

Chattanooga State



Registered Nursing
Transition Programs
LPN to RN and Paramedic to RN

Your Guide

Nursing Transition Programs

Important information: Registered Nursing Program at Chattanooga State

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(423) 697-4782
(call for appointment to set up
your academic plan)

*All forms and important information can be found on the RN Web site:
<http://www.chattanoogaastate.edu/nursing>*

Purpose

Transform individual student's lives by preparing them to be competent nurses who will help meet the current and emerging needs of the workplace for registered nurses. Graduates of the program are prepared to write the NCLEX-RN licensure examination to obtain the title of registered nurse (RN).

Goals

The Chattanooga State Nursing Program prepares individuals to assume the roles of the associate degree nurse: provider of care, manager of care and member of the nursing discipline. Graduates of the program use a clinical decision-making process as the basis for providing care to diverse individuals across the lifespan.

Transition Program Option

The purpose of the Nursing Transition Program is to offer an accelerated curriculum track for LPN's and licensed paramedics who wish to pursue the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing and RN licensure for upgrading of both degree and professional skills. The transition programs are an adaptation of the associate degree nursing curriculum that recognizes the knowledge and skills of the licensed practical nurse or paramedic. Following completion of a transition course, LPN's and paramedics are awarded credit for the first year nursing courses and enter the second year. The LPN to RN transition course is five credit hours; the transition course for the paramedic is seven credit hours.

The nursing curriculum at Chattanooga State is offered in day and night programs. The day program provides for full- or part-time study with the majority of the classes taken during the day. Following completion of the transition course, LPNs and paramedics are able to enter second year nursing courses in the fall of each year.

The night program is designed to offer a program of study that can be completed on a part-time basis during the evening. Because the night program enrolls a new class every two years, following completion of the transition course LPNs and paramedics may transition into the night program every other year (summer of even years). They must then complete the last three courses in the night program sequence of nursing courses.

Upon completion of the nursing program, an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing will be conferred. Graduates are able to write the NCLEX-RN state licensing examination.

Location

All nursing classes as well as the nursing program offices are located on the first floor of the Health Science Center (HSC) on the Amnicola Highway campus. Chattanooga State is affiliated with most hospitals, extended care facilities and a variety of community agencies as sites for clinical practice. Students must provide their own transportation to these facilities.

Work Settings

Nurses provide and manage care in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, community agencies, public and private schools, health maintenance organizations, outpatient care facilities, doctors' offices, businesses and industries, overseas and in the Armed Forces.

Approved by:

Tennessee Board of Nursing
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place, Metro Center
Nashville, TN 37243

Accredited by:

National League for Nursing
Accrediting Commission
3343 Peachtree Rd., NE
Atlanta, GA 30326
(404) 975-5000
<http://www.nlnac.org>

Day Transition Program

Summary of Required Hours

Prerequisites

Transitional studies courses, if applicable

CHEM 1010 or equivalent	8
BIOL 2010, 2020 (Anatomy and Physiology I, II)	3
BIOL 1430 (Nutrition)	3
PY 101 (Psychology I)	3
PY 217 (Human Growth & Development)	3
BIOL 2230 Microbiology (Paramedic program only)	

Prerequisite Total Hours: 17

Course #	Course Title	Semester Hrs		
		FALL	SPR	SU
First Year				
NS 024++	Nursing Transition (5)			(18)
or NS 027++	Paramedic Transition (7)			(18)
ENGL 1010	Composition I			3
Math elective*				3
		—	—	<u>24</u>
Second Year				
BIOL 2230	Microbiology (LPN only)	4		
NS 238	Nursing III	9		
NS 249	Nursing IV		9	
Humanities Elective **			3	
		<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	—

Total Hours = 66

++ Institutional credit. Not accepted towards degree.

* Recommended: MATH 1010 (Contemporary Math), MATH 1530 (Introductory Statistics) or MATH 1130 (College Algebra), MATH 1410 not acceptable for Nursing/Allied Health programs.

** Humanities electives may include:

ART 1010, 1020	ENGL 2210, 2220	MUS 1030	THEA 1030
ART 1030	ENGL 2410, 2420	PHIL 1030	
ENGL 2110, 2120	HUM 1010, 1020	PHIL 2230	
ENGL 2140	HUM 2130	RELS 2030	

Night Transition Program

Summary of Required Hours

Prerequisites

Transitional studies courses, if applicable

CHEM 1010 or equivalent	
BIOL 2010, 2020 (Anatomy and Physiology I, II)	8
BIOL 2230 Microbiology	4
BIOL 1430 Nutrition	3
PY 101 Psychology I	3
PY 217 Human Growth & Development	3

Prerequisite Total Hours: 21

Course #	Course Title	Semester Hrs			
		FALL	SPR	SU	FALL
First Year					
NS 024++	Nursing Transition (5)			(14)	
or NS 027++	Paramedic Transition (7)			(14)	
		—	—	<u>14</u>	
Second Year					
NS 210	Night Nursing III	7			
NS 220	Night Nursing IV		7		
NS 230	Night Nursing V				8
	Humanities Elective **	3			
	Math elective*		3		
ENGL 1010	Composition I			3	
		<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

Total Hours = 66

Prerequisites and Enrollment Requirements

To be eligible for acceptance into the transition program, LPNs must be currently licensed. Paramedics must be currently licensed in the State of Tennessee or provide proof of current national registry. LPNs and paramedics must provide documentation of at least 400 hours of employment as an LPN or paramedic within the past two years.

In addition, the student must have completed the following prerequisites prior to enrollment in the first nursing course:

- Chemistry - A grade of “B” or better in high school chemistry, a grade of “C” or better in college chemistry, or CHEM 1010 at Chattanooga State or equivalent.
- Transitional studies course requirements, if applicable, based on placement testing.
- BIOL 2010, BIOL 2020 or equivalent
- BIOL 1430 or equivalent
- PY 101 or equivalent
- PY 217 or equivalent
- BIOL 2230 or equivalent (night program)

If some of the prerequisites have not been completed at the time of class selection decisions, a conditional acceptance may be made. All prerequisites must be completed prior to enrollment in the first nursing course.

Academic Advising Information

As a pre-nursing student scheduling classes, take the following into consideration:

- Because of the demanding nature of the nursing curriculum, students are encouraged to complete general education courses prior to entering the sequence of nursing courses. This will lighten the credit hour load while in nursing.
- Since all nursing program prerequisites must be met prior to enrollment in the first nursing courses, complete the prerequisites first.
- A minimum grade of “C” is required for all general education and nursing curriculum courses to graduate.

- Anatomy and Physiology as well as Microbiology must have been taken within five years of enrollment in the first nursing course. Students with a health care background may request a waiver of the five-year limit. More information and the waiver request form are available on the nursing program Web site. A waiver will not be considered for any course over eight years old.
- PY 101 (General Psychology) must be completed prior to PY 217 (Growth and Development).
- Sample semester-by-semester plan of the curriculum spread over three years:

PRENURSING FIRST YEAR

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
CHEM 1010	BIOL 2010	BIOL 2020
PY 101	PY 217	

SECOND YEAR

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>
BIOL 2230	BIOL 1430	NS 024 OR NS 027

THIRD YEAR

<i>Fall</i>	<i>Spring</i>
Begin day or night nursing courses	

Application Procedures

1. Attend a nursing program information session.
2. Complete admissions procedure to Chattanooga State.
 - Submit application to Admissions Office (\$15 non-refundable fee).
 - Submit official high school transcript or GED transcript, if required.
 - Submit official transcripts from any college(s) attended.
- Note to applicants: It is your responsibility to:
 - verify with the Records Office the receipt of any transcript and/or transfer credit.
 - request evaluation of transfer credits by the Records Office. Transcripts will be evaluated for transfer credits only after all transcripts are received and admission requirements are complete.
 - points in the selection process will not be awarded for courses if the transcript is received after the January 15 deadline..
- Take the ACT, SAT or COMPASS entrance/placement test.
3. Complete nursing program application—Available on the Internet at <http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/nursing> or mailed on request.
 - Submit application form to the nursing program office or Allied Health Division Office no later than January 15.
 - Students must designate a preference for either the day or the night nursing program. Students indicating both programs will be considered for the day program only.
 - The nursing program applications must be submitted prior to taking the TEAS test.
 - Attach the employment documentation form.
 - Attach a copy of high school transcript(s) to the nursing application if needed to verify the chemistry prerequisite.
 - Attach a copy of college transcript(s), other than Chattanooga State. The transcript(s) can be unofficial copies. Students who have previously failed two nursing courses may not be eligible for acceptance.

It is the student's responsibility to see that all application materials for admission to the college and the nursing program are on file prior to January 15.

Selection

Admission into the nursing program is a competitive process using an objective point system. Selection into the program is based on a comparative evaluation of test scores and transcript information.

Points are awarded for:

- Completion of general education courses included in the nursing curriculum.
- GPA for nursing curriculum courses
- TEAS test score

To be included in the applicant pool student's must have:

- Nursing GPA of at least 2.5.
- Minimum overall college GPA of at least 2.0.

Detailed information regarding the points calculation is available at an information session, on the nursing program Web site or via mail. Since the application deadline is January 15, the admissions committee only considers courses completed up to and including the fall semester and TEAS test scores submitted prior to the March deadline.

The TEAS Test (Version 5.0)

The TEAS test provides a common basis for the evaluation of academic abilities of individuals interested in the nursing and allied health career programs. The TEAS test score is factored into the selection point system for the associate degree registered nursing program, as well as other allied health career programs.

What is on the test?

The TEAS test is a computer-based test that includes 85 scored multiple choice questions:

- Reading - comprehension and inference/conclusion (40 items)
- Math – whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions, decimals, algebraic equations, percentages and ratio/proportion (45 items).

The adjusted individual scores on the reading and math test sections are averaged together into a composite score that is used in the selection process.

How do I prepare to take the TEAS?

- The TEAS Study Manual and TEAS Online Practice assessment are available to guide your review and provide feedback about your study progress. The manual includes a review of material, practice exercises and sample tests. The online practice assessment is designed to give you a sense of what to expect in both content and the computer format of the TEAS test.
- Available online at <http://www.atitesting.com/global/students/teas.aspx>
- The Study Manual is also available at the Chattanooga State Bookstore and on reserve in the Chattanooga State Library
- Other sources of test review materials include the reading comprehension and mathematics (basic math up to intermediate algebra) sections of any GED, ACT, or SAT prep manual.

Important Information

- The TEAS test must be taken on or before the program's priority application deadline date.
- To be current, the test must have been taken within two years of the application deadline.
- There must be at least six months between repeat tests.
- Advanced registration is required.
- Calculators are not allowed. The computer provides a drop down calculator.
- The test is taken on the computer. There is no paper and pencil option.

- Registration information and forms are available in the nursing office.

Detailed information and registration forms can be obtained on the nursing program or allied health Web site and program offices.

Transfer Students

Applicants seeking to transfer from an accredited nursing program should be aware that such requests are considered on an individual, space-available basis. Contact the nursing program office for more information.

Additional Requirements and Expectations for Nursing Students

Nursing Course Schedule

The nursing transition courses are scheduled in the summer term, with classes meeting two days each week. Students transitioning into the day program can expect to have nursing class/clinicals scheduled three days each week. Night program class/clinical schedules are two or three evenings each week.

Computer Requirement

Because of the integration of computers in education, nursing students must have access to a computer with Internet service to meet program requirements. Students must check the eLearn course Web page at least 3-4 times each week for course updates, submit written assignments and monitor examination and other course grades.

CPR Certification Requirement

Following acceptance into a nursing class, students must provide proof of current American Heart Association CPR certification for health professionals. This must be maintained throughout the nursing program. American Red Cross courses or the AHA basic lifesaver or community CPR courses do not meet program requirements.

Health Verification

Prior to entering the first nursing class, students must provide evidence through a health verification form and all required tests, including a drug screen, that they are in good health and free from communicable diseases. Because nursing involves the direct care of clients, it is strongly recommended that students receive the Hepatitis B vaccination series. Seasonal flu shots are required by many affiliating agencies.

Criminal Background Check

Following acceptance and prior to entering the first nursing course, each student must undergo a criminal background check in order to comply with policies of affiliating clinical practice agencies. It is the student's responsibility to comply with instructions provided upon acceptance and provide the results from a designated vendor by a designated date. The check will be at the expense of the student. This is a requirement of the clinical agencies, not Chattanooga State. Students who do not meet this requirement in a timely manner or whose background does not meet agency standards will not be able to complete the clinical requirements of nursing courses. Additionally, a criminal background may preclude licensure or employment. Individuals with a question concerning this should schedule an appointment with the nursing program director.

General Expectations

Because the College seeks to provide, inasmuch as possible, a reasonably safe environment for its students and clients in the clinical practice setting, students may be required during the course of the program to demonstrate their physical and/or emotional fitness to meet the essential requirements of the program. Such requirements may include freedom from communicable diseases, the ability to perform certain physical tasks and suitable emotional fitness.

Americans With Disabilities

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students must be, with reasonable accommodation, physically and mentally capable of performing the essential functions of the program.

The Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progression developed by the Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing and adopted by all nursing programs in the Tennessee Board of Regents system include:

- A. Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgement.
- B. Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families and groups.
- C. Communication abilities sufficient to interact with others in verbal and written form.
- D. Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces.
- E. Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.
- F. Auditory abilities sufficient to monitor and assess health needs.
- G. Visual abilities sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care.
- H. Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment.

If a student has a disability which may require assistance or accommodations or wishes to file a complaint regarding ADA compliance, he/she should contact the Disabilities Support Services Office, S-113, phone: 423-697-4452.

Estimated Program Costs

The total cost of registration, uniforms, nursing textbooks, liability insurance, school pin, licensing examination fee, physical, drug screen and membership in the Student Nurses' Association is approximately \$6,500. The greatest expense can be expected in the first and last semesters.

The costs quoted are only estimated costs and subject to change without notice.

Pre-Admission Costs

Chattanooga State application fee	\$15.00
Nursing admission test (TEAS)	30.00
CPR certification course	25.00
Physical examination and required tests	185.00
Hepatitis B, recommended, but optional	Optional \$150.00
Criminal background check	50.00

Program Costs

Maintenance/tuition & fees/(9 hrs/semester) approx.	\$1300.00
Nursing fees/semester	\$150.00
Required textbooks	1,400.00
Uniform	\$150 - 200.00

Other expenses

Nursing lab kit	\$40.00
Student liability insurance/year	15.00
NCLEX-RN test application fee	200.00
TN Board of Nursing – licensure application fee	100.00
TN Board of Nursing – background check	50.00
Class composite photo (includes state board picture)	15.00
School pin	\$35-130.00

Note: The maintenance and other related enrollment fees are based on 2010-2011. The listed expenses are for nursing courses and nursing related expenses only. The estimated cost of books and supplies for the required general education and support courses will be approximately an additional \$2,000, depending on the choice of course sections and electives.

Financial Aid Notes

Students wishing to receive financial aid should pay special attention to the satisfactory academic progress regulations regarding maximum time frame. Students whose number of earned credit hours exceeds the maximum allowed may not be eligible for financial aid.

Admission Checklist

It is the student's responsibility to read the program information booklet carefully and be sure that each of the items listed on the checklist has been completed in order to successfully complete the program's admission process. The student should also follow-up to make sure that their file is complete and includes all program forms, transcripts, etc. before the application deadline.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to notify the application coordinator of any changes to ensure the applicant's file is accurate and up-to-date. This includes changes in name, address, phone number, etc.

Chattanooga State Application Checklist (if not a current student):

- Submit application to the college
- Provide official transcripts to the Admissions Office and request evaluation for transfer credits

Note: It is the responsibility of the applicant to verify with the Admissions Office the receipt of any transcripts and to request evaluation of transfer credits by the Admissions Office.

- Take the ACT, SAT or COMPASS test, if applicable

Registered Nursing Program Application Checklist

THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN ONE PACKET:

- Nursing Program application form and documentation of employment
- Transcripts (copies are acceptable)

Any college or university previously attended. Transcripts from Chattanooga State are not necessary.

Note: only courses completed up to and including the fall semester prior to the program deadline are included in the points calculation.

High school transcript if needed to document completion of high school chemistry with a grade of "B" or better.

Application and transcripts must be mailed together to:

Chattanooga State Community College
Marcia Sivley, N/AH Application Coordinator
4501 Amnicola Hwy
Chattanooga, TN 37406

- Take TEAS test by the January 15 deadline

A National Leader in Technology



Nursing/Allied Health

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Chattanooga, TN 37406-1097

www.chattanoogastate.edu

423-493-8740

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