Thank you for your interest in the Rogue Community College Nursing Program! The Nursing Program is approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN, 17938 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Portland, OR, 971-673-0685).

The Nursing Program is both exciting and challenging; offering graduates opportunities for employment in a variety of settings and for a lifelong career that is personally fulfilling. Admission to the Nursing Program is a competitive process based on points identified in the separate “Selection Points” link document. The program demands may pose unique personal as well as academic challenges. Most students have multiple responsibilities in addition to going to school (e.g. family, job). Success in the program takes a firm commitment, and the nursing faculty members are here to help you succeed. We strongly suggest you prepare well by talking with nurses in various settings, talking with an advisor in order to help you with your career plans, and by reading through program and application materials thoroughly. Meetings with nursing advisors are available by appointment only. Appointments are only made for students who have attended the required program information session. Dates and times of program information sessions can be found on the Nursing website.

About the Program
RCC’s Nursing Program is one of ten community college nursing programs in Oregon that have joined the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Nursing in a unified approach to nursing education. This coalition of statewide nursing educators and programs is known as the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE). Faculty members from RCC have been actively involved in the development, maintenance and strengthening of the competency-based curriculum that is used in all full partner consortium schools. See the OCNE website for a list of partner colleges.

The OCNE curriculum competencies address the need for nurses to be skilled in clinical judgment and critical thinking. The competencies also focus on skill in:
- evidence-based practice
- relationship-centered care
- interdisciplinary collaboration
- assisting individuals and families in self-care practices for promotion of health and management of chronic and acute illness
- end-of-life care
- teaching, delegation, leadership and supervision of caregivers

Acceptance to the program allows for co-admission to RCC and OHSU nursing programs. Co-admission is an agreement that students who are affirmed by the community college nursing faculty as having met the progression standards (successfully completed the AAS in Nursing program) will be eligible to enroll in the upper-division nursing courses and complete a bachelor of science degree with a major in nursing at OHSU without an additional competitive application process. Options for baccalaureate completion can be found on the OHSU nursing website.

Length of Program
The program coursework is outlined in a four-year framework.
- Year one: Prerequisite/preparatory coursework
- Year two: Nursing curriculum – RCC
- Year three: Nursing curriculum – RCC

At the successful completion of year three, RCC students will earn an associate of applied science degree in nursing and meet the educational requirements to take the national licensure exam (NCLEX-RN).

Year four: Students who choose to transition to OHSU beginning with the seventh term of nursing courses will complete upper-division nursing coursework through OHSU and upper-division liberal arts and sciences through an accredited university. At the end of this year (four full-time terms, or six part-time terms depending on the selected option), students will earn a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing from OHSU. Tuition for the fourth year coursework will be at the rate set by the university.
Employment Outlook and Expected Income
Employment opportunities in nursing are available in the Rogue Valley and throughout most of the state. Graduates from RCC’s nursing program generally find employment within one to six months after graduation. According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average hourly salary was $37.95/hour and the average annual salary of RNs in Josephine and Jackson counties was $77,674 in 2014.

Demands of the Program
It is important to understand the mental and physical demands of the nursing program and the career of the nurse. Applicants to the nursing program must be physically and mentally able to cope with the rigors of the curriculum and the demanding nature of the health professions. Nursing students must be able to perform as a member of a team, to grasp scientific concepts, set up and answer basic math and algebra problems, and communicate well verbally and in writing. Physically, students must be able to remain on their feet for extended periods, lift up to 35 pounds, hear heart and breath sounds, read fine print and identify skin tones such as pale, ashen, gray or bluish.

Established academic and clinical requirements essential to the program of instruction apply to all students and cannot be waived. Attempts will be made to accommodate and retain qualified applicants with disabilities unless results of in-program evaluations indicate that given reasonable accommodation an individual is still unable to perform the technical standards required by the program. A complete list of the required technical standards can be found on the nursing website. Persons with questions concerning particular qualifications are encouraged to contact the Disability Services office to arrange an appointment for individual consultation and advice prior to application. Any student who feels that she or he may need an academic accommodation for any disability should make an appointment with the Disability Services Office at (541) 956-7337 (Redwood Campus, Grants Pass) or (541) 245-7537 (Riverside Campus, Medford) as soon as possible.

The nursing program utilizes a variety of clinical sites throughout Josephine and Jackson counties. These include hospitals, long-term (elder) care facilities, clinics, etc. Students will be assigned to have clinical experiences in most if not all of the sites and must expect to travel to communities other than those in which they reside for these experiences. At times, carpooling to clinical sites will not be possible and students will need reliable transportation. Required clinical experiences are assigned during days, evenings, and/or night shifts, weekdays and/or weekends during the program, and client selection and care preparation takes place typically the day before clinical, e.g. on Sundays when clinical is scheduled on Monday.

During the final clinical rotation of the program (spring, second year), students are assigned to match a staff clinical teaching associate’s work schedule for two or three full 8- or 12-hour shifts per week which typically include nights and weekends. Nursing classes, labs, and clinical typically involve 20-30 hours of attendance per week and more than 40 hours of study and preparation each week. Meeting these requirements may mean that students will need to adjust employment and family responsibilities. Because of the need to be mentally alert when caring for patients, students are not allowed to work the shift immediately preceding scheduled clinical experiences. (For example, students typically spend most of Sunday afternoon and evening preparing for patient care. With clinical experiences starting as early as 5:45am on Monday, students cannot work at a paid job after 11pm on Sunday.)

Application Eligibility Criteria
Applicants to the nursing program must meet the following eligibility criteria by specified times:

- A minimum of 30 credits of prerequisite/preparatory classes, including the required math and first anatomy and physiology course, must be completed and transferred before the February15 application deadline for an application to be considered “eligible”.
- Completion of all program prerequisites with a letter grade of “C” or better by end of summer term in the year of admission to the program. Program prerequisite/preparatory course information can be accessed from the program website. For purposes of OCNE academic policies, letter grades are used/recognized without +/- designation. Therefore, a C- would be an accepted grade for a prerequisite course.
- Credits taken pass/no pass (if accepted by the college as meeting requirements) may be counted only if the “pass” was equivalent to a “C” or better. Prior to the application deadline, submit to Enrollment Services official transcripts from all colleges or universities previously attended. Transcripts must demonstrate a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA for all completed prerequisite/preparatory coursework. (A 3.0 GPA average must be maintained through all prerequisite/preparatory coursework for an accepted student to be admitted into the first nursing course. Applicants who do not submit all college/university transcripts will lose the opportunity to be awarded 5 points for not repeating anatomy and physiology.)
- Completion of all required forms, including the RCC admission application (for students who have not previously been admitted to RCC. Select the appropriate profile and follow the instructions). The application for admission to
RCC must be completed IN ADDITION to the nursing program application. See the [nursing application packet checklist](#) for required application forms. All applicants must have an RCC student ID number.

- International students (individuals with a non-immigrant visa) will be required to follow [enrollment services processes](#) for admission and/or registration. If prerequisites were completed outside the United States, a course-by-course evaluation by a credential evaluation service is required. Contact Enrollment Services at 541-956-7427 with questions regarding transcript evaluation. The timeframe for an evaluation of courses completed outside the U.S. can be lengthy and the evaluation and document submission to enrollment services must be completed by the application deadline for the transcript to be considered in the application process.

### Application and Admission Process

Applicants who have completed college/university courses anywhere besides RCC must complete the online [Transfer Request for Evaluation Form](#). Submit official transcripts from each school where courses were completed to Rogue Central (any RCC Campus) as far in advance of the application deadline as possible. To be admitted into nursing courses students must complete all required prerequisite/preparatory courses (minimum 45 credits), be one of the top 32 ranked applicants and be accepted into the nursing program. Failure to complete all prerequisite/preparatory courses with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher before the start of fall nursing courses would result in forfeiture of acceptance to the nursing program. Students who have failed any two nursing courses in the past are disqualified from applying for entry or re-entry to the RCC nursing program.

- Applicants will submit a complete nursing application packet including official (unopened) transcripts for courses taken at colleges/universities other than RCC through Fall 2015, all required forms, $100 application fee and supporting documentation to the enrollment services office by the application deadline of 5:00 pm February 15. Only complete applications will be considered for admission. Students with official up-to-date transcripts on file in enrollment services before the application deadline do not need to submit another copy with the application. It is the student’s responsibility to follow through on whether other schools actually send a requested transcript.

- Applications may be submitted to enrollment services beginning the first day of fall term. After the February 15, 2016, application deadline, admission personnel will evaluate each application for completeness and eligibility.

- Eligible applicants will be assessed initially according to a 65-point scale. All applicants will receive an email during spring break notifying them of their status regarding progression in the application/selection process. The top 85 applicants (ranked by points) will then participate in a proctored essay session and proctored HSRT (Health Sciences Reasoning Test, a 33 question assessment of critical thinking; both essay and HSRT in same 3½ hour session) with probable dates of April 8 or 9 or April 15 or 16, 2016 (applicants should keep their calendars open for all 4 dates), prior to determination of final point totals and selection process. Essay and HSRT points will not be shared with applicants.

- Each applicant will be notified via electronic mail of his/her status regarding admission into the nursing program by June 1, 2016. All admission decisions are final. Thirty-two students will be admitted to the nursing program. The nursing program reserves the right to establish an alternate list of 30 applicants for consideration in the event accepted students decline admission. Alternates will be notified if space becomes available via electronic mail. Students **are not** to call the nursing program office or the enrollment services office for admission status unless they have received no notice from the program by June 1.

### Upon Acceptance

- Upon notification of acceptance, students must indicate in writing by June 15 or the first business day thereafter their intention to enroll or their position will be given to the next eligible alternate. If applying to multiple schools, students are asked not to notify more than one school of acceptance of an admission offer and to immediately notify the RCC nursing program office if for any reason their acceptance decision changes or if their phone number, address or email changes from that provided on their application.

- Two mandatory orientation sessions will be held for accepted students the first two days of fall term 2016. Attendance at both sessions is required. Lack of attendance will result in the next eligible alternate being given the assigned place in the program. Students will be informed of the orientation dates, times, and locations in their acceptance letter.

- Accepted nursing students will receive specific immunization requirements once they have accepted the nursing program's offer of admission and must submit proof of the following tests/immunizations/certifications by the stated deadline in the acceptance letter or their space will be given to the next eligible alternate:
  - Immunity to measles, mumps, rubella (students MUST provide proof of two (2) MMR immunizations OR proof of positive titer).
  - Two Negative Tuberculin Skin Tests (PPD) dated between September 25, 2015 and September 24, 2016 or a negative chest x-ray and documentation of negative symptom review.
  - Tetanus-Diphtheria Toxoid within the last 10 years (if available, the Tetanus/diphtheria/acellular Pertussis combination is recommended for one booster after the age of 19).

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• Hepatitis B status—the series must be started by the stated deadline and must be completed during the program in the appropriate time frame
• Varicella (chickenpox) immunization or positive titer (or proof of disease with documentation from a physician’s office).
• CPR card – each accepted student must provide a copy of a current Health Care Provider Level or equivalent CPR card (to include adult, child, infant, 2-person, AED, and hands-on testing). Acceptable cards are from the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross completed within the previous two years.
• All accepted nursing students will be required to undergo a 10-panel urine drug screen at a lab specified by the nursing program (screen for marijuana, opiates, amphetamines, cocaine, phencyclidine and others) prior to the beginning of the nursing program. Results are sent directly to the program director, and if positive (without medical officer review indicating existence of a legal reason for positive results) will result in loss of acceptance to the program. Students are responsible for all costs associated with the urine drug screen. Because of clinical site restrictions, medical marijuana use is not allowed.
• All accepted nursing students will be required to undergo a criminal background check prior to entering the program. Individuals with a criminal record may not be allowed into a healthcare facility as a student. Information pertaining to criminal background checks, disqualifying crimes, and the student appeal process is located on the nursing website. Because it is not possible to meet the objectives of the program without having clinical experience, anyone with a positive criminal or abuse history may not be eligible for acceptance in the nursing program. The program is required to deny admission or continuation to any nursing student whose background poses a threat to an individual, the college, the nursing profession or the community. In addition, the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) requires a criminal background check upon application for licensure. See the OSBN website for more information on licensing requirements. Students who choose to transition from RCC’s nursing program to OHSU will have to undergo a criminal background check for OHSU at the time of transition and ability to enroll in OHSU courses may be negatively impacted by any criminal history in their background.
• Accepted nursing students must complete all prerequisite/preparatory courses by the end of summer term with a minimum 3.0 GPA prior to entering nursing courses or they will forfeit their acceptance.

Additional Information Regarding Prerequisites and Other Courses

• **General Biology, BL211 (4 credits).** The prerequisite to A&P, this is a science major’s biology and includes coverage of human cellular and molecular genetics. (See the department chair for consideration of another genetics or biology with genetics course if anatomy and physiology and microbiology have already been completed).

• **Anatomy and Physiology, BI231, 232, 233 (12 credits) within seven years:** A full sequence of human anatomy and physiology with laboratory (200 level or above), inclusive of all body systems. This sequence must be taken in its entirety. The first term of A&P must be completed and transcribed by the February 15 application deadline; the full sequence must be completed prior to the first nursing course. Virtual labs are not acceptable for required prerequisite or program science courses. No time limit extensions will be granted.

• **Nutrition, NFM225 (4 credits):** Class covers biological functions, dietary sources of essential nutrients and the relationship of diet to health.

• **English Composition, WR121, 122 (8 credits):** Writing course requirements include expression and support of ideas through the medium of written English, academic writing, and research papers that require scholarly investigation and integration of evidence and the proper use and documentation of sources. The following courses as taught at Oregon community colleges would meet the writing requirement – WR 121, 122 and 123 at 3 credits each (no longer available at RCC) or WR 121 and 122 (research writing inclusive) at 4 credits each, or their equivalent. These courses are preparation for scientific or technical writing required throughout the Nursing Program. Completion of a Bachelor’s degree at a regionally accredited college or university in an English speaking country is considered equivalent to completion of the writing series.

• **General Psychology, PSY201 (3-4 credits - prerequisite to Lifespan Human Development) AND Social Science Elective (3 credits):** to meet the minimum 6 credits of social science (not including Human Development) required for entry to nursing school. (Once an acceptable lifespan human development course has been completed, any approved 3-4 credit social science course may be used in place of PSY201).
• **Human Development, PSY215 (4 credits):** The social and psychological developmental process of human life covering the full life span. Courses that cover only part of a life span will not be accepted.

• **Intermediate Algebra, MTH95 or higher (4 credits):** Math 95 or higher math course with a letter grade of “C” or better must be transcribed prior to the February 15 application deadline.

• **Concepts in Computing I (CS120, 4 credits) or documented computer proficiency (0 credits) within 10 years:** RCC requires students to be computer literate, including at least word processing, use of spreadsheets, file management and web searches. Computer literacy at RCC is demonstrated through completion of CS120 or higher computer science course or by passing the RCC computer proficiency exam. More information can be found by visiting [Computer Proficiency Exam Information](#) and [Computer Proficiency Exam Study Guide](#). If applying to any other OCNE member nursing program, please contact that program for their computer proficiency requirement.

• **Humanities, Social Science, or Science (0-6 credits):** Required only as needed to attain 45 credits of prerequisites. Selection of these electives may serve as a foundation for a focused area of study. Please refer to the College Catalog for a list of acceptable courses.

*Note: Some of the nursing prerequisites may have course prerequisites that may be required in advance. It is very important to meet with an advisor in planning your schedule to ensure all requirements are completed by the specified deadlines. Students planning to apply to other nursing programs should talk to advisors at those programs also.*

**Additional Competencies for Students Planning for OHSU Baccalaureate Degree:**

• **Foreign Language Proficiency:** Language proficiency is a requirement for graduation with the bachelor’s degree from OHSU that can be met by:
  1. two years of the same high school language or
  2. two terms (quarters or semesters) of the same college level language or
  3. a language proficiency examination

College level (100 and above) credits in the foreign languages can count toward in-program associate degree elective credits as well as the bachelor degree credits. Neither high school language nor the proficiency examination as a means of meeting the language requirement counts in the credits for prerequisites or for the degree. American Sign Language (if a transferable college course) is an accepted language to meet the foreign language proficiency requirement for the bachelor’s degree in science with a major in nursing from OHSU.

• **Humanities:** Students must have at least nine credits of humanities courses to earn the bachelor’s degree from OHSU. (Completion of the above language requirement through college courses will partially meet the humanities requirement. Students are encouraged to meet OHSU’s humanities requirement when taking RCC’s elective credits.)

For More Information, access the Technical Standards, Oregon State Board of Nursing Licensure Questions, Selection Points, Re-entry or Transfer, and Other Documents from the [Nursing website Program and Student Information link](#).