



School of
Nursing



GPA=3.0

TEAS = 70

Western North Carolina Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (WNC RIBN)
Blue Ridge Community College and Western Carolina University
4-year and 3-year Options

Application and Continuation Criteria for 2023 Fall Admission
Application Period: August 17, 2022 through February 1, 2023

Thank you for your interest in WNC RIBN. Students admitted to WNC RIBN must meet dual admission requirements set forth collaboratively by Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) and Western Carolina University (WCU). Admission to WNC RIBN is competitive and reading this information thoroughly will help applicants understand the process.

BRCC has a two-year Associate Degree Nursing program and Western Carolina University has a BSN pre-licensure program. Each of these programs has a separate admissions process from the WNC RIBN option. If you wish to apply for either of those traditional programs, you must complete the individual admissions process for BRCC and/or WCU.

Applicants are required to have graduated from high school or completed a High School Equivalency (HSE) or Adult High School Diploma to be eligible to enter the selective allied health programs and have self-certified this requirement on your BRCC College application.

BRCC is invested in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Support Services is part of Student Services and is located in the Sink Building. For detailed information call (828) 694-1813. An appointment with the Director of Support Services is recommended prior to enrollment in order to discuss any special concerns.

APPLICATION CRITERIA FOR FALL 2022 - BRCC and WCU are collaborating on a dual admission process. BRCC RIBN will begin accepting applications August 17, 2022, for the RIBN class that begins Fall semester 2023. **The deadline to apply for Fall 2023 admission is February 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.**

***Please contact the BRCC RIBN Adviser, Susan Greco at (828) 694-1841, s_greco@blueridge.edu, BRCC, 805 Sixth Avenue West, Health Sciences Center (HSC), room 3125, Hendersonville, NC, 28739, to ensure you have the best possible chance of being selected by completing all processes and submitting all necessary application documents completely, correctly and by the deadline. (Applicants must have a GPA of at least 3.0; TEAS of at least 70)**

Notice to non-U.S. Citizens - Admission to RIBN is open only to individuals with legal status or lawful presence. Some clinical sites may have additional immigration/citizenship requirements. Successful completion of clinical rotations is required for program completion. The college refund policy applies if a student drops the program after being denied clinical site privileges. Non-citizens are encouraged to contact the appropriate licensing/certifying agency to determine if they are eligible for licensure/certification upon graduation – decisions regarding licensure/certification are solely the responsibility of the licensing/certifying agency.

Update 06/21/22, page 1

RIBN OPTIONS

4-year option: Applicants interested in this option will start at year one and will complete the program in four years. The nurse aide training and state license (CNA) must be completed **prior** to **July 1st** of year two. Please see information on nurse aide requirements, page 4.

3-year option: Applicants interested in this option will start at year two and will complete the program in three years. In order to be eligible to start at year two in RIBN, students **must** have all first-year classes complete prior to Fall 2023 as well as the nurse aide training and state license (CNA), which **must be completed prior July 1st of the Fall 2023 entry**. Please see information on nurse aide requirements, page 4.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES REQUIRED

To be considered for admission, you must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent and satisfy the following UNC minimum course requirements:

- Four units of English
- Two units of social studies (one in U.S. history)
- Four units of mathematics (algebra I, algebra II, geometry, and an advanced unit of mathematics beyond algebra II)
- Three units of science (life science, physical science, biology, and a laboratory course), **chemistry required, with a “C” or greater**
- Two units of a language other than English (same language)

High School chemistry is a requirement before starting any RIBN option. Students can take CHM 092 at a North Carolina Community College to satisfy this requirement before starting the program. A “C” or greater is required.

SCORING AND PROGRAM MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Grade Point Average (GPA) - To be eligible to apply for admission to WNC RIBN directly from high school OR before completion of at least 20 hours of college-level credit, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in high school courses.

To be eligible to apply for admission to WNC RIBN after completion of at least 20 hours of college-level credit, a student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all college courses. The GPA will be computed from all colleges attended. These 20 hours will not include courses below 100 level. The highest grade will be used if a class is repeated at the **same** institution.

The cumulative GPA from all transcripts, up through the end of December 2022, will be used for scoring purposes.

Assessment Technologies Institute Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS®) - Applicants must have a minimum ATI TEAS® score of 70.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Complete a free, online general application to BRCC. Please visit <http://blueridge.edu/admissions> for an online application to BRCC. **This is not an application to an Allied health program or the RIBN program...** That will be done separately after you meet with the RIBN adviser.
2. Submit all official college **and** high school transcripts to BRCC by February 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. If you are still in high school, the RIBN adviser will require an official high school transcript after grades are posted from the 2022 Fall term.
3. **During the application cycle, please meet with Susan Greco to submit a formal application.**
4. Take the ATI TEAS® at the BRCC Testing Center. Applicants will be given instructions on signing up for the ATI TEAS® dates after meeting with the RIBN adviser. **A BRCC application must be on file before taking the ATI TEAS®.** Applicants are encouraged to take the ATI TEAS® exam at the BRCC Testing Center in the Sink Building. The student will be responsible for all costs associated with the ATI TEAS® test and any costs associated with ATI TEAS® study guides or ATI TEAS® practice tests. **A minimum composite score of 70 is required for admission to WNC RIBN.** ATI TEAS® scores must be three years old or newer. Applicants can use prior ATI TEAS® scores, provided official copies of the scores are on file with the college. (version VI (6) will be good for 3 yrs.) If an applicant does not follow through and take the ATI TEAS® exam or submit official scores, they are disqualified from moving forward in the admission process. The Test for Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS®) may only be completed at a location within the United States of America per ATI guidelines.

If a student tests at a different location, official ATI TEAS® scores must be on file by the end of the application cycle

*** contact the Registrar's office to register/schedule ATI TEAS test @ 828-694-1807 or Julie Brackett @ 828-694-1812**

Applicants do not need to have the ATI TEAS® testing complete in order to apply. ATI TEAS® testing dates will be October, November, December 2022 and in January, 2023. If an applicant comes to apply after ATI TEAS® testing in December, one testing attempt in January will remain available. A student may take the TEAS exam a maximum of two (2)times during the application period

About the ATI TEAS® - Information is available at <http://www.atitesting.com>. Applicants are encouraged to review this information and can take a practice test, which is highly encouraged. You can find that information in the online resources. Applicants with disabilities should contact the Disability Services Office listed below, at least three weeks prior to testing to request special accommodations for the ATI TEAS® exam.

Disability Services Office :

Sink Building, Room 125
180 West Campus Drive
Flat Rock, NC 28731
(828) 694-1813

All documents applicants submit with their application for WNC RIBN must be **true, correct and complete**. Falsification of documentation may result in denial of admission or dismissal after admission. **Admission criteria are subject to change from year to year.**

SCORING:

Admission to the program is competitive, meaning your total score will determine admission to the program as ranked against the other applicants. After meeting all WNC RIBN program admission requirements for WCU and BRCC, all WNC RIBN applicants will be ranked numerically based on the following criteria:

- Cumulative GPA, minimum 3.0 required (unweighted high school GPA, if under 20 credit hours of college level work; or **cumulative** college GPA if over 20 college level credit hours, as reported by the respective institution(s))
- ACT minimum composite score of 19,
- ATI TEAS® minimum composite score of 70

STUDENT PREPARATION AND TESTING RESOURCES

- Google – ACT, ATI TEAS
- Local public library – resources
www.onlinecollegeprep.com
- TEAS® study guides/practice tests
(atitesting.com)
- Udacity
- March2Success.com
- www.atitesting.com – online resources
- ACT website
- www.testprepreview.com/teas_practice.html
- YouTube – Mometrix, Crash Course videos
- Smart phone apps for TEAS and ACT preparation
- Kahn Academy

WNC RIBN CURRICULUM CONTINUATION CRITERIA For Students Accepted into and enrolled in WNC RIBN

Students currently enrolled in WNC RIBN are required to:

- Maintain a minimum of “C” in all courses. A “C-” is not acceptable and will result in dismissal from the program.
- Pass first year courses, as defined in the curriculum, before starting year two.
- Complete all year two and year three courses, as defined in the curriculum, before proceeding to year four.
- **Pass the NCLEX (national board exam) before proceeding to year four. You MUST pass the NCLEX BEFORE you may enter your 4th year with WCU.**
- **Maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA to remain in the program.**

NA I and CPR REQUIREMENT

Prior to starting year 2 nursing courses, all RIBN nursing students **must, by the end of June:**

Hold a documented, current, unrestricted credential as a Nurse Aide I (NAI) from the North Carolina Nurse Aide Registry <https://www.ncnar.org/index1.jsp> and the Division of Health Service Regulation (A copy of current listing on the NC DHSR Nurse Aide Registry website will be acceptable documentation).

Are required to obtain CPR certification from the American Heart Association. This CPR for the healthcare provider/professional rescuer course must include hands on skill demonstration of one and two rescuer adult, child and infant CPR and use and an AED (AHA-BLS).

RIBN STUDENT INFORMATION BEGINNING YEAR 2 - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Criminal background checks and drug screenings are required by certain clinical sites for students entering the BRCC's nursing program. These screenings will be conducted at the student's expense by a professional and independent vendor. Failure to achieve acceptable standards for these screenings will result in the denial of clinical privileges. Successful completion of clinical requirements is required for program completion. The BRCC refund policy applies to students who are denied clinical privileges and must withdraw from their nursing classes as a result. Please see the refund policy on the BRCC website for clarification. **For all WNC RIBN students**, criminal background checks **will** be required by WCU prior to entering Year 4 baccalaureate nursing courses in the RIBN curriculum.

Applicants should be aware that the North Carolina Board of Nursing (NCBON) requires criminal background checks, including fingerprints, for all applicants for initial licensure and may deny licensure to individuals convicted of a misdemeanor or felony. The NCBON does not become involved in reviewing the applicant's conviction record until such time as application is made to take the national examination. The question asked on this application is whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a misdemeanor/felony. If the response is yes, a certified copy of the criminal record and a detailed written explanation must be submitted. Review of the record is made by the NCBON staff in accordance with guidelines established by the Board. The applicant may take the exam as scheduled; however, the license may or may not be issued upon passing the exam.

Applicants for BRCC selective allied health programs must demonstrate the ability to meet certain technical standards critical to the successful completion of the program. These standards include skills and abilities essential for such things as operation of equipment; evaluation and manipulation of patients; evaluation of microscopic components and color reactions; and communication with patients, families and other medical personnel.

RIBN READMISSION POLICY - The following readmission policy applies to students who receive an unsuccessful grade, or who voluntarily withdraw from RIBN. Unsuccessful grades are defined as "C-", "D", or "F":

Year 1 of RIBN - Students in RIBN must pass **all first** year classes with a "C" or higher, as outlined on the RIBN curriculum. If that standard isn't met, application for re-admission into the first year of the RIBN program must be submitted during the regular admissions cycle. The student seeking readmission to the first year is required to submit a new application packet to the RIBN Adviser. GPA will be calculated at the time of application for readmission. (must maintain a 2.5 GPA)

Years 2 through 4 - **Students who have failed (earned a course grade lower than "C") a nursing course are considered on suspension from the RIBN program.** If a student receives an unsuccessful grade in the nursing program, they may not proceed to any subsequent course, which has the course in question as a prerequisite. The student must repeat the course in question before proceeding to the next higher course in the program.

Students seeking readmission into years two or three are required to submit a request for readmission to BRCC Director of Nursing. Consult the BRCC nursing department for the specific readmission policy.

(* For 4th year: For consideration for re-admission to WCU, a student should submit a written request for readmission addressed to the chairperson of the WCU School of Nursing Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee. Approval for re-admission to year four is granted by the committee, acting as the program Admissions Committee. The written request for readmission should include an analysis of why the student did not progress as well as a plan for success, which addresses strategies for improvement, as applicable. The committee reserves the right to interview the student seeking readmission, as well as the right to require the student to comply with additional requirements or conditions as deemed appropriate.) In addition, the committee must receive at least two letters of support from nursing faculty addressing the student's previous performance and potential for successful completion of the nursing curriculum, if readmitted. Readmission is based on availability of a seat in the RIBN program.

Uniform - During years 2 and 3 of RIBN, the uniform for the RIBN student is the same as other students in the associate degree program with the exception of wearing the RIBN patch, as indicated by each community college uniform policy.

Clinical rotations - Allied Health students will be required to complete clinical rotations which may require them to travel more than one hour from campus. Clinical rotations may be conducted during weekend and/or evening hours. Students are responsible for arranging for their own transportation.

To enter into and to complete the nursing program, students must be able to meet, with or without reasonable accommodation, the emotional, cognitive, and physical requirements listed below:

Emotional Requirements - The nursing program is rigorous, both in academic study and in the acquisition and practice of clinical skills. You must have sufficient emotional stability to perform under stress and provide safe nursing care to clients in the clinical setting while being observed by instructors and other health care professionals.

Cognitive Requirements - You have sufficient cognitive ability to listen, speak, read, write, reason and perform mathematical functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages, and fractions with or without a calculator) at a level that allows processing and understanding of materials and information presented either verbally or in written format.

Physical Requirements - Nursing students are required to travel to clinical facilities (i.e., outpatient, acute care settings, and skilled facilities) and to have the endurance to adapt to a physically demanding program.

Strength - Nursing students must possess sufficient strength to lift, move, and transfer most clients, to restrain and carry children, to move and carry equipment, and to perform CPR according to the American Heart Association guidelines.

Mobility - Sufficient mobility to bend, stoop, bend down to the floor, combination of strength, dexterity, mobility and coordination to assist clients, ability to move around rapidly, and move in small, confined spaces.

Fine Motor Movements - Nursing students are required to manipulate syringes and IV's, to assist clients with feeding and hygiene needs, to write in charts and use computer keyboards, to perform sterile and other skilled procedures.

Speech - Nursing students must have the ability to speak clearly in order to communicate with staff, physicians, clients, and families, and to be understood on the telephone.

Communication - Nursing students must be able to communicate in English both verbally and in the written format so that students can communicate nursing actions, interpret client responses, initiate health teaching, document observations, interactions, interventions, and nursing care. Document and understand nursing activities, interact with clients, families, staff, and faculty.

Vision - Students must possess sufficient to make physical assessment of client and to accurately and safely use and apply client equipment.

Hearing - Sufficient to accurately hear on the telephone, to be able to hear through a stethoscope to discriminate sounds, to hear cries for help, to hear alarms on equipment and emergency signals, and various overhead pages.

Touch - Nursing students must possess an ability to palpate both superficially and deeply to discriminate tactile sensations.

Caring for Clients with Infectious Diseases - Students must be willing to care for clients with infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis or HIV. Students will be taught standard precautions to avoid exposure to these pathogens. Responsibility for following standard precautions lies with the student.

Interpersonal abilities - Students must be able to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.

If you are unable or unwilling to meet these essential requirements, please see an adviser to discuss the possibility of an alternate career plan.

BRCC reserves the right to change curriculum and admission requirements without prior notice.