FOOTHILLS NURSING CONSORTIUM
General Information

- The Foothills Nursing Consortium includes:
  
  Cleveland Community College  
  137 South Post Road  
  Shelby, NC 28150  
  (704) 669-4073  
  Cleveland County

  Isothermal Community College  
  Post Office Box 804  
  Spindale, NC 28160  
  (828) 395-1621  
  Rutherford and Polk Counties

  McDowell Technical Community College  
  54 College Drive  
  Marion, NC 28752  
  (828) 652-0611  
  McDowell County

- The Foothills Nursing Consortium (FNC), Associate Degree Nursing (AD Nursing) program is approved by the N.C. Community College System Office and the N.C. Board of Nursing.

- Characteristics of the AD Nursing program:
  a) prepares students to apply to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) which is required to practice as a registered nurse.

  b) program length is five sequential semesters

  c) is separate from the existing practical nurse programs in the above colleges.

- Isothermal Community College is the administrative unit and the central location of the three colleges.

- The commuting time to the administrative unit from the other two colleges is approximately thirty minutes or twenty miles. This means the greatest distance between the consortium colleges is approximately one hour or 50 miles.

- Nursing classes will be held on all three campuses at some period of time during the program.

- When possible, non-nursing courses will be scheduled on the campus of the student's county of residence.

- When possible, clinical experiences will be scheduled in or near the student's county of residence.
Please read the entire packet. If there are any questions, contact the Admissions Office at the college of application. Students are responsible for assuring current admission requirements have been met and that all materials have been received by the Admissions Office. The AD Nursing program enrollment is limited. Admission is a competitive process. Meeting minimum admission criteria does not guarantee an applicant an offer of admission. For example, the GPA and PSB score of those offered admission is considerably higher than the established minimum requirements.

Prospective nursing candidates residing in the four-county service area of Foothills Nursing Consortium should apply to the home college within the student’s service area. Other applicants may apply to the college of their convenience.

FNC does not use a waiting list. Therefore, applicant records must be updated annually. If a student has applied previously, the student must reinitiate the process including PSB-RN retesting.

There are essential functions for the AD Nursing program. If these are not attached to this admission packet, please request one from your Admissions Advisors/Counselor.

Admission Advisors/ Counselors can email as a form of communication with the applicant. The invitation to enter the Associate Degree Nursing program will be in the form of a US Postal letter.

A semester curriculum plan is in effect. Previous quarter courses will be considered for credit; however, courses must be evaluated for appropriate credit hours.

**Required Courses:** Students are encouraged to take these general/related (non-nursing) courses prior to entry into the nursing program. Completion of the related courses with a grade of “A” or “B” prior to applying can strengthen the chances of admission.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 168**</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 169**</td>
<td>Anatomy and Physiology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIO 275/BIO 175**</td>
<td>General Microbiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 111</td>
<td>Writing and Inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENG 112</td>
<td>Writing and Research in the Disciplines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 150</td>
<td>General Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 241</td>
<td>Developmental Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3 hours Humanities Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACA 115/ACA 122</td>
<td>Success and Study Skills</td>
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**BIO 111 General Biology is highly recommended prior to BIO 168, 169 and 175.

Completion of related courses will help prepare for, but not guarantee, admission into the program. *Psy 241 and ACA could be delayed until the first semester of the nursing program, if the student desires to be registered for 12 credit hours, “full-time” student status, the first semester of the AD Nursing program.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Step One (Completion of #1-9 of admission criteria), by deadline, January 21, 2015:

1. Complete and submit application for admission to appropriate college.

2. Provide official transcript of high school education and/or GED scores.

3. Submit an official transcript from all colleges, practical nursing programs or other nursing programs attended (course syllabi may be required).

4. GPA 2.5. To be eligible to sit for the PSB-RN, the student must either 1) hold a bachelor’s degree, or 2) have an overall calculated college GPA of 2.5. The GPA is based on a minimum of 12 hours of college credit calculated as follows:
   - Most recent college cumulative GPA if there is a minimum of 12 hours of college credits
   - If less than 12 credit hours of college is earned, then use the un-weighted high school GPA
   - If the applicant has a GED, then advise to take 12 college credits before applying
   - If there are multiple transcripts with courses taken in the same most recent time period then at least one transcript has a 2.5 cumulative GPA calculated using a minimum of 12 college credit hours

5. Attendance at an Allied Health/ Health Sciences Information Session

6. Submit three (3) references (not relatives or close friends) who have known you for at least 6 months. Example: registered nurses, teachers, employers, supervisors, guidance counselors. References must be no more than one year old at the time of the general admission requirement deadline. Admission Advisors/Counselor may ask applicants to replace one reference that is less than recommend or any references of a type not listed as preferred. References must be received by the admitting college in envelopes sealed by the reference persons on forms provided. In order to proceed to step two (2), the final three (3) references must be at or above the “recommend” level.

7. Placement tests will be administered by the college of application. It is the applicant’s responsibility to contact the college’s testing center and make arrangements for placement testing.

8. Successfully complete all developmental courses required as a result of placement tests.
   - Integrated Reading/Writing DRE 96 - 98 or ENG 85/95
   - Developmental Math/Algebra DMA 10 – 50 or Math 60 and Math 70

9. Prerequisite courses: Students must either have (1) completed a high school unit, (courses), in biology and chemistry with a grade of “B” or above or (2) completed courses in biology, and chemistry in college with a grade of “C” or above. Additionally, applicants must have Introductory Algebra DMA 010-050 or Math 70 or satisfactory placement test scores. Prerequisite courses are not accepted from the Adult High School Diploma Program unless the student is a graduate of the program.
Students who have completed college level Anatomy & Physiology with a grade of "C" or above can be exempt from the prerequisite biology course. However, students are encouraged to take Biology 111.

**Consortium College Pre-requisite Courses**

- Developmental Math/Algebra: DMA 010-050 or MAT 070 or satisfactory placement test score
- General Biology I: BIO 111
- Introduction to Chemistry: CHM 131/131A

Students completing Step 1 prior to deadline are eligible for Step 2. The **health form** is provided to applicants taking the PSB-RN admissions exam. Applicants are advised to begin working on the health form, but it will not be due until a student is accepted into the program. Minimally, a student should schedule an appointment with his/her health care provider within one week of acceptance letters & begin collection of immunization records. Students are advised to begin the process of health requirements e.g. PPd, hepatitis series, varicella titer or series, but evidence of these are not required until after acceptance (see step 4).

**SELECTION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

**Step Two (PSB-RN testing and follow-up):**

10. If notified by (USPS or email) by the Admissions Advisor/Counselor, eligible applicants report for the PSB-RN exam (FEE $20.00).
    **Minimum weighted score of 45 on the PSB-RN is required.**
    **Deadlines**
    February 12, 2015

In order to determine the PSB-RN scores and rankings, the FNC PSB-RN Score and Ranking Calculation Formula is applied to all tests by the admissions advisors/counselor. The PSB scores and rankings (including categorical scores), based on the formula, are sent to the Director. The Director then identifies the top 80 scorers by combining/merging the rankings and scores of the 3 colleges. The admissions advisors/counselor will use the Points Tally (Step 3) for these top (80) scorers.

11. Notifications will be by U.S. Postal Service or student email to the top 80 applicants (semi-finalists) eligible for a Program Group Information session.
    The applicants not eligible for Step 3 will be notified by Admission Advisors/Counselors.
    **Deadlines**
    February 25, 2015

12. Attend the **Program Group Information Session** as scheduled with the Admissions Advisors/Counselor, the AD Nursing Director and Assistant Director.
    **Deadlines**
    March 2-6, 2015
Step Three (Points tally/Rubric of Academic Credentials, High School and College Experiences):

13. **Final selection:** In order to be considered for admission, each student must meet the stated deadlines and admission requirements in step one and two. If these requirements are satisfied, then the applicant will be selected on the basis of earned points on a points tally sheet (or rubric). These points are determined by
   1) greater than and similar (above 75th) percentiles on the PSB graph,
   2) high school rank
   3) pre-requisite science grades
   4) overall college GPA
   5) completion of, and “As” or “Bs” in related courses (1st attempt within application period)
   6) PNE, bachelor, or master’s degrees.
Students who are non-completers (college courses from 4 or more colleges without completion of a program or degree) and those who have been unsuccessful in a previous nursing school are encouraged to demonstrate success by
   1) completing a program of study or degree (for example, a practical nursing program or
   2) maintaining a least a “B” in at least 12 hours of courses after program failure

14. Program Director and Assistant Director double check the points calculations and send top names to Admissions Advisors/Counselor. **March 12, 2015**
A standard letter of acceptance on college letterhead is generated. The Director signs and notifies each candidate via U.S. Postal Service of his/her provisional acceptance.

Program Begins August 2015

Step Four (Post acceptance/admission compliance:)

15. **Completed health form,** including immunizations and specific health screenings are due to the Admissions Advisor/Counselor. **April 17, 2014**
As part of the completed medical forms, the provider must indicate the applicant has “physical and emotional health” as specified in the essential functions that have been articulated for the AD Nursing program. Throughout the nursing program, students must be able to meet FNC’s essential functions of nursing, with or without, reasonable accommodations

16. Current listing on the North Carolina Nurse Aide I (NAI) Registry, without findings against the listing, is required for entry into the AD Nursing program. After January, 2014, the NAI program must be approved by North Carolina, thus having a clinical component.

17. Upon admission to a program with a clinical component, a criminal background check and/or drug testing will be required by the clinical site prior to participation in the clinical component. Students should be aware that their graduation progress will be limited by an inability to complete the clinical portion of the program at any clinical site. The cost of any background check will be the responsibility of the student.
18. Students admitted will be assessed a one-time program fee approximately $650.00 plus tax the first semester. The charge covers a prescriptive learning program to help prepare for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN).

19. Personal health insurance is the responsibility of the AD Nursing student. Neither the college of application nor the clinical agencies provide health coverage for the student.

20. All students must provide proof of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification by the program orientation day.

21. Students admitted to the AD Nursing program must attend the program orientation prior to the first day of class. Students will be notified of orientation dates.

22. Graduates of the AD Nursing program are eligible to apply to sit for the NCLEX-RN which is required to practice as a registered nurse.

QUESTIONS: Contact Tina Porter at 828 395-1621 (tporter@isothermal.edu)  
Shellie (Hamrick) Brooks at 704 669-4073 (hamricksn@clevelandcc.edu)  
Jane Wyatt at 828 652-0611 (janew@mcdowelltech.edu)