Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences offers a Registered Nurse diploma program that builds on 129 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, 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 Program 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)
3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, GA 30326
404-975-5000 | www.acenursing.org

Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
PO Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105
717-783-7142

The Nursing Program has been placed on Provisional Approval Status by the Pennsylvania State Board. A change from Full Approval Status to Provisional Approval Status by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing does not change our program’s accreditation status with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). For complete details regarding provisional status, please refer to page 35, Consumer Information.

The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing welcomes comments from interested individuals from the nursing community, students, and graduates as well as the public-at-large. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing provides information on program type and accreditation of nursing programs.

If you believe the practice or the service provided by the Program to be unethical, immoral, below an acceptable standard of practice or out of the scope of the profession, you are urged to file a Statement of Complaint Form with the Pennsylvania Department of State at http://www.doscomplaintform.state.pa.us.

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.
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 men and women 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 ladies 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 five 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.

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 eager 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:
- Discover Nursing Program
- Program Discovery Events
- Shadow Program

To learn more about the program, please log on to: reading.towerhealth.org/sohs or call us at 484-628-0100.
PHILOSOPHY

THE NURSING FACULTY BELIEVES THAT:

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 through the use of the nursing process. Nurses lead and manage collaborative efforts within the inter-professional 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 and 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. 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 strives 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.

NURSING EDUCATION UNIT OUTCOMES

THE NURSING PROGRAM at Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences prepares its graduates to:

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

Complete Credit Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Nursing credits - Dual Enrollment level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Liberal Arts Core credits - Dual Enrollment level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Nursing credits – BSN level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Liberal Arts Core credits – BSN level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

- 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.
- You 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 Two**
(100 Level Nursing Courses)

At the completion of Year 2 the student will be able to:

1. Combine principles from nursing, physical, biological and behavioral sciences to meet the needs of individuals.

2. Utilize critical thinking skills when using the nursing process in meeting the holistic needs of individuals.

3. Utilize teaching/learning principles in educating individuals and significant others to maintain or attain their optimal level of health on the continuum.

4. Apply the principles of communication effectively when interacting with the patient, significant others and the transdisciplinary healthcare team.

5. Function as a member of the transdisciplinary healthcare team in meeting the needs of individuals and significant others.

6. Recognize the impact of community aspects on the health of individuals.

7. Describe the social, political, technological and economic trends that impact on nursing and the healthcare system.

8. Demonstrate a value system based on ethical and legal implications when practicing nursing in the healthcare system.

**Year Three (Curriculum Objectives)**
(200 Level Nursing Courses)

At the completion of Year 3 the student will be able to:

1. Integrate principles from nursing, physical, biological and behavioral sciences to provide comprehensive healthcare for individuals.

2. Incorporate critical thinking skills when using the nursing process in the delivery of comprehensive holistic nursing care for individuals.

3. 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.

4. Utilize therapeutic communication techniques in interactions with the patient, significant others, the transdisciplinary healthcare team, groups and the community.

5. Establish a collaborative relationship with members of the transdisciplinary healthcare team in the provision of comprehensive healthcare to individuals or groups.

6. Incorporate community aspects in the provision of holistic healthcare for individuals and groups.

7. Analyze the social, political, technological and economic trends that impact on nursing and the healthcare system.

8. 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% 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.
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<tr>
<th>SEMESTER</th>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FALL</td>
<td>BIO 107</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BIO 117</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I Lab</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PSY 101</td>
<td>Introductory Psychology</td>
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<td>COM 101</td>
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<td>THE 210</td>
<td>Medical Moral Theory</td>
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<td>BIO 220</td>
<td>Clinical Microbiology</td>
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<td>PSY 208</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
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<td>PHI 105</td>
<td>Intro to Philosophy</td>
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<td>NUR 101</td>
<td>Professional Nursing Communication</td>
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<td>BIO 410</td>
<td>Pathophysiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPRING</td>
<td>NUR 102</td>
<td>Family/Individual Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BIO 216</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CREDITS</td>
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<td>NUR 200</td>
<td>Acute Care/Complex Nursing</td>
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<td>LAE1:COM 213</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>Music and Health</td>
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<td>MAT 208</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
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<td>NUR 411</td>
<td>Leadership and Management</td>
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<td>NUR 419</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
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<td>NUR 4XX**</td>
<td>Franciscan related Capstone</td>
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| PROGRAM TOTAL | | 123 |

**Course must be developed.**

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 107</td>
<td>ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>COREQUISITE: BIO 117</td>
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<td>3 CREDITS</td>
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| BIO 108 | ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II |
| | 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. |
| | COREQUISITE: BIO 118 |
| | 3 CREDITS |

| BIO 117 | HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB I |
| | 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. |
| | COREQUISITE: BIO 118 |
| | 1 CREDIT |

| BIO 118 | HUMAN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB II |
| | 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. |
| | COREQUISITE: BIO 107 |
| | 1 CREDIT |

| BIO 216 | NUTRITION |
| | Overview of nutritional requirements of individuals in the healthful state as well as modification of those requirements during illness. |
| | PREREQUISITES: BIO 107/117, BIO 108/118, or permission of instructor. |
| | 3 CREDITS |

| BIO 220 | CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY |
| | 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. |
| | 4 CREDITS |
BIO 410 | PATHOPHYSIOLOGY
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.
3 CREDITS

COM 101 | COMPOSITION AND RESEARCH
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.
3 CREDITS

COM 213 | INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
An introductory survey of basic theories, models and practices of interpersonal communication. Students learn interpersonal communication principles, sharpen awareness of own and others' personal communication habits and ultimately improve interpersonal communication skills.
3 CREDITS

MUS 220 | MUSIC AND HEALTH
Basic music course in the theories and techniques of music as an agent of wellness. Explores music therapy, recent research and healing practices of non-Western cultures as they relate to music. Especially recommended for students planning a career in healthcare or human services. No prerequisites, no prior musical experience or performance required.
3 CREDITS

PHI 105 | INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Historical introduction to fundamental problems and methods of philosophy based on readings in ancient, medieval and modern literature.
3 CREDITS

PSY 101 | INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY
Introduction to major concepts and findings in psychology with emphasis on basic processes underlying human behavior.
3 CREDITS

PSY 208 | HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN
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.
PREREQUISITE: PSY 101
3 CREDITS

THE 210 | MEDICAL MORAL THEOLOGY
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.
3 CREDITS
**DUALLY ENROLLED STUDENTS:** THE 210 satisfies a Medical Ethics requirement for the Nursing diploma of completion and also satisfies the Philosophy/Theology requirement for the Alvernia University Associate of Science degree. Students may elect (prior to enrollment in the program) to take an equivalent Medical Ethics course in place of THE 210 which will satisfy both the program requirement and the AU 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.

NRS 100 | FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING CARE
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
12 NURSING CREDITS/140 HOURS CLASSROOM THEORY/300 CLINICAL HOURS

NRS 101 | PROFESSIONAL NURSING COMMUNICATION
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
2 NURSING CREDITS/40 HOURS CLASSROOM THEORY/0 CLINICAL HOURS
NRS 102 | FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL NURSING
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 | PSY 101 | PSY 208
12 NURSING CREDITS/140 HOURS CLASSROOM THEORY/300 CLINICAL HOURS

NRS 200 | ACUTE CARE/COMPLEX NURSING
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
12 NURSING CREDITS/140 HOURS CLASSROOM THEORY/300 CLINICAL HOURS

NRS 201 | NURSING LEADERSHIP/CRITICAL CARE
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 216 | BIO 220 | BIO 410 | PSY 101 | PSY 208
12 NURSING CREDITS/120 HOURS CLASSROOM THEORY/360 CLINICAL HOURS

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% or greater score in the overall test percentage (“decision score”) and 70% 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% 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.

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.
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK/CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Nursing Program requires all students to have a Criminal Background Check, Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance and a FBI fingerprint check on file at the School prior to practicing in any healthcare facility.

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.

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 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.

Please note: A formal interview step is being proposed as part of the fall 2018 admission process. Interviews will be offered in early spring semester and will conclude when the class is filled. Additional information will be communicated to applicants at a later date.

A | GENERAL ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

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 matriculation. 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 reference forms 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 Admissions Office in writing at the time of application.

3 | PRE ADMISSION INFORMATION

All materials that are submitted to the Admissions Office 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 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 certification, if applicable
- Essay, if applicable
- Aptitude test scores, as required.
- Two references, as required.

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.
- Paper-based score of 560 or internet-based score of 83.
C | PREADMISSION TESTING

At the discretion of the individual Program, preadmission testing may be required to assess an individual’s skills in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English and Language Usage.

The School administers the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) by Assessment Technologies, Inc. The applicant’s individual scores may be used as part of the admission criteria to assess the student’s academic foundation. The student’s individual score will be compared with Assessment Technologies Institute’s normative data, as well as statistical data gathered from previous student cohorts accepted into Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences academic Programs. Each academic Program will determine Program-specific benchmarks on an annual basis.

Those individuals selected for preadmission testing will be contacted by Admissions. There is a fee for preadmission testing. Re-tests may be granted to applicants. Test scores are valid for two years, with the highest score used in the admission decision process.

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. The deadline for completed applications is February 1 for August enrollment. 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 coursework is required for all applicants and candidates for matriculation. Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or greater in high school or post-secondary coursework. Applicants must meet all minimum requirements and submit all official transcripts, including postsecondary transcripts, prior to August enrollment.

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.

PREADMISSION TESTING

All qualified applicants must complete a preadmission examination. Preadmission testing will begin in the fall and conclude when the cohorts are filled. Nursing applicants will be permitted to re-test one time only.

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:

- One page
- The reasons why you want to become a nurse
- Characteristics that you possess that would contribute to success in the program

INTERVIEW

A formal interview will be required as part of the admission process. The Admissions Recruitment Committee will be arranging interview sessions for applicants who have met the minimum qualifications for admission. Once the interview schedule has been approved, the qualified candidates will be notified in writing by the admissions office. Additional information will be sent out at the time of the interview.

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 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.

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 Admissions Office. 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. The following enrollment fee is considered non-refundable and is due two weeks from the date of acceptance letter:

- 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.
- Maintaining the applicant’s high school or post-secondary GPA at or above 2.5 for the remainder of the current educational experience. A minimum GPA of 2.5 is required of all candidates for matriculation.
- Completed and approved Criminal Record Check and FBI Fingerprint.
- Completed and approved Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance.
- 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 fail to meet all these requirements by specified deadlines will have their admission offer revoked.

DEFERMENT

At the discretion of the individual Program, applicants may be granted a one-year deferment on their application and fee. Deferment is granted one time only. At the discretion of the individual Program, candidates extended offers of acceptance may be granted a one-year deferment on their original admission date. Deferment is granted one time only.

WAIT LIST

At the discretion of the individual Program, 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 offered admission, these applicants must meet the post-acceptance requirements outlined above.

CANCELLATION

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

READMISSION

Readmission allows qualified former students an opportunity to re-enter the Nursing Program. Decisions will be based on prior performance, admission changes since prior enrollment, and space availability. 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 Admissions at 484-628-0100.

All former students reapplying to the School’s Nursing Program must have financial clearance before the application is considered for readmission.
TRANSFER CREDIT CONSIDERATION

PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Nursing Program to evaluate and award credit for college level courses completed through a regionally accredited institution of higher education (as recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation), National League for Nursing program, College Board Advanced Placement (AP), and College Level Examination Program for transfer credit purposes. Decisions on advanced standing and placement will be based on classroom and clinical capacities.

PROCEDURE ADMISSION PROCESS
(prior to matriculation into the Program)

Official transcripts must be received from all educational programs previously attended. Course outlines and descriptions may also be required. Decisions regarding acceptable college coursework or challenge examinations will be at the discretion of the committee. It is strongly recommended that applicants seek guidance from the office of admissions before registering for courses (including online courses) at another institution.

Applicants offered advanced standing must be enrolled in the School curriculum the entire last year of the program (i.e., complete all year three nursing courses) and have satisfied all curriculum requirements to be eligible for graduation.

GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES

Applicants who have completed one or more general college level course with a grade of “C” or better at a regionally accredited institution of higher education, will be offered transfer credit if the courses are similar in length and content with courses provided by the Nursing Program. Transfer credit will be documented on the student’s permanent record.

Transfer credit decisions are made in accordance with this policy and will supersede all college vendor decisions that warrant credit.

- Biology courses taken more than five years before student enrolls in the Nursing Program will not be transferable. Please note: online Biology/Lab courses may not be transferable. Online courses may not meet the comparative rigors of our Biology/Lab courses.
- Mathematics for Nurses course taken more than two years before the student enrolls in the Nursing Program will not be transferable.
- English, Communications, Music, Philosophy, Psychology and Theology have no expiration.

NURSING COURSES

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 by the Curriculum Coordinator. Advanced placement for any nursing course is not a guarantee for those students with previous nursing course background.

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. 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.

CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS

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

Should there be extenuating circumstances (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 “Transfer/CLEP Credit Approval” form obtained from the Admissions Office and submit the completed form to the Admissions Office prior to registering for the course.
- The student must submit a course description if requested.
- The student must receive clearance from both 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 school registrar must receive the official transcript six weeks prior to the beginning of the semester in which the course is offered.

TUITION AND FEES

A current copy of the tuition and fee structure for the Nursing Program is located at reading.towerhealth.org/sohs/tuitionandfees

BILLING AND PAYMENT

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

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, by mail or by calling 484-628-0102. The school accepts personal checks, money orders, cash and all major credit/debit cards.

Checks or 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/sohs/billing

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

Financial aid packets and instructions to apply for aid will be automatically sent to admitted students. To assure full consideration for all forms of financial aid, complete each of the following steps. Please contact the office at 484-628-0106 for assistance.
COST AND EXPENSES

STEP 1
Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is available online. 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 www.fafsa.ed.gov.

STEP 2
The Financial Aid Office will request any additional forms that need to be completed.

STEP 3
Students who desire to borrow money under the Federal Direct Loan Program will need to complete the Direct Loan Master Promissory Note online at www.studentloans.gov. While eligibility for a student loan may be indicated on an award letter, securing those funds still requires the submission of a separate Master Promissory Note. The recommended filing date is prior to May 1 of the year you plan to enroll in the Program. Additionally, loan entrance counseling is required at www.studentloans.gov.

STEP 4
Carefully review any communication you receive from the Financial Aid Office, the Federal Student Aid Programs and your state agency. All requests for information should be forwarded to the appropriate department or agency, or call the Financial Aid Office for assistance.

SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID MAY INCLUDE:
- Federal Pell Grant
- PHEAA 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 programs 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 Stafford Loan
(2) Federal Direct Subsidized Stafford 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.

STUDENT SERVICES

ORIENTATION PROGRAM
All new students who have confirmed their orientation status through the Office of Admissions will be 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
Scholars Hall is located about one mile from the Hospital campus. Resident students commute to and from campus via the free Hospital shuttle bus. If residing in Scholars Hall, 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. Peer tutors are available to 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 of Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences 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 Nursing 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 Nursing 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.

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 of the Hospital at no charge. It is conveniently located adjacent to G-Building.

THE RESIDENCE HALL is located within a mile of the Hospital campus at the Inn at Reading. Shuttle bus service is provided for students to and from the campus.

THE STUDENT LOUNGE, STUDY ROOMS AND FOOD are available to students. The Student Lounge is located on the ground level of the School of Health Sciences.

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, CNE, FABC, Director, Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences
Deborah Williamson, MSN, RN, Director, Nursing Program

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR
Sherry Murphy, MSN, RN, CNE, Curriculum Coordinator

TEACHING FACULTY
Robin Cavallo, MSN, RN
Marcia Cook-Love, MSN, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FNP, CNE
Linda DeLong, MSN, RN, PMHCNS-BC
Susan T. Eisenhower, MSN, RN
Heather Endy, MSN, RN
Tasha Gallagher, MSN, RN, CPNP
April Gerhart, MSN, RN
Marlene Hansley, MSN, RN
Annette M. Karahuta, MSN, RN
Heather Keperling, MSN, RN
Letitia McCraw, MSN, RN
Cheryl Moody, MSN, RN, CCRN
Robert Rice, MSN, RN-BC
Cynthia Schupp, MSN, RN
Patricia Shaner-Christy, MSN, RN, CNE
Diane Small, MSN, RN
Kellylynn Wanner, MSN, RN

SIMULATION LABORATORY STAFF
Lori Beard, MSN, RN

STAFF
Melanie Anderson, BA, Admissions Officer
Robin Hall, MBA, Director of Financial Aid and Budgets
Christine Hydock, Secretary
Cathy James, Secretary
Carolyn Konas, MEd, Enrollment Director
Drea Llanos, Registrar
Heather Phillips, AA, Coordinator of Student Services
Linda Ross, BA, Financial Aid Advisor
Rory Quinter, MCSE, Clinical Systems Analyst
Jackie Strenkoski, BA, Receptionist
Erin Studer, BS, Enrollment Assistant
Steve Swan, Student Accounts

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/sohs/policies

PROGRAM COMPLETION RATE
CLASS OF 2016: 74 percent

RETENTION RATE
CLASS OF 2016: 64 percent

NCLEX-RN SUCCESS RATE
GRADUATES FROM OCT. 2016 - SEPT. 2017: 91.43 percent

Before you begin in our program, we need to provide you with some important information about a recent change in our approval status with the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing. The Nursing Program has been placed on Provisional Approval Status by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing as a result of not meeting the standard of a minimum pass rate of 80% on the National licensure examination of its first-time examinees during the October 1, 2015, through September 30, 2016, examination year. Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences-Nursing Program pass rate for the 2015-2016 examination year was 75%. This change in status was effective November 10, 2016. A change from Full Approval Status to Provisional Approval Status by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing does not change our program’s accreditation status with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

The Nursing Program is committed to continue its more than 129-year tradition of educating individuals for a career in the nursing profession. The success of our nursing students is our top priority. With that said, an action plan has been initiated to improve the first-time pass rate. We welcome any questions or concerns that you may have regarding the information. Please feel free to contact deborah.williamson@towerhealth.org.

EMPLOYMENT

Using the most recent survey data, 100 percent of graduates (2014) who sought employment were successful in securing nursing positions. Graduates and their employers over the past five years have reported satisfaction with the graduate’s preparation for the workplace.
CONSUMER INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Our policy states that no employee or student shall possess any alcoholic beverage or controlled substance (illicit drug) 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 through the Inn at Reading.

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.

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT DISCLOSURE

The Department of Education requires schools with Gainful Employment programs to disclose certain information about these programs. The link below provides information on cost, program completion rate and student debt related to our specific program at reading.towerhealth.org/academics/health-sciences/programs/nursing/gainful-employment-disclosure/

For more information on the school, program, and policies, please go to reading.towerhealth.org/sohs/policies

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.