completed after nursing program application but must be completed before the term of nursing program entry.

- Additional degree requirements are not required for application and grades are not factored in the point system.

- Humanities course options are listed on the Transfer Degree Distribution List in the Clark College Catalog.

- A minimum grade of 2.0 (C) is required for the 10 units of humanities, introduction to statistics, and general psychology.

Point Allocation for the Nursing Program Selection

INITIAL APPLICATION CRITIERA		
FOUNDATIONAL GENERAL EDUCATIONS COURSES (METRIC)	BIOL& 160: General Biology, 5 credits BIOL& 241: Anatomy & Physiology I, 5 credits BIOL& 242: Anatomy & Physiology II, 5 credits BIOL& 260: Microbiology, 5 credits CHEM& 121: Intro Chemistry, Pre-Health, 5 credits ENGL& 101: English Composition I, 5 credits ENGLISH: ENGL& 102 (recommended), 5 credits NUTR& 101: Nutrition, 3 credits PSYC& 200: Lifespan Psychology, 5 credits	Overall Applicable GPA: 3.0 or higher Minimum GPA for each course: 2.0 or higher
	The following courses **must be completed prior to entering the program**; they do not have to be completed prior to application submission:	
	MATH& 146: Introduction to Statistics, 5 credits PSYC& 100: General Psychology, 5 credits Humanities Distribution, 10 credits (Please refer to the Transfer Degree Distribution List section of the current Clark College Catalog for qualifying options.)	Minimum GPA for each course: 2.0 or higher

ATTRIBUTES	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS
First Generation College Student	1	
Multilingual (must specify languages & level of fluency)	1	
5 or more General Education Courses Completed at Clark College	1	
Personal Statement (video submission)	10	
Prompt #1 Non-cognitive variables (written submission)	10	
Prompt #2 Non-cognitive variables (written submission)	10	
Prompt #3 Non-cognitive variables (video submission)	10	
Prompt #4 Non-cognitive variables (video submission)	10	
TOTAL	53	

How to Apply

Step 1: Apply to Clark College

Complete the Clark College Application for Admission (if not already an admitted Clark College student). The Welcome Center can assist with the application and admissions process.

Step 2: Apply to the Nursing Program (Part 1)

REQUIRED: Complete the application via NursingCAS and pay the $60 program application fee. Note: NursingCAS has a fee waiver (while funds are available).

REQUIRED: Submit up-to-date official transcripts from all colleges (including Clark College), and universities previously attended, regardless of whether previous coursework is relevant to the nursing program.

Step 3: Complete Nursing Program Application (Part 2)

Applicants who meet the GPA requirements and have completed the required coursework will be invited to the final part of the application process. This will be an assessment in Kira Talent, which will be an opportunity for you to share who you are, your work, and life experiences that have led you to consider nursing as a career and apply to this program.

The prompts will help us assess and holistically apply the selection criteria considering individual attributes and experience while decreasing bias as much as possible. Upon receipt of the invitation to complete the Kira assessment, applications will have 1 week to access the Kira platform and complete the prompts. The assessment must be completed all at once. **There will be no re-doing of any element and applications cannot return to the platform if they leave part way through.** Once the Kira Assessment is completed, your application is complete, and you will be considered for selection into the nursing program.

IMPORTANT: It is expected that all information submitted to Kira is the applicant's own work and response. Applicants are not allowed to share what the prompts are with other current or future applicants. Any applicant found to have breached the integrity of the assessment will be dismissed from selection or the program and not be allowed to reapply.

Application Deadlines
Applications Steps 1 & 2 and related materials need to be completed two (2) weeks before the deadlines to allow adequate time for processing and verification from NursingCAS.
Step 3 must be completed by the deadlines below.

- April 1   for possible selection into the fall nursing program cohort
- July 1   for possible selection into the winter nursing program cohort
- Nov 1   for possible selection into the spring nursing program cohort

NOTE: In the case of an incomplete grade in a course or grade change on a transcript, it is the applicant's responsibility to update their records and provide up-to-date information in NursingCAS.

After you Apply

If not already completed, Additional Degree Requirements (MATH& 146, PSYC& 100, and Humanities) must be completed before the term of program entry. Applicants must submit updated transcripts to NursingCAS or as directed.

The selection process will take several weeks to complete. All applicants will be notified of their admission status by email from NursingCAS and can view their status in the NursingCAS platform by logging in.

Application files will remain active, and applicants will be considered for up to three (3) consecutive selection cycles. After three (3) consecutive selection cycles, applicants must reapply to the nursing program and pay a new nursing program application fee for future consideration.

Upon Notification of Acceptance

Confirmation of Acceptance & Non-Refundable Deposit
Accepted students must pay a non-refundable $200 deposit within the designated time period specified in the acceptance letter. If the deposit is not received within the designated time period, it is assumed that the student is no longer interested in entering the Clark College nursing program and the space will be given to the next eligible alternate student.

Accepted Status: Conditional admission into the nursing program. Admission is conditional on all coursework being completed and completing the clinical compliance requirements by the deadlines.

Alternate Status: This is a conditional status. Alternates who have completed all course requirements and complete clinical compliance requirements by deadlines are eligible for a status change from Alternate to Accepted in the case that an Accepted student declines their position. Alternate status students who do not have a change in status before the term of admission will receive a change in status to be accepted for the subsequent quarter as long as they have completed and maintained their clinical compliance requirements. The Nursing program covers the cost of repeat background checks, medical clearance, and drug screening for alternate-status students who begin in a subsequent quarter.

Please immediately notify the Clark College Nursing Program at NursingHolisticAdmit@clark.edu if the decision to accept a space in the Clark College nursing program changes for any reason.

Nursing Core Program Structure
Upon acceptance into the clinical portion of the nursing program, students will complete six (6) terms, totaling seventy-two (72) units of nursing core requirements. Nursing core requirements are taught in fall, winter, and spring terms, with summer terms off. Completion of nursing core requirements takes two full calendar years, from the initial term of nursing program entry. Nursing core requirements are taught at the Clark Building on the WSU-Vancouver campus.

Mandatory Orientation
Two mandatory orientations, clinical compliance and academic, will be held for accepted students and invited alternates. If a student does not attend the mandatory orientations, the next eligible alternate student will be given the assigned space in the nursing program. Students will be informed of the orientation date, time, and location when notified of their selection status.

Proof of Immunizations
Accepted students and invited alternates must submit proof of the following immunizations by the deadline stated in the nursing program acceptance letter or their space will be given to the next eligible alternate. Final deadlines are

approximately 1 month before the start of the academic quarter. Once accepted to the program, find your documentation, get labs or screening completed, or immunizations.

- **COVID-19** - Original series of bivalent vaccine or 1 dose of monovalent vaccine). Clinical placement options cannot be provided for unvaccinated students; therefore, no vaccination exemptions are allowed.
- **FLU -** Receive the current season flu vaccination before starting clinicals. Continuing students must renew annually in the fall when the vaccine is available.
- **HEP B** - Series of three (3) doses and proof of immunity (positive titer) or documentation of non-conversion. The first two doses of vaccine given at least 28 days apart are required before the start of the program. **NOTE**: obtain a titer as soon as possible after your acceptance to the nursing program. It is common for adults to be non-immune despite being vaccinated as a child.
- **MMR** - Two (2) doses of MMR (at least 28 days apart) or proof of immunity (positive titer for each component of vaccine: Measles-rubella, Mumps, and Rubella).
- **TB Tuberculosis Screening** Skin Test or blood test - A 'two-step' test is required upon entry into the program (two tests administered 1-3 weeks apart between step 1 and step 2). Other acceptable screening tests include a blood test (QFT-G or T-spot). For individuals with positive screening results, a negative chest x-ray and annual symptom review are required documentation.
- **Tdap** (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis-Whooping Cough) - One-time dose of Tdap; TD booster every ten years (Tdap if missing documentation for initial dose).
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** - Two (2) doses of the Varicella vaccine or proof of immunity (positive titer). NOTE: It is unlikely that an individual will have a positive titer for varicella if they have not had the disease.
- **Physical Exam** – A physical exam must be completed within 90 days of the start of the program.   Any illness, injury, or condition that could impair the ability to meet the essential functional abilities, matters to your safety and the safety of patients. Meeting the essential functional abilities is in alignment with clinical site policies and legal agreements between Clark College and clinical sites. It is expected that students will communicate any changes related to their essential functional abilities in a timely manner.
- Any additional vaccines or other requirements that become mandatory by state or federal law, or that are required by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, or clinical sites will become required by the Clark College Nursing Program.

Criminal Background Check
All accepted students are required to complete and pass the FBI and WSP/OSP (depending on state of residence) criminal background check process. The criminal background check requires a fee and the applicant's social security number.

Individuals with a criminal record may be restricted from healthcare facilities as a student and because it is not possible to meet the objectives of the program without having clinical experience, anyone with a positive criminal or abuse history may not be eligible for acceptance into the nursing program. In addition, Washington State Health Profession Quality Assurance (HPQA) and the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) require a criminal background check upon application for licensure. However, applicants must also self-disclose upon applying to the program. For further information, please review the Washington and Oregon Board of Nursing on the respective websites for a list of excludable offenses and licensure requirements.

Drug Screen
All students may be asked to submit to a drug screen, and it can only be completed through designated vendors in which the nursing program contracts.   Drug screens will happen before the start of the program if drug use is suspected and based on the health care facility where clinical rotations are assigned while in the nursing program. Clinical sites receive federal funds and drug screens must have negative results for all substances.

Health Insurance

Some healthcare systems require all nursing students to carry health insurance. Students must have proof of insurance to attend clinical experiences. The Clark College Health Center can provide resources related to this requirement.

Nursing Program Costs

In compliance with federal regulations, Clark College publishes a cost of attendance, or budget, which reflects the average cost of attending college. The cost of attendance is the basis of establishing a student's financial need, as it set a limit on the total aid that a student may receive. Please review the annual Cost of Attendance on the Clark College website for additional information.

Tuition rates are established annually by the Washington State Legislature and may change from year to year. Please refer to the Tuition & Fees chart for current information about tuition costs.

For **Nursing Degree Requirements**: Students will pay tuition and fees, the cost of textbooks and supplies, living expenses (housing, food, etc.), transportation expenses, and any additional miscellaneous expenses. Total expenses will vary for individual students.

For **Nursing Core Requirements** (upon acceptance into the nursing program): Students will pay all of the expenses listed above and also specific nursing program-related expenses. These expenses include the cost of obtaining immunizations, background checks, drug screens, uniforms and equipment, parking, etc.