



LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

## FREQUENT QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

APPLICATION AVAILABLE Mid-January through March 31<sup>st</sup>  
APPLICATION DUE MARCH 31  
BY 11:59 PM

### **WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NURSING PROGRAM AND APPLICATION PROCESS?**

The Nursing Faculty host monthly zoom information sessions for prospective students. More information can be found here: <https://laurelridge.edu/nursing/nursing-information-session/>

### **WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAM?**

1. You must be a registered Laurel Ridge Community College student. If not already a registered Laurel Ridge Community College student, please apply to Laurel Ridge Community College at <https://apply.vccs.edu>. Remember your student ID for your nursing application. *To find the Student ID (EMPLID) number: login to MYLAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE > On the top left corner, Click "View my Information" > Your Username, EMPLID number (Student ID) and student email is listed here.*
  2. Have official high school transcripts or GED documentation submitted with Nursing Program Application.
  3. Meet with a nursing advisor to confirm math placement.
  4. Meet certain computer competencies prior to entering the nursing program.
- A GPA of 2.5 or higher based on a minimum of the 12 most recent college credits or high school units completed by the end of summer semester prior to submitting a nursing application.
5. Completion of the HESI A2 examination. Schedule specifics and testing components will be posted on the nursing website. The tests are available beginning in the late fall semester and prior to admission.
  6. Official transcripts (high school and college, as applicable).



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***MAY I COMBINE RESULTS FROM BOTH HESI ATTEMPTS TO BE ELIGIBLE?***

No, all benchmarks must be met on one individual test.

***HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE HESI A2 EXAMINATION?***

HESI A2 Study Guides are available in the Laurel Ridge Libraries and may be borrowed from the Laurel Ridge Advising Department. Students may also purchase a study guide at the link listed below or various other online sites.

<https://evolve.elsevier.com/cs/product/9780323353786?role=student>

***HOW LONG ARE MY HESI SCORES GOOD?***

HESI A2 scores are good for two admission cycles. Benchmarked scores for the HESI change with each application cycle and are based upon overall scores of test takers in the cohort based upon National Benchmarks. Laurel Ridge does not receive these benchmarks until late January – please check back frequently to ensure you are looking at the current year. You will need to submit a copy of the test score, including Critical Thinking, with your application.

***IF I HAVE TAKEN THE HESI A2 EXAM AT ANOTHER LOCATION, DO I NEED TO RETAKE IT AT LAUREL RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE?***

HESI A2 scores are good for two admission cycles and may be considered if they cover the same content as the Laurel Ridge HESI A2 and include the Critical Thinking component. Results from other institutions may be submitted for consideration and evaluation for validity and eligibility.

***IS ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM VERY COMPETITIVE? ARE THERE ADMISSION PRIORITIES?***

Yes, admission is competitive but varies each year. Priority is given to applicants who have the highest HESI A2 Composite and Critical Thinking scores and who live in the Laurel Ridge Community College service region.

***WHO MAKES THE ADMISSION DECISIONS? HOW ARE APPLICANTS NOTIFIED?***

An admission committee makes the decisions on admission. Admission to the nursing program is a blinded process, meaning no student names are visible during the admission process. Students are chosen based on scores earned for performance on admission testing and living in the service region. Students with the highest scores are admitted first. Students are generally notified six weeks after the application deadline. Applicants will be notified via Laurel Ridge Community College email. Please open on a computer to ensure you can view the letter in its entirety as phones and tablets may not display attachments correctly. Students must provide a response to the “offer of admission” by a specific date in order to reserve their seat in the nursing program.



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### ***THERE ARE NO PREREQUISITES FOR THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM. WHICH COURSE(S) SHOULD I TAKE TO BEST PREPARE?***

Even though Anatomy and Physiology (either BIO 145 or both BIO 141/142) are not formal prerequisites, we highly recommend completing them prior to the first semester. The PN program is rigorous, and all the A&P content must be completed by the second (spring) semester. If you do not do any of the courses prior to the first semester, you will be required to complete BIO 145 in the first (fall) semester. You may not take BIO 141 in the first (fall) semester, since both BIO 141 and 142 are required to progress to the second semester (spring) and they cannot be taken concurrently in the fall.

### ***WHICH A&P ROUTE IS PREFERABLE...BIO 145 OR BIO 141/142?***

Timing plays a role in which option you choose, as noted above. However, since most practical nurses will at least consider continuing with their education and achieving an RN during their careers, and since BIO 141/142 are required for RN programs, we recommend taking BIO 141 and 142 to satisfy the A&P requirement. *Remember, if you choose 141/142, you will need to start no later than 1 semester prior to entering the program (and successfully complete the courses), in order to progress to the second/spring semester and satisfy all prerequisites.*

### ***WHAT DOES A TYPICAL NURSING SCHOOL SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?***

The schedule will change from semester to semester, but typically there are 4 days a week that are scheduled with class and clinical. At times, 5 days a week are scheduled with class and clinical.

### ***WHEN ARE CLINICALS SCHEDULED?***

Clinicals are scheduled weekdays or weekends and can be held during day, evening, or night hours.

### ***CAN A STUDENT WORK WHILE IN NURSING SCHOOL?***

It is recommended that students not work more than 20 hours per week while in nursing school. Working more than 20 hours a week may significantly impact your ability to study and complete assignments.

### ***CAN I BE A NURSE IF I HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF MISDEMEANORS AND/OR FELONIES?***

If you have had previous criminal convictions, please contact the Virginia Board of Nursing at 1-804-367-4515.

### ***HOW DO I OBTAIN LICENSURE AS A NURSE?***

You must successfully complete an approved nursing education program and



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pass a licensure exam: NCLEX – PN for the Practical Nursing Program, which is administered by the National Council of the State Boards of Nursing. You must apply to the Board of Nursing in the state where you plan to practice.

### **WHEN SHOULD I APPLY?**

Applications for the PN program are available from mid January through March 31<sup>st</sup> every year. Applications are due March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **WHERE DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?**

Applications can be completed during the application period at:  
<https://laurelridge.edu/nursing/practical-nursing-application/>

All supporting documentation requested to support your application may be submitted to [nursingapplication@laurelridge.edu](mailto:nursingapplication@laurelridge.edu) no later than March 31<sup>st</sup> by 11:59 PM.

**Please Note:** Applications will not be accepted after 11:59 PM on the due date. Applications will not be accepted via mail or in person. Technical difficulty will not be an acceptable reason for submitting applications late.

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

1. Apply to the Nursing Program by completing an Online Nursing Application. You can access and complete the application at:  
<https://laurelridge.edu/nursing/associate-of-applied-science-in-nursing/aas-admission-information/aas-nursing-application/>
2. The application will be posted on the admission page mid January and closes March 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. In addition to your nursing application, the following must be emailed to [nursingapplication@laurelridge.edu](mailto:nursingapplication@laurelridge.edu) NO LATER THAN: March 31<sup>st</sup> of the application year.
  - a. Official copies of college/university transcripts-including a copy of your Laurel Ridge Community College transcript (in addition to the above transcript evaluation process). How to Download an Unofficial Laurel Ridge (VCCS) Transcript: Login to MYLAURELRIDGE > SIS > My Student Information > Academic Records > View Unofficial Transcript > Select the Academic Institution > Report Type: Unofficial Transcript > View Report > Download as PDF
  - b. Copy of your HESI A2 exam(s) and critical thinking scores
  - c. Computer Competency checklist see requirements here:  
<https://acrobat.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:348cab36-a858-3568-9a41-d1b6baa693e6>



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- d. Copy of your math placement document which is listed on your Advisement Report under the Student Groups section.  
Directions: login to MYLAURELRIDGE > Click on SIS > Click on My Student Information > Click on Academic Records, then select My Academic Requirements and view this report as a PDF. The math placement is listed under the Student Groups section.
- e. An official high school transcript or copy of a GED.