

Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing

www.mrmcnursingschool.org

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions:

When are the admissions deadlines? When do classes start?

The Spring deadline is **October 1st**. Classes start the day after New Year's Day (Jan.)
The Fall deadline has been extended to **June 1st**. Classes start right after Labor Day (Sept.)

When will I know if I have been accepted?

The Admissions Committee is committed to giving each applicant an answer within 60 days of receipt of the applicant's entire application package (this includes all transcripts, essay, references, and results of the TEAS test.)

How do I get started?

Go to www.mrmcnursingschool.org. Read the application instructions and apply online. We will need the following from each applicant:

1. Online application
2. Transcripts from all colleges and highschools attended.
3. 3 references (on our form – forms can be downloaded from our admissions page.
4. Nursing Essay (instructions are on our web site)
5. \$50 application fee (payable by check, money order or via phone to our Bookkeeper 804-627-5324).
6. Results of our pre-admission test called the TEAS test (Test of Essential Academic Skills). You must pass the Math and Science portions of the TEAS test with a 60 or above. You will be contacted with various test date choices; if you are applying within 4 weeks of the application deadline, do not wait for a letter; please call our front desk to register at 627-5300.

If I have my Bachelor's degree and/or Master's, do you still need my high school transcript?

Yes, all applicants are required to provide their high school transcript (even if you have a Master's degree).

I have been out of school for 20 years. Do I still need to provide my high school transcript?

Yes. All applicants are required to provide us with their high school transcript. If one is not available because the School no longer operates, please contact Admissions at 627-5300.

What are the prerequisites for the program?

You must have **completed** at least high school Algebra, Biology and Chemistry with a grade of 'C' or better **prior to** the admission deadline in order to be considered for the program. Your overall grade point average must be at least 2.5 in order to be considered.

You must take the TEAS test and score a 60 or above on the Math and Science portions of the test in order to progress in the admissions process.

Unlike community colleges in our area, you do not have to complete the non-nursing classes prior to applying to our program. You will take the non-nursing classes in conjunction with the nursing classes.

Why do I need to have completed high school Algebra, Chemistry, and Biology?

Because those courses form a foundation for building on higher level Math and Science courses needed to succeed in the nursing classes.

What if I've been out of high school for 10 + years? Do I need to repeat the Algebra, Biology and Chemistry (the prerequisite) classes?

No. However, if you have been out of school for some time, it is very wise to take a college level class to refresh your study skills. If you complete a college-level course that equates to one of our general education requirements, you may not need to take that class again as our student. View our curriculum on-line to see what classes our students are required to take.

What if I am missing one of those classes?

You may take those classes at the area community college, or contact www.nursingabc.com and arrange to take a self-paced class on-line. Be sure the Biology and Chemistry include a LAB.

Questions about the TEAS:

What is the TEAS test?

The TEAS test is a 4 hour-long timed multiple-choice test that is similar to the SAT. There are 4 parts to the test consisting of Math, Science, Reading and English. It is difficult and applicants who study thoroughly will perform better on the test.

How do I know when to sign up for the TEAS test?

After you apply, and pay the \$50 application fee, you will receive a letter from admissions with the available test dates and phone number for signing up. If you are applying late in the process, within 4 weeks of the admissions deadline, please call our front desk to schedule the test at (804) 627-5300. You will need to have completed your on-line application and paid your \$50 application fee prior to registering for the TEAS.

How do I study for the TEAS test?

We strongly encourage students to purchase a TEAS study manual from the reception desk at the School for \$40 or order a manual online from the ATI website (www.atitesting.com). Students who spend significant time studying and also taking the on-line practice tests report higher scores.

I recently took the TEAS test at another school; can you use the results of that test so that I don't have to re-take the test?

We may consider the results if you have taken the TEAS test at another school and received a 60 or above on the Math and Science portions of the test. To be considered, the test must be no more than 1 year old. You may visit atitesting.com to request the transcript to be sent to us. There will be a \$20 fee.

I recently took the NET test. Can you use the results of that test instead of the TEAS test?

No. Our committee must see the results from the TEAS.

Where are the non-nursing classes taken?

Most students choose to take the general education (non-nursing) classes at J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College or a nearby community college, but if you prefer to take them at another college, you may do so. Be sure that the course descriptions match and the college is fully accredited.

Will the non-nursing classes that I took at another college transfer?

The math and science courses must be no more than 5 years old in order to be eligible for transfer credit. There is no time limit for the **prerequisites** (In other words, the 5 year rule does not pertain to the prerequisites of Algebra, Biology and Chemistry).

You must receive a grade of 'C' or better in order for the classes to transfer. NOTE: the class must have the same course description as noted on our website. Our Registrar will make the final and official determination about transfer credit.

Which of the classes that I have taken will transfer?

Compare the course description of the class that you have taken to our course description at our website. If the course descriptions match and you received a grade of 'C' or better, the class should transfer (if the class was taken at an accredited college.) If you would like us to consider giving transfer credit to any college level Math or Science classes, they must be no older than 5 years old at the time you apply.

The final decision regarding awarding transfer credit is that of our Registrar. The Registrar reviews transcripts after the applicant has applied online, paid the \$50 application fee and sent in all transcripts.

If I already have a bachelor's or master's degree, do I receive any additional consideration? Do I still need to take the same classes as any other student? How about the TEAS test, am I required to take that?

The achievement of a college degree or master's degree is a great accomplishment and viewed very favorably by the Admissions committee. And those students may be eligible for transfer credits. However, the length of the program will still be 30 months, because the nursing courses must be taken sequentially. (Nursing 100, then Nursing 101, etc.) A student who already has a 4 year degree or Master's degree may have a lighter courseload than a student who still must complete their general education requirements along with the Nursing classes.

The TEAS test is an admission requirement of every student.

I am an LPN, Army Medic or other healthcare professional. Do you have a "bridge" program to allow me to complete the RN faster?

Only LPNs or those with comparable military training who have **5+ years of acute care experience** will be eligible to take a test to exempt him/her from the lower level introductory nursing courses. Our experience has taught us that the lower level nursing classes provide a necessary foundation for the rigorous upper level nursing classes and every student's success is our primary objective. We do not currently offer an LPN to RN "bridge" program.

What is the tuition?

\$150 per credit hour. The entire program cost is approximately \$22,000. Students who take fewer classes because they have received significant credit for transfer courses will have a lower cost.

Do you have financial aid assistance?

Yes. You will need to complete the FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) to determine your eligibility for federal financial aid. All Title IV programs including the Pell Grant, Stafford Loan and Federal Work Study programs are available. After completing one semester, applications may be submitted for need-based or merit scholarships. Once you have applied for admission, you may explore these options with our financial aid staff.

Do you have an evening program?

If you apply in the Fall, there is an evening/weekend scheduling option. The curriculum for starting in the Spring is only for day hours. Both options are full-time nursing school choices. Students do not have the option of attending part-time nor do we offer an accelerated program.

What are the hours of the evening program?

Depending on your schedule, you could be in class/clinical anywhere from 5:00 pm until 10:00 pm, 2-4 evenings per week and every other Saturday.

Are there clinicals in the evening?

Yes, the evening scheduling option provides clinicals in the evening and every other Saturday.

What are the hours for a day student?

A day student could start as early as 6:30 am for clinicals. Lecture hours usually start at 8:00 am. If you are in an early clinical, you will probably end around 1:30 or 2:00. Lectures may last until 2:30 or 3:00.

Where are the clinicals held?

Clinicals may take place in any of our award-winning Bon Secours hospitals (Memorial Regional Medical Center, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Francis Medical Center, and Richmond Community Hospital). Some clinicals may be held at MCV, in private medical practices, schools or community health settings as well. Our goal is to ensure high-quality clinical experiences to our students in a variety of settings.

The website states that Admissions may accept applications after the deadline. It is after the deadline. Will my application still be considered?

Demand for our program has been extremely high in 2009-2010, so it is very doubtful applicants will be considered after the deadline. Ideally, an applicant will begin the admission process several months **prior** to the admission deadline to allow plenty of time to take (and re-take if necessary) our TEAS test, and have time for all application materials to arrive to us prior to the deadline.

Will I have an interview?

We no longer interview each applicant.

What if an applicant has been out of high school for 10 years? Do they need to repeat the Algebra, Biology and Chemistry (the prerequisite) classes?

No.

What if applicant is missing one of those classes?

You may take them at the area community college, or contact www.nursingabc.com and arrange to take a self-paced class on-line. Be sure the Biology and Chemistry include a LAB.

If I am a Bon Secours employee, will I be eligible for a discount?

Employees and immediate family members are eligible for a discount. Immediate family members would include your spouse, child/grandchild, parent, grandparent, spouse's parent, legal guardian, sister/brother, or step-parent of an employee.

I need to work full-time while attending Nursing School. Will that work?

We do have students who successfully work and attend school full-time, but it is not the ideal situation. The nursing program at Bon Secours Memorial School of Nursing is a full-time one, whether the student chooses the day or evening/weekend schedule.

However, if there is no other option, we recommend students gain the support of their employer, because they may need to change their schedules, request time off, etc. to

meet school obligations. Family support, excellent study skills and superb organizational skills will also enhance a student's chance of success.

We encourage students to be realistic about what they will and will not be able to do, given the amount of time needed to devote to studying, attending classes and clinicals. Working students may have to temporarily postpone some leisure-time activities and obtain help with childcare or school activities, etc.

Remember to visit www.mrmcnursingschool.org for the latest information and updated admissions deadlines.

Information Subject to Change.