



# NURSING

## PROGRAM



**Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Offers a Registered Nurse diploma program** that builds on 133 years of experience in educating women and men for an exciting career in the nursing profession. Graduates have secured positions at Reading Hospital and elsewhere in our community, as well as around the world. The Nursing Program is based within the School of Health Sciences, located near the hospital's main campus in West Reading, Pennsylvania. The program admits new classes in August.

Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), the Nursing Program offers education focusing on knowledge and skills required for entry level RN practitioners and includes clinical experiences in specialty areas such as pediatrics, maternity, oncology, and intensive care.

The Nursing Program is affiliated with a university college vendor. Physical sciences, biological sciences, behavioral sciences, and English composition are taught at the School of Health Sciences by university faculty. This affiliation enables Nursing graduates to qualify for RN-BSN completion programs. The relationship between schools to this agreement is that of independent contractors and not construed to constitute a partnership, joint venture, or any other relationship other than that of independent contractors. Financial aid, tuition, fees, and all financial aspects of attending the Nursing Program at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences are administered through Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences.

## Accreditations and Approvals

### **Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)**

The diploma nursing program at Reading Hospital at the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences located in Reading, PA, is accredited by the:

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)  
3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326  
Phone: 404-975-5000

The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the diploma nursing program is Continuing Accreditation.

The ACEN welcomes comments from interested individuals from the nursing community, students, and graduates, as well as the public-at-large. The ACEN provides information on program type and accreditation of nursing programs at [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org).

### **Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing**

The diploma nursing program at Reading Hospital at the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences is approved by the: Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing  
PO Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Phone: 717-783-7142; Fax: 717-783-0822.  
Email: [ST-NURSE@pa.gov](mailto:ST-NURSE@pa.gov)  
[www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing](http://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Nursing)



Thank you for inquiring about the Nursing Program offered by Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences.

This brochure is designed to provide information about this educational opportunity.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

History .....	4
Future Students .....	5
Our Philosophy .....	6
Program Goals .....	7
Curriculum .....	8
Course Descriptions .....	14
Advanced Placement for LPNs .....	18
Health and Regulatory Requirements .....	19
Admissions .....	22
Applicant Point System .....	29
Readmission .....	30
Transfer Credit Consideration .....	30
Costs and Expenses .....	35
Student Services .....	38
Facilities and Resources .....	40
Administration, Faculty, and Staff .....	42
Consumer Information Disclosure .....	44
Campus Map .....	46

**Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences** reserves the right to make necessary changes to the program, curriculum, costs, policies, procedures, and calendar. The school reserves the right to clarify any information printed on the website or in official school publications.

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences operates without distinction to age, race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or economic means.

**For more information, please contact the school at 484-628-0100.**

# HISTORY

**The Nursing Program** at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences grew from the community's need for skilled nursing care. It was organized, maintained, and directed as an educational institution by public-spirited women and men from its inception in 1889.

The Nursing Program first opened as The Reading Hospital School of Nursing with Miss Mary Rose, the head nurse of The Reading Hospital, as its first director. Miss Rose was trained at the Philadelphia General Hospital and applied the same Nightingale plan that was used at PGH. The course of study was two years. The hospital medical staff provided lectures, while Miss Rose gave practical instruction.

On May 28, 1891, the first class of two nurses graduated. In 1892, there were eight young women in the School. In addition to caring for the sick in the hospital, students were sent into homes to provide medical care.

Graduates served in the typhoid fever epidemic in 1898. Many graduates also served during the Spanish-American War, and in all branches of service in World War I and World War II. Due to the great demand for nurses during the Second World War, the federal government instituted a student nurse program under the US Public Health Service. The Reading Hospital's Nursing Program was selected as one of the schools throughout the country to participate in this United States Cadet Corps program, with 126 students pledging to "give essential civilian or military service."

The Nursing Program curriculum was approved in 1920 by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners, and has maintained its full approval status since that time. The National League for Nursing fully accredited the program in 1943.

In 2006, the Nursing Program joined with the hospital's other health career schools in forming Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences. Each of the six courses of study are now designated as programs within the school.

Today, the Nursing Program offers classroom and clinical preparation to students wishing to enter the nursing profession. Nursing education at a hospital-based program provides a strong theoretical basis and clinical application of skills and critical thinking required for the practice of nursing. Supervised clinical experiences help students gain confidence in caring for people in all healthcare settings.

# FUTURE STUDENTS

**Choosing a nursing school** can be a challenging task. Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Nursing Program's Office of Admissions is committed to addressing your individual needs, whether you are a first-time student or a working adult seeking a new career.

Staff members are available to assist you throughout the admissions process – from your first inquiry to your preparation to attend orientation. The Office of Admissions will help you find the answers to your questions and help you to determine whether nursing is right for you!

The School of Health Sciences is committed to providing equal access for individuals with disabilities to the school and hospital community. The school makes every effort to accommodate applicants/students with disabilities. Any applicant with a documented disability can request special accommodations by notifying the school in writing at the time of acceptance to the program or at anytime thereafter.

We offer the following admission activities on campus:

- Admissions Appointments and Tours
- Discover Nursing Program
- Program Discovery Events
- Shadow Program

To learn more about the program, please log on to: [RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org](http://RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org) or call us at **484-628-0100**.



# OUR PHILOSOPHY

## Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences PHILOSOPHY

Nursing is an art and science that involves caring for the individual: body, mind, and spirit. Nursing utilizes knowledge, skills, and attitudes to assist individuals, families, and communities across the health continuum using the nursing process. Nurses lead and manage collaborative efforts within the interprofessional healthcare team.

Caring is central to nursing and the art of “being with” others toward whom one feels a sense of commitment and responsibility. Caring is client-centered and encompasses compassion, empathy, and nurturing.

Education is an active lifelong process equipping nurses to be leaders. The educational process incorporates evidence-based concepts salient to the changing healthcare needs of individuals, groups, and communities. Our shared educational philosophy is student-centered, conceptually based, and collaborative. Learners are expected to be self-directed and accountable for their performance.

Health is a dynamic state of physical, mental, spiritual, and social functioning. The health continuum reflects a person’s experiences when adapting to changes in the internal and external environment to maintain homeostasis. The environment includes the forces that impact the client. An individual has the ability to influence and be influenced by its continual interrelationship with the environment.

An individual is defined as the totality of a person and is the central focus of nursing. An individual has intrinsic values, rights and responsibilities, and deserves to be treated with respect and dignity.

The program’s responsibility to the student is to admit individuals who have the potential to become competent nurses. The program has the responsibility to assist students to develop their potential by providing a relevant curriculum under the guidance of an educationally prepared faculty. Our faculty strive to facilitate the optimal development of each student’s potential. The program provides opportunities for student participation in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the program, and encourages personal growth through advisement, recreational programs, and self-governance.

The program's responsibility to the community is to prepare competent and accountable professional nurses capable of providing compassionate, high quality, cost-effective nursing care. The program fosters the understanding of the importance of a lifelong commitment to continuing education and the professional code of ethics. The program prepares nurses who function as advocates for the individual, family, and community and who are aware of and respond to social-political issues affecting healthcare and the community's health needs.

## PROGRAM GOALS

The nursing program prepares the graduate to:

1. Practice as a professional nurse at an entry-level position in a variety of healthcare settings.
2. Apply the theory derived from nursing and supportive disciplines to implement the nursing process to assist individuals and groups to meet their healthcare needs.
3. Utilize effective communication to establish therapeutic relationships to meet the healthcare needs of individuals and groups within the community.
4. Assist individuals and groups to achieve wellness through the use of health teaching.
5. Provide nursing care in a responsible, accountable manner within the ethical and legal framework of nursing.
6. Collaborate with healthcare professionals utilizing leadership and management theory to coordinate healthcare in a variety of settings.
7. Assume accountability, self-direction, and commitment for professional growth through continuing education.
8. Respond on a personal and professional level to changing healthcare issues of society by participating in community and professional activities and organizations.

# CURRICULUM

**The Curriculum of The Nursing Program** is designed to provide theoretical knowledge and hands-on application throughout the human life span. The curriculum evolves from the concepts of normal to abnormal and simple to complex theory. The unifying threads of the curriculum are communication, nursing process, decision making, critical thinking, holism, ethical/legal issues, healthcare issues, community, knowledge, teaching/learning, and professional relationships.

## Program Overview

The Nursing Program offers a Registered Nurse Diploma program. Our three-year program prepares students to become competent and accountable professional nurses capable of providing compassionate, high quality, cost effective nursing care. Additionally, our program offers a dual enrollment program in collaboration with Alvernia University. With Dual Enrollment Admission, students will be simultaneously enrolled in the hospital-based Nursing Program offered at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences and Alvernia University's Associate of Science degree.

Dual Enrollment is structured to provide a seamless career mobility pathway while providing our graduates with the knowledge, skills, and credentials to sit for national licensure examination. Qualified graduates will be eligible to receive the following credentials:

- Diploma in Nursing
- Associate of Science Degree in Applied Health from Alvernia University

The three-year Dual Enrollment Program is designed to provide theoretical knowledge and hands-on application through the human life span. **Classes and clinical experiences are held Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Evening clinical preparation may be required throughout the course of study.** The liberal arts courses are taught by Alvernia University faculty. These courses provide students with a well-rounded background as well as meet the requirements for the Associate of Science degree from Alvernia University.

## RN to BSN

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences fosters the understanding of the importance of a lifelong commitment to continuing education, clinical skills, and professionalism. We strongly encourage our graduates to pursue advanced degrees which serve to support career mobility in the profession of nursing.

To that end, we are excited to provide a seamless transition to Alvernia University's RN to BSN program after completing our three-year program. Alvernia University offers a blended online format of course delivery which provides our graduates with an opportunity to earn a Bachelor's of Science

degree in Nursing (BSN) within one year after completing the dual enrollment program at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences.

## Credit Breakdown

- 50 Nursing credits - Dual Enrollment level
- 39 Liberal Arts Core credits - Dual Enrollment level
- 25 Nursing credits - BSN level
- 9 Liberal Arts Core credits - BSN level

BSN total: 123 credits

## Credit Hours

Credit assigned to nursing courses does not constitute “college credit” and does not imply nursing courses earn the equivalent of college credit. The term “credit” assigned to nursing courses is for grading and/or financial aid purposes only; and only an authorized degree-granting institution in which a student enrolls may determine whether the completed nursing course may be accepted for “college credit.” It does not refer to academic credits or to the awarding of college credit and degrees.

The Nursing Program defines a credit hour as a unit of measure that places a value to the level of instruction and time requirements for a nursing course; and is responsible for determining the credit hours awarded for the nursing courses offered in the program of study.

## Class Schedule

- Classes are scheduled Monday through Friday, and range from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Clinical experiences are designed for the students optimal learning opportunity. Therefore, clinical days and times may vary. Students may be required to research their assigned patient chart the evening before each clinical experience.
- Students will be expected to carry out all scheduled learning activities that will occur. Your time commitment includes the official class schedule Monday through Friday as well as preparation time for patient chart assignments in the evening and clinical skills practice sessions in the nursing simulation laboratory.
- Special class, clinical, and conference experiences may occur with alternate days/evenings and times.
- The graduate is qualified to submit an application for licensure in the state of his/her choice and to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination to officially receive the title of Registered Nurse.
- The graduate is able to complete baccalaureate level nursing education through our affiliation with Alvernia University. This relationship supports educational mobility and facilitates the seamless transfer of academic credit between Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Nursing Program and Alvernia University’s RN to BSN Completion Program.

## Level Objectives

### YEAR ONE

(General Education Courses)

At the completion of Year One, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of basic biological and behavioral sciences as a foundation for understanding the relationship to individual health.
- Display the ability to think critically, theoretically, and analytically.
- Understand the basic theories, models, and practices of verbal and written communication.
- Exhibit the ability to collaborate effectively.
- Explain concepts and theories in social sciences and psychology as they relate to the needs of individuals and health.
- Demonstrate the application of social and psychological concepts in everyday life.
- Understand the basic principles in ethics and the universal principles of healthcare.

### YEAR TWO

(100 Level Nursing Courses)

At the completion of Year Two, the student will be able to:

- Combine principles from nursing, physical, biological, and behavioral sciences to meet the needs of individuals.
- Utilize critical thinking skills when using the nursing process in meeting the holistic needs of individuals.
- Utilize teaching/learning principles in educating individuals and significant others to maintain or attain their optimal level of health on the continuum.
- Apply the principles of communication effectively when interacting with the patient, significant others, and the interprofessional healthcare team.
- Function as a member of the interprofessional healthcare team in meeting the needs of individuals and significant others.
- Recognize the impact of community aspects on the health of individuals.
- Describe the social, political, technological, and economic trends that impact on nursing and the healthcare system.
- Demonstrate a value system based on ethical and legal implications when practicing nursing in the healthcare system.

## YEAR THREE

(200 Level Nursing Courses)

(End of Program Student Learning Outcomes)

At the completion of Year Three, the student will be able to:

- Integrate principles from nursing, physical, biological, and behavioral sciences to provide comprehensive healthcare for individuals.
- Incorporate critical thinking skills when using the nursing process in the delivery of comprehensive holistic nursing care for individuals.
- Synthesize teaching/learning principles in the development, design, and implementation of a teaching plan for individuals and significant others in response to their ever-changing needs on the health continuum.
- Utilize therapeutic communication techniques in interactions with the patient, significant others, the interprofessional healthcare team, groups, and the community.
- Establish a collaborative relationship with members of the interprofessional healthcare team in the provision of comprehensive healthcare to individuals or groups.
- Incorporate community aspects in the provision of holistic healthcare for individuals and groups.
- Analyze the social, political, technological, and economic trends that impact on nursing and the healthcare system.
- Integrate a value system based on ethical and legal implications into the profession of nursing and healthcare.



## Promotion

In order to progress through the curriculum, a student must complete the nursing and general education courses having achieved:

- A 75 percent or higher for the theoretical classes.
- A satisfactory (S) on the clinical performance evaluation.
- Completion of all standardized tests for each course.

The Program Director reserves the right to withdraw any student at any time whose health, scholarship, clinical performance, or conduct does not meet the required standard.

## Graduation

To graduate from the program, students must meet the following requirements:

- Successful completion of all required courses.
- Completion of financial obligations.
- Exit interview with financial aid officer (if receiving financial aid).
- Return of all school issued items including: resident key, ID badge, audience response "clicker," or any school or hospital property issued for a course.

At the completion of the program, the student will be awarded a diploma from Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences and an Associate of Science Degree in Applied Health from Alvernia University. Upon graduation, a student is qualified to submit an application for licensure to the State Board of Nursing in the state of his or her choice, and, following board approval, take the National Council Licensure Examination.

During the interim between graduation and the issuance of the license, a graduate must apply for a temporary practice permit in order to be legally employed as a graduate nurse. Upon a graduate's satisfactory performance on the examination, a license to practice professional nursing in the title of Registered Nurse is issued by the state.

Graduation from the Nursing Program does not guarantee State Board of Nursing approval for licensure.

## Curriculum Plan

### YEAR ONE - FALL SEMESTER 16 weeks (August/December)

COURSE	NURSING CREDITS	CREDITS	THEORY/ SCIENCE LAB	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
BIO 107		3	45	
BIO 117		1	30	
PSY 101		3	45	
COM 101		3	45	
THE 210		3	45	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>0</b>

### YEAR ONE - SPRING SEMESTER 16 weeks (January/April)

BIO 108		3	45	
BIO 118		1	30	
BIO 220		4	90 (45/45)	
PSY 208		3	45	
PHI 105		3	45	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>YEAR ONE TOTAL</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>0</b>

### YEAR TWO - FALL SEMESTER 16 weeks (August/December)

COURSE	NURSING CREDITS	CREDITS	THEORY/ SCIENCE LAB	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
NRS 100	12		140	300
NRS 101	2		40	
BIO 410		3	45	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>300</b>

### YEAR TWO - SPRING SEMESTER 16 weeks (January/April)

NRS 102	12		140	300
BIO 216		3	45	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>YEAR TWO TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>600</b>

### YEAR THREE - FALL SEMESTER 16 weeks (August/December)

COURSE	NURSING CREDITS	CREDITS	THEORY/ SCIENCE LAB	CLINICAL EXPERIENCE
NRS 200	12		140	300
LAE 1 Communication Elective		3	45	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>300</b>

### YEAR THREE - SPRING SEMESTER 16 weeks (January/April)

NRS 201	12		120	360
LAE 2 Creative Expressions Elective		3	45	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>YEAR THREE TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>660</b>
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>1260</b>

# NURSING PROGRAM

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **BIO 107 | Anatomy and Physiology I (3.0 credits)**

Homeostatic mechanisms of the human body with emphasis on structure and function are studied. Gross and microscopic structures are correlated with function of cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the body. Major topics include: skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems. Three hours of lecture per week.

**Co-requisite:** BIO 117

## **BIO 108 | Anatomy and Physiology II (3.0 credits)**

Emphasis is on structure and function of endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, lymphatic, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. Gross and microscopic structures are correlated with functions of cells, tissues, organs, and systems of the body. Three hours of lecture per week.

**Co-requisite:** BIO 118

## **BIO 117 | Human Anatomy and Physiology LAB I (1.0 credit)**

Experimental approach to the study of human anatomy and physiology is used to reinforce lecture concepts. The exercises present the core elements of the subject matter in a hands-on manner. The labs are presented in the same time period the material is being discussed in lecture. One two-hour lab per week.

**Co-requisite:** BIO 107

## **BIO 118 | Human Anatomy and Physiology LAB II (1.0 credit)**

Experimental approach to the study of human anatomy and physiology is used to reinforce lecture concepts. The exercises present the core elements of the subject matter in a hands-on manner. Labs are presented in the same time period the material is being discussed in lecture. One two-hour lab per week.

**Co-requisite:** BIO 108

## **BIO 216 | Nutrition (4.0 credits)**

Overview of nutritional requirements of individuals in the healthful state as well as modification of those requirements during illness. Three hours of lecture per semester week. Does not fulfill the lab science core requirement.

## **BIO 220 | Clinical Microbiology (4.0 credits)**

Study of the morphological and physiological nature of microorganisms and their relationship to humans in both the normal and diseased states. Emphasis on bacteriological techniques such as cultivation, staining, identification, and other techniques important in a clinical setting. Integrates laboratory and classroom work.

### **BIO 410 | Pathophysiology (3.0 credits)**

Effects of internal and external stressors on body functions are examined. Normal human physiological principles and homeostatic mechanisms are reviewed. Genetic and nutritional aspects are integrated into the discussion of disease. Three hours of lecture per semester week.

**Prerequisites:** BIO 107/117,108/118 or permission of instructor.

### **COM 101 Composition and Research (3.0 credits)**

Core writing requirement, reviews fundamental principles of rhetoric, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Requirements include a research paper using MLA documentation guidelines and several expository papers.

### **LAE 1 Communication Elective (3.0 credits)**

The Liberal Arts Elective 1 requirement can be satisfied by successful completion of COM 213 or a similar COM course. Historically, COM 213 has been offered in the curricula on RHSHS campus, but the school reserves the right to provide a course substitution. Students must receive approval from both RHSHS and Alvernia University for transfer credit.

### **LAE 2 Creative Expressions Elective (3.0 credits)**

The Liberal Arts Elective 2 requirement can be satisfied by successful completion of MUS or a similar creative expressions course. Historically, MUS has been offered in the curricula on RHSHS campus, but the school reserves the right to provide a course substitution. Students must receive approval from both RHSHS and Alvernia University for transfer credit.

### **PHI 105 Introduction to Philosophy (3.0 credits)**

Historical introduction to fundamental problems and methods of philosophy based on readings in ancient, medieval, and modern literature.

### **PSY 101 | Introductory Psychology (3.0 credits)**

Introduction to major concepts and findings in psychology with emphasis on basic processes underlying human behavior.

### **PSY 208 | Human Development Across The Life Span (3.0 credits)**

Focuses on physical, cognitive, social, personality, and moral development through life span from infancy to old age. Cross-cultural, gender, and minority issues are integrated when appropriate.

**Prerequisites:** PSY 101

### **THE 210 Medical Moral Theology (3.0 credits)**

Investigation of moral problems, which can arise in the area of bioethics. Introductory survey of the basic Christian principles of morality is followed by treatment of various medical moral situations. A natural law methodology is applied throughout the course.

## **NRS 100 | Foundations of Nursing Care (12 Nursing Credits/140 Hours Classroom Theory/300 Clinical Hours)**

The course prepares the student to provide safe nursing care to an adult client by incorporating the concepts identified in the course. The concepts of comfort, elimination, grief/loss, mobility, nutrition, oxygenation, sensory perception, thermoregulation, and tissue integrity are introduced. The interrelated concepts of communication/collaboration, advocacy, evidence-based practice, health promotion, informatics/technology, quality improvement, safety, and teaching/learning are introduced and incorporated throughout the course. The concept of managing care provides the framework to meet the basic needs of the individual across the lifespan. Structured clinical and laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the basic knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

**Prerequisites:** BIO 107/117, 108/118, 220

## **NRS 101 | Professional Nursing Communication (2 Nursing Credits/40 Hours Classroom Theory/0 Clinical Hours)**

The course introduces the student to the concepts that provide the foundation for nursing practice. Professionalism and how it is applied to nursing is addressed. The image of nursing and its influence on the profession is presented. The student is introduced to the nurse's professional role of communicator. Information that enhances the development of self-awareness, non-judgmental acceptance of others, communication skills, and collaboration skills will be presented. The impact of informatics on nursing care is explored.

**Prerequisites:** COM 101

## **NRS 102 | Family/Individual Nursing (12 Nursing Credits/140 Hours Classroom Theory/300 Clinical Hours)**

The course prepares the student to provide safe nursing care to clients across the lifespan by incorporating the concepts identified in the course. The concepts of addiction, cognition, culture, diversity, individual, family, mood/affect, and stress/coping are introduced in the course. The concepts of comfort, elimination, grief/loss, mobility, nutrition, oxygenation, sensory perception, thermoregulation, and tissue integrity are reinforced. The interrelated concepts of communication/collaboration, advocacy, evidence-based practice, health promotion, informatics/technology, quality improvement, safety, and teaching/learning are incorporated throughout the course. The concept of managing care provides the framework to meet the basic needs of the individual across the lifespan. Structured clinical and laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

**Prerequisites:** NRS 100, NRS 101, BIO 107/117, BIO 108/118, BIO 220, BIO 410, PSY 101, PSY 208

## **NRS 200 | Acute Care/Complex Nursing (12 Nursing Credits/140 Hours Classroom Theory/300 Clinical Hours)**

The course prepares the student to provide safe nursing care to adult clients by incorporating the concepts identified in the course. The concepts of Acid/base, Cellular Regulation, Fluid/Electrolytes, Inflammation, Metabolism, and Perfusion are introduced in the course. All previously introduced concepts are reinforced. The interrelated concepts of communication/collaboration, advocacy, evidence-based practice, health promotion, informatics/technology, quality improvement, safety, and teaching/learning are incorporated throughout the course. The concept of managing care provides the framework to meet the basic needs of the individual. Structured clinical and laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

**Prerequisites:** NRS 100, NRS 101, BIO 107/117, BIO 108/118, BIO 220, BIO 410, PSY 101, PSY 208

## **NRS 201 | Nursing Leadership/Critical Care (12 Nursing Credits/120 Hours Classroom Theory/360 Clinical Hours)**

The course prepares the student to provide safe nursing care to adult clients with complex health issues, and to transition to the professional role by incorporating the concepts identified in the course. The concepts of Ethics, Health Policy, Healthcare System, and Intracranial Regulation are introduced in the course. All previously introduced concepts are reinforced. The interrelated concepts of communication/collaboration, advocacy, evidence-based practice, health promotion, informatics/technology, quality improvement, safety, and teaching/learning are incorporated throughout the course. The concept of managing care provides the framework to meet the basic needs of the individual. Structured clinical and laboratory experiences enable the student to apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.

**Prerequisites:** NRS 100, NRS 101, NRS 200, BIO 107/117, BIO 108/118, BIO 220, BIO 410, PSY 101, PSY 208



# ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOR LPNS

**Advanced Placement May Be Considered** for students who hold a current LPN license, pending the satisfaction of certain admission and curriculum requirements.

Applicants accepted into the program will be required to take a standardized test to determine placement in the program. The test will be administered during the month of June prior to the fall semester of clinical. The student must pay all fees associated with test administration. Applicants who achieve a 70 percent or greater score in the overall test percentage (“decision score”) and 70 percent or greater score in each of the content and nursing process scores will be granted credit for NRS 100. Applicants who do not reach the 70 percent benchmarks on their final test will be required to enroll in NRS 100 and proceed through the curriculum as it is designed. The Curriculum Coordinator will make the final decision regarding placement.

Applicants who meet all advance standing requirements will be:

- Granted credit for NRS 100.
- Required to attend a review of the advanced placement process during orientation week in August.

**Test Type:** NLN ACE I PN-RN Foundations of Nursing Examination

**Testing Fee:** \$100\*

**Matriculation Fee:** \$700\*

*\*Costs are subject to change with yearly tuition fees.*

# HEALTH AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

**To Assure The Health And Safety** of nursing students and patients, Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences Nursing Program requires all students to meet health and regulatory requirements. If you choose to enroll in the program, you must adhere to specific guidelines on clinical clearance, CPR, and record checks. Failure to comply with health and regulatory requirements could result in an inability to proceed with the curriculum.

## Student Health Services

Health screening, including drug screening, is required for all nursing students. Students must complete all health screenings and required forms provided and requested by Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences.

The physical examination and immunization record must have been completed and signed by a physician or nurse practitioner within one year of the date of entrance into the program.

Hospital rules and regulations require each enrolled student to have an annual tuberculosis screening test. Required immunizations include annual influenza vaccination and full COVID-19 vaccinations. All new and returning students must be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption on file by the start of the program, class, and clinical.

Nursing students who have physical restrictions and are under the care of a physician need to update the Nursing Program as to the status of these restrictions as necessary. Following the lifting of physical restrictions, a written clearance from the physician is required in order for the student to attend the clinical component of the curriculum.

Occupational Health Services at Reading Hospital is available to the student nurse for consultation in the event of a physical illness. The student is responsible for all medical charges for treatment of an illness or accident. Health insurance must be current throughout a student's course of study.

## Personal Health Insurance

Every RHSHS student is required to maintain a personal health insurance plan at all times.

## Student Accident-Only Insurance

Every student must carry supplemental insurance while enrolled in nursing courses/clinical. This supplemental plan is purchased through the per-semester student health fee.

## Residence Life Immunization

It is the policy of the School of Health Sciences to require all resident students to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease prior to move-in day. Students must provide documentation of immunization (Menactra) to Occupational Health Services.

## Clinical Clearance

All students are responsible for achieving clinical clearance. Any lapse in clinical clearance may result in the student being dropped from a course and/or the program.

Specific guidelines:

- Physical exam on admission.
- All required health screenings and documentation of immunizations as required by Occupational Health Services.
- Documentation of valid health insurance coverage.
- Completed and approved background check results.
- Documentation of valid CPR: American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider (two-year certification).
- Mandatory new student orientation sessions, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance.

## CPR Certification

Students are required to complete CPR certification for clinical experiences and submit a copy of their card prior to enrollment and ongoing as renewal occurs. We strongly recommend that you complete the required CPR course carrying TWO-YEAR certification.

The only acceptable CPR certification card is:

- American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Provider (two-year certification)

It is advisable that students complete CPR certification in the months leading up to clinical for new students and renew CPR certification one semester prior to the expiration date for returning students.

After matriculation, students are required to maintain CPR certification. Expired CPR certification may prevent a student from receiving a grade report, attending clinical, meeting course objectives, and passing a clinical course.

## Background Check Screenings

The Nursing Program requires all students to have a Criminal Background Check, National Healthcare Fraud and Abuse Check prior to admission and monthly during enrollment, Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, and a FBI fingerprint check on file at the school prior to practicing in any healthcare facility.

To ensure compliance with federal and state healthcare regulations, students must be screened through a National Healthcare Fraud and Abuse History Check process prior to admission and monthly during enrollment.

The Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing (and other State Boards of Nursing) may deny licensure based on an individual's criminal or child abuse history.

## Qualifications for Licensure and Admission

Every applicant, to be eligible for examination and licensure as a registered nurse, shall furnish evidence satisfactory to the State Board of Nursing that he or she is of good moral character, has completed work equal to a standard high school course as evaluated by the Board, and has satisfactorily completed an approved program of professional nursing.

The State Board of Nursing requires applicants for licensure to disclose if they have been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, felonious act, an illegal act associated with alcohol, or an illegal act associated with substance abuse. The Board shall not issue a license or certificate to an applicant who has been convicted of a felonious act prohibited by the Act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, NO.64), known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act," or convicted of a felony relating to a controlled substance in a court of law in the United States or any other state, territory, or country, unless:

- (1) at least 10 years have elapsed from the date of conviction;
- (2) the applicant satisfactorily demonstrates to the Board that he or she has made significant progress in personal rehabilitation since the conviction such that licensure of the applicant should not be expected to create a substantial risk of harm to the health and safety of patients or the public, or a substantial risk of further criminal violations; and
- (3) the application otherwise satisfies the qualifications contained in or authorized by this act. As used in this subsection, the term "convicted" shall include a judgment, admission of guilt, or a plea of nolo contendere. An applicant's statement on the application declaring the absence of conviction shall be deemed satisfactory evidence of the absence of a conviction, unless the Board has some evidence to the contrary.

# ADMISSIONS

## Purpose

The student body at RHSHS is carefully selected to include individuals capable of meeting the rigorous educational requirements for preparation as healthcare professionals.

## Procedure

Admission is competitive with specific academic standards for each program of study. Selection of students will be based on personal composition, academic ability, references, interview performance, aptitude tests, writing samples, and previous healthcare experience according to program-specific requirements. The school reserves the right to deny admission or readmission or to revoke admission to any applicant if, in the opinion of the school, his/her admission is not in the best interest of the student or the school.

RHSHS operates without distinction to age, race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or economic means.

## A | General Admissions Requirements

### 1 | OVERVIEW OF CRITERIA

- Applicants must be citizens of the United States or provide documentation of permanent residency or working status.

All applicants must have a high school diploma or state-authorized examination (e.g., General Educational Development Certificate (GED), High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), and the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)). Home-schooled students must have a diploma from an accredited home school association, or have met requirements for the GED or other state-authorized examination. The School does not admit applicants based upon the ability-to-benefit testing process.

- Applicants may be required to take post-secondary coursework to meet the academic requirements of the individual programs.
- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or greater in high school or postsecondary coursework is required for all applicants and candidates for admission consideration. The most recent post-secondary GPA will be used in the admission decision.

- At the discretion of the individual Program, applicants may be required to submit scores from the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) administered by the College Entrance Examination Board or the American College Testing Assessment Program (ACT) administered by the American College Testing Program. This requirement may be waived for applicants with earned college degrees.
- Potential students must submit two references from teachers, guidance counselors, employers, supervisors, or others. Healthcare professionals must submit one reference from the current or most recent healthcare employer.

## **2 | TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR ALL APPLICANTS**

Successful completion of a School of Health Sciences program necessitates mental and physical health essential to meet the objectives of the curriculum, as well as other skills necessary for success in the classroom and clinical components of the program. Based on these criteria, applicants must:

- Be able to read, write, and speak the English language, and communicate in an understandable manner.
- Possess the emotional health necessary to fulfill the educational requirements of the program.
- Demonstrate a history of personal integrity, compassion, motivation, and the ability to function in stressful situations.
- Be able to walk, stand, move, and sit for long periods of time.
- Possess auditory, visual, and tactile abilities sufficient to assess and monitor health needs and provide safe care.
- Possess interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals with various backgrounds.

In Programs requiring physical skill and dexterity:

- Be able to lift and move patients and equipment.
- Have fine motor movement to complete tasks in a safe and effective manner.

The school makes every effort to accommodate students and applicants with disabilities. Any applicant with a documented disability can request special accommodations by notifying the Office of Admissions in writing at the time of application.

### 3 | PRE-ADMISSION INFORMATION

All materials that are submitted to the Office of Admissions become the property of the School of Health Sciences and cannot be returned or forwarded unless the applicant makes a formal request in writing to the school.

Any misrepresentation or omission of facts or essential documents during the application process and/or after acceptance into the program will result in a delay, denial, or revocation of admission.

As deemed appropriate, the Admissions Recruitment Committee reserves the right to waive admission requirements after reviewing an applicant's completed record.

All applications must be completed by the deadline described under the Program-specific requirements. A completed application file must contain:

- A completed application and an application fee.
- Proof of permanent residency or working status, if applicable.
- An official high school transcript or GED.
- All official post-secondary transcripts, if applicable.
- A copy of Practical Nursing license, if applicable.
- A copy of EMT and CPR certification, if applicable.
- Essay.
- Aptitude test scores, as required.
- Two references, as required. The official school reference forms are located in the application booklet and our website titled Catalogs, Forms, & Brochures.
- Other program-specific information, as requested.

### B | Additional Requirements for Foreign-Educated Students

The school is not approved to issue or accept student visas. Applicants must show proof of permanent residency or working status.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), Princeton, New Jersey, may be required for applicants educated outside the United States or whose preferred language is not English, including those transferring from English-speaking colleges and universities.

The school may require the following documentation to determine eligibility for admission:

- Satisfactory score on TOEFL. Testing must have occurred within two years of the application submission.
- An evaluation of foreign transcripts by the World Education Service (WES) or other approved agency is required.
- Certificate of Preliminary Education (CPE) from the Department of Education.
- General Education Development (GED).
- General Report from the Commission on Graduate Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS).
- Evidence of completion of required high school or post-secondary coursework.
- TOEFL Essential scores will be considered on an individual basis. Paper-based score of 560 or internet-based score of 83.

## C | Preadmission Testing

The Nursing Program administers the Test of Essential Academic Skills by Assessment Technologies, Inc. (ATI TEAS). The pre-admission examination assesses an individual's skills in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English Language usage. The applicant's individual scores will be used as part of the admission criteria to assess the student's academic foundation.

All qualified applicants must complete the pre-admission examination. Pre-admission testing will begin in the fall and conclude when the cohort is filled. Those individuals selected for pre-admission testing will be contacted by the Office of Admissions. There is a fee for pre-admission testing.

## D | Additional Program-Specific Requirements

In addition to the general admissions procedures, all applicants must fulfill the program specific requirements described below.

The Nursing Program admits new classes every August. **For August enrollment, the deadline for completed applications is February 1 or when the admission class is filled.** Materials received after the deadline may be processed for a waitlist process or the next admission cycle.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION CONSIDERATION

All applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. Home-schooled students must have a diploma from an accredited home school association, or have met requirements for the GED. GED applicants may be required to take additional post-secondary work to meet the academic requirements of the individual programs.

Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or greater in high school or post-secondary coursework is required for all applicants and candidates for admission consideration. The most recent postsecondary GPA will be used in the admission decision.

Current high school student applicants must submit a final official transcript reflecting the required cumulative GPA of 2.5 after graduation. **A decline in current cumulative minimum required high school GPA will result in cancellation of your enrollment in the program.**

An earned grade of “C” or better in the subjects/units listed below will be required of all applicants:

- English: 4 units
- Social Studies: 3 units
- Mathematics: 3 units, including Algebra I
- Science: 3 units, including Chemistry/Lab

SAT or ACT: Required for high school student applicants. Preferred score is 500 or higher in Reading/Writing and Math sections of SAT or 20 composite on ACT.

### Post-Secondary Level Coursework

Applicants may be required to validate minimum requirements through post-secondary level coursework. Applicants must meet all minimum requirements and submit all official transcripts, including postsecondary transcripts, prior to August enrollment.

### Requests for Clinical Entry

When transferring in courses, please be aware that entry into 2nd or 3rd year of nursing cannot be guaranteed. Applicants are encouraged to seek guidance from the Office of Admissions before registering and completing courses at another institution.

### Pre-admission Testing

All qualified applicants must complete a pre-admission examination. Pre-admission testing will begin in the fall and conclude when the cohorts are filled.

### Essay

An essay is highly recommended in a competitive admission process. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a one-page essay to support admission to the nursing program. The essay must include:

- the reasons why you want to become a nurse and,
- characteristics that you possess that would contribute to success in the program.

## Interview

A formal interview is not required as part of the admission process at this time.

## Class Selection Criteria: Applicant Point System

The Admissions Recruitment Committee operates in accordance with a selective admission process, which means the best-qualified applicants receive consideration for preferred admission. After December 1, all qualified applicants will be considered for admission based upon the Applicant Point System results.

Admission to the Nursing Program is highly competitive. Applicants need to be aware that meeting the minimum requirements does not assure admission to the Nursing Program. The Admissions Recruitment Committee utilizes a point system to rank candidates. Applicants will be ranked by total points accumulated based upon the following criteria: personal composition, essay, recommendations, past and current progress in high school and post-secondary level coursework, GPA, and standardized test scores. Please refer to the Applicant Point System Addendum on page 29.

Acceptance is contingent upon submitting post-acceptance documents and fees in accordance with established deadlines. Please refer to Post-Acceptance Requirements.

## Decision Letters

Decisions regarding admission will be communicated in writing to applicants by the Office of Admissions. If accepted, an applicant will receive an accepted student packet that will include specific details regarding post-acceptance requirements, deadlines, and forms.

## Post-Acceptance Requirements

Acceptance is contingent upon submitting these post-acceptance documents and fees in accordance with established deadlines:

- A non-refundable confirmation fee of \$300 within two weeks of the acceptance date.
- Receipt of all official transcripts reflecting required GPA for program admission.
- Completed and approved Criminal Record Check and FBI Fingerprint.
- Completed and approved Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance.
- Completed and approved National Healthcare Fraud and Abuse History Check prior to admission and monthly during enrollment.
- Valid two-year BLS for Healthcare Provider CPR certification.
- Documentation of health insurance, including hospitalization benefits.
- Healthcare provider confirmation of required health screenings, tests, and immunizations.

- Copy of photo identification, as requested (i.e., valid driver's license, school or employer identification, permanent residency card).
- Necessary paperwork used to verify official name or name changes.
- Other program-specific information as requested by admissions.

Admitted students who do not meet all these requirements by specified deadlines may have their admission offer revoked.

### **Deferment**

At the discretion of the Program Director, applicants and admitted students may be granted a one-year deferment. Deferment is granted one time only.

### **Wait List**

At the discretion of the Program Director, qualified applicants may be wait-listed when the program's clinical and facility capacities have reached maximum levels. Wait-listed applicants will be notified if space becomes available. When admitted, applicants must meet the post-acceptance requirements outlined above.

### **Cancellation**

Applicants whose files are canceled by either their own efforts or the efforts of the Admissions Committee can reapply to the program at a later date.

# APPLICANT POINT SYSTEM

STUDENT ID NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant  
Overall Score

Points Achieved	Points Possible	Personal Composition (13 points)	Section Total
	1	Current Tower Health employee or immediate family member	
	2	Nursing Essay	
	2	Current licensed healthcare provider (LPN)	
	1	Shadow Experience, RHSHS Discover participant, Medical Health Professionals Participant	
	1	Volunteerism	
	1 (Max. 2)	Recommended with confidence	
	4	Current High School Senior	
Points Achieved	Points Possible	High School Data (14 points)	Section Total
	4	Cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher	Cum. GPA
	2	Cumulative GPA of 2.8-3.1	
	1 (Max. 5)	Algebra II, Trigonometry, Calculus, Chemistry II, Physics, Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology, Latin, Psychology, Sociology, Health Occupations	
	1 (Max. 5)	AP or Honors courses	
		Post-Secondary Data (14 points)	Section Total
	4	Current or most recent cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher	Cum. GPA
	2	Current or most recent cumulative GPA of 2.8-3.1	
	1 (Max. 3)	Math, Algebra I, Algebra II, or higher	
	1 (Max. 2)	Chemistry or Physics	
	1 (Max. 5)	Medical Terminology, Latin, Social or Behavioral Sciences, Biology, Statistics, Medical Ethics	
	-1	For each D or F in the past two semesters	
Points Achieved		Standardized Testing (9 points)	Section Total
	4	TEAS score of 76% or higher	
	2	TEAS score of 70-75%	
	2	SAT Reading/Writing of 650 or higher	
	2	SAT Math of 650 or higher	
	1	SAT Reading/Writing of 500 or higher	
	1	SAT Math of 500 or higher	
	1	ACT composite score of 20 or higher	

Interview Score

Track:  
Type:  
Other:

# READMISSION

Readmission decisions are based on the reason/s for prior withdrawal from program, previous academic and clinical performance, admission, and programmatic changes since prior enrollment, educational coursework beyond the previous enrollment, and space available. Former students must achieve financial clearance by paying any unpaid balance or money owed to the School before their application can be processed for readmission. Re-entry is granted one time and is not a guarantee. It is advisable that former students meet with an admissions representative and review the readmission policy before submitting an application and fee. Please call the Office of Admissions at 484-628-0100.

# TRANSFER CREDIT CONSIDERATION

It is the policy of RHSHS to evaluate and award credit for college level courses completed through a regionally accredited institution of higher education and other accredited schools and programs as recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN CNEA), Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), College Board Advanced Placement (AP), and College Level Examination Program, for transfer credit purposes. Qualified applicants or enrolled students seeking transfer credit are required to submit an official transcript along with support material as requested by admissions and follow the procedure as outlined below.

## Procedure

### **Admission Process (prior to matriculation into the program)**

Official transcripts must be received from all educational institutions previously attended. Course outlines and descriptions may be required. Decisions regarding acceptable college coursework or challenge examinations will be at the discretion of the committee.

## General Education Courses

Applicants who have completed one or more general college level course with a grade of "C" or better may be offered transfer credit if the courses are similar in length and content with courses provided by your program curriculum. Transfer credit will be documented on the student's permanent record after all criteria has been met.

Courses must cover all required content and credit in order to be considered for transfer. Students are strongly encouraged to seek advisement from admissions before registering for courses. Failure to do so may result in paying for and completing courses that do not satisfy academic requirements. Consultation with a Financial Aid Officer is highly recommended prior to making a decision to CLEP or transfer a course. **Special note: Transfer credit decisions for dually enrolled students are subject to the established evaluation of both institutions (RHSHS and Alvernia University). Transfer credit decisions will supersede all college vendor decisions that warrant credit.**

- Communications, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology have no expiration.
- The course titled "THE 210" satisfies a Medical Ethics requirement and also satisfies the Philosophy/Theology requirement for the Alvernia University Associate of Science degree. Students may elect (prior to enrollment in your program) to take an equivalent Medical Ethics course in place of THE 210 which will satisfy both the individual program requirement and the Alvernia University Philosophy/Theology requirement. It is highly suggested that the student meet with the RHSHS admissions staff to verify course transferability prior to enrolling in a substitute course.
- Online biology and biology/lab courses may not meet the comparative rigors of our courses. Transfer students should not complete these online biology courses unless they have been approved by Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences in advance.
- Distance education or internet-based coursework may not meet all criteria required for transfer credit. While the course title and credit may appear to be consistent with our courses (i.e., Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Physics, Nutrition, Pathophysiology, and Algebra) the content, exams, and laboratory hours, if applicable, may differ significantly. Transfer students should not complete these online courses unless they have been approved by Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences in advance.

The following criteria apply for transfer of credit:

COURSE	MAX TIME BETWEEN COURSE COMPLETION & ENROLLMENT	MUST INCLUDE
Human Anatomy and Physiology I	5 years	Laboratory component
Human Anatomy and Physiology II	5 years	Laboratory component
Microbiology	5 years	Laboratory component
Nutrition	5 years	N/A
Pathophysiology	5 years	N/A
Composition & Research	N/A	Documented Research Required
Introduction to Philosophy	N/A	N/A
Medical Ethics	N/A	N/A
Psychology	N/A	
Liberal Arts Elective #1	N/A	Communication
Liberal Arts Elective #2	N/A	May be a Fine Arts (Art or Music), Theatre, or Literature class

### Credit by Examination

Individuals who have successfully completed and passed the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations may receive credit for specific courses. Biology courses with lab components will not receive CLEP credit. Awarding of credit through CLEP or AP is determined by the following:

- Equivalency course(s) to course(s) in curriculum
- Validation of credit on a college/university transcript
- Completion of credit by examination and forwarding an official transcript or score report with a required minimum score of the following:
  - AP: 3
  - CLEP: 50/C

### Admitted Students and Currently Enrolled Students

After enrollment, it is expected that students complete all remaining courses at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences as part of the established curriculum. Students are not permitted to CLEP or transfer additional course credits after they matriculate into the program.

Students may incur financial and academic consequences if transcript is not received prior to the start of class. Students are required to report to the Office of Admissions or Registrar to complete the “Late Transfer of Credits for General Education Courses” form no later than Drop/Add Week of the semester in which the student is enrolled in the course.

**There is no limit as to the number of general education credits that can be transferred. Maximum credit transfers for nursing courses described in the Nursing Courses section below.**

## Nursing Courses

Transfer students must meet all minimum requirements and submit all official transcripts prior to August enrollment. Decisions on advanced standing and placement will be based on classroom and clinical capacities. When transferring in courses, please be aware that entry into 2nd or 3rd year nursing courses cannot be guaranteed. Applicants are encouraged to seek guidance from Admissions before registering and completing courses at another institution. Applicants, who have earned a minimum “C+” in nursing courses/clinical from an accredited School of Nursing within the last two years, may request to have their course outlines and clinical evaluations reviewed to determine advanced placement in the nursing program. Advanced placement for any nursing course is not a guarantee for those students with previous nursing course background.

**If applicants are offered advanced standing, they must be enrolled in the curriculum the entire last year (Year Three) of the program (i.e. complete all 200 level NRS courses) and have satisfied all curriculum requirements to be eligible for graduation.**

Should there be extenuating circumstances when enrolled as a nursing student, such as an extensive illness or other unforeseen special need which requires the student to seek an alternative method of meeting graduation requirements, a student may request an exception to either take a course outside the school or to receive credit by examination (CLEP). Permission for a student to either CLEP or transfer credits after enrollment in the program will be granted only for students who have an illness or other extenuating circumstance which precludes their ability to attend the class when it is offered in the program. Approval for Credit by Examination will be granted only to students who can document prior post-secondary coursework or experience in the subject. Enrolled students may not repeat a course by using Credit by Examination if they originally took the course in the nursing program and received a failing grade.

Students with these extenuating circumstances will follow the guidelines below:

- The student must meet with the Curriculum Coordinator to discuss their extenuating circumstances and explain the request.
- Student must complete a “Matriculated Student Transfer/CLEP Credit Approval” form included as an addendum to this policy.

- The student must submit a course description if requested and seek advisement from the Registrar or Enrollment Director on acceptable college coursework prior to registering for the course or examination
- The student must receive clearance from the Curriculum Coordinator and Program Director.
- Consultation with a financial aid officer is highly recommended prior to making a decision to CLEP or transfer a course.
- Transfer courses or credit by examination must be completed prior to the start of the semester in which the course is offered.
- The student must submit an official transcript at the conclusion of the course/examination. In order to receive credit, the official transcript must be received by the school prior to the beginning of the semester in which the course is offered. Students may incur financial and academic consequences if transcript is not received prior to the start of the course.



# COST AND EXPENSES

## Tuition and Fees

A current copy of the tuition and fee structure for the Nursing Program is located at [reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/financial-information/tuition-and-fees/](http://reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/financial-information/tuition-and-fees/).

## Billing and Payment

All billing, payments and receipts are processed by the Student Accounts Office (SAO) located on the ground floor of Reading Hospital's School of Health Sciences.

**Tuition:** Approximately 30 days prior to each semester, all students will receive an electronic notice to their school email account letting them know that their account has been updated with their current academic charges.

**Payments:** Students are expected to pay their tuition bills in full or sign-up for the RHSHS Payment Plan Option (PPO) one week prior to the start of each new semester. Students can make their tuition payments at the SAO, online via their WebConnect account or by mail. The school accepts personal checks, money orders, cash, and all major credit/debit cards.

Checks and money orders should be made payable to RHSHS and mailed to:  
RHSHS  
Student Accounts Office  
P.O. Box 16052  
Reading, PA 19612-6052

More information regarding billing and payments can be found at [reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/financial-information/student-accounts/](http://reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/financial-information/student-accounts/).

*Financial Disclosure: By registering for a course, or multiple courses, a student accepts responsibility for all charges associated with the enrolled semester, regardless of payment method. Financial obligations may include, but are not limited to, tuition, fees, housing, library materials or fines, and unpaid room damage charges.*

## Financial Aid

### FEDERAL FAFSA CODE: 014104

The Financial Aid Office is designed to assist students in understanding financial resources available for post-secondary education. Counseling and assistance are provided to help make it financially possible for admitted students to attend the program.

### Financial Aid Application Procedures

Instructions to apply for financial aid are included in the Admissions Packet sent to admitted students – look for it in the Financial Information section. To ensure full consideration for all types of financial aid, please be sure to complete each of the steps.

### Applying for Financial Aid

#### Step 1

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). We strongly advise you to apply no later than May 1 so that you do not miss any deadlines. You will need to reapply each year you are enrolled as a student. The FAFSA form can be completed online at <https://studentaid.gov> or you can download the MyStudentAid app to complete your FAFSA application.

#### Step 2

If a student chooses to borrow money under the Federal Direct Loan program, a Master Promissory Note (MPN), Entrance Counseling, and the Annual Student Loan Acknowledgement form must be completed on the <https://studentaid.gov> website.

#### Step 3

The Financial Aid Office will request any additional forms that may be needed to determine financial aid eligibility. Carefully review any communication you receive from the Financial Aid Office, the Federal Student Aid programs, or PHEAA, the state agency. Please be sure to contact the Financial Aid Office if you need any assistance or have any questions.

## Sources of Financial Aid May Include:

- Federal Pell Grant
- PA State Grant
- Employer Tuition Assistance
- Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
- Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal Direct PLUS Loan
- Veterans Funding

## Return of Title IV Funds

If a student receiving financial aid from Federal Title IV funds withdraws or is terminated from the program, any refund due must be made to the organization providing the aid according to applicable governmental regulations before any refund can be made to the student. The refund policy is in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 668.22, code of Federal Regulations, which determine the amount of federal aid that has been earned and how much aid must be returned to any Title IV program.

The order of repayment of Title IV funds is:

- (1) Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan
- (2) Federal Direct Subsidized Loan
- (3) Federal Direct PLUS Loan
- (4) Federal Pell Grant
- (5) Other Title IV programs

If you have questions about Title IV program funds, you may contact the Financial Aid Office at 484-628-0105 or 484-628-0106.

# STUDENT SERVICES

## Orientation Program

All new students are required to attend new student orientation. Orientation for all new students will be held at the end of August, prior to the start of class.

## Residence Life Program

The Delta Apartments are located about one mile from the hospital campus. Resident students commute to and from campus via the free hospital shuttle bus. If residing in the Delta Apartments, students will be expected to abide by all the rules and regulations of the Residence Life Program.

The Residence Life Program has a diverse set of standards that are meant to meet the needs of the residents and to enhance each student's academic and resident life experiences. It is each student's responsibility to respect the rights of all resident community members regardless of backgrounds, beliefs, values, and attitudes.

## Advisement Program

Upon enrolling in the Nursing Program, students are assigned an advisor who is a member of the faculty. Students will meet their advisor during orientation. The advisor monitors each student's progress and facilitates the achievement of the student's success through referral for supportive services. Advisors provide students with resources to enhance academic, professional, and personal growth. Students are encouraged to seek assistance from the advisor on a regular basis.

## Tutor Program

The Tutor Program is designed to assist those students who may be facing academic challenges while enrolled. When available, peer tutors can help other students study and prepare for tests.

## Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program is a professional program that can provide confidential assessment, counseling, and referral services to enrolled students.

## Americans With Disabilities Act

The School of Health Sciences is committed to providing equal access for individuals with disabilities to the school and hospital community. The school's Nursing Program makes every effort to accommodate applicants/students with

disabilities. Any applicant with a documented disability can request special accommodations by notifying the Nursing Program in writing at the time of acceptance into the program.

## **Food Service**

Students can take advantage of the hospital's debit food card (Badger Program) and the vendor "Subway" located in the school lounge.

## **Transportation**

Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from assigned educational experiences. Local bus service is available. The school does not assume liability for any events related to transportation.

## **Student Activities**

The Nursing Program seeks to provide a variety of social and recreational activities to enhance the personal growth of the student. Students participate in leadership roles and in planning activities such as picnics, seasonal parties, and organizational functions. A Student Government Association exists to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership skills and to facilitate communication between the student and the program.

The National Student Nurse Association is an organization that allows students to network with other students and nursing professionals. Students become members of the organization upon enrollment in the program.

The Nurses Christian Fellowship provides for the spiritual guidance of students. All students are welcome.

The campus is within walking distance of Penn Avenue where students can visit local art galleries, coffee shops, and quaint novelty shops.

Students are invited to take part in the university college vendor's cultural and recreational activities as well.

## **Student Employment**

For students who seek employment, part-time jobs are available within Tower Health and in the community. Students who participate in employment are expected to meet the requirements of the Nursing Program and its scheduled activities.

# FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

**The Nursing Program** is located on the campus of Reading Hospital. Facilities include classrooms, science laboratories, computer resource room, nursing simulation laboratory, and faculty and administrative offices. Students have access to the hospital's library.

**The Clinical Laboratory** is designed to complement classroom instruction. Reading Hospital offers outstanding clinical laboratory facilities. Serving as a regional center for the care of patients in numerous subspecialties, the hospital provides excellent clinical experiences for the student. In addition, the student is involved in community settings that provide observational experiences throughout various courses of the curriculum. Throughout the program, qualified nursing instructors plan and supervise the student in clinical experiences.

**The Nursing Simulation Laboratory** provides the student with a simulated clinical setting in which to practice nursing skills and procedures. This setting enables the student to become proficient in basic to advanced skills through the use of state-of-the-art equipment, clinical simulation, interactive learning, and instruction by experienced staff. This non-threatening simulated learning environment reinforces classroom learning and helps to prepare students for clinical patient care assignments. The lab is available to students during day and evening hours.

**The Computer Resource Room** provides computer-assisted instruction which helps the student to learn and apply nursing theory in an interactive learning medium. The student can learn at a self-directed pace and can practice problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making in a non-threatening environment.

**The Library** is located in B-Building of Reading Hospital. The student can utilize the library to complete research projects, study, access internet and email, and read various professional journals associated with nursing, medicine, and other allied health subjects. The student may also choose to utilize the university college vendor resources.

**The Fitness Center** is open to all employees and students at no charge. It is conveniently located adjacent to G-Building.

**The Delta Apartments** are located within a mile of the hospital campus.

**The Student Lounge and Study Rooms** are available to students. The lounge is located on the ground level and is available for use seven days a week.

**Parking** is limited on the school campus. The majority of students will be assigned parking at an off-site location and utilize the hospital shuttle service.



# ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF

**Reading Hospital School Of Health Sciences Nursing Program** is composed of experienced practitioners dedicated to both the teaching and nursing professions. Courses are academically stimulating and challenging, as instructors constantly introduce students to the numerous changes in nursing and healthcare.

The faculty and staff are committed to helping students assess their abilities, meet their educational needs and plan for their futures. The supportive environment encourages students to grow professionally and personally.

## **Administrative Officers**

Debbie J. Rahn, *EdD, MSN, RN, FABC*, Director, Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences

Lori Beard, *MSN, RN*, Director, Nursing Program

## **Curriculum Coordinator**

Sherry Murphy, *MSN, RN, CNE*, Curriculum Coordinator

## **Simulation Coordinator**

Robin Cavallo, *MSN, RN, CNE*

## **Teaching Faculty**

Allison Bossler, *MSN, RN*

Marcia Cook-Love, *MSN, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FNP, CNE*

Megan Dietrich, *MSN, RN, CNOR*

Heather Endy, *DNP, MSN, RN*

Shelly Farmer, *MSN, RN, CCRN*

Caroline Fell, *MSN, RN*

Sharon Gambler, *MSN, RN*

April Gerhart, *MSN, RN*

Marlene Hansley, *MSN, RN*

Letitia McCrae, *MSN, RN*

## **Teaching Faculty** *(cont.)*

Cheryl Moody, *MSN, RN, CCRN-K*

Robert Rice, *MSN, RN, CNE*

Cynthia Roeder, *MSN, RN*

Cynthia Schupp, *MSN, RN*

Diane Small, *MSN, RN, CNE*

Lisa Sturdevant, *BSN, RN, (Faculty Assistant)*

Kellylynn Wanner, *DNP, MSN, RN*

## **Staff**

Melanie Anderson, *BA, Admissions Officer*

Robin Hall, *MBA, Director of Financial Aid and Budget*

Christine Hydock, *Secretary*

Cathy James, *Secretary*

Carolyn Konas, *M.Ed., Enrollment Director*

Heather Phillips, *AA, Coordinator of Student Services*

Linda Ross, *BA, Financial Aid Advisor*

Rory Quinter, *MCSE, Clinical Systems Analyst*

Jackie Strenkoski, *BA, Receptionist*

Steve Swan, *Student Accounts*

Nancy Wunderly, *M.Ed., Registrar*

# CONSUMER INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

**Federal Regulations** stipulate that prospective or current students have the opportunity to access various types of consumer information. To comply with these regulations, the following information is provided based on the most recent graduate follow-up statistics.

## School Information and Policies

To access our current information and policies please go to [reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/school-policies/](http://reading.towerhealth.org/health-sciences/school-policies/).

## Program Completion Rate

Class of 2021: 47 percent on-time program completion rate.

## Retention Rate

Class of 2021: 60 percent.

## NCLEX-RN Success Rate

Graduates from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021: 84.38 percent.

## Job Placement Rate

Class of 2020: 97 percent.

## Substance Abuse

Our policy states that no employee or student shall possess any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance (illicit drugs) on hospital property, school property, in the residence hall or as any part of any school activity, whether for personal consumption or distribution to any other person. Any infraction of this policy constitutes grounds for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students and immediate dismissal for employees, as well as referral for prosecution, where appropriate.

## **Campus Security**

It is the intent of Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences to provide a healthful, safe and secure environment for all patients, students, employees, and guests. It is the responsibility of the hospital's security staff to safeguard all parties mentioned above as well as hospital and school property, including the residence program offered at the Delta Apartments.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the Campus Crime Report, please contact the Office of Admissions. This report is published annually, and includes information about substance abuse and campus security policies, procedures, practices, and statistics.

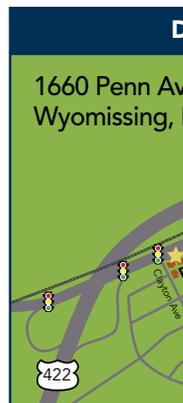
## **Family Educational Rights And Family Act Of 1974**

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences maintains student education records on a confidential basis in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

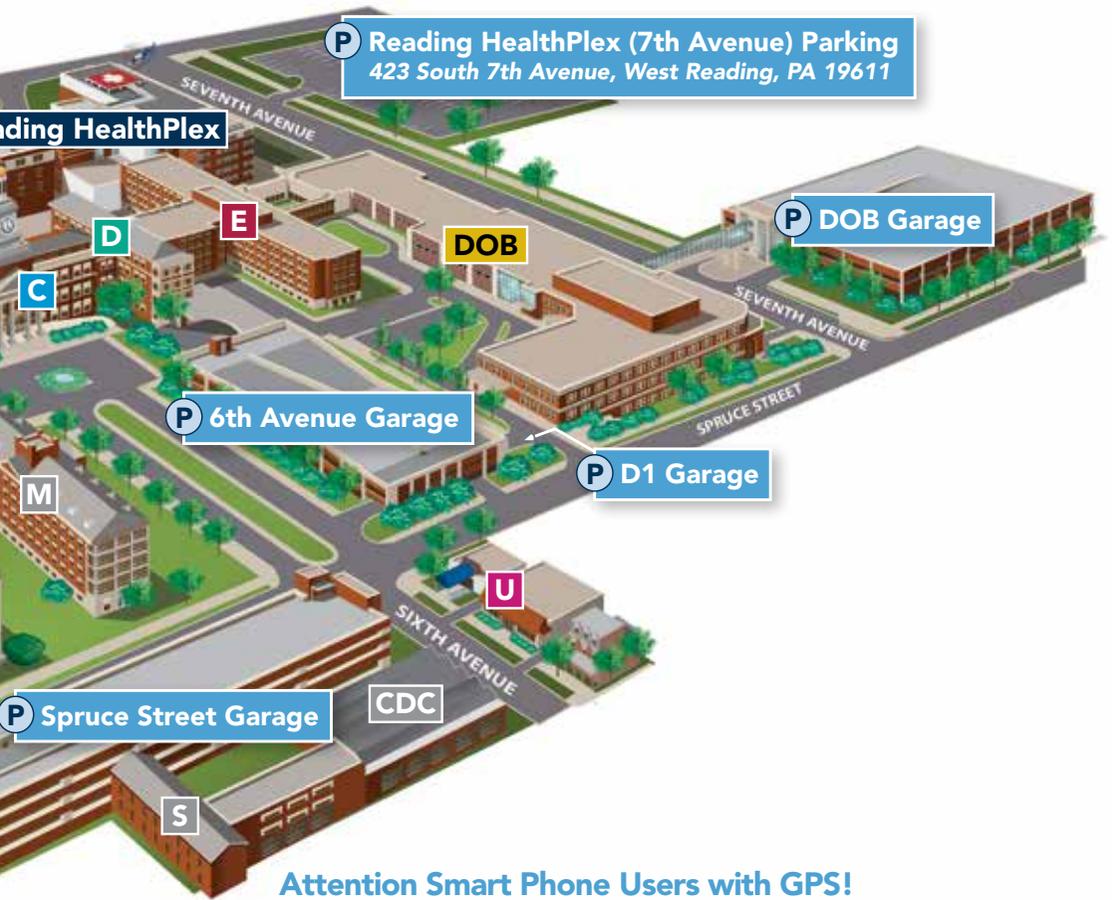


### Other Buildings

- CDC** Child Development Center
- G** G-Building  
Photo ID Badges
- I** I-Building
- L** L-Building
- M** M-Building
- S** S-Building



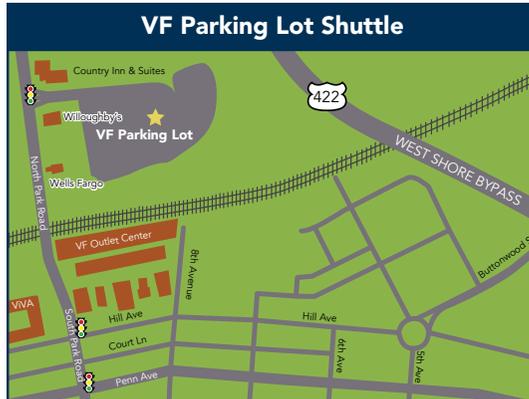
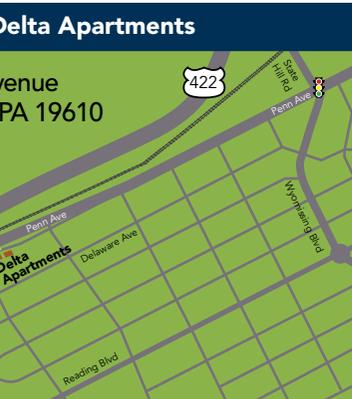
# CAMPUS MAP



## Attention Smart Phone Users with GPS!

When looking for directions to the School of Health Sciences, it is recommended that you enter the following information into your GPS app:

**601 Museum Road, Wyomissing, PA 19611**





Reading Hospital  
School of Health Sciences

---

READING HOSPITAL

Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.

484-628-0100

[RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org](http://RHSchoolofHealthSciences.org)