

Community College of Vermont Pre-Nursing Guide 2023

This guide was created to help students understand the pathway from CCV into nursing programs throughout Vermont. While you may be just starting out, we recommend that you read through this entire document as information in later sections will impact decisions early in your education at CCV.

Nursing: A Career with Opportunity

Perhaps no other health care career offers as much versatility and flexibility as nursing. Nurses are employed in diverse work settings from hospitals, ambulatory clinics, and long-term care facilities to schools, government agencies, and research entities. Nurses can choose from full-time, part-time, and per diem employment. In Vermont, nurses are in high demand and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. In addition, nursing provides a career pathway with opportunities for continued education, increasing levels of responsibility, and specialization for those who wish to pursue those options.

Things to Consider

Nursing is a rewarding and demanding career with high levels of personal and professional satisfaction. As you consider nursing, it's important to understand both the demands of nursing education programs and the demands of the profession. Strong writing skills in addition to familiarity with APA citation formats, as well as strong critical thinking and analytical skills will be of great benefit. Getting started on developing these skills, habits, and characteristics at CCV will prepare you for the rigors of a nursing program and a successful career.

Successful Nursing Students share the following habits:

- Work diligently to master science and math coursework.
- Devote ample time out of class to really learn (not just memorize) course material.
- Plan for emergencies so that they may attend all classes and student obligations (e.g., clinical prep time at the hospital).
- Communicate respectfully with faculty and peers as a full participant in your education.
- Be on time and prepared for classes.
- Take responsibility for knowing all program requirements, meeting requirements, and asking for clarification when needed.

Successful Nurses share the following characteristics:

- Communicative: clearly communicating information and expectations in a calm and respectful manner.
- Empathetic: able to feel compassion for the pain and suffering of others.
- Detail Oriented: attends to small details with an understanding that these are important.
- Emotionally Resilient: able to remain emotionally stable when dealing with both traumatic and exhilarating experiences.
- Respectful and Professional: follows protocols and remains respectful of patients, coworkers, and families always.
- Competent: dedicated and accountable for continued professional growth and development through life-long learning (e.g. further education, training, seminar attendance, etc.).
- Critical thinking: Nurses must be able to use good judgment and make decisions. Strong communication skills, analysis, and problem-solving skills will help you develop critical thinking.

These are a few of the more important characteristics; there are many more. As a nursing student, beginning to cultivate these characteristics throughout your schooling will serve you well.

Pathways to Vermont Nursing Programs

Admission to Vermont nursing programs is highly competitive. Successful completion of pre-nursing courses strengthens your application and saves time and money over the course of your nursing education. CCV's Allied Health Preparation certificate provides an excellent platform for completing pre-nursing coursework.

The following pathways will help you choose elective courses in your Allied Health Preparation certificate to meet the requirements of VT nursing programs:

Vermont State University:

VtSU Bachelor of Science in Nursing- available in Castleton and Bennington	
AHP Certificate Core Course	VtSU Equivalent
INT-1050 Dimensions of Self & Society	Gen Ed: World Views Frame
ENG-1061 English Composition	ENG-1061 English Composition
Math: Choose MAT-2021 Statistics*	MAT-1350 Statistics & Health*
BIO-2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	BIO-2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I*
BIO-2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II*	BIO-2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II*
AHP Certificate Electives	VtSU Equivalent
BIO-1030 Introduction to Nutrition*	BIO-1030 Introduction to Nutrition*
BIO-2120 Elements of Microbiology*	BIO-2125 Microbiology*
PSY-1010 Introduction to Psychology*	PSY 1012 Intro to Psychological Science*
PSY-1050 Human Growth & Development*	PSY-2070 Lifespan Developmental Psychology*
SOC-1010 Introduction to Sociology*	SOC-1010 Introduction to Sociology*

*Students must achieve a B- or better in these classes and have a minimum overall GPA of 2.8.

Additional courses that may be completed at CCV: CHE 1031, ENG 1070, 6 credits of Arts & Aesthetics general education. **Please note:** Students will be accepted into this program for a fall start term. Students take NUR 2100 at VtSU in their first fall semester and the BSN program will take a minimum of 3 years to complete.

VtSU PN-ADN-BSN Program available statewide	
AHP Certificate Core Course	VtSU Equivalent
INT-1050 Dimensions of Self & Society	Arts/Humanities Elective ²
ENG-1061 English Composition	ENG-1061 English Composition ²
Math: Choose MAT-1030 Applied Math Concepts	MAT-1040 Mathematics for Allied Health ²
BIO-2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	BIO-2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I ¹
BIO-2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	BIO-2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II ¹
AHP Certificate Electives	VtSU Equivalent
BIO-1030 Introduction to Nutrition	BIO-1030 Introduction to Nutrition ¹
BIO-2120 Elements of Microbiology	BIO-2120 Elements of Microbiology ²
PSY-1010 Introduction to Psychology	PSY-1010 Introduction to Psychology ²
PSY-1050 Human Growth & Development	PSY-2070 Lifespan Developmental Psychology ¹
SOC-1010 Introduction to Sociology <i>or</i> HUM-2020 Bioethics	SOC-1010 Introduction to Sociology ³ <i>or</i> HUM-2020 Bioethics ³

¹Courses apply to PN certificate. ²Courses apply to ADN. ³Courses apply to BSN.

Other Vermont Nursing Program Partners:

Norwich University Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
AHP Certificate Core Course	NU Equivalent
INT-1050 Dimensions of Self & Society	General Elective
ENG-1061 English Composition	EN 110 Writing & Inquiry I
Math: Choose MAT-2021 Statistics*	MA 232 Elementary Statistics
BIO-2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I *	BI 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO-2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II*	BI 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
AHP Certificate Electives	NU Equivalent
CHE-1020 Introductory Chemistry*	CH 101 Introduction to General Chemistry
ENG-1062 English Composition II	EN 111 Writing & Inquiry II
PSY-1010 Introduction to Psychology	PY 211 Introduction to Psychology
PSY-1050 Human Growth & Development	PY 220 Developmental Psychology
SOC-1010 Introduction to Sociology	SO 201 Introduction to Sociology

*Students must achieve a grade of C+ or higher and minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

Students who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field

There are a few opportunities in Vermont and certainly others outside the state that offer direct-entry programs into nursing for students who already hold a B.A. or B.S. in another field. These programs will require prerequisite coursework including several of the non-nursing courses listed above. Many students choose to take these prerequisites at CCV and then apply directly to a direct-entry BSN, MSN, or DNP degree.

For more information see the following Vermont programs:

[Norwich Accelerated BSN](#) (this program accepts students with associate or bachelor degrees in non-nursing fields)

[UVM Direct Entry MSN Clinical Nurse Leader program](#)

[UVM Direct Entry DNP program](#)

To learn more about the direct entry programs at UVM, contact [Loretta McManus](#)

Strengthening your Application

It's probably no surprise that your grades will be one of the most important criteria used in the evaluation of your application. Nursing programs in Vermont, and elsewhere, are extremely competitive with many more people applying than programs have capacity to enroll. While you might be tempted to think that the minimum grades posted on a program website will be "good enough", often programs are deciding between applicants with course grades and GPAs that far exceed their published minimums. That doesn't mean that only those with straight As and 4.0 GPAs get into nursing school, but it does mean that it is crucial to devote the time and energy necessary to do your very best in your preparatory coursework.

In addition, it's important to demonstrate that you can successfully complete the workload of a nursing program. This might be accomplished through taking multiple credits successfully in the same semester, or you may decide to demonstrate this through your ability to handle multiple responsibilities while successfully completing preparatory courses. Please know that any nursing program will be extremely demanding and will require you to devote significant time and energy to your classes, clinicals, and studies.

In addition to your coursework, there are several experiences that will be a benefit to you in your future nursing career and may strengthen your application and make you more competitive in the application process. Many nursing programs look favorably on those applicants who have demonstrated success in a health care field. For example, working as a licensed nursing assistant (LNA) is great preparation for a nursing program and demonstrates that you have a good sense of what it means to care for others. Similarly, working in a service occupation where you are dealing with many different customers can also be helpful.

When to Apply and What to Include?

Letters of recommendation should come from faculty who can attest to your academic ability. The best choices are your science faculty. It's important to cultivate relationships with faculty so that they speak to both your strengths as a student as well as to those habits and characteristics that demonstrate your aptitude for nursing. Additionally, letters of recommendation from supervisors can be helpful especially if you work in healthcare. Be sure to make use of CCV resources to help you write, proofread, and rewrite your application materials!

Application Timelines	
School	For Application Deadline and Requirements
Vermont State University	Vermont State University Nursing
Norwich University	Norwich University Nursing
University of Vermont	University of Vermont Nursing