



If you're interested in nursing, there are certain steps you can take while still in high school to ensure that your path toward an HCC nursing degree is as smooth and efficient as possible.

### **Can I take college classes while still in high school?**

Yes, HCC has a special program designed for ambitious high school students who wish to get an early start on college. The ESSENCE (Early Start for Students Entering College Education) Program allows high academic achievers to earn up to 12 college credits at discounted tuition rates. To learn more, speak with your high school guidance counselor or visit [www.hagerstowncc.edu/essence](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/essence).

### **How long does it take to complete the program?**

A full-time student can complete HCC's Registered Nursing (RN) Program in as little as five semesters or two years, including taking the program's general education courses; however, this is dependent on planning as a high school student. If you know you would like to work as a nurse in the future, it will be a tremendous help for you to start meeting HCC's RN Program requirements before you graduate from high school. HCC's RN Program allows students to earn a BSN in addition to an RN in as little as four years, by preparing students to transfer into RN to BSN programs offered by four-year universities.

## **Contact Information**

### **ESSENCE Program:**

240-500-2238

[admissions@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:admissions@hagerstowncc.edu)

[www.hagerstowncc.edu/essence](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/essence)

### **Nursing advisement or pre-requisite planning questions:**

Christa McAllister

Student Support Specialist, Nursing

240-500-2286

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For more information about HCC's Nursing Programs, go to:

[www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing](http://www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing)



*Stay close. Go far.*

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## **Care for the future: Study nursing at HCC**



*A guide for high school students*

## What's the difference between an RN and an LPN?

Registered nurses (RNs) typically work in hospitals, as well as a variety of clinical and social service fields. Unlike licensed practical nurses (LPNs), RNs require two years of clinical coursework to prepare them to deal with any acute care situation that may arise. LPNs typically work in facilities that require long-term care such as nursing care facilities, medical offices, and home health care environments. Some LPNs also work in specialty facilities, such as psychiatric or rehabilitative institutions. The clinical coursework to become an LPN takes 10 months. After an LPN has worked full-time for at least six months, he or she has the option of pursuing an RN degree.



## What classes do I need to take to apply for the RN program?

HCC students must complete, or have BIO-103 (Anatomy and Physiology I) in progress at the time of the application deadline. To do this, you must have fulfilled the following prerequisites:

- Take chemistry in high school
- Place into MAT-101 or MAT-109 or complete MAT-100 before applying
- Place into ENG-101 or complete at least ENG-100
- Complete BIO-099 or pass HCC's Anatomy and Physiology placement test

## What classes will best prepare me to complete the RN program in the shortest amount of time?

Acquiring credit for any of the following courses will be helpful for any prospective RN Program student.

- ENG-101\* +
- ENG-102\*
- PSY-101\* +
- PSY-204
- SOC-101
- BIO-103 +
- BIO-104 +
- MAT-101\* or MAT 109\*
- Arts/Humanities Course (examples):
  - ART-101 Introduction to Visual Arts
  - MUS-101 Music Appreciation

- Any foreign language class\* (via ESSENCE program or AP scores of 3 or better)

*\*Courses marked with an asterisk can be fulfilled by a score of 3 or above on the appropriate Advanced Placement (AP) test.*

*+ Required for LPN Program*

## What if I'm not ready to take college-level English or math classes?

If you want to participate in the ESSENCE Program but you're not ready to take college-level English or math, you can take developmental level courses.\*\*

*\*\* Please note that the tuition discount given to ESSENCE students does not apply to developmental courses*

## Is there a developmental biology class that I can take to prepare me for anatomy and physiology?

HCC offers BIO-099 (Biology for Allied Health), which you can take while you're still in high school. This course is specifically designed to prepare students for the anatomy and physiology class.\*\*

## Will my high school anatomy and physiology class count towards my nursing degree?

Unfortunately, no. High school-level anatomy and physiology classes cannot be used to replace college-level anatomy and physiology. Taking anatomy and physiology at your high school will certainly help your understanding of the human body, but it will not reduce the amount of time it takes to complete a nursing program at HCC.

## How do I apply to the Nursing Program?

After a student meets the requirements listed in this brochure, students must also:

- Have an overall GPA of 2.0 for all completed college coursework
- Have a 2.5 GPA for the Nursing Program general education requirement courses
- Complete the supplemental application for the program
- Complete and submit TEAS test scores to the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration
- Have all official transcripts (college and high school) submitted to HCC
- Have all official AP test scores submitted to HCC

For a fall semester start into the program, students must have completed these tasks by the final January 15 deadline.

For a spring semester start into the program, students must have completed these tasks by the final July 15 deadline.