

Allegany College of Maryland
ADMISSIONS POLICY
NURSING

Approved by Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The nursing program at Allegany College of Maryland began in 1970 and has become a major component within the college. The program enjoys a positive reputation in the community, which has enhanced the recruitment of applicants and the placement of graduates. Graduates of the program can be found in the various health care agencies in the region functioning at all levels of responsibility. Many of our graduates have pursued higher degrees in nursing. With the dramatic changes that are taking place in the health care field, nurses are in increased demand. Nursing is a challenging profession for men and women who wish to have a variety of specialty and position choices, earn a competitive salary, and have opportunities for advancement.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program is approved by the Maryland Board of Nursing and is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite, 500; Atlanta, GA 30326; (404) 975-5000. The Pennsylvania Nursing Programs are approved by the Pennsylvania Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

POLICY

I. POLICY STATEMENT

Admissions into the Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing program are selective and on a competitive basis.

II. PROCEDURES

A. This category includes the following applicants:

- High school graduates within the last year
- Early placement students who are enrolled as a part-time Allegany College of Maryland student while still attending high school.

B. These persons must meet the following requirements to apply and be considered for admission:

- One year of high school chemistry; biology and algebra (or their equivalent) with a minimum grade of C in each course;
- Pass the Allegany College of Maryland Placement Assessment including the Anatomy & Physiology Placement Exam or successfully complete all required courses before the first college semester. Students must be eligible for A&P I by the Summer semester following their High School graduation.
- A minimum ACT score of 21 in each section will meet the minimum requirements to apply for admission as a high school student, but meeting the

minimum score will not guarantee admission into the program. The average composite score of an accepted student is 25. (ACT exams must be taken no later than the January exam date)

- C. Those eligible applicants will then be ranked and top candidates selected using the following factors in order of priority:
- Composite score on the ACT exam;
 - Math and science ACT section; and
 - Algebra, biology and chemistry high school grades.
- D. Due to the sequencing of classes and availability at the branch campuses, high school students are only admitted annually to the Cumberland Campus and every other year to the Bedford campus in this category.

If the applicant does not meet the requirements listed in this first category, they may become eligible to apply by meeting the requirements in the second category – College Student Applicants.

- E. Students must be CPR certified in the Health Care Provider, and maintain this certification throughout all nursing courses. This certification must be completed prior to entering Nursing clinical courses. The course must include Adult, Child, Infant, and AED portions and MUST include a hands-on evaluation.

High School Graduates, Current/Returning College Students, General Students who have taken general education college courses. Current LPN's and transfer students with clinical nursing credits should refer to the section on Advanced Standing)

A total of 80% will be admitted from this category.

- A. This category includes the following applicants:

- College students attending Allegany College of Maryland or other institutions; and
- Early placement students who are enrolled as full-time college students and who have waived the senior year of high school.

- B. These applicants must meet the following **minimum** requirements to apply for admission to the Nursing Program and to be considered for admission: (Note that this is a selective admission program and not all applicants can be accepted).

- Pass the Allegany College of Maryland Placement Assessment including the Anatomy and Physiology Placement Exam or successfully complete all required courses.
- Have a **minimum** college grade point average of 2.50.
- Successful completion of Anatomy & Physiology I (Biology 207). In order to be eligible to enroll in this course, students must have passed the Anatomy and Physiology Placement Exam or successfully completed Biology 93, Biology 100 or

101 in lieu of Biology 93 with a minimum grade of “C”. Current enrollment in Anatomy and Physiology (Biology 207) will be considered in determining eligibility for admission; however, this course must be completed with at least a “C” grade prior to admission to the program. Equated coursework from a transferring institution will be considered in meeting this prerequisite.

- Schedule and take the Nursing Admission Assessment Exam for the Nursing Program. The exam is administered during the months of February, June, and September. The exam may be taken more than once, but cannot be retaken more often than once every three months. The highest score will be used in the ranking process. A student study guide for the exam is available in the Allegany College of Maryland Bookstore. Detailed review of the study guide is highly recommended. The exam score counts 1/3 of the weight for competitive entrance into the program. The last time the exam may be taken for Spring admission consideration is September and for Fall admission consideration is February

III. OTHER PROVISIONS

In order to participate in clinical experiences, students must obtain a Criminal Record Check according to state requirements, prior to entrance into the Nursing Program.

Please note the following concerning Criminal Background Checks:

- Many internship sites used by ACM programs require that applicants submit to a criminal background check
- Having a criminal record may prevent an applicant from being placed at an internship site, which means the applicant would not be able to successfully complete program requirements.
- Some employers and/or licensure agencies will not approve a student who has a criminal record, so it is important to choose a field in which you can be gainfully employed.
- Completion of the requirements of the nursing program does not guarantee eligibility or guarantee passing the NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN exam(s) for licensure. A student who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor may not be eligible for licensure as a Practical Nurse or a Registered Nurse.

IV. CHANGES

Substantive changes to this policy require approval by the Board of Trustees; editorial changes, title/position changes, and/or changes to its implementation procedures may be made as required by federal or state mandate and/or institutional need with timely notice to students and employees.