JOHN TYLER COMMUNITY COLLEGE (JTCC) NURSING PROGRAM
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Do I need to apply to the College before applying to the Nursing Program?
A. Yes, you must apply to JTCC first. Please visit www.jtcc.edu for more information on applying to the College. Admission to the College does not guarantee admission into the Nursing Program.

Q. I am a new student at John Tyler Community College. Do I need to see a counselor?
A. Yes. You will need to see a general counselor in the Counseling Center on either the Midlothian or Chester campus. Counseling will advise you on required placement testing. The counselor will place you in a College curriculum, usually Allied Health Preparation, Pre-Nursing. Visit www.jtcc.edu/counseling for more information.

Once placed in a curriculum by Counseling, you will be assigned a nursing faculty advisor. You are strongly encouraged to meet with your nursing faculty advisor (by appointment only) or make e-mail contact with her/him to ensure you are on track to apply to the Nursing Program at JTCC.

Q. Where do I find other important information?
A. For information about financial aid, go to www.jtcc.edu/financialaid.
   For information about disabilities and accommodations, go to www.jtcc.edu/counseling. Look for disabilities support services on the main page.
   For information about CLEP testing, go to www.jtcc.edu/testing.

Q. How long is the Nursing Program?
A. The Nursing Program is a five semester program. The initial semester includes the prerequisite courses that you must successfully complete with a grade of “C” or better before you apply to the program. The remaining four semesters constitute the nursing sequence where you take the nursing courses. You may complete your additional support courses (corequisite courses) during the last four semesters of the program. Corequisite courses are listed below in a separate Q&A.

Q. I took classes at another college. Do they automatically transfer to JTCC?
A. No. You must meet with a counselor in the Counseling Center and make arrangements to have your official transcripts sent to Admissions and Records. You may have the official transcripts sent to you to take to the Counseling Center, but the envelope must remain sealed. Once you have enrolled in a course, Admissions and Records will evaluate your transcripts within 30 days of receipt of your transcripts and your placement in a curriculum of study. If you do not need to take courses at JTCC, you can request a transfer credit evaluation from Admissions and Records. Visit the Counseling Center on either campus for the appropriate form.

Q. What Math classes do I need to take before applying to JTCC’s Nursing Program?
A. In order to be eligible to apply, you will need to have completed MTH 158 with a “C” or better. The results of the mathematics portion of the Math Placement testing will determine the courses you need to take prior to enrolling in MTH 158. See www.jtcc.edu/testing for more details on Math Placement testing.

Q. I have some college credits. Do I still need to take SDV 100?
A. SDV 100 is waived in certain circumstances. If you have 24 or more credits that transfer in from another institution, SDV may be waived. If you have a degree from another college or university, SDV may be waived. An equivalent course to SDV may be transferred in by Admissions and Records. To have
Q. If I take a course more than once, how will it affect my GPA?
A. If you retake a course that is being used to meet prerequisite Nursing Program requirements, all attempts during the prior 10 years will be used in calculating your curricular GPA. VCCS policy prohibits students from taking the same course more than 2 times. Please visit http://www.vccs.edu/Portals/0/ContentAreas/PolicyManual/Sectn5.pdf for more information.

Q. What GPA do I need in order to be accepted?
A. The minimum cumulative GPA requirement (all college courses you have taken) is 2.0 and the minimum curricular GPA requirement (the five required prerequisite courses) is 2.5. However, you may meet these GPA requirements and still not be accepted into the program. Our program is very competitive, and we typically receive more applications than we have spaces available. We rank eligible applicants from highest eligible GPA to lowest eligible GPA and make offers of admission until we have a full cohort.

Q. Do I need to attach a copy of my completed grades from JTCC and other colleges with my application to the Nursing Program?
A. No. Admissions and Records will forward the transcripts to the Nursing Program when they are requested by the Admissions Committee. If you have unofficial transcripts you may bring them when you meet with your nursing faculty advisor for review and discussion. Formal and binding evaluation, however, is done by Admissions and Records.

Q. How long is the waiting list for the Nursing Program?
A. We do not have a waiting list. If you are not accepted, you may reapply to the program during the next application period.

Q. How long will it take before I find out if I have been accepted into the Nursing Program?
A. Eight-to-nine weeks after the application period ends. While we understand you are anxious to know your status, we request that you please not call the Nursing Program to ask your status prior to receiving the notification letter.

Q. I live outside of the JTCC service area? Am I still eligible to apply?
A. Yes, all students may apply to the program, but first preference for admission is given to students in the JTCC service area as defined in VCCS policy: Section 6.0.5 Admission Priorities. Remaining spaces are filled with students outside of our service area, then students with a temporary visa, as needed to complete an admission cohort.

The John Tyler Service Area includes:
- Amelia County
- City of Hopewell
- Charles City County
- Chesterfield County
- City of Colonial Heights
- Dinwiddie County
- City of Petersburg
- Prince George County
- Surry County
- Sussex County
Currently, Richmond, Henrico and Powhatan residents are considered the same as our service area students, as we have clinical contracts in these localities.

Q. If I am accepted into the Nursing Program, what kind of degree will I get?
A. Upon successful completion of the Nursing Program, the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) is awarded. Graduates are then eligible to take the NCLEX examination to become a registered nurse pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Virginia Board of Nursing or other state jurisdiction where you apply for the examination. Many of our graduates continue their education to pursue a bachelors, masters and even doctoral degrees.

Q. There is a demand for nurses. Is this an easy program?
A. John Tyler Community College’s Nursing Program is one of the most rigorous in the area. The Nursing Program prepares individuals to enter the health-care professions as registered nurses (pending successful completion of the NCLEX-RN national examination). John Tyler Community College nursing students learn to deliver high quality, safe and effective patient care. Our students and graduates also learn critical thinking, clinical reasoning and ethical decision-making skills to successfully work in complex health-care settings. Successful students learn to manage multiple competing demands, demonstrate passion and perseverance, and need the on-going support of family and significant others.

Q. What is the Hybrid Track?
A. The Hybrid track may be completed in four semesters once prerequisite courses are completed. The Hybrid Track is not a separate program but is a track within the Nursing Program. The Virginia Board of Nursing recognizes this student population as separate from the traditional students. This track is intended to provide educational opportunities to qualified applicants for whom attendance in the traditional classroom would provide a hardship or for those individuals whose learning style is matched best for virtual learning. Coursework in this program will be provided through the Blackboard (online) Learning System. Clinical experiences are not virtual and take place in the same clinical and in-facility lab settings as students in the traditional classroom track. The Hybrid Track is identical in structure as the Traditional Track except for delivery of the theory part of the courses. Required nursing courses are not offered during the summer except in specific, rare circumstances. Testing for the nursing courses takes place in a proctored setting in the Nursing Education Center.

Regardless of the track chosen, students must possess an iPad and have reliable computer access. The Nursing Program requires that all students purchase a suite of virtual resources, including electronic textbooks, simulation scenarios, and electronic health records. These innovative teaching strategies are used in the virtual classroom as well as in the clinical setting.

Some students may prefer the flexibility of the Hybrid learning environment. This track is as rigorous as the Traditional Track. Success requires the student to be a highly motivated, independent self-starter, who is comfortable with on-line learning and technology.

Q. What is the Traditional Track?
A. This track may be completed in four semesters once prerequisite courses are completed. Lectures, labs, clinical and any other required meetings are face-to-face in a traditional classroom setting. Classes are typically held during day hours. Clinical meeting times may be during the day, evening or weekend. Regardless of the track chosen, students must possess an iPad and have reliable computer access. The Nursing Program requires that all students purchase a suite of virtual resources, including electronic textbooks, simulation scenarios, and electronic health records. These innovative teaching strategies are used in the classroom as well as in the clinical setting.
Q. Can I apply for both the Hybrid Track and the Traditional Track?
A. Students are encouraged to apply to either the Traditional OR the Hybrid Track of the Nursing Program at John Tyler. If you decide you are suitable for both types of learning, you may submit an application for each track; students are generally offered admission to one track only. Be sure to indicate your track preference on each application.

Q. What is the TEAS?
A. TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) is the pre-admission exam used by the Nursing Program. This is a multiple-choice assessment of basic academic knowledge in reading, mathematics, science, and English and language usage. The objectives assessed on the TEAS exam are those which our nurse educators deemed most appropriate and relevant to measure entry level skills and abilities of Nursing Program applicants. The test must not be more than 3 years old at the time of application.

Q. What is the passing score for the Nursing pre-admission exam?
A. TEAS V Exam for RNs: You must score at or above the 45th national composite percentile and in the 45th percentile or higher in the Reading component of the test. Both scores must be achieved on the same test report. See the sample TEAS report below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution:</th>
<th>John Tyler CC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Type:</td>
<td>ADN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test Date:</td>
<td>6/14/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Questions:</td>
<td>150</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days since last attempt:</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparedness Level:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean - National:</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean - Program:</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentile Rank - National:</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentile Rank - Program:</td>
<td>83</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># Items</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentile Rank</th>
<th>Adjusted Individual Score (%) correct</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>76.2%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paragraph and Passage Comprehension</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>89.5%</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
<td>71.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informational Source Comprehension</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
<td>71.9%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>93.3%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>68.8%</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numbers and Operations</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
<td>70.3%</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. Where are your clinical sites?
A. The clinical sites will vary. We use multiple health-care facilities in the Richmond area and surrounding localities. You are expected to have reliable transportation. Clinical rotations are scheduled during the day, evening or weekend depending on faculty and clinical site availability.

Q. Am I required to attend a General Nursing Information Session?
A. Yes. The schedule is posted on the web site at www.jtcc.edu/nursing. At some point in the future, the information session may be online. Attendance is recorded at all information sessions.

Q. Can I finish the program early by taking classes over the summer?
A. No. General education support courses (corequisites) and nursing elective courses are offered during the summer; however required nursing courses are usually not offered during the summer, except in specific instances. Corequisite courses are listed below.

Q: How long do I have to finish my degree?
A: Students must graduate within five years of entering the first courses in the nursing sequence. Students are ineligible to return to the Nursing Program if they have not been successfully enrolled in a nursing course for two semesters (excluding summer session) or longer.

Q. Will any nursing courses from other programs transfer?
A. We do not accept any nursing courses for transfer credit.

Q. Can I continue to work while I am in the Nursing Program?
A. In our experience it is very unwise to work full time while in this program. In fact, while we state 20 hours a week as a guideline, the reality is many students in the program need all of their attention devoted to their courses in order to be successful. Information provided on exit interviews by students who have not been successful strongly suggests that one of the major barriers to success is working too many hours during their coursework.

In addition, we encourage you to estimate three hours of study time per credit hour taken. This is above and beyond the class, lab and clinical time. This means that preparing for and attending the Nursing Program requires well above 40 hours per week. Nursing school is a full-time job in and of itself.

Q. I have applied to the Nursing Program, and I am waiting for the admission decision. Which courses should I take?
A. It is suggested that you complete the general education support (co-requisite) courses. These include:

- SOC 200
- HLT 230 (Nutrition) or HLT 143 (Medical Terminology)
- ITE 115
- BIO 142/BIO 232
- Humanities Elective (HUM)

If you have completed all corequisite courses and need other courses, you should consider making an appointment with your nursing faculty advisor to discuss courses that are transferrable to four-year institutions to support completion of the baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN).

Q. What qualifies as a humanities (HUM) elective?
A. The humanities elective requirement must be satisfied by completing a conceptual, rather than an applied humanities course. A list of conceptual humanities courses can be found at www.jtcc.edu/humanitiesselectives.
Q. How do I calculate my Curricular GPA?
A. If you are interested in calculating your curricular GPA, fill in the table below. Use the following grade points for the letter grade obtained in each course you have completed:
A=4  B=3  C=2  D=1  F=0

Multiply the grade point and the credit hours to obtain the total points earned. Then, divide your total points earned by the total credit hours to obtain your GPA.

Example: To determine your GPA in the example below, divide your total points earned by the number of credits earned: 45/14=3.214 The current curricular GPA is 3.214

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course*</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Points</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
<th>Total Points Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIO 141 (BIO 231)**</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>x 4 =</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENG 111</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>x 3 =</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 158</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>x 3 =</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 230</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>x 3 =</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDV 100</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>x 1 =</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45/14=3.214 GPA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use this grid to calculate your curricular GPA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x 3 =</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 230</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x 3 =</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDV 100</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x 1 =</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All attempts at the following courses in the past 10 years will be factored into your GPA.
**BIO 231 is calculated using a 5 point scale. All other courses use a 4 point scale.

For BIO 231 only: A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=1