



JEANETTE C. RUDY SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

**Cumberland**  
UNIVERSITY

# **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Candidacy Packet**



## WELCOME!

Thank you for your interest in Cumberland University's BSN nursing program. The Jeanette C Rudy School of Nursing seeks candidates who will bring the qualities of: scholarship, caring, resilience, integrity, collaboration, service, passion, vision, excellence, professionalism, motivation, commitment and excellence to the profession of nursing. We take pride in our nursing program, and hope you will discover a great fit with us, and find our program suitable to your educational needs.

Our program has two available tracks:

Standard Cohorts start fall and spring semesters, which can be done part time if preferred and LPN to BSN with timing based on prerequisite coursework needed.

Our mission is to prepare caring, highly competent graduates to provide excellent, evidenced-based nursing care for individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan with emphasis placed on knowledge, skills, attitudes, and experiences that promote clinical reasoning, integrity, and life-long learning.

Please read the information in this candidacy packet carefully. If, at any time, you have questions about the candidacy process, please email: [nursingcandidacy@cumberland.edu](mailto:nursingcandidacy@cumberland.edu)

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Standard Track:

Designed for the student who prefers classes in the daytime, didactic classes for this track typically meet during days and afternoons. Labs and Clinicals meet based on availability of clinical sites and can be scheduled Monday-Sunday in the day or evening. Please note, just like any undergraduate major, this schedule is not consistent in its times each semester. Due to the fast pace and high-intensity nature of nursing programs, we discourage working many hours. The Standard track is a five-semester program with summers reserved for specific remaining GEC courses or to gain valuable healthcare experience by working, completing externships or doing mission work.

## LPN to BSN Nursing Track

The LPN-to-BSN track is a hybrid nursing track designed for the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) seeking a baccalaureate in nursing (BSN). This track is unique in that the LPN is admitted to the School of Nursing on acceptance to Cumberland and begins nursing classes along with general education credits (GEC). From semester one, the student is considered a nursing student rather than a pre-nursing student. The LPN-to-BSN track is 7 semesters for the full-time student, in contrast to 9 semesters for the traditional student. Courses are taught with a combination of asynchronous online course work and synchronous on-ground classes, labs, and clinicals. On ground courses occur one day a week (Tuesdays for Spring 2025). Clinical rotations are on weekends. LPNs are awarded up to 16 validation hours for previous learning in their LPN program. To receive validation hours, the LPN-to-BSN student must be successful in courses and mastery tests of similar nursing courses in their LPN program. The validation hours are earned in a specific course that is similar to a course in the student's LPN program and are totaled and awarded at the end of the program.

## Graduation timeline

Standard Track:

If you are admitted for the fall semester, you will take nursing classes in the fall, spring (year 1); fall, spring (year 2) and graduate after the fall semester (year 3). If you are admitted in the spring semester, you will take nursing classes in the spring (year 1), fall, spring (year 2) and fall, spring (year 3) and graduate in the spring. Students may choose to attend full-time or part-time. Part-time attendance will extend the graduation timeline.

LPN to BSN Track:

Length of program depends on prerequisite coursework needed. Individualized program of study will be created on a case-by-case basis.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Teaching-Learning Facility for the School of Nursing

The nursing program is housed in McFarland Hall, (500 Park Avenue, Lebanon TN) which was previously a wing and the intensive care unit (ICU) of McFarland Hospital. The facility is located approximately one mile from the main campus. For hands-on clinical practice, students will travel to healthcare facilities as well as other learning sites within a 65-mile radius of McFarland Hall. We do not allow students to pick their own clinical assignments, but we will work around any approved University related activities.

## ATI TEAS Exam

The ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) is used to determine the candidate's academic preparedness level. The exam covers the areas of reading, mathematics, science, English and language usage. You will earn a score and a rank of developmental, basic, proficient, advanced, or exemplary. A set cut score is not required on the TEAS Exam; however, exam scores are one component of the ranking admission process used to identify students for admission into the nursing program. The nursing program highly recommends that the student score at the proficient level or higher to be considered for enrollment in the nursing program. If the student scores at the basic or developmental level, the nursing faculty recommend that the student plan a course of study to strengthen basic academic skills in reading, English, math and science. The higher the score and the rank, the higher the candidate will place in the pool of applicants which will increase the potential for admission.

Register for an ATI account, schedule your exam, and pay at <https://atitesting.com/teas>. The student must choose Cumberland University as the college which will receive the ATI TEAS score so that the score can be available for admission consideration. TEAS Exam scores must be earned within one year of seeking candidacy to the School of Nursing. The test can be retaken once each application period after a 30 day wait time.

You are urged to go to the TEAS website and start prepping for the exam. ATI has a suggested six-week study plan available on the website. For cost and more information on preparing, please go to [www.atitesting.com/teas](http://www.atitesting.com/teas). Cumberland University Library has two TEAS prep books on reserve in the Vise Library. There are study manuals, online practice tests and a SmartPrep Tutorial available on the ATI website.

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## Transfer Policy from Other Schools of Nursing

Transfer students must meet the requirements for admission to the University as outlined in the most current Cumberland University Catalog and for the School of Nursing as found in both the Cumberland University Catalog and the current School of Nursing Student Handbook. Students who desire to transfer from an accredited baccalaureate-nursing program and have never made a D or F in a nursing course will be evaluated on an individual basis by the Nursing Admission & Progression Committee to determine placement.

Any student who has previously attended another nursing program and is admitted to the Cumberland University School of Nursing with a final course grade of a "D" or lower in two or more nursing courses will be evaluated by the Nursing Admission & Progression Committee. Candidates who have earned a D or F in another nursing program MAY be admitted and allowed to restart at the beginning of the nursing curriculum but will be assessed as already having one (1) "D" or lower in a nursing course. Therefore, if the student receives another "D" or lower in ANY Nursing course at Cumberland University, the student will be dismissed from the program.



# STANDARD PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Students must have applied to Cumberland University and have been initially accepted into the university with a declared nursing major in order to be considered for candidacy.
- In order to be “initially accepted”, the Office of Admissions must have official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended.
- After acceptance to Cumberland University, candidates must take the ATI TEAS entrance test.
- Prerequisites must have been satisfactorily completed, with the exception of nine hours of selected courses\* prior to entering the first upper division nursing course. These classes can be in progress up until two weeks before nursing courses begin. Please see page eight (8) of this packet for a full list of prerequisites required.
- Admissions process: Candidates must fill out the candidacy form. All candidacy applications will be reviewed by the Rudy School of Nursing Admission Progression Committee. A weighted admission ranking system will be used to determine admission to the BSN program. The ranking is based on the pool of candidates for a particular semester and the number of clinical sites and lab slots available.
- Candidates must have earned a minimum of 2.75 cumulative G.P.A (4.00 scale) in coursework to be placed in the pool of candidates for ranking (NO EXCEPTIONS).
- Additional factors which will be weighed in the ranking scores are: ATI scores and scores in science courses. Grades of D’s, F’s, course repeats, and withdrawals will adversely impact the ranking. Grades of D’s and F’s in science courses with repeats negatively impact ranking. Failure from another nursing program will negatively impact the ranking.
- All candidates must have successfully completed their science courses with a C or higher: Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Microbiology & Chemistry (BIO 213, BIO 214, BIO 203, Chem 103), and Medical Terminology. These must have been satisfactorily completed prior to entering the first upper-division nursing course (NO EXCEPTIONS).
- All other prerequisites must have been satisfactorily completed, with the exception of selected courses (these are listed below and can be taken in the summer between nursing courses.) PLEASE NOTE: there is no financial aid in the summers.

\*Acceptable lower division coursework, up to nine hours, that can be taken in the summer semesters, include the following:

CIS 170 Introduction to Microcomputer Applications

HIS 201, or HIS 202 US History 1 and 2 Or

HIS 191 or 192 World Civilization 1 & 2

ENG 215 Introduction to Literature or

ENG 216 Topics in Literature

Fine Arts Elective

\*LPN to BSN Program Requirements are set individually. Prerequisites may be taken during the program.

# STEPS TO SEEKING CANDIDACY

**1**

Apply and get initially accepted to Cumberland University

**2**

Once initially accepted to the university, study and take the ATI TEAS Exam.

**3**

After you've taken the TEAS Entrance Exam, you must fill out the Cumberland Nursing Candidacy Form. The form is available on the Cumberland website under Academics - Rudy School of Nursing and Health Professions - Nursing Candidacy or [click here](#). Please note that you may not seek candidacy for both program tracks.

**4**

The deadline to apply is September 1 for Spring and March 1 for Fall. Notification of progression will be sent by October 1 for Spring and May 1 for Fall to the student's email on their candidacy form.

**5**

Once admitted, return your Student Acceptance or Refusal of Admission form by the deadline specified on the form.

# PREREQUISITES: STANDARD TRACK

Prior to the start of upper division nursing coursework, candidates must have completed these prerequisites based upon previous degrees and/or coursework:

Course	Candidate Has Bachelor's Degree	Candidate Has University Parallel Associate's Degree	Has Neither
College Algebra	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X
English Composition I & II	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X
Fine Arts Elective	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X
Fundamentals of Chemistry	X	X	X
Fundamentals of Speech <i>or</i> Business Communications	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X
General Biology	Exempt if credit is awarded for Microbiology, Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II	Exempt if credit is awarded for Microbiology, Human Anatomy & Physiology I & II	X
Microbiology	X	X	X
Human Anatomy & Physiology I	X	X	X
Human Anatomy & Physiology II	X	X	X
Human Growth & Development (Through the Lifespan)	X	X	X
Introduction to Literature <i>or</i> Topics in Literature	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X
Introduction to Microcomputer Applications	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X
Introduction to Sociology <i>or</i> General Psychology	X	X	X
Medical Terminology	X	X	X
Statistics of the Behavioral Sciences	X	X	X
US History I and II <i>or</i> World Civilization I and II	Exempt Due to Degree	Exempt Due to Degree	X

Please Note: Candidates must have no more than nine hours of lower division coursework remaining to be eligible for candidacy; these can only include: CIS 170 Introduction to Microcomputer Applications, OR HIS 201 or HIS 202 US History 1 and 2, Or HIS 191 or 192 World Civilization 1 & 2, or HIS 111 or 112 Western Civilization 1 & 2, OR ENG 215 Introduction to Literature or ENG 216 Topics in Literature or Fine Arts.

Note for LPN to BSN Track: Each Student will be assessed individually and a program of study designed for that students specific needs.





## QUESTIONS?

We thank you for your interest in Cumberland University's BSN nursing program and are excited for what's to come.

This is an exciting time, and we're here to help you prepare in any way possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at [nursingcandidacy@cumberland.edu](mailto:nursingcandidacy@cumberland.edu).