

CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM

*Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Naugatuck Valley Community College,
Norwalk Community College, Three Rivers Community College*

www.commnet.edu/nursing

Nursing Information Packet 2010-2011 Academic Year

Colleges that Offer the CT-CCNP

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Enrollment Services Office
950 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 906-5140
www.ccc.commnet.edu

NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Admissions Office
188 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854-1655
(203) 857-7060
www.ncc.commnet.edu

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Admissions Office, Long Wharf Campus
Attention: Nursing
60 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 285-2010
www.gwcc.commnet.edu

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Nursing Admissions
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 892-5702
www.trcc.commnet.edu

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Admissions Office
750 Chase Parkway
Waterbury, CT 06708
(203) 575-8040
www.nvcc.commnet.edu

Rev. 6/09

Please disregard all previous versions of the Nursing Information Packet.

Information in this packet is *subject to change*. If you do not intend to apply to the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program for the 2010-2011 academic year, please obtain an updated packet for future years.

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction_____ | 3 |
| Advisement_____ | 4 |
| Application Process_____ | 5 |
| <i>Application Requirements</i> _____ | 5 |
| <i>Admission Requirements</i> _____ | 6 |
| <i>Computer Literacy</i> _____ | 7 |
| <i>TEAS</i> _____ | 7 |
| <i>Formula for Computing Ranking</i> _____ | 8 |
| <i>Selection Process</i> _____ | 8 |
| Program of Study_____ | 9 |
| LPN Advanced Placement & Transfer Policy_____ | 10 |
| <i>LPN Advanced Placement</i> _____ | 10 |
| <i>Transfer Credits</i> _____ | 11 |
| <i>Transfer Grades</i> _____ | 11 |
| Miscellaneous Information_____ | 12 |

Introduction

The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) is an innovative associate degree program of study offered at five Connecticut Community Colleges. The common nursing programming offers a four-semester curriculum designed to prepare registered nurses to function in the professional role utilizing current standards of nursing practice. In addition, students within the program have the same admission and policy standards, which allows for greater student flexibility.

The curriculum is built upon courses from the social and biological sciences, liberal arts, and nursing. These courses provide the foundation for the practice of nursing. Six core values (critical thinking, safe and competent practice, caring, professionalism, communication, and holistic care) provide the framework for organizing the nursing curriculum.

A graduate of the nursing program is awarded an Associate in Science degree and is eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Graduates can apply for licensure through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The graduate is prepared to function as an entry-level practitioner in health care settings such as general or specialty hospitals, extended care facilities, doctors' offices, and clinics.

Approval and Accreditation

All five colleges are individually approved by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing with the consent of the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

The Role of the Associate Degree Graduate within the Scope of Nursing Practice

The Nursing Program will provide the graduate with the knowledge and technical skills to practice in a safe, effective and competent manner within the legal and ethical framework for an entry-level Registered Nurse. The scope of practice for the Associate Degree graduate is to provide and manage care for a diverse group of individuals, families and communities in collaboration with members of the health care team consistent with the CT-CCNP core values.

Advisement

Advisors/Counselors are available at each college to guide applicants through the admission process. All potential applicants seeking admission to the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program are encouraged to read through this information packet. After reading the packet, *students should direct all questions to their College of First Choice*. Below is a listing of the primary contacts at each college. Students are strongly encouraged to attend a Nursing Information Session at their College of First Choice to learn more about the CT-CCNP.

| College | Contact Person | Contact Information |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Capital Community College | Virginia Foley | (860) 906-5199 vfoley@ccc.commnet.edu |
| Gateway Community College | Mary Beth Banks Or Barbara Bickford | (203) 285-2388 mbanks@gwcc.commnet.edu bbickford@gwcc.commnet.edu |
| Naugatuck Valley Community College | Noreen Cerruto | (203) 575-8079 ncerruto@nvcc.commnet.edu |
| Norwalk Community College | Bill Chagnon | (203) 857-7090 wchagnon@ncc.commnet.edu |
| Three Rivers Community College | Amy Rozek | (860) 892-5722 nursingadmissions@trcc.commnet.edu |

Application Process

The nursing program requires students to complete a common nursing application. The nursing application can be obtained online (www.comnnet.edu/nursing) or from any of the five colleges, and is available by November 1. The application period for the nursing program is November 1 - February 1 of each year. Applicants to the CT-CCNP must submit the common nursing application and related documentation to the Admissions Office at the **College of First Choice** by the **February 1, 2010** deadline. "**College of First Choice**" is the college that the applicant would most like to attend.

Applicants may select a 2nd and 3rd choice college at the initial time of application which will eliminate the necessity for the applicant to apply to more than one College. An applicant should only list the college(s) to which s/he would be willing to commute. (Please note: clinical sites could be within an hour radius of the college, and may require a mandatory parking fee.)

Students are to submit a common nursing application at the College of First Choice *only*. Submission of a common nursing application to more than one of the five nursing colleges could affect the application status of a student. Advisors/Counselors are available at each college to guide applicants through the application process.

Application Requirements

Students are required to submit the following by the **February 1, 2010 deadline**:

- College application (separate from the nursing program application) with application fee of \$20.00 for first-time applicants to any of the twelve Connecticut Community Colleges.
- Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) common application.
- Proof of high school completion.
- If the student is using their high school chemistry to satisfy the admission requirement, official high school transcripts are required.
- Official SAT I score reports, if applicable (see page 6 for clarification).
- Official College/University transcripts from ALL colleges ever attended.**
- Official TEAS results, if not taken at a CT Community College.
- Proof of Measles and Rubella immunization.

** Please be sure that all transcripts are the final transcripts. Students taking courses in the fall semester prior to applying need to submit transcripts that include their fall grades. **Transcripts must be submitted regardless of age of transcripts and applicability to the nursing program.**

Students who have attended or are currently attending one of the twelve Connecticut Community Colleges must submit community college transcripts from all previously attended Connecticut Community Colleges to the College of First Choice.

Applications will be accepted by the Admission Offices from November 1 through February 1. Students are encouraged to apply at the beginning of the application cycle. All application materials should be sent to the admission office at the College of First Choice and must be post-marked no later than February 1, 2010. Late applications and transcripts will not be accepted. All applications that are completed by the February 1, 2010 deadline will be reviewed and applicants will be notified by mail prior to May 1 as to their admission status.

A student who has received a grade of failure (F) or unsatisfactory in the clinical component of any course in a health career program is not eligible for admission into the CT-CCNP. A “health career program” is defined as any nursing or allied health program whose curriculum has both a classroom and clinical component.

All initial communication with students will be done through email. Please be sure to provide a *clearly written, valid email address* on the CT-CCNP application. If you do not have an email address, please create an email account prior to submitting your application.

Admission Requirements

- High School graduate or equivalent.
- SAT I Math score of 550 or higher; **OR** a score of 40 or higher on the College Level Math portion of the Accuplacer; **OR** Connecticut Community College **MAT*136 or 137**, or equivalent or higher, **with a grade of C or higher**, completed prior to application deadline of February 1, 2010.
- One year of high school Chemistry with a lab or Connecticut Community College **CHE*111** or equivalent **with a grade of C or higher**, completed within five years prior+ to application deadline of February 1, 2010.
- Computer literacy++— A passing score on the computer proficiency test or completion of Connecticut Community College **CSA*105 or CSC*101** or equivalent, **with a grade of C or higher**, completed prior to application deadline of February 1, 2010.
- Connecticut Community College **ENG*101**: English Composition, or equivalent, **with a grade of C+ or higher**, completed prior to application deadline of February 1, 2010.
- Connecticut Community College **BIO*211**: Anatomy and Physiology I, or equivalent, **with a grade of C+ or higher**, completed within five years prior+ to application deadline of February 1, 2010.
- Connecticut Community College **BIO*212**: Anatomy and Physiology II, or equivalent, **with a grade of C+ or higher**, completed within five years prior+ to application deadline of February 1, 2010 or completed during, but no later, than the spring semester of application year.
- **2.7 GPA** – Based on all college courses taken within the past five years and any college courses taken prior to five years that meet the nursing admission and/or curriculum requirements.
- **TEAS score**. Applicants must have an **adjusted individual total score of 65% or higher**. The test score will be valid for three years from the testing date.

+ “Five years prior” is defined as having completed the course between December 2004 and February 1, 2010.

++ Please refer to **page 7** for additional information on the **computer literacy** requirement.

There may be prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed prior to taking the admission requirements. Please consult with the college catalog at the College of First Choice for specific information. Students should complete the required Accuplacer computerized placement test. The placement test may be waived for students who have prior college English and/or mathematics credits, or for students who have the following SAT I scores: 550 or higher (Math), or 450 or higher (Critical Reading or Writing).

Computer Literacy

Applicants must demonstrate computer literacy as an admissions requirement in one of the following ways:

1. Proficiency Exam- it is the applicant's responsibility to check with the college of first choice for the acceptability of a computer proficiency test administered at another college. A final determination of acceptance will be made by the college of first choice.
2. Successful completion of CSA*105: Introduction to Software Applications or CSC*101: Introduction to Computers with a grade of C or higher.

If an individual does not meet the CSA/CSC course requirement, they may take the proficiency examination; however, the CSA/CSC grade will remain in the calculation of the GPA (unless the course was failed prior to five years ago). Check with the college of first choice for additional information.

TEAS Standardized Admission Test for Nursing

The TEAS is a multiple choice test that evaluates essential academic skills: math, science, reading, and English. It is recommended that applicants review biology, chemistry, and math content in preparation for taking the TEAS. The test will take approximately 3 ½ hours to complete. The non-refundable fee for the TEAS is \$30.00. Applicants may not reschedule their test date.

Applicants must obtain **an adjusted individual total score of 65% or higher** on the TEAS to be considered for admission. Test results are valid for three years from the testing date.

Applicants may re-take the TEAS as many times as desired, however:

- There is a mandatory 45-day period between each testing date.
- Applicants may register to retest anytime, but testing dates must be 45 days apart.
- Applicants applying to retake the TEAS before the 45-day period will not be permitted to test and testing fees paid will not be refunded.

The following Connecticut Community Colleges administer the TEAS: Capital, Gateway, Naugatuck Valley, Northwestern CT, Norwalk, Quinebaug Valley and Three Rivers.

For testing schedules and registration information, go to www.atitesting.com/ctccteas. **If the TEAS is taken at a site other than one of the Connecticut Community Colleges, applicants must have official results sent by ATI to the College of First Choice by the application deadline.**

The TEAS Study Manual is available through www.atitesting.com (cost is approximately \$35.00). The study manual will assist the applicant in preparing for the exam. The applicant can also subscribe to practice tests offered online by ATI. For more information about the TEAS, visit the ATI website at www.atitesting.com.

Formula for Computing Ranking

Applicants who meet all of the application and admission requirements are assigned a rank number. Rank numbers are computed by the following formula:

25% = TEAS score

25% = BIO*211 (Anatomy & Physiology I) grade

50% = GPA

Selection Process: Rank, Random, Waitlist

- Rank Selection (60%):** All eligible applicants will be ranked by the CT-CCNP.
- Once each college has filled 60% of their seats by rank, the remaining applicants will go into the random pool. 40% of the seats will then be filled by the random pool.
- Random Selection (40%):** Common pool of remaining applicants will consist of all students who were eligible for the program, but were not selected through the rank selection.
- Applicants will be randomly selected from the pool and placed in their College of First Choice until college is full.
- If the College of First Choice is filled, the applicant's 2nd choice, then 3rd choice will be used to place the applicant.
- Once all colleges are filled, the remaining applicants will go onto a waitlist.
- Waitlist:** Applicants on the waitlist will be ranked using the original ranking from the CT-CCNP.
- The waitlist will be divided into five separate lists based on the College of First Choice. When openings occur, applicants will be selected from the waitlist at that college and offered the nursing seat. Applicants who refuse the offer will be removed from consideration for the current academic year.
- In the event that a college's waitlist is emptied, any further openings will be filled by selecting, in order, the top ranked student from the remaining colleges. The top ranked applicant will be offered the seat regardless of the colleges listed on the application. An applicant can refuse the offer and go back onto the waitlist at their College of First Choice.
- The waitlist will not carry over from year to year. Applicants who are not selected from the waitlist will need to submit a new application if they want to be considered for admission to the nursing program the following year. Students would need to contact the Admission Office at the **College of First Choice** to see what application information is still on file.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The following program of study reflects a full-time curriculum plan that students enrolled in the nursing program are required to complete for graduation. Many students make the decision to enroll in the nursing program on a part-time basis, taking the general education courses prior to the nursing courses. Non-nursing courses must be taken in the semester indicated in the plan of study below or may be taken earlier; nursing courses must be taken in the stated sequence.

The admission and pre-requisite requirements of BIO*211: Anatomy & Physiology I, BIO*212: Anatomy & Physiology II, and ENG*101: English Composition are credits (11 credits) that are part of the total 68 credits required for graduation. BIO*211 and ENG*101 must be completed prior to submitting an application; BIO*212 may be in progress and the applicant may be accepted pending successful completion with a grade of C+ or higher. Please refer to page 6 of this packet for a complete list of admission requirements.

A grade of C is required for all co-requisite courses in the nursing plan of study unless a higher grade is required for admission to the program. Co-requisite courses must be satisfactorily completed before or during the semester in which they are scheduled in the curriculum. Students who fail to complete required co-requisite courses may be dismissed from the program.

| ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS | <u>Credits</u> | | <u>Credits</u> |
|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| +BIO*211: Anatomy & Physiology I | 4 | | |
| +ENG*101: English Composition | 3 | | |
| PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS: | | | |
| +BIO*212: Anatomy & Physiology II | 4 | | |
| FIRST SEMESTER | | SECOND SEMESTER | |
| NUR*101: Introduction to Nursing Practice | 8 | NUR*102: Family Health Nursing | 8 |
| +BIO*235: Microbiology | 4 | NUR*103: Pharmacology for Families Across the Life Span | 1 |
| +PSY*111: General Psychology | 3 | +PSY*201: Life Span Development | 3 |
| | | +SOC*101: Principles of Sociology | 3 |
| THIRD SEMESTER | | FOURTH SEMESTER | |
| NUR*201: Nursing Care of Individuals and Families I | 9 | NUR*203: Nursing Care of Individuals and Families II | 8 |
| NUR*202: Pharmacology for Individuals and Families with Intermediate Health Care Needs | 1 | NUR*204: Pharmacology for Individuals, Families, & Groups with Complex Health Care Needs | 1 |
| +ENG*102: English Composition & Literature | 3 | NUR*205: Nursing Management and Trends | 2 |
| | | +Elective: Humanities++ or Fine Arts | 3 |

Total Program Credits - 68 credits (General Education Credits - 30 credits; Nursing Credits - 38 credits)

+ There may be a prerequisite course that must be successfully completed prior to taking the course.

++ Norwalk Community College requires one interdisciplinary course to fulfill core curriculum requirements.

LPN Advanced Placement and Transfer Policy

LPN Advanced Placement

The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program participates in the Connecticut League for Nursing Articulation Model for LPNs. To be eligible for articulation the LPN must:

- Hold a current Connecticut Licensed Practical Nurse license.
- Satisfy all the CT-CCNP admission requirements.
- Submit a CT-CCNP application and be admitted to the program (**please note, the application process does not vary for LPN candidates**).

Once admitted, LPN candidates will be advised as to their placement within the CT-CCNP. For an LPN to be advance placed into the third semester, the following requirements must be met:

- Complete the required general education courses of the first year of the CT-CCNP with a grade of C or higher.
- Successfully complete the Connecticut LPN Transition Bridge Course offered by Charter Oak State College and the college based CT-CCNP LPN transition course.

Applicants are encouraged to seek advisement from one of the contact persons listed below prior to the application process. (If admitted to the program, a student must contact the persons listed below for advisement regarding advanced placement).

| College | Contact Person | Contact Information |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Capital Community College | Linda Kapinos Professor of Nursing | (860) 906-5168 lkapinos@ccc.commnet.edu |
| Gateway Community College | Mary Beth Banks or Barbara Bickford | (203) 285-2388 mbanks@gwcc.commnet.edu bbickford@gwcc.commnet.edu |
| Naugatuck Valley Community College | Mary Manka LPN Advisor | (203) 596-8657 mmanka@nvcc.commnet.edu |
| Norwalk Community College | Nursing & Allied Health Division or Bill Chagnon Associate Director of Admissions | (203) 857-7121 (203) 857-7090 wchagnon@ncc.commnet.edu |
| Three Rivers Community College | Amy Rozek Associate Director of Admissions | (860) 892-5722 nursingadmissions@trcc.commnet.edu |

Transfer Credits

Transfer credit evaluations for nursing applicants are done by the College of First Choice. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total credits applicable to the nursing degree must be granted by the college awarding the degree. No more than thirty credit hours of non-traditional credit may count towards the nursing degree. Non-traditional credit includes CLEP, DSST, Challenge Exams, Military Service Schools, and Assessment of Prior Learning.

Nursing Courses – Nursing credits from another college or university will be considered for transfer after a written request for evaluation of nursing course work has been received by the Nursing Director at the College of First Choice.

Non-Nursing Courses - In accordance with transfer of credit guidelines set forth by the Board of Trustees, courses which meet nursing program requirements will be accepted by the CT-CCNP. Once an applicant earns credit at the College of First Choice, transfer credit for the same course from another college will not be granted.

Credits Earned Outside the United States – Transcripts need to be evaluated by the “Course By Course” option through the World Education Services Inc, PO Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, New York 10113 or another approved site and submitted to the **College of First Choice**. Contact the College of First Choice for additional information.

Transfer Grades

Grades from colleges not regionally accredited will not be accepted in transfer.

A minimum grade of C is required unless otherwise noted by the admission requirements.

A grade of C+ will be determined when the college does not use plus (+) and minus (-) by having the student be responsible for providing the proof that the grade is a C+. A numerical grade of 77-79 will be considered a C+.

Miscellaneous Information *(For Accepted Nursing Students)*

BASIC CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT

Students must provide proof of current certification as a Healthcare Provider through the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross by July 1 of the admission year. Certification must remain current throughout the nursing program.

CLINICAL SITES

Clinical learning experiences are planned as an integral part of the nursing courses and are held at a variety of healthcare settings, such as hospitals, extended care facilities, and selected community health centers. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from assigned clinical sites. Clinical experiences may be assigned during daytime, evening, or weekend hours. Assignment of clinical sites is at the discretion of the nursing faculty. Clinical sites could be within an hour radius of the college, and may require a mandatory parking fee.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Some clinical learning sites require students to undergo a background check for felony convictions. Students who do not pass the background check may be excluded from the clinical site and may not be able to meet the competencies required for the program.

FELONY CONVICTION

At the time of application for RN licensure an applicant will be asked the following question by the Connecticut Department of Public Health: *“Have you ever been found guilty or convicted as a result of an act which constitutes a felony under the laws of this state, federal law or the laws of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a felony under the laws of this state? If your answer is “yes”, give full details, dates, etc. on a separate notarized statement and furnish a Certified Court Copy (with court seal affixed) of the original complaint, the answer, the judgment, the settlement, and/or the disposition.”*

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Immunization Requirements- Students will receive a packet of information at the time of acceptance into the CT-CCNP.

Physical Examination - A complete physical examination must be on file. The physical examination must be current within a year of the student entering the clinical area.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The RN student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad variety of clinical situations. Technical standards reflect reasonable performance expectations of the RN student for the performance of common functions of the registered nurse. These requirements address capabilities in the areas of motor, sensory, communication, behavior and critical thinking abilities. The technical standards can be found at www.commnet.edu/nursing.

WAIVER OF LICENSURE GUARANTEE

Upon successful completion of the Associate of Science degree with a major in Nursing, the graduate is eligible to take the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). Graduation from the CT-CCNP does not guarantee licensure to practice nursing. Licensure requirements and procedures are the responsibility of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, State Board of Examiners for Nursing. Permission to take the NCLEX-RN examination is established by law and granted by the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing.