

Nursing Program

Traditional Track

2010-2011

Admission and Program Requirements

Inver Hills–Century Colleges
Associate Degree Nursing Program



Admission and program requirements
are subject to change without notice.

Revised June 2009

**For additional information contact
Nursing Admissions at**

www.century.edu/icnursing



A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES SYSTEM



Inver Hills
Community College

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www.inverhills.edu
651-450-3000

About the Nursing Program

Thank you for your interest in the Inver Hills-Century Colleges Associate Degree Nursing Program. The Nursing Program is jointly operated through a unique, cooperative arrangement between Inver Hills Community College and Century College. The colleges, separated by 20 miles in the suburbs of St. Paul, Minnesota, operate the jointly sponsored Associate Degree Nursing Program. The program and the curriculum are identical on each campus with the nursing faculty teaching on both campuses. The Inver Hills Associate Degree Nursing Program is designed to educate students who are prepared to...

- Begin professional registered nursing careers
- Administer safe nursing care
- Administer culturally competent, patient-centered nursing care
- Work in a variety of healthcare settings in our increasingly diverse communities

Both colleges are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The Nursing Program is approved by the Minnesota Board of Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing. The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission's address and telephone number is 61 Broadway, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10006; 1-800-669-1656; www.nlnac.org.

Mission:

The Inver Hills Nursing Program is committed to continuously improving student understanding and capabilities that help students become critical thinkers, culturally competent holistic caregivers, teachers, advocates, interdisciplinary collaborators, leaders/managers, and lifelong learners in a variety of community health care settings. The Inver Hills-Century Colleges Nursing Program values and supports diversity and is committed to the recruitment and retention of diverse students.

Vision:

To accomplish this mission, the Inver Hills-Century Nursing Program provides a distinctive curriculum that incorporates health, healing, and holistic nursing. This curriculum reflects our commitment to the following values: (1) care throughout the life cycle; (2) holistic assessment process; (3) therapeutic communication; (4) therapeutic nursing interventions; (5) health promotion; (6) ethical behavior; (7) critical thinking; (8) intuitive thinking.

Goals:

Based on our philosophy and beliefs about the Associate Degree in nursing, the faculty has identified seven goals which are congruent with MnSCU and Inver Hills and Century Colleges' mission statements.

1. To prepare associate degree nurses who are capable of administering safe, patient-centered, holistic care in beginning-level positions in nursing practice.
2. To prepare graduates who are qualified to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN®).
3. To provide opportunity for nursing students to recognize their commitment to personal and professional development.
4. To facilitate career mobility of LPNs toward the Associate Degree.
5. To maintain an innovative nursing curriculum.
6. To promote and prepare students for continued formal professional nursing education.
7. To prepare graduates who are culturally competent.

Student success

Of the Inver Hills-Century Nursing graduates who took the Minnesota NCLEX-RN® exam thru December 2008, 85.27 percent passed the exam on the first attempt. The average passing rate to date for all Minnesota Associate Degree Nursing graduates taking the exam was 82.38 percent on the first attempt. Annual employment statistics for the Inver-Century Nursing graduates are available from the college placement office.

Employment outlook:

National and state predictions for jobs for new registered nurses continue to be excellent. It is expected that the number of jobs for registered nurses will increase faster than average through the year 2016. The most recent data (www.iseek.org) suggests that the number of registered nursing positions will increase by 29.4 percent in the state of Minnesota and by 23.5 percent nationally from 2006 to 2016. Hospitals and other health care facilities are in great need for nurses, especially those who are culturally diverse or have experiences providing culturally sensitive health care.

Nursing Program Education Options:

Nursing Program—Traditional Track

This track requires completion of the entire, four-semester nursing course sequence and liberal arts requirements. Classes meet during the day. Courses that involve clinical experience will include placement in a variety of health care settings and may be scheduled during the day or evening.

Nursing Program – Mobility Tracks

There are separate nursing mobility tracks offered to qualified LPNs and Paramedics to prepare them for professional nursing. Separate brochures are available describing admission requirements and curriculum.

Education mobility

Broader career opportunities are available for registered nurses with a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing. Graduates of the Inver Hills-Century Nursing Program have met the lower division general education requirements of a bachelor's degree in nursing for all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). A Minnesota statewide nursing articulation agreement provides "seamless transfer" to students who pursue their bachelor's degree from any baccalaureate nursing program offered through the MnSCU System. The Counseling department has transfer guides for baccalaureate nursing programs at other colleges; admissions requirements and course equivalencies may vary.

Admission Requirements

All the admission requirements outlined below must be met before application to the Nursing Program.

Admission based on previous college coursework:

This applies to applicants who have attended college previously; applicants who graduated from high school within the previous two years and did not attend college; and G.E.D. recipients.

1. Credit and g.p.a. requirement: Completion of a minimum of 10 college-level semester credits from the Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) with a cumulative grade-point average (c.g.p.a.) of 2.75 or greater. This requirement also applies to all course work taken after application up to the start of Nursing Program classes. Credits earned under occupational curriculum, career development, pass/fail, learning lab, study skills, reading, or English as a Second Language (ESL) will not be calculated in the g.p.a.

Students who do not have a cumulative g.p.a. of 2.75 may petition for admission consideration based on their most recently completed Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) credits (minimum 10 semester credits) including required science courses. Completion of credits and submission of petition must be completed by the nursing program application deadline.

2. Science requirement: Completion, with a minimum grade of C, of a four-credit (semester), college-level Introductory/General Chemistry or Introductory/General Biology course with laboratory, such as Inver Hills CHEM 1010 or BIOL 1120 or 1154 or transfer equivalent (transfer equivalents must include laboratory). CHEM 1010 has a mathematics prerequisite, MATH 0094. BIOL 1120 or 1154 are prerequisites for BIOL 2201-2202 Anatomy and Physiology, required courses in the nursing curriculum. Anatomy and Physiology do not fulfill this Science Requirement, as you need to have General Biology as well.

3. Math/Reading/Writing requirement: Basic skills in mathematics and in college-level reading and writing as demonstrated through Inver Hills assessment testing or by successful completion of college courses. Satisfaction of this requirement can be met in the following ways:

- *Previous college work:* If the applicant already has earned a C or higher in a college-level English composition course(s) (Inver Hills ENGL 1108) and a college-level math course (Inver Hills MATH 1101 or higher), the student meets the basic skills requirement for writing and math. However, the reading assessment still is required to demonstrate college-level reading skills.
- *Inver Hills assessment tests and additional course work:* Applicants who have not met the basic skills requirement in reading, writing, and mathematics through previous college course work must take the Inver Hills assessment tests. If assessment tests indicate developmental/remedial coursework is necessary, this coursework must be completed before application. These courses may include READ/EAP 0093/0094, ENG/EAP 0099, and MATH 0090. These courses are not considered college level; credits do not count toward the credit requirement for admissions (number 1 above) or toward degrees. Assessment scores are valid for 2 years.

Exception: Students with a previous bachelor's degree earned in the United States are exempt from the Reading Comprehension and Writing English assessment testing. If the transcript includes a college-level mathematics course (Inver Hills MATH 1101 or higher) with a minimum grade of C, these students are also exempt from the math assessment test. Otherwise, they must take the math assessment and meet the mathematics requirement through additional coursework if necessary. Foreign/International applicants are required to take English, math and reading assessments, no exceptions.

4. Foreign transcripts: Foreign transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Service (W.E.S.), info@wes.org or (212) 966-6311.

For information about completing assessment tests, call 651/450-3687. You are urged to take the assessment tests as soon as possible so you know whether you need to complete developmental courses before applying. You may want to review fractions, decimals, and percentages before taking the mathematics assessment. Review materials are available in the bookstore for sale. See sample assessment test questions at: <http://www.inverhills.edu/GettingStarted/Assessments/PDFs/SampleQuestions.pdf> or www.google.com and type in Accuplacer practice tests.

Admission based on high school record

1. Graduation: Applies only to high school graduation within the past two years.

2. Class rank: High school rank in upper 50th percentile (rank may be computed at end of junior year or later).

3. College entrance testing: One of the following test scores:

- a. ACT composite standard score of 21 or greater
- b. SAT verbal/math combined standard score of 900 or greater
- c. PSAT Verbal Minnesota score of 42 or greater or a verbal plus math score of 89 or greater.

4. Science requirement: One year of high school introductory biology and high school chemistry with a grade of C or better in each course. The Inver Hills chemistry and biology courses (Chem 1010 and BIOL 1120 or 1154) with grade of C or better may be substituted for the high school science course if completed prior to the application deadline.

5. Math/Writing/Reading (basic skills) requirement: Same as under previous-college criteria above. Writing, mathematics, and reading skills must be demonstrated through course work or assessment.

Application Procedures

In addition to the admission requirements on the previous page, applicants must complete the application procedures and the requirements after acceptance, as outlined below, by the deadlines indicated to be eligible to begin the Nursing Program.

Selection process

Admission to the Nursing Program has become highly competitive, and the college may not be able to accept all applicants that meet the minimum admission requirements. Applicants are ranked and selected for admission based on several criteria, including: current or past (within last five years) direct patient health care experience equivalent to at least three months full-time employment; cumulative grade-point average; grade-point average in selected courses; prior degree completion; liberal arts coursework completed for the A.S. degree by the application deadline; nursing preparatory coursework (NA-R, medical terminology, medical dosages); and credits completed at Inver Hills. Employment history will be verified by the college.

Applicants who are qualified but not admitted are placed on an alternate list based on their ranking; if spaces become available in the Nursing Program for the term they applied, applicants from the alternate list will be granted admission. Applicants not admitted and placed on the alternate list must indicate in writing to the Nursing Program admissions office their request to be considered for the next application deadline and must complete a new application for the subsequent year.

Application requirements

Deadlines: At the time of application, students must have completed the minimum admission criteria and must submit transcripts and all other supporting documentation by the published application dates. Students are urged to apply early. Students may apply to either Inver Hills or Century colleges, but not both.

Pre-application education requirements: At the time of application, applicants must have completed all the academic requirements listed previously in “Admission Requirements.”

Nursing Program application form: The Nursing Program application form must be completed and submitted to the Admissions Office. You must include the \$20 college application fee (nonrefundable) if you have never applied to Inver Hills before.

Transcripts: Official transcripts need to be sent for all college courses and vocational school work done previously, including any courses in progress. New Inver Hills students should attach official transcripts to the Nursing Program Application. Students applying under the high school admission requirements should have official high school transcripts submitted. International transcripts must be evaluated by World Education Services to be petitioned for use; contact info@wes.org or (212) 966-6311.

After application/acceptance

Completion of the following requirements is mandatory. Accepted students who do not fulfill these pre-Nursing Program requirements lose their space in the program and forfeit the deposit.

Notification: The College will inform applicants of their admission status 6 to 8 weeks after the application deadline. Applicants selected as students must return the signed acceptance form and a deposit of \$100 (nonrefundable). The deposit will be applied to tuition and fees in the first semester.

Orientation: Admitted nursing students will be notified of the date and time for the required nursing Orientation/Registration.

Criminal background check: Students must pass this requirement or they are subject to dismissal from the program. The application for the background check is done during required orientation sessions.

Immunization records: Students will receive the Pre-Entrance Nursing Program Immunization Record form for signature by a physician or physician designee. A completed immunization record, along with the required documentation, must be submitted to the Nursing Department.

CPR certification: Current certification in healthcare provider CPR (such as the American Heart Association’s Basic Life Support Health Care Provider Course or the Red Cross’s CPR for the Professional Rescuer) is required prior to the start of the Nursing Program. Inver Hills offers this course as do many other colleges, hospitals, local school districts, and nonprofit organizations. CPR certification must remain current throughout the entire Nursing Program.

Nursing Assistant-Registered designation: Successful completion of a Nursing Assistant-Registered course within the last three years is required before beginning the Nursing Program. NA-R course completion before the application deadline is considered in the selection process, also. Inver Hills offers the NA-R course (NURS 1001) for credit; it is also offered at technical colleges and through other providers. If completed more than three years ago, current NA-R employment is required or successful completion of the national Nurse Aid Assessment Program examination.

Students who have the equivalent NA-R skills and knowledge obtained through other nursing care assistant positions, need to petition the Director of Nursing. Verification of skills or completion of the NA-R test will be required. Students with medical assistant, EMT, paramedic, and other allied health backgrounds will be required to complete the Nursing Assistant-Registered course in its entirety.

Contact information: Applicants/students are responsible for maintaining current addresses, telephone numbers, and name changes on file with the Nursing Program admissions office.

Program Requirements/Information

Academic performance

Students must earn a minimum grade of C in the science admission requirements, in every Nursing (NURS) and science course required for the degree, and in INTS 1080 Medical Dosages. Students also must meet and maintain the 2.75 cumulative g.p.a. requirement for all course work done before beginning the Nursing Program.

Clinical practicum/experiences

During each semester of the Nursing Program students are assigned specific clinical experiences in various healthcare facilities and community agencies. Each nursing student must follow the specific regulations and rules of each facility and agency. Since nursing students have contact with patients/residents as part of their clinical courses, they are required by law to pass a criminal background study for felony convictions.

Nursing students are not eligible for workers compensation because they are not employees of the college nor are they employees of the health care institutions or community agencies where they perform their clinical experience. Professional liability insurance is required. The college offers a group policy for which the premium is payable annually.

Essential functions in the nursing program:

Nursing is a practice discipline with cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance requirements. Essential functions include: use of senses, speech, reading, writing, physical ability, coordination, stamina, ability to problem solve and emotional stability. The Core Performance Standards for nursing students are available from the Nursing Department Secretary.

Math requirement for Inver Hills nursing students:

The required math course for nursing students is INTS 1080 Medical Dosages. This course must be completed before beginning the program or taken concurrently with the first semester of the program. The prerequisite for INTS 1080 is MATH 0090 (minimum grade of C) or placement in MATH 0092 based on the math assessment test score. The math assessment includes whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percents, and students are encouraged to review this content before taking the math assessment. If the student does not receive a recommendation of INTS 1080 on the assessment, the student will be required to register for appropriate prerequisite math courses. Students are encouraged to take the math assessment well in advance of entering the Nursing Program so that, if necessary, any remedial courses can be completed. Completion of remedial courses is required prior to the application deadline.

Medical terminology:

A medical terminology course, such as HCM 1111 at Inver Hills, is highly recommended before starting the program. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding medical terminology and will be given a proficiency test in the first nursing course if they have not completed HCM 1111 or an equivalent course. Self-study course books and an online course are also available at Inver Hills. Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC)/general education requirements:

All students (including recent high school graduates) are encouraged to complete as many of the required Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) courses as possible prior to the start of the nursing courses. Some of the general education courses have prerequisites that also must be completed. See the Nursing Program A.S. degree curriculum chart on the next panel.

If you have specific questions about transfer of previous college credits for the Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) requirements of the Nursing Program, please contact the college registrar at 651/450-3000. Or visit <http://mn.transfer.org>.

Students must have all MnTC/General Education course requirements for the AS in Nursing degree completed to be eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination - RN (NCLEX-RN®).

Obtaining registered nurse licensure:

After satisfactorily completing the Associate in Science Degree Nursing Program degree requirements, qualified students are eligible to apply for the NCLEX-RN®. Authorization to take this exam comes from the Minnesota State Board of Nursing as a result of the graduate's application to the board for licensure. After passing the exam, students are eligible to apply for licensure in all states. If you have any legal or medical questions regarding your potential for meeting the Minnesota Board of Nursing requirements for licensure or your potential to practice professional nursing, contact the Minnesota Board of Nursing directly at (612) 617-2270.

www.nursingboard.state.mn.us

Affirmative action:

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System (MnSCU) is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and American Disability Act principles in all of its programs, services, activities, and employment.

The information in this publication is subject to change without notice. Inver Hills Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer. This publication is available in alternate formats; call 651/450-8328, TTY 651/450-8369.

Nursing Program—Traditional Track

Associate in Science Degree (A.S.), 64 credits

Nursing courses (34 credits)	Credits
NURS 1020 The Registered Nurse Role in Health and Wellness	4
NURS 1025 Clinical Application for NURS 1020	4
NURS 1030 Nursing Interventions I: Health, Healing and Holism and the Role of the Registered Nurse	4
NURS 1035 Clinical Application for NURS 1030	4
NURS 2030 Nursing Interventions II: Health, Healing and Holism and the Role of the Registered Nurse	4
NURS 2035 Clinical Application for NURS 2030	4
NURS 2050 Synthesis and Transition to the Registered Nurse Role	3
NURS 2055 Clinical Application for NURS 2050	4
NURS 2222 Pathophysiological Approach to Health Problems and Pharmacologic Therapy	<u>3</u>
	34
Elective	
NURS 1189 Clinical Internship	1
Liberal arts courses (30 credits)	
ENG 1108 Writing and Research Skills	4
COMM 1100, 2230, or 2240	3
BIOL 2201 Anatomy and Physiology I ¹	4
BIOL 2202 Anatomy and Physiology II ¹	4
BIOL 2205 Microbiology	3
INTS 1080 Medical Dosages ²	1
PSYC 1210 Lifespan Psychology or PSYC 1215 Child and Adolescent Psychology and PSYC 1220 Adult and Aging Psychology	4
Humanities/Fine Arts/Literature course(s) (See Goal 6 of Minnesota Transfer Curriculum)	3
Liberal Arts elective ³ (may include college biology or chemistry)	<u>4</u>
	30

¹Please note that the 8 credits of Anatomy and Physiology must be completed by the beginning of the second year of the basic nursing program. BIOL 1120 or 1154 or completion of high school biology within the last three years is a prerequisite to BIOL 2201.

²INTS 1080 Medical Dosages is a one-semester credit course which must be completed before beginning the program or taken concurrently with the first semester of the program. Students must take the math assessment inventory and meet the required math Prerequisite, before registering for INTS 1080.

³These include MnTC courses, world languages, CJS 1150, 1152, 1154, 1156, 1158, INTS 1000, 1101, MUSC 1105, STSK 1101, and THTR 1161.

Preparation and planning before application:

The Nursing Program curriculum requires two academic years to finish even if all of the Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) credits have been completed in advance. Applicants should complete as many of these Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) courses as possible before starting the Nursing Program. Many students enroll at Inver Hills and take these courses and medical terminology before applying to the Nursing Program.

New high school graduates are urged to enroll at Inver Hills and to complete as many Minnesota General Education Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) requirements as possible before applying to the Nursing Program.

If you have not completed college composition and mathematics courses (minimum grade of C), you must take the Inver Hills assessment tests to determine whether you need developmental prerequisite courses. These developmental courses must be completed before you apply; they do not count toward a degree.

For students interested in transferring from a nursing program at another college, advanced placement may be possible depending on previous course work, credits earned, and space availability. Credits are evaluated as part of the application process.