

## Nursing Program Frequently Asked Questions and Answers:

- **What is the difference between the Traditional, Career Ladder and Baccalaureate to ADN pathways?**
  - The traditional nursing pathway is for all individuals seeking to become registered nurses including those with little to no healthcare or college experience. In the traditional pathway, all four nursing courses are completed in four 16 week semesters. Students can enter the traditional pathway each fall and spring with a maximum of 72 students selected each application period.
  - The career ladder pathway is a bridge program for licensed LPNs and Oklahoma licensed Paramedics only. This pathway requires completion of one 5-hour transition course prior to the core nursing courses. The complete pathway is taught in three 16-week semesters. (Transition: Fall Semester, Nursing Process III: Spring Semester and Nursing Process IV: Fall Semester, Graduation: Fall) Students can enter the career ladder pathway each fall with a maximum of 72 students selected each application period.
  - The Baccalaureate to ADN pathway is for those persons who have already achieved a Baccalaureate degree in another discipline. The Baccalaureate to ADN pathway is an intense 10 month pathway consisting of four 8 week semesters. Students can enter the BADNAP pathway each January or June with a maximum of 45 students selected each application period. Clinicals are predominantly on the weekends.
  
- **Do I have to complete all of the general education and support courses before applying to the Nursing Program?**
  - If applying for the Baccalaureate to ADN pathway, all general education and support courses (except POLSC 1113) must be completed prior to the start of NUR 1519.
  - If applying for the Career Ladder or Traditional pathways, there are certain courses that must be completed before making application. It is recommended that you meet with an academic advisor or attend a Health Professions Information Session to make sure you are meeting the program requirements for admission and to ensure that you have the most current information.
  
- **Once I get into the Nursing Program, what will my class schedule look like?**
  - If you are accepted into the Traditional pathway in the fall semester, your classes will be two days a week from 9am-12pm throughout all 4 semesters of the program (unless there is an interruption in your progression).
  - If you are accepted into the Traditional pathway in the spring semester, your classes will be two days a week from 5:30pm-8:30pm throughout the 4 semesters of the program (unless there is an interruption in your progression).
  - If you are accepted into the Career Ladder Pathway or Baccalaureate to ADN pathway, your classes will be one day a week from 9am-4pm. However with all pathways, campus lab and simulation experiences can be held at various times of the day or evening (including weekend clinicals) and are in addition to your class/lecture times.
  
- **Do I get to pick where and when I go to clinical?**

Nursing Students attend clinical rotations in clinical groups, usually consisting of 6 to 9 people. You will receive your clinical group assignment once you have submitted all of your immunization records and met clinical requirements. You will be able to request certain days and locations, however, all assignments are made based on availability, with preference given to those who have met deadlines and submitted the required

documentation in a timely manner. Please note that clinical rotations are determined by the clinical facilities and subject to their availability and needs. There is no guarantee of specific day, time or facility.

- **Will I be going to the same hospital or clinical facility for my clinicals all semester?**

Where you attend clinical is determined by the nursing course in which you are currently enrolled. The first three nursing courses have clinical opportunities in two or more locations during the semester. Example: If you are studying geriatrics you will be doing clinicals at a long term care facility. If you are studying mental health you will be doing clinical at a mental health facility, etc.

- **How do I know what my schedule will be?**

Once you have been accepted into the Nursing Program you will attend an orientation session before class begins. At this orientation you will receive the class syllabus which contains your class schedule outlining specific lab and clinical times as well as any other activities planned during the semester.

- **Do I have to turn in my immunization records with my application?**

No. Once you are accepted into the Nursing Program you will receive your acceptance letter which explains the immunizations and clinical requirements you must submit. The deadline for submission of these records will be stated in your acceptance letter.

- **What kind of documentation is needed for proof of immunization?**

Childhood vaccination records, health department records, family physician records. Please submit copies only and maintain a file for your own use as you begin your nursing career.

- **If I can't find any of my immunization records, what do I do?**

If possible, contact your family physician or try your local county health department if you have lived in that county for a long time. If you are a recent high school graduate your high school may still have documentation of your immunization records. If you are unable to locate your records you will be required to have titers drawn or repeat your immunizations. Be sure to begin gathering your information as soon as possible. If you have to repeat your immunizations the time required between immunizations may interfere with your ability to meet program deadlines.

- **I have talked to my physician and was told it would take 7 months to complete my Hepatitis B immunization series. I will miss the deadline. What should I do?**

The Hepatitis B requirement can be met by signing a waiver until such time as you have obtained all of your immunizations. You can obtain the yellow Hepatitis B waiver form in the Division Office.

- **I don't understand why I need two TB tests.**

Upon entry into the program you must show an initial 2-step. That means 2 negative TB tests within 364 days of each other with the last TB test not expiring before the end of the semester. TB tests are good for one calendar year. After your initial TB testing you will be required to submit annual TB test results. You must not allow your most recent TB test to be more than 364 days old. There is also available a blood draw or titer called TB Quantiferon Gold. The results of this test are good for 2 years or until exposure.

- **Who decides what immunizations are required?**

The hospitals and clinical facilities where you will be attending clinical rotations determine what immunizations and training that you must complete in order to interact with patients at their facilities.

- **Do I have to have the flu shot as part of my immunizations?**

Hospitals and clinical facilities now require that all students have received the flu vaccine. The only exemption is for medical or religious reasons. You may obtain a medical/religious waiver form from the HP Division office and have signed by either a physician or religious leader to meet this requirement.

- **I have CPR training from the American Red Cross. Will that meet the requirement?**

No. The clinical facilities require that CPR training be from the **American Heart Association Health-Care Provider**. The training is typically 4 hours, hands-on training. It is offered in our Health Professions Division as well as at Moore Norman Tech Center, Francis-Tuttle Tech Center and Metro Tech. Online CPR training is not acceptable.

- **Can I complete the Nursing Program without doing clinical rotations?**

No, clinical rotations are a required part of the program. You must complete and pass the theory and clinical component of each course to be eligible for graduation from the program. Students are not guaranteed their choice of day, time or location.

- **If I still have questions, where can I go and who can I talk to?**

Review the college website nursing pages found at: <http://www.occ.edu/health/nursing.html>. A large amount of information is contained in the *Prospective Student Information* link found on the webpage for each pathway and on the main nursing homepage. In addition, all nursing students should make an appointment with the Health Professions Advisor, Claire Echols at 682-1611, ext. 7729 or visit one of the academic advisors in the main advising area on campus. Please bring copies of any transcripts from other colleges and universities you have attended to your appointment.

**All nursing applications are submitted and accepted through the NursingCAS online application system.**

If you are considering applying to the OCCC Nursing Program, we encourage you to:

1. Go to the NursingCASE website at: <https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>
2. Create an account using your college email.
3. Begin entering the "Personal Information", "Academic History" and "Supporting Information" sections.
4. Once the individual pathway and entry application becomes available, you will be able to complete the required information and submit your application.
5. Application