



Paramedic to RN Transition Program



What is the Paramedic to RN Nursing Program?

The Paramedic to RN Transition Program is an advanced placement program for paramedics who wish to obtain an associate degree in nursing. This program is designed for qualified, licensed paramedics who will take nursing courses from a modified program of study that meets the needs of the paramedic to associate degree nursing program. The program will prepare graduates for nursing positions in a variety of health care settings.

HCC's Nursing Program is a Maryland State Board of Nursing approved program designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to function effectively in all areas of professional nursing. Graduates of the nursing program are eligible to apply to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Individuals who excel in this program have excellent critical thinking skills, great attention to detail, and display both compassion and confidence in their work.

How is the curriculum designed?

Students will be required to complete general education requirements before starting the Paramedic to RN Transition Program. This practice ensures that, if the student completes the nursing courses in sequence, he or she could then graduate immediately

after the last nursing course and subsequently sit for the NCLEX-RN. The paramedic to RN transition course sequence prepares the qualified paramedic to enter the HCC Registered Nursing Program with advanced standing. Information from nursing program courses (NUR 105, 127, 229, 230, and 231) is presented in a condensed format. Emphasis is placed on the role of the registered nurse in the care of clients with selected health care needs on various levels of the health care continuum. The nursing process and critical thinking are used to guide the acquisition of nursing knowledge and the performance of therapeutic nursing interventions and client teaching. The Nursing Program is divided into several broad areas of study and consists of lecture, laboratory, and clinical experiences. Emphasis is on the use of the nursing process to meet the needs of individuals, family members, and the community. Courses in general education provide students with the scientific and social background to function as effective health care providers.

What is the employment outlook for this career?

Overall job opportunities for registered nurses are expected to be excellent. Registered nurses are projected to generate 371,500 new jobs through 2028, among the largest of any occupation. Hundreds of thousands of job openings will result from the need to replace experienced nurses who leave the occupation or retire (source: www.bls.gov/ooh).

What do paramedics earn compared to registered nurses?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual salary for EMTs and paramedics was \$34,320 in 2018. The best-paid 10 percent in the profession made approximately \$58,640, while the lowest-earning 10 percent made approximately \$22,760.

Conversely, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median wage for a registered nurse is \$71,730 per year. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$50,800, and the highest 10 percent earned more than \$106,530.

Why should I choose HCC?

Nursing is a profession that is open to men and women with various career interests. HCC's Registered Nursing Program is accredited with the Maryland State Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

HCC prepares nurses to meet the challenges of today's healthcare industry and lay the foundation to rise to future challenges as new knowledge and technologies occur. Successful completion of the HCC Nursing Program enables the graduate to apply for the NCLEX-RN for licensure as a Registered Professional Nurse (RN). You must have a social security or tax I.D. number to sit for this exam.

This program of study is designated as a Health Manpower Shortage Program. Therefore, some residents of Maryland enrolled in this program of study on the first day of the term may be eligible for in-county tuition rates for courses required for program completion.

Pre-Admission Requirement

Students must complete the nationally normed test for nursing students known as the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). The TEAS is a scholastic aptitude assessment in the areas of math, reading, English, and science. Students will not be considered for admission to the program until they achieve the required scores on the TEAS. Applicants should consult the HCC website at www.hagerstowncc.edu/teas for specific information about the TEAS, including score requirements. This requirement should be completed prior to submission of the supplemental application but no later than the application deadline.

Admission Requirements

Admission to HCC does not guarantee admission to the Division of Nursing. The requirements below must be completed and submitted to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management by the application deadline of January 15:

- A completed program application known as the Supplemental Application for the Paramedic to RN Program

- Official transcripts from all colleges attended. Students who took classes at HCC do not need to submit official HCC transcripts.
- Completion of all required science courses within seven years prior to admission to the program
- All general education courses completed or in progress at the time of application
- A minimum cumulative grade point average for all college coursework of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all program courses
- A grade of “C” or higher is required for all general education requirements
- Foreign educated students must have their college and high school transcripts evaluated by World Education Services (WES)
- Submit TEAS scores to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management

Program Requirements

Students practice selected procedures on each other in the college laboratory. All nursing students must meet the following program requirements:

- A minimum overall grade of 75 percent in each nursing course
- A minimum exam grade average of 75 percent in each nursing course
- A minimum grade of 75% on 50% or more of the total exams for the course during the second year of the program (NUR-126, NUR-226, and NUR-228)
- A minimum grade of 90 percent on a drug calculation exam each semester
- A mark of satisfactory for both the simulation laboratory and clinical experiences (Students who receive a final mark of unsatisfactory in the clinical laboratory or clinical experience, or fail the drug calculation exam, despite a passing theory grade, will not be permitted to progress in the nursing program and will receive a final grade of “F” for the course.)
- Upon completion of nursing coursework, students must achieve an adjusted individual score of 70 percent or higher on the ATI Comprehensive Predictor Exam. Students who do not achieve this score will be allowed to retake the exam after appropriate remediation until they achieve the required score.

Students who do not meet program or course standards that result in termination from the Nursing Program by the director of nursing and the vice president of academic

affairs are not eligible for readmission. This includes students who cannot meet safety standards, and students who violate the college’s Honor Code and Standards of Conduct, the nursing program’s Standards of Conduct, and the American Nurses’ Association Code of Ethics for Nurses.

- Students who wish to enroll in the Paramedic to RN program must meet the following eligibility requirements prior to acceptance into NUR 195:
 1. Proof of graduation from an approved program for paramedic within the past year OR proof of one full year of full-time employment (2080 hours) as a paramedic within the past five years
 2. Proof of certification as a Paramedic and National Board of Registry certification (NREMT-P)
 3. Satisfactory letter of recommendation from a recent manager
 4. Completion of all general education course requirements by the start of NUR-195

Are there any disqualifying crimes for this major?

There is no specific list of disqualifying crimes for this profession; however, any felony conviction or drug-related or violent misdemeanor makes it exceedingly difficult to work in this field. Criminal history of any kind will likely result in a delayed licensing process and extra paperwork. Students with a criminal history who do choose to pursue a career in this field will be best served by a solid work history (post-conviction) and several professional and character references.

Additional Information

Additional information on program requirements including selection criteria, final acceptance, criminal background checks, drug screening, readmission to the HCC Nursing Program, and transferring from another college or nursing program can be found at www.hagerstowncc.edu/nursing. Additional information on HCC’s Paramedic Program can be found at www.hagerstowncc.edu/ems.

A.S. Degree Nursing

General Education Requirements 33 credits

Arts/Humanities

Select one Arts/Humanities course from approved General Education course list..... 3

Behavioral/Social Sciences

PSY 101 General Psychology 3

PSY 204 Developmental Psychology: Lifespan
Human Development..... 3
SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology 3

Biological/Physical Science

BIO 103 Human Anatomy and Physiology I 4
BIO 104 Human Anatomy and Physiology II 4
BIO 205 Microbiology 4

English

ENG 101 English Composition..... 3
ENG 102 Composition and Literature..... 3

Mathematics

Select from approved General Education course list .. 3

Paramedic to RN Course Sequence

Program Requirements 37 credits

First Year – Semester 1

NUR 195 Paramedic to RN Transition Course..... 8
Upon successful completion of NUR 195, students will be granted 17 additional credits based on prior learning and skills from paramedic work experience. (There will be a fee charged to have credits awarded.)

First Year – Semester 2

NUR 126 Nursing Care of Women and Children ... 4
NUR 224 Pharmacology for Nursing Practice..... 2

First Year – Semester 3

NUR 226 Behavioral Health Nursing I 4
NUR 228 Contemporary Trends in Nursing and Leadership..... 2

Degree Requirement 70

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Recommended Professional Resources

American Nurses Association (ANA):
www.nursingworld.org

Accreditation Commission for
Education in Nursing (ACEN):
www.acenursing.org

Registered Nurse RN:
www.registerednurses.com

National Council of
State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN):
www.ncsbn.org