

Frequently Asked Questions for Potential Applicants Basic BSN

Please continue to scan the LCSC nursing website for application information, applications, and information on the classes required by our program (Curriculum Plan). Below are the answers to some commonly asked questions. Please look through it to find answers to your questions.

If your question was not addressed through any of these means, please contact a nursing advisor to assist you with nursing program questions. Contact can be made through the Advising Office.

Do you have an “Accelerated Program”? Do you have a program for previously degreed students?

We do not have a program that is labeled “Accelerated” as of 2008. Our basic program length is 4 semesters, however, so is compact and completed within 2 academic years.

We accept previously degreed students into our program; they follow the basic BSN plan. Advisors work with these students to challenge any coursework that was completed in other ways. This plan needs to meet course challenge criteria, however.

How difficult is it to be accepted into your nursing program?

This is a difficult question to answer. In 2008 we have expanded our program to admit students twice a year (October and February). This increases the opportunity for students to successfully apply and be accepted.

How can I improve my chances of being accepted?

Our admission selection criteria includes GPA, experience in a health related field, past degrees attained and an essay. These are areas to focus on for admission. Your GPA in the science courses is especially important. Remember that a grade less than a “C” (73%) is not acceptable for admission. Research shows that these course grades correlate closely with success in nursing programs.

My GPA is low due to poor focus in my early college years. Does this old GPA need to be considered in admission? My grades are very good now.

The answer is that GPA is GPA and all courses must be considered and meet admission criteria. There are ways in some cases to improve the GPA. Please talk with an advisor.

It is recommended that you explain your circumstances in a cover letter with your application. In that letter cover the reasons for your past grades. Include a discussion for what changes you have made since that time so that you will be successful in the nursing program.

Where can I get my nursing assistant certification?

LCSC’s Workforce Training (www.lcsc.edu/wft) has classes that are offered throughout the year.

Often your local healthcare agencies also offer training. Some long term care agencies offer training as part of your agreement to work for them.

What is your NCLEX pass rate?

For graduates from the 2007 graduating class, the NCLEX pass rate for first time test takers was 96%. National average is 88%.

I am an international student. Can I apply to your program?

Of course! However, the requirements for foreign students entering US colleges are sometimes difficult to meet.

Foreign students are required to take a test of language competency called the TOEFL. The nursing program requires a minimum score of 540/207/76 in order to be considered for the BSN program.

If you have taken college or university courses in a country other than the United States, the courses have to be carefully evaluated for transfer to our college.

I will transfer from another college/university. What steps should I take?

Please go to the Registrar's webpage for transfer students:

<http://www.lcsc.edu/admissions/transfer-students.htm>

I have taken courses at other colleges. Can those apply to your nursing admission requirements?

Yes. There are two components that are considered for transfer credit: General Education Core requirements and Nursing Support requirements.

The transfer of General Education Core credits is evaluated and approved by the Registrar's office. That is done once you apply to Lewis-Clark State College.

The transfer of Nursing Support classes is evaluated by using a nursing advisor. The advisor will work with the faculty to determine whether the courses you took are equivalent to the required Support Coursework. Please supply the course descriptions from the courses that you took to the faculty.

To find the list of Nursing Support courses, please go to the nursing website at www.lcsc.edu/nurdiv and see the Basic BSN Curriculum Plan.

Is there a way to know what courses from my local college will apply to your required courses in order to get ready to apply to your nursing program?

If you are from Idaho or area colleges, you can look for courses that are equivalent to our required courses by going to the Registrar's website and looking for Transfer Equivalency Guides. These list courses by college and LCSC equivalent courses. <http://www.lcsc.edu/admissions/transfer-students.htm>

If you are from distant colleges or universities, contact a nursing advisor with the course descriptions of the courses that you took. The advisor can assist you.

I took a Genetics course at another college. Will that count for your Genetics course?

Yes and you will need to supplement the genetics course you took with a nursing genetics component. This course (1 cr.) is offered online from LCSC Distance Learning and must be completed before application to the nursing program.

If you are considering taking genetics at another college, be aware that in general, genetics courses are designed for biologists and researchers. These courses tend to be more challenging than the course that we offer specifically for the content that is needed by nursing for teaching, counseling and understanding treatments.

How long is the BSN nursing program?

The courses that are required for application to the nursing program can be completed in 4 semesters. Of course, you may take longer depending on what courses interest you and whether or not you attend school full time.

The nursing program is 4 semesters in length and does not include a summer semester. These 4 semesters are sequential (they follow one to the next). Once you apply and are accepted to the nursing program, it is expected that you complete all four semesters. In other words, you cannot decide to stop for awhile and return later at your own discretion. If you stop the program for any reason, you will need to reapply and be accepted.

Can I attend the nursing program part time?

No. Once you are accepted into the nursing program, fulltime enrollment is required. Prior to acceptance into the nursing program, part time study is acceptable. It is recommended that you complete General Education and Nursing Support courses needed for application to the nursing program within 6 years to avoid changes in the curriculum and prerequisites.

The application lists required courses that I am currently enrolled in. Can I still apply?

Yes. Please mark the course as "IP" or "In Progress". When you complete the course, the college must send an official record of your grade to the LCSC Admissions Office.

Can I take other classes while I take nursing classes?

No it is not recommended for several reasons. The nursing course curriculum is intense and requires a great deal of study and clinical time to be successful. In addition, the clinical schedule is such that non-nursing courses that meet regularly would be missed. Courses toward a second degree, for example should be integrated prior to entering the nursing program, during summer sessions, and after completion of the nursing coursework.

How much can I work while I am in the nursing program?

It is recommended that work commitments be secondary to scholastic commitments during the nursing program. The critical thinking that is required in nursing is very different than in most past classes; the study required to accomplish this is intense. A suggestion is to have minimal work commitments until after the first exam in several classes. The grade you receive will give you a good indication of how much time you need to commit to study vs working.

Is there an expiration to the classes that I took long ago? Some of my classes are more than 10 years old.

The college does not presently set limits on the "age" of past coursework. Faculty members, however, caution that students need to carefully evaluate their knowledge from these older classes. It may be more difficult to be successful in courses which rely on past knowledge which is not recent.

How much travel is needed by students who are in the nursing program?

Due to its rural setting, the nursing program uses a variety of healthcare agencies in rural Idaho and Washington states. Many agencies are in the local area; some are not. You will very likely spend at least one semester commuting up to 40 miles for clinical experiences. Students often carpool in these cases.

Spokane healthcare agencies are used for some clinical experiences. Overnight stays required by the clinical scheduling are arranged and paid by the nursing program.

How expensive is the nursing program?

Please contact Financial Aid at the college for information on fees, assistance, and scholarships.

Nursing texts are expensive; the primary expense is in the first semester of the nursing program. We attempt to use these texts throughout the program. However, each course thereafter typically requires at least one text.

What kind of student housing is available in Lewiston?

Please contact Student Services for questions about general college questions. As of 2008, there is a student website for housing:

<http://www.lcsc.edu/studenthousing/>

I want to take the NET nursing entrance exam where I live. Can I do that and what steps do I need to take?

The test is available at distant locations. A one month notice is needed in order to arrange for facilities. Please see the Division of Nursing and Health Sciences website under the Basic Nursing Track, for complete details. The cost for testing off site is \$45.00.