FVCC
Associate of Science Registered Nurse (RN)
and
Certificate of Applied Science Practical Nurse (PN)

Nursing Programs Information Packet

www.fvcc.edu/nursing

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Dear Prospective Nursing Student:

Thank you for your interest in Flathead Valley Community College Nursing Programs.

Nursing is a profession that awards a career for a lifetime. The overall demand for nurses is expected to continue to rise.

The Montana State Board of Nursing (MBON) currently approves both the Practical and Registered Nursing programs at FVCC. Program approval is necessary for graduates to be eligible to take the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN national licensing exams. In October 2023, FVCC LPN and RN programs were fully approved by the MBON through October 2026.

As of November 2019, **"The Flathead Valley Community College Associate Degree in Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA) located at 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037, 202-909-2526 through 2026."**

FVCC's Practical Nursing certificate is a minimum three-semester Certificate of Applied Science (CAS). The Registered Nursing degree is a minimum five-semester Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN). Each program has different prerequisite courses that must be completed, or be in the process of being completed, at the time of application. This packet contains further information on both programs.

FVCC's Nursing Programs have limited enrollment capacity. A competitive applicant selection process is necessary, and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria found in the FVCC Practical Nursing (CAS) or Registered Nursing Program (ASN) Application Packets.

Application periods open January 1 each year for each program. Application due dates and program start dates can be found on the FVCC website and in the applications for each program.

Currently Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who are interested in continuing their education to a RN degree can apply to the ASN RN program during the open application cycle. Please see the current ASN RN application for more details.

The contents and specific requirements for application are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the most current information packet and application at www.fvcc.edu/nursing or from the nursing office in the Broussard Center at FVCC before applying for placement. Carefully review your application to ensure it is complete, as missing items may result in an application being disqualified from selection.

If you have additional questions, refer to the front cover for contact information. We look forward to helping you achieve your educational goals.

Sincerely,

Carla Genovese, MSN, CNE, CCRN
Nursing Program Director
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FVCC NURSING PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Flathead Valley Community College Nursing Program is to prepare students to successfully deliver safe, effective, and culturally competent nursing care to individuals, families, and communities across the life span. The program facilitates educational mobility, personal growth, and a pattern of excellence in lifelong learning.

The Nursing department identifies defining principles and integrating concepts that are foundational to nursing practice and nursing education and form the organizing framework that guides the educational outcomes and organizing framework of the curriculum.

The defining principles of the nursing department encompass the faculty's beliefs regarding the four major dimensions of nursing theory including client, environment, health, and nursing, plus nursing education.

The nursing faculty selected the following concepts to integrate throughout PN and RN curriculum framework and courses; caring, nursing judgement, quality and safety, communication, diversity and cultural competence, and professional identity. The concepts guide the educational outcomes of each of the PN and RN program levels.

These concepts are drawn from the National League for Nursing Competency Statements (NLN), Montana Administrative Code for Nursing, the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) Competencies, Institute and Institute of Medicine (IOM), nursing theories (Campinha-Bacote, 2012, Neuman, 2010, Newman, 2011, Watson, 2011, Winters, 2012), and adult learning theory.

GENERAL NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

Nursing Program Outcomes

1. Graduates performance on the NCLEX will be at or above the national average.

2. 80% or more of students who enter the program will successfully complete the program.

3. Graduate Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >80% satisfaction.

4. Employer Satisfaction surveys will reflect a >80% satisfaction.

5. 80% or more of graduates will report being employed or planning to continue as full-time students.

General Standards and Requirements

To progress successfully through either the Practical Nursing (CAS) or Registered Nursing (ASN) Nursing Program, applicants should have:

- Adequate visual acuity, with or without corrective lenses, to read fine print.
- Adequate hearing ability, with or without auditory aids, to be able to hear heart, lung, bowel sounds, etc. and understand a normal speaking voice.
- Adequate physical ability to perform basic client/patient care, which includes the ability to lift a minimum of 25 lbs.
- Sufficient command of the English language to effectively communicate (verbally and in written form) with clients/patients, families, and other healthcare professionals. Applicants who English is a foreign language may be required to show proficiency through testing.
- Applicants are presumed to possess basic computer skills (use of word processing & presentation software and ability to use the Internet & send/receive email). Applicants with little or no computer background should enroll in a basic computer course.

NURSING APPLICATION PROCESS

The FVCC Nursing Programs have a limited enrollment capacity due to availability of resources. New cohorts of students are accepted each academic year at the FVCC Kalispell campus and may be accepted at the Lincoln County campus when there is a demand. The Lincoln County campus is a distance delivery site and has a smaller number of placements. If the number of qualified applicants exceeds available spaces, not all qualified applicants will be accepted. A competitive student selection process is necessary, and program applicants are accepted based on the criteria outlined below. This information is also found in FVCC Practical and Registered Nursing Program Application Packets. **The contents and requirements listed in the application packet are subject to change. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the most current packet before applying for placement.**

I. Apply to FVCC
Nursing applicants must complete the FVCC Application for Admission (degree seeking) and follow the steps for enrolling at Flathead Valley Community College. **Admission to Flathead Valley Community College does not guarantee acceptance into the Nursing Program.**

II. Transcript Submission and Review
If an applicant has courses from prior degrees, out-of-state colleges, or non-Montana University System colleges that they wish to be considered as an equivalent or substitution for any of the PN or RN prerequisites, the courses must first be evaluated by the FVCC Registrar. Official transcripts must be sent from the colleges or universities to FVCC in order to be evaluated. If courses are not equivalent to FVCC prerequisite courses, applicants may request review by the Nursing Program Director for consideration as substitutions prior to the application deadline.

The evaluation process may involve having faculty who are experts in specific content area review course information. Be prepared to supply course descriptions or syllabi for the courses to be reviewed. This process of evaluating classes can take several weeks, so plan ahead.

III. Kaplan Testing
All applicants are required to take the Kaplan Nursing School Admissions Test as part of the application process. The test determines whether a student has the necessary academic skills to perform effectively in nursing school. Applicants will be assessed in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science.

Applicants must achieve a minimum score (defined on each program application) to be considered for admission into the FVCC Nursing program. *It is highly recommended that students prepare for this exam.* The exam costs $100 and may be repeated with no additional charge one time/application cycle. The exam can be completed on the FVCC/LCC campus on a scheduled test date proctored by the nursing department with no testing fee. Contact the nursing department assistant, Cathy Fabel, at cfabel@fvcc.edu or 406-756-3385 to schedule the exam.

Other testing centers may be available for a fee. **Kaplan testing must be completed prior to the application due date.**

Please see Appendix A for more information on the Kaplan Nursing School Admissions Test.

IV: Submit Program Application
Obtain most current application from FVCC website, FVCC Nursing Dept, or FVCC Health Science Academic Advisor, and complete.

Nursing

Return completed application to:
FVCC Admissions Office
Attn: ASN or PN Program
777 Grandview Drive
Kalispell, Montana 59901

COMPLETE applications are reviewed, ranked, and GPA verified with final semester grades.

Applications are scored based on:
Kaplan Score (Program specific)
GPA (Program specific)
Interview Score
Flathead or Lincoln County Residency
Previous Healthcare Experience
Completion of other Co-requisite Courses (Program specific)

V. Interview

An initial list of qualified applicants is compiled. The most qualified applicants are asked to participate in an interview as part of the selection process. Applicants will be evaluated on the following areas during the interview:

- Communication skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Professional behavior

Interviews are in person only. Interested students must ensure they are available.

VI. Provisional Acceptance Requirements

Those qualified applicants who are offered provisional placement into the program are required to agree to the following final step in the process of acceptance into the program.

Background Check:

- Upon provisional acceptance into the FVCC Nursing Program, a background check is required, and the following is checked: County Criminal, MT Statewide Criminal, Fraud and Abuse Control Information Systems (FACIS Level 1), ID Trace, and National Sex Offender Public Registry. FVCC clinical partners require background checks.
- Background checks are completed at the applicant's expense through a third-party company. Information on how to access and set up an account with this company to complete the background check will be provided once an applicant is provisionally accepted for placement.
- Any discrepancies found on the background check or self-reported will need documentation regarding circumstances and outcomes in order for the clinical partners to make an informed decision regarding access to patients/residents. **Discrepancies on a background check may result in applicants being denied access to patient/residents by clinical partners.** If an applicant is denied access to patients/residents by clinical partners, they will be unable to meet course objectives, which would result in failure of the course and program.
- Urine testing is part of the required background check and is requested by clinical partners.

- Applicant situations will be reviewed by the nursing program director and clinical partners for determination of access to clinical sites on a case-by-case basis. If an applicant is denied access to clinical sites/patients as a result of findings on a background check, applicants will not be offered final placement in the program.

Immunizations and Screenings:

Some immunizations and screenings are required for degree seeking students and those students attending clinical rotations at various facilities. These requirements are based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and state and federal law.

The vaccinations and screenings listed below are **required**. Each student must demonstrate compliance upon admission to the nursing program and provide documentation while enrolled in the program of continued compliance. Students whose **required** immunization documentation is incomplete will not be allowed to participate in any clinical experience (per clinical facility policy) until the documentation is up to date. Any missed clinicals are subject to the provisions of the clinical absence policy.

1. MMR: Official record of two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) immunization, or positive titer demonstrating immunity to all three components.

2. Tuberculosis: Record of a negative TB screening. This may require a two-step skin test, Quantiferon titer or T-Spot, or attestation statement, done in the last 12 months. Students with a positive test must provide written clearance from their health care provider to participate in patient care.

3. Tdap: Proof of immunization as an adult per CDC guidelines.

The vaccinations listed below are **recommended,** both for student and patient protection, but not required. Students may be asked about vaccine status by clinical sites.

1. Hepatitis B Vaccination: Series of three injections with antibody titer demonstrating immunity. (anti-HBs).

2. Varicella: Proof of chicken pox immunity by official record of vaccination dates, or lab titer demonstrating immunity.

3. Influenza and Covid-19 Vaccine: Booster recommended annually.

- Other vaccines may become **required** by clinical partners throughout the program. It is an individual's right to refuse a vaccine. Individuals who decline a vaccine may be denied access to clinical facilities which could lead to failure in meeting the course objectives and a failure of the program. Students that decline a vaccine may be required to wear a mask while in the clinical site.

Other Requirements:
1. Provide **proof of current personal health insurance** (FVCC Student Health Center does not meet this requirement).

2. **Current AHA Healthcare Provider CPR**. (Training provided during program orientation).

VII. Final Acceptance

Once all requirements are met, applicants will receive a letter of <u>final</u> acceptance into the program and a registration form allowing registration in the nursing courses. Nursing courses are closed to online registration.

PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM (CAS) INFORMATION

Practical Nursing Definition

FVCC's Practical Nursing program follows the HealthCare Montana Model for Nursing Curriculum, Montana Board of Nursing requirements, and the laws and rules in the State of Montana, which govern Practical Nursing.

The focus of the curriculum is to provide education leading to basic knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological, and sociological sciences and of nursing procedures. The practice of practical nursing uses standardized procedures in the observation and care of the ill, injured, and infirm, in the maintenance of health, in action to safeguard life and health, and in the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by a physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments.

In their roles as members of the discipline of nursing, practical nurses actively participate in and subscribe to the legal and ethical tenets of the discipline. LPNs always function under the supervision of a registered nurse, physician, naturopathic physician, physician assistant, optometrist, advanced practice registered nurse, dentist, osteopath, or podiatrist (**MCA 37-8-102. Definitions**).

Graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing (NCLEX-PN).

Practical Nursing Educational Outcomes

Upon completion of the Practical Nursing curriculum, the graduate will be able to:
- Demonstrate caring presence and relationship-centered interactions to support the dignity and wellbeing of the client and family.
- Advocate for cultural competence and diversity.

- Demonstrate nursing judgment and prioritization of care, incorporating evidence-based practices and the nursing process to contribute to a holistic plan of nursing care.
- Uphold the practical nursing scope of practice within the ethical, legal and regulatory frameworks, demonstrating professional behaviors reflecting self-awareness, integrity, and lifelong growth and development.
- Ensure safe, quality client care in collaboration with the interprofessional health team.
- Apply effective communication strategies to support interpersonal relationships and collaboration.

Practical Nursing Program Requirements

The Practical Nursing Certificate of Applied Science is a 3-semester program which includes one semester of pre-requisite courses.

Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Practical Nursing Program. The formal application process must be completed and applicants must be accepted into the program before registration for NRSG courses.

The following prerequisite general education courses must be completed, or going to be completed, by the end of the semester preceding the start of the Practical Nursing program.

A grade of **"C"** or higher is required for **ALL non-nursing courses. A minimum GPA of 2.50 is required for the pre-requisite courses.** **Prerequisite courses may be repeated one time in an attempt to receive a "C" or higher grade. BIOH 104 must have been completed with a C or higher within 5 years of beginning the program.**

PRACTICAL NURSING CURRICULUM prerequisites:

Course	Title	Credits
	Semester One (can be taken any semester prior to acceptance into PN program)	
BIOH 104*	Basic Human Biology with Lab	4
M 094*	Quantitative Reasoning	4
PSYX 100	Introduction to Psychology	4
WRIT 101*	College Writing I	3
TOTAL		**15**

Additional placement scores/classes may be required. Application and admission to the practical nursing program is required before students may begin taking the following **required courses:**

Course	Title	Credits
	Semester Two	
NRSG 130	Fundamentals of Nursing	3

NRSG 131	Fundamentals of Nursing Lab	3
NRSG 135	Pharmacology for Practical Nurses	3
NRSG 136	Pharmacology for Practical Nurses Lab	1
NRSG 152	Gerontology and Community Nursing	2
NRSG 153	Gerontology/Community Nursing Clinical	2
	Semester Three	
NRSG 140	Adult Health Nursing	4
NRSG 141	Adult Health Nursing Clinical	2
NRSG 142	Nursing Care of Women and Children	3
NRSG 143	Nursing Care of Women and Children Clinical	1
NRSG 148	Leadership Issues for Practical Nurses	2
NRSG 149	Leadership Issues for Practical Nurses Clinical	1
TOTAL	**(Including prerequisites)**	**42**

Each nursing course must be passed with a minimum grade of a **"C+" (78% or higher)** for the student to continue in the program. Students receiving a C or lower grade in PN nursing courses will not be able to continue in the program or graduate from the program. A student CANNOT progress to the next semester of courses if he/she is not passing current semester nursing courses. If a course has a co-requisite lab/clinical course, students must successfully complete both the classroom and lab/clinical courses to progress to the next semester. Courses must be taken in sequence.

The Practical Nursing Program standards and requirements (such as grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and more strict than general FVCC requirements. To assure progression through the program, the student must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. The student must demonstrate a continuing ability to assure patient/client safety and welfare. Therefore, satisfactory academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program.

(ASN) REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

(ASN) Registered Nursing Definition

FVCC's Registered Nursing program follows the HealthCare Montana Model for Nursing Curriculum, Montana Board of Nursing requirements, and the laws and rules in the State of Montana, which govern Registered Nursing.

The focus of FVCC Associate of Science Nursing curriculum is to prepare graduates in the performance of services requiring substantial specialized knowledge of the biological, physical, behavioral, psychological, and sociological sciences and of nursing theory as a

basis for the nursing process. The nursing process is the assessment, nursing analysis, planning, nursing intervention, evaluation in the promotion and maintenance of health, the prevention, case finding, and management of illness, injury, or infirmity, and the restoration of optimum function. The term also includes administration, teaching, counseling, supervision, delegation, and evaluation of nursing practice and the administration of medications and treatments prescribed by physicians, naturopathic physicians, physician assistants, optometrists, advanced practice registered nurses, dentists, osteopaths, or podiatrists

authorized by state law to prescribe medications and treatments. Each registered nurse is directly accountable and responsible to the consumer for the quality of nursing care rendered. **MCA 37-8-102. Definitions.**

The professional nurse shall assess clients and formulate a nursing diagnosis and shall plan and implement and evaluate nursing care provided in a variety of health care settings. The graduate works together with other members of the health care team to manage the human, physical, financial, and technical needs of the client following ethical and legal standards of the profession of nursing.

Students who successfully complete all the required courses (a minimum of 72 credits) earn an Associate of Science Registered Nursing degree. Graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). Graduates may have taken appropriate coursework empowering them to pursue further educational goals, such as a bachelor's or higher degree, if desired.

Graduates who pass their licensure exam will perform services according to the Montana State Board of Nursing rules found in the *Administrative Rules of Montana, Chapter 24.159 Board of Nursing*

(ASN) Registered Nursing Educational Outcomes

Upon completion of the Associate of Science (ASN)-Registered Nursing curriculum, the graduate will be able to:

- Demonstrate caring relationships to promote self-determination, integrity, and growth of the client and family.
- Advocate for cultural competence and diversity.
- Demonstrate nursing judgment and clinical-decision-making, incorporating evidence-based practices and the nursing process in the delivery of safe, holistic nursing care.
- Practice within the ethical, legal & regulatory frameworks of nursing, demonstrating professional behaviors reflecting self-awareness, integrity, and lifelong growth and development.
- Manage and coordinate safe, quality client care in collaboration with the interprofessional health team.
- Apply effective communication strategies to support interpersonal relationships and collaboration.

Registered Nursing (ASN) Program Application Requirements

The Associate of Science Registered Nursing is a minimum 5-semester program. This includes 14 credits of prerequisite courses which must be completed or in the process of being completed at the time of application. Applicants must complete the FVCC Application for Admission (degree-seeking) and follow the steps for enrolling at Flathead Valley Community College. **Admission to Flathead Valley Community College does not guarantee acceptance into the ASN Registered Nursing Program.**

Applicants must have successfully completed or be in the process of completing the prerequisite courses listed before applying to the Registered Nurse program. Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Registered Nursing Program. There is a formal application process and applicants must be accepted into the program before they may register for NRSG courses. This process is outlined the FVCC Registered Nursing Program Application Packet.

LPNs wishing to continue their education toward an RN degree follow the ASN application process.

A minimum 2.75 GPA is required in the 4 pre-requisite courses. All non-nursing courses must have a grade of "C" or higher with the exception of BIOH 201 and BIOH 211 which require a "B-"or higher. **Prerequisite courses may be repeated only one time.**

ASN CURRICULUM prerequisites:

Course	Title	Credits
	Semester One (can be taken any semester prior to acceptance into ASN program)	
BIOH 201*	Human Anatomy & Physiology I w/Lab	4
CHMY 121*	Intro. to General Chemistry w/Lab	4
M140* or M121* M115 or M171 STAT216	College Math for Healthcare College Algebra Probability and Linear Math Calculus I Introduction to Statistics	3 3 3 5 4
WRIT 101*	College Writing I	3
TOTAL		**14**

* Additional placement scores/classes may be required.

CHMY 121 Chemistry, BIOH 201 A&P I, BIOH 211 A&P II, and BIOM 250 Microbiology must be taken within 5 years of acceptance into the RN program.
Application and admission to the registered nursing program is required before students may begin taking the following **required courses**:

Nursing

Course	Title	Credits
Semester Two		
BIOH 211	Human Anatomy and Physiology II w/lab*	4
NRSG 230	Nursing Pharmacology	3
NRSG 231	Nursing Pharmacology Lab	2
NRSG 232	Foundations of Nursing	3
NRSG 233	Foundations of Nursing Lab	3
Semester Three		
NRSG 234	Adult Nursing I	3
NRSG 235	Adult Nursing I Clinical	2
NRSG 236	Health and Illness of Maternal Nursing	2
NRSG 237	Health and Illness of Maternal Nursing Clinical	1
NRSG 256	Pathophysiology (Requires a B- as is a NRSG course)	3
PSYX 100	Introduction to Psychology*	3 or 4
Semester Four		
NRSG 244	Adult Nursing II	3
NRSG 245	Adult Nursing II Clinical	2
NRSG 246	Health And Illness of Child and Family Nursing	2
NRSG 247	Health And Illness of Child and Family Nursing Clinical	1
NRSG 254	Mental Health Concepts	3
NRSG 255	Mental Health Concepts Clinical	1
SOCI 101	Introduction to Sociology*	3
Semester Five		
NRSG 259	Adult Nursing III	3
NRSG 260	Adult Nursing III Lab	1
NRSG 261	Adult Nursing III Clinical	2
NRSG 266	Managing Client Care for the RN	2
NRSG 267	Managed Client Care for the RN Clinical	2
BIOM 250	Microbiology for Health Sciences w/lab *	4
Total		59
Total including prerequisites		**72/73**

* Non-nursing courses listed in the curriculum other than pre-requisites can be taken in any semester or prior to acceptance into the ASN program. All science courses must have been taken within 5 years of acceptance into the ASN RN program. LPNs who have completed the

pre-requisites as part of their LPN degree will have the 5-year rule waived, depending on work experience.

The Registered Nursing Program standards and requirements (such as grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and more strict than general FVCC requirements. To ensure progression through the program, individuals accepted into the program must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. Students must demonstrate a continuing ability to ensure patient/client safety and welfare. Therefore, satisfactory academic performance does not, in and of itself, ensure progression through the program.

Once accepted into the ASN program, students must achieve an 80% (B-) or higher in each nursing course to advance through the program. Individuals receiving a C+ (79 %) or lower grade in nursing courses will not be able to continue to the next semester of the program or graduate from the program. An individual CANNOT progress to the next semester of courses or graduate if he/she is not passing all current semester nursing courses. If a course has a co-requisite lab/clinical course, individuals must successfully complete both the classroom and lab/clinical courses to progress to the next semester or graduate. Nursing Courses must be taken in sequence.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONAL EFFORT AND COMMITMENT FOR SUCCESS

FVCC's Nursing Programs, as with most nursing programs, require a substantial time commitment to fulfill the intensive requirements of the program in the classroom, nursing laboratory, and clinical settings. Student success is dependent upon a collaborative working partnership by students and faculty. The nursing program philosophy and faculty view learning as an interactive process with faculty facilitating learning. We are committed to assisting you to succeed in the program. However, learners must assume responsibility for their own learning and participate in shaping their own learning experiences. Students must acknowledge and understand the expectations of the program:

1. There is a **_minimal_** study expectation of two hours of study per week for each credit enrolled. For example, a course that is 4 credits of theory would require minimal 8 hours of study and a 3-credit lab 6 hours of study per week. Most successful students spend three to four hours of study time per credit.

2. Although we hold an appreciation for your possible need to work to support yourself and/or a family, most students find it extremely difficult to work full-time while attending classes for the Nursing Program. Clinical rotations are scheduled when facilities have available space and are subject to change with short notice. Clinical/class hours will include evenings, weekends and night shifts. Students are expected to be available for the scheduled clinical hours.

3. Students are expected to attend all classes and clinicals. Missed clinical time may result in failure of courses and dismissal from the nursing program. Please do not make vacation plans that would affect attendance in class or clinical. Absences cannot be made up due to the fast pace of material presented in class and the limited availability of clinical experiences.

4. Given the same amount of work required, nursing students may not achieve the grades they have received in non-nursing courses. Learning a "new language" and being exposed to in-depth, comprehensive nursing concepts and principles may require more effort to learn and understand. Though grades may have been the primary focus of previous courses, the focus in the nursing program is learning and comprehension of information needed to deliver safe and competent care to patients/residents.

5. Students are expected to be prepared for class, lab, and clinical. This will include extensive reading, pre-clinical preparation, and other assignments prior to your attendance in class, lab or clinicals.

6. Most exams given in nursing courses are structured similarly to the nurse licensing exam. This means that most of the items on the exams are application, analysis, and synthesis type questions rather than simple knowledge and recall. These questions require a higher-order of thinking to answer correctly.

7. Faculty provides you with learning and test-taking strategies to assist you in developing critical thinking and clinical judgement skills necessary for success on the nursing course exams and the NCLEX licensure exam.

PROGRAM COSTS

In addition to tuition, fees, and program fee, nursing students should be aware that required nursing textbooks/reference materials are expensive and that many courses require several texts. Students should also plan for out-of-pocket expenses related to uniforms, clinical supplies, and other course/program requirements. If you would like an estimated cost of attending, please contact the Nursing department at 406-756-3385 or e-mail cfabel@fvcc.edu

Many scholarship opportunities exist.
Visit the FVCC Financial Aid Office for more information.

Appendix A: Kaplan Nursing School Admissions Test Information And Testing Instructions

1. To register for the Kaplan Nursing School Admissions Test, contact Cathy Fabel, Nursing Program Assistant, at 406-756-3385 or cfabel@fvcc.edu for instructions on how to register as a tester with Kaplan. Kaplan charges $100/student/application cycle.

2. The minimum test score for an FVCC ASN RN program applicant to be considered for placement is 70, and 65 for an PN applicant.

3. Cathy Fabel, Nursing Program Assistant, will proctor testing. To set up an appointment for a testing time, please call 406-756-3385 or email cfabel@fvcc.edu.   Tests are scheduled on the Kalispell campus in BC 120 or can be individually scheduled on the Libby campus after coordinating with Cathy.

4. There is an additional cost $25.00 if an individual requests testing time through the FVCC Testing Center. **To schedule a test through the Testing Center individuals must first be registered for the test with Cathy Fabel.** Students then schedule a testing appointment using the following link   https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/7e7vdy10/ and click on BOOK NOW. Testing Center hours are 9am – 4pm every business day except Wednesdays where they are 12-7pm. The Testing Center creates an invoice for payment to be made at the FVCC Business Office. Proof of payment is required before testing can begin.

5. Individuals wishing to take the Kaplan Nursing School Entrance Exam outside of FVCC or LCC in Libby must contact Cathy Fabel (406-756-3385) or cfabel@fvcc.edu to make arrangements for testing at other sites. Kaplan does not share test scores with multiple schools at this time. If you are applying to multiple schools who require the Kaplan Nursing School Admissions Test, please contact Cathy Fabel for more information.

6. The recommended study guide "Nursing School Entrance Exams Prep 2022-2023" can be purchased from Amazon.com. Two copies are also on reserve in the FVCC Library and in Libby at the LCC campus.

7. FVCC, in coordination with Kaplan, is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to allow qualified individuals with disabilities to access the Kaplan nursing entrance exam. Individuals requesting the use of reasonable accommodations for Kaplan testing should contact FVCC Disability Services disabilitysupport@fvcc.edu

at least 30 days prior to their anticipated testing date to discuss the process for arranging their accommodations.

Outline of the Admission Test Areas

The Admission Test consists of 91 online multiple-choice questions and covers four areas: Reading, Math, Writing and Science. Total testing time allowed is 165 minutes. ***It is highly recommended that you prepare for this exam.***

READING – 45 minutes. Read four passages and answer questions measuring essential skills for reading:

- Determining the logic of a passage
- Comprehending details
- Drawing basic inferences
- Identifying the purpose of a passage

MATH – 45 minutes. Measures the candidate's ability to apply mathematical principles in the following areas:

- Conversions, operations, ratios, word problems

WRITING – 45 minutes. Read nine passages and answer questions that measure the essential skills required for writing:

- Assessing passage development
- Assessing paragraph logic
- Assessing mechanics of writing

SCIENCE - 30 minutes.   Measures the candidate's knowledge of physiology in the following areas:

- Cardiovascular system, electrolytes, gastrointestinal system, immune system, neurology, renal system, hematological system, homeostasis, respiratory system, and sensory system.