

CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM

*Capital Community College, Gateway Community College, Naugatuck Valley Community College,
Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Norwalk Community College, Three Rivers Community College*

www.commnet.edu/nursing

Nursing Information Packet

2011-2012 Academic Year

Colleges that Offer the CT-CCNP

Capital Community College

Enrollment Services Office
950 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 906-5140
www.ccc.commnet.edu

Northwestern CT Community College

Admissions Office
Park Place East
Winsted, CT 06098
(860) 738-6300
www.nwcc.commnet.edu

Gateway Community College

Admissions Office, Long Wharf Campus
Attention: Nursing
60 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 285-2010
www.gwcc.commnet.edu

Norwalk Community College

Admissions Office
188 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854-1655
(203) 857-7060
www.ncc.commnet.edu

Naugatuck Valley Community College

Admissions Office
750 Chase Parkway
Waterbury, CT 06708
(203) 575-8040
www.nvcc.commnet.edu

Three Rivers Community College

Nursing Admissions
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 892-5702
www.trcc.commnet.edu

Rev. 6/10

Please disregard all previous versions of the Nursing Information Packet.

Information in this packet is subject to change. If you do not intend to apply to the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program for the 2011-2012 academic year, please obtain an updated packet for future years.

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Introduction

The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) is an innovative associate degree program of study offered at six Connecticut Community Colleges. The common nursing programming offers a four-semester curriculum designed to prepare registered nurses to function in the professional role utilizing current standards of nursing practice. In addition, students within the program have the same admission and policy standards, which allows for greater student flexibility.

The curriculum is built upon courses from the social and biological sciences, liberal arts, and nursing. These courses provide the foundation for the practice of nursing. Six core values (critical thinking, safe and competent practice, caring, professionalism, communication, and holistic care) provide the framework for organizing the nursing curriculum.

A graduate of the nursing program is awarded an Associate in Science degree and is eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). Graduates can apply for licensure through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The graduate is prepared to function as an entry-level practitioner in health care settings such as general or specialty hospitals, extended care facilities, doctors' offices, and clinics.

Approval and Accreditation

Five of the colleges (Capital, Gateway, Naugatuck Valley, Norwalk & Three Rivers) are individually approved by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing with the consent of the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.

Northwestern Connecticut Community College is licensed by the State of Connecticut Department of Higher Education. Northwestern has been granted conditional approval by the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Nursing and will seek accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc. after graduating their first class in May 2012.

The Role of the Associate Degree Graduate within the Scope of Nursing Practice

The Nursing Program will provide the graduate with the knowledge and technical skills to practice in a safe, effective and competent manner within the legal and ethical framework for an entry-level Registered Nurse. The scope of practice for the Associate Degree graduate is to provide and manage care for a diverse group of individuals, families and communities in collaboration with members of the health care team consistent with the CT-CCNP core values.

Advisement

Advisors/Counselors are available at each college to guide applicants through the admission process. All potential applicants seeking admission to the Connecticut Community College Nursing Program are encouraged to read through this information packet. After reading the packet, *students should direct all questions to their College of First Choice*. Below is a listing of the primary contacts at each college. Students are strongly encouraged to attend a Nursing Information Session at their College of First Choice to learn more about the CT-CCNP.

College	Contact Person	Contact Information
Capital Community College	Michael Kriscenski	(860) 906-5040 mkriscenski@ccc.commnet.edu
Gateway Community College	Mary Beth Banks	(203) 285-2388 mbanks@gwcc.commnet.edu
Naugatuck Valley Community College	Noreen Cerruto	(203) 575-8079 ncerruto@nvcc.commnet.edu
Northwestern CT Community College	Randi Camirand	(860) 738-6356 rcamirand@nwcc.commnet.edu
Norwalk Community College	Bill Chagnon	(203) 857-7090 wchagnon@ncc.commnet.edu
Three Rivers Community College	Amy Rozek	(860) 892-5722 nursingadmissions@trcc.commnet.edu

Application Process

The nursing program requires students to complete a common nursing application. The nursing application can be obtained online (www.comnet.edu/nursing) or from any of the six colleges, and is available by November 1. The application period for the nursing program is November 1 - February 1 of each year. Applicants to the CT-CCNP must submit the common nursing application and related documentation to the Admissions Office at the **College of First Choice** by the **February 1, 2011** deadline. "**College of First Choice**" is the college that the applicant would most like to attend.

Applicants may select a 2nd and 3rd choice college at the initial time of application which will eliminate the necessity for the applicant to apply to more than one College. An applicant should only list the college(s) to which s/he would be willing to commute. (Please note: clinical sites could be within an hour radius of the college, and may require a mandatory parking fee.)

Students are to submit a common nursing application at the College of First Choice *only*. Submission of a common nursing application to more than one of the six nursing colleges could affect the application status of a student. Advisors/Counselors are available at each college to guide applicants through the application process.

Application Requirements

Students are required to submit the following by the **February 1, 2011 deadline**:

- General College application submitted to the college of first choice (separate from the nursing program application) with application fee of \$20.00 for first-time applicants to any of the twelve Connecticut Community Colleges.
- Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP) common application.
- Proof of high school completion.
- If the student is using their high school chemistry to satisfy the admission requirement, official high school transcripts are required.
- Official SAT I score reports, if applicable (see page 6 for clarification).
- Official College/University transcripts from ALL colleges ever attended, regardless of the age of the transcripts and applicability to the nursing program.**
- Official TEAS results, if not taken at a CT Community College.
- Proof of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles) and Varicella immunizations if born after 12/31/56. Students who graduated from a CT high school in 1999 or later only need to provide proof of immunity to Varicella (Chicken Pox).

** Please be sure that all transcripts are the final transcripts. Students taking courses in the fall semester prior to applying need to submit transcripts that include their fall grades. ***Transcripts must be submitted regardless of the age of the transcripts and applicability to the nursing program. This includes any college credits earned while in high school.***

Students who have attended or are currently attending one of the twelve Connecticut Community Colleges must submit community college transcripts from all previously attended Connecticut Community Colleges to the College of First Choice.

Applications will be accepted by the Admission Offices from November 1 through February 1. Students are encouraged to apply at the beginning of the application cycle. **All application**

materials should be sent to the Admission Office at the College of First Choice and must be post-marked to the College of First Choice no later than February 1, 2011. Late applications and transcripts will not be accepted. All applications that are completed by the February 1, 2011 deadline will be reviewed and applicants will be notified by mail prior to May 1 as to their admission status.

A student who has received a grade of failure (F) or unsatisfactory in the clinical component of any course in a health career program is not eligible for admission into the CT-CCNP. A “health career program” is defined as any nursing or allied health program whose curriculum has both a classroom and clinical component.

All initial communication with students will be done through email. Please be sure to provide a clearly written, valid email address on the CT-CCNP application. If you do not have an email address, please create an email account prior to submitting your application.

Admission Requirements

- High School graduate or equivalent.
- A score of 40 or higher on the College Level Math portion of the Accuplacer; OR SAT I Math score of 550 or higher; OR Connecticut Community College **MAT*136 or 137**, or equivalent or higher, **with a grade of C or higher**, completed prior to application deadline of February 1, 2011.
- One year of high school Chemistry with a lab or Connecticut Community College **CHE*111** or equivalent **with a grade of C or higher**, completed within five years prior+ to application deadline of February 1, 2011.
- A passing score on the computer proficiency test++ or completion of Connecticut Community College **CSA*105, CSA*106 or CSC*101** or equivalent, **with a grade of C or higher**, completed prior to application deadline of February 1, 2011.
- Connecticut Community College **ENG*101**: English Composition, or equivalent, **with a grade of C or higher**, completed prior to application deadline of February 1, 2011.
- Connecticut Community College **BIO*211**: Anatomy and Physiology I, or equivalent, **with a grade of C+ or higher**, completed within five years prior+ to application deadline of February 1, 2011.
- Connecticut Community College **BIO*212**: Anatomy and Physiology II, or equivalent, **with a grade of C+ or higher**, completed within five years prior+ to application deadline of February 1, 2011 or completed during, but no later, than the spring semester of application year.
- **2.7 GPA** – Based on all college courses taken within the past five years and any college courses taken prior to five years that meet the nursing admission and/or curriculum requirements.
- **TEAS score**. Applicants must have an **adjusted individual total score of 65% or higher**. Test scores are valid for three years from the testing date, and must be submitted by February 1, 2011.

+ “Five years prior” is defined as having completed the course between December 2005 and February 1, 2011.

++ Please refer to **page 7** for additional information on the **computer literacy** requirement.

There may be prerequisite courses that must be successfully completed prior to taking the admission requirements. Please consult with the college catalog at the College of First Choice for specific information. Students should complete the required Accuplacer computerized placement

test. The placement test may be waived for students who have prior college English and/or mathematics credits, or for students who have the following SAT I scores: 550 or higher (Math) or 450 or higher (Critical Reading or Writing).

Computer Literacy

Applicants must demonstrate computer literacy as an admissions requirement in one of the following ways:

1. Proficiency Exam- it is the applicant's responsibility to check with the college of first choice for the acceptability of a computer proficiency test administered at another college. A final determination of acceptance will be made by the college of first choice.
2. Successful completion of CSA*105/CSA*106: Introduction to Software Applications or CSC*101: Introduction to Computers with a grade of C or higher.

If an individual does not meet the CSA/CSC course requirement, they may take the proficiency examination; however, the CSA/CSC grade will remain in the calculation of the GPA (unless the course was failed prior to five years ago). Check with the college of first choice for additional information.

TEAS Standardized Admission Test for Nursing

The TEAS is a multiple choice test that evaluates essential academic skills: math, science, reading, and English. It is recommended that applicants review biology, chemistry, and math content in preparation for taking the TEAS. The test will take approximately 3 ½ hours to complete. Testing fees are non-refundable. Applicants may not reschedule their test date.

Applicants must obtain **an adjusted individual total score of 65% or higher** on the TEAS to be considered for admission. The CT-CCNP currently uses TEAS version 4.0. Test results are valid for three years from the testing date.

Applicants may re-take the TEAS as many times as desired, however:

- There is a mandatory 45-day period between each testing date.
- Applicants may register to retest anytime, but testing dates must be 45 days apart.
- Applicants applying to retake the TEAS before the 45-day period will not be permitted to test and testing fees paid will not be refunded.

The following Connecticut Community Colleges administer the TEAS: Capital, Gateway, Naugatuck Valley, Northwestern CT, Norwalk, Quinebaug Valley and Three Rivers.

For testing schedules and registration information, go to www.atitesting.com/ctccteas. **If the TEAS is taken at a site other than one of the Connecticut Community Colleges, applicants must have official results sent by ATI to the College of First Choice by the application deadline.**

The TEAS Study Manual is available through www.atitesting.com. Students purchasing the study manual should get the 3.0/4.0 version. Online practice tests are also available through ATI. Visit ATI's website (www.atitesting.com) for additional information about the TEAS.

Formula for Computing Ranking

Applicants who meet all of the application and admission requirements are assigned a rank number. Rank numbers are computed by the following formula:

25% = TEAS score

25% = BIO*211 (Anatomy & Physiology I) grade

50% = GPA

Selection Process: Rank, Random, Waitlist

Rank Selection (60%): All *eligible* applicants will be ranked by the CT-CCNP.

Each college will fill 60% of their seats by rank.

Random Selection (40%): Common pool of remaining applicants will consist of all students who were eligible for the program, but were not selected through the rank selection. Students will be placed on a list for their College of First Choice and will be selected for that college in random order until the college is full.

Applicants will be considered for random selection at their second or third choice college if either of those colleges has spaces that weren't filled through their own random selection process.

Once all colleges are filled, the remaining applicants will go onto a waitlist.

Waitlist: Applicants on the waitlist will be ranked using their original CT-CCNP rank number.

The waitlist will be divided into six separate lists based on the College of First Choice. When openings occur, applicants will be selected (in rank order) from the waitlist at that college and offered the nursing seat. Applicants who refuse an offer from their college of first choice will be removed from consideration for the current academic year.

In the event that a college's waitlist is emptied, any further openings will be filled by selecting, in order, the top ranked student from the remaining colleges. The top ranked applicant will be offered the seat regardless of the colleges listed on the application. An applicant can refuse the offer and go back onto the waitlist at their College of First Choice.

The waitlist will not carry over from year to year. Applicants who are not selected from the waitlist will need to submit a new application if they want to be considered for admission to the nursing program the following year. Students would need to contact the Admission Office at the **College of First Choice** to see what application information is still on file.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The following program of study reflects a full-time curriculum plan that students enrolled in the nursing program are required to complete for graduation. Many students make the decision to enroll in the nursing program on a part-time basis, taking the general education courses prior to the nursing courses. Non-nursing courses must be taken in the semester indicated in the plan of study below or may be taken earlier; nursing courses must be taken in the stated sequence.

The admission and pre-requisite requirements of BIO*211: Anatomy & Physiology I, BIO*212: Anatomy & Physiology II, and ENG*101: English Composition are credits (11 credits) that are part of the total 68 credits required for graduation. BIO*211 and ENG*101 must be completed prior to submitting an application; BIO*212 may be in progress and the applicant may be accepted pending successful completion with a grade of C+ or higher. Please refer to page 6 of this packet for a complete list of admission requirements.

A grade of C is required for all co-requisite courses in the nursing plan of study unless a higher grade is required for admission to the program. Co-requisite courses must be satisfactorily completed before or during the semester in which they are scheduled in the curriculum. Students who fail to complete required co-requisite courses may be dismissed from the program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	<u>Credits</u>		<u>Credits</u>
+BIO*211: Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
+ENG*101: English Composition	3		
PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS:			
+BIO*212: Anatomy & Physiology II	4		
FIRST SEMESTER		SECOND SEMESTER	
NUR*101: Introduction to Nursing Practice	8	NUR*102: Family Health Nursing	8
+BIO*235: Microbiology	4	NUR*103: Pharmacology for Families Across the Life Span	1
+PSY*111: General Psychology	3	+PSY*201: Life Span Development	3
		+SOC*101: Principles of Sociology	3
THIRD SEMESTER		FOURTH SEMESTER	
NUR*201: Nursing Care of Individuals and Families I	9	NUR*203: Nursing Care of Individuals and Families II	8
NUR*202: Pharmacology for Individuals and Families with Intermediate Health Care Needs	1	NUR*204: Pharmacology for Individuals, Families, & Groups with Complex Health Care Needs	1
+ENG*102: English Composition & Literature	3	NUR*205: Nursing Management and Trends	2
		+Elective: Humanities++ or Fine Arts	3

Total Program Credits - 68 credits (General Education Credits - 30 credits; Nursing Credits - 38 credits)

+ There may be a prerequisite course that must be successfully completed prior to taking the course.

++ Norwalk Community College requires one interdisciplinary course to fulfill core curriculum requirements.

LPN Advanced Placement and Transfer Policy

LPN Advanced Placement

The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program participates in the Connecticut League for Nursing Articulation Model for LPNs. To be eligible for articulation the LPN must:

- Hold a current Connecticut Licensed Practical Nurse license.
- Satisfy all the CT-CCNP admission requirements.
- Submit a CT-CCNP application and be admitted to the program (**please note, the application process does not vary for LPN candidates**).

Once admitted, LPN candidates will be advised as to their placement within the CT-CCNP. For an LPN to be advanced placed into the third semester, the following requirements must be met:

- Complete the required general education courses of the first year of the CT-CCNP with a grade of C or higher.
- Successfully complete the Connecticut LPN Transition Bridge Course at Charter Oak State College (COSC 190) and the college based CT-CCNP LPN transition course (NUR*130).

Students who are unsuccessful in either COSC 190 or NUR*130 are not eligible to bridge into the third semester of the CT-CCNP. Students in this situation will begin the program in NUR*101. Space in NUR*101 may not be available at the college of first choice; the student must be willing to begin the nursing program at any of the six colleges with available space in NUR*101.

Applicants are encouraged to seek advisement from one of the contact persons listed below prior to the application process. If admitted to the program, a student must contact the persons listed below for advisement regarding advanced placement.

College	Contact Person	Contact Information
Capital Community College	Linda Kapinos Associate Professor of Nursing	(860) 906-5168 lkapinos@ccc.commnet.edu
Gateway Community College	Mary Beth Banks Enrollment Services Assistant	(203) 285-2388 mbanks@gwcc.commnet.edu
Naugatuck Valley Community College	Mary Manka LPN Advisor	(203) 596-8657 mmanka@nvcc.commnet.edu
Northwestern CT Community College	Randi Camirand Educational Assistant	(860) 738-6356 rcamirand@nwcc.commnet.edu
Norwalk Community College	Nursing & Allied Health Division <u>or Bill Chagnon</u> , Assoc. Director of Admissions	(203) 857-7121 or (203) 857-7090 wchagnon@ncc.commnet.edu
Three Rivers Community College	Amy Rozek Assoc. Director of Admissions	(860) 892-5722 nursingadmissions@trcc.commnet.edu

External Transfer Nursing Applicants

An external nursing transfer applicant is defined as a student who has successfully completed one or more nursing courses within the last 18 months at a program outside of the Connecticut Community College system, and wishes to transfer in these courses for advanced placement.

Students who wish to transfer nursing courses with a clinical component from another college or university will be considered for transfer after the following requirements have been met:

1. The applicant completes the CT-CCNP application, and submits the application to the Admissions Office at the **college of first choice**. *Applicants must meet all nursing program admission requirements*. Completed applications are due by **July 1** for fall semester requests and **January 2** for spring semester requests.
2. A written request for evaluation of nursing course work and nursing course descriptions must be submitted to the Admissions Office at the **college of first choice** along with the CT-CCNP application. Requests will be forwarded to the Nursing Director at the **college of first choice**. Written requests are due by **July 1** for fall semester requests and **January 2** for spring semester requests.
3. External transfer candidates must have a **3.0 overall GPA**. The GPA is based on all college courses taken within the past five years and any college courses taken prior to five years that meet the nursing admission and/or curriculum requirements.

External transfers will be considered on a space-available basis.

Transfer Credits

Transfer credit evaluations for nursing applicants are done by the College of First Choice. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the total credits applicable to the nursing degree must be granted by the college awarding the degree. No more than thirty credit hours of non-traditional credit may count towards the nursing degree. Non-traditional credit includes CLEP, DSST, Challenge Exams, Military Service Schools, and Assessment of Prior Learning.

In accordance with transfer of credit guidelines set forth by the Board of Trustees, courses which meet nursing program requirements will be accepted by the CT-CCNP. Once an applicant earns credit at the College of First Choice, transfer credit for the same course from another college will not be granted.

Credits Earned Outside the United States – Transcripts need to be evaluated by the “Course By Course” option through the World Education Services Inc, PO Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, New York 10113 or another approved site and submitted to the **College of First Choice**. Contact the College of First Choice for additional information.

Transfer Grades

Grades from colleges not regionally accredited will not be accepted in transfer. A minimum grade of C is required unless otherwise noted by the admission requirements.

A grade of C+ will be determined when the college does not use plus (+) and minus (-) by having the student be responsible for providing the proof that the grade is a C+. A numerical grade of 77-79 will be considered a C+.

Miscellaneous Information for Accepted Nursing Students

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS) CERTIFICATION

Students are required to provide documentation of current professional level certification in Basic Life Support for adult, child, and infant. Certification can only be earned through the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross and must remain current throughout the Program. Courses meeting this requirement are: The American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers **OR** The American Red Cross CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer.

A copy of the current certification card will be kept on file at the college which the student is attending. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the clinical learning experience.

CLINICAL SITES

Clinical learning experiences are planned as an integral part of the nursing courses and are held at a variety of healthcare settings, such as hospitals, extended care facilities, and selected community health centers. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from assigned clinical sites. Clinical experiences may be assigned during daytime, evening, or weekend hours. Assignment of clinical sites is at the discretion of the nursing faculty. Clinical sites could be within an hour radius of the college, and may require a mandatory parking fee.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Some clinical learning sites require students to undergo a background check for felony convictions. Students who do not pass the background check may be excluded from the clinical site and may not be able to meet the competencies required for the program.

FELONY CONVICTION

At the time of application for RN licensure an applicant will be asked the following question by the Connecticut Department of Public Health: *“Have you ever been found guilty or convicted as a result of an act which constitutes a felony under the laws of this state, federal law or the laws of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a felony under the laws of this state? If your answer is “yes”, give full details, dates, etc. on a separate notarized statement and furnish a Certified Court Copy (with court seal affixed) of the original complaint, the answer, the judgment, the settlement, and/or the disposition.”*

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Immunization Requirements- students will receive a packet of information describing current college policies.

Health Assessment Form - completed forms must be on file in accordance with college policy.

TECHNICAL STANDARDS

The RN student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad variety of clinical situations. Technical standards reflect reasonable performance expectations of the RN student for the performance of common functions of the registered nurse. These requirements address capabilities in the areas of motor, sensory, communication, behavior and critical thinking abilities. The technical standards can be found at www.commnet.edu/nursing.

WAIVER OF LICENSURE GUARANTEE

Upon successful completion of the Associate of Science degree with a major in Nursing, the graduate is eligible to take the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). Graduation from the CT-CCNP does not guarantee licensure to practice nursing. Licensure requirements and procedures are the responsibility of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, State Board of Examiners for Nursing. Permission to take the NCLEX-RN examination is established by law and granted by the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing.