Associates Degree in Nursing at KPC

The Nursing Department from the University of Alaska, Anchorage provides an opportunity for qualified students to complete an Associates Degree (AAS-RN) program based out of Kenai Peninsula College’s Kenai River Campus and Kachemak Bay Campus. There are now major differences in when the two campuses start their programs and their application deadlines.

The program at KPC’s Soldotna or Kenai River Campus will start a cohort of eight students every year. The application deadline for the 2015 cohort will be in May 1st, 2015. Those accepted into this next cohort will begin their classes in September 2015.

Being "based in Soldotna or Homer” means that a majority of the required clinical experiences and meetings with the clinical supervisor will be done in Soldotna or in Homer. The coursework for AAS Nursing programs is done via distance delivery (interactive video conferencing) with instructors from Anchorage or in Kodiak. Some clinical rotations will have to be held in Anchorage since there are limited local opportunities for some experiences (such as Psychiatric Nursing and Pediatrics). Students will have to spend several weeks in Anchorage during these sessions which normally happen during the third and fourth semesters.

The cohort of beginning Nursing students based in Soldotna is eight students each year while the cohort based in Homer is eight students every other year. The reason for the disparity is the number of clinical opportunities that are available in the two different local hospitals.

The competition for these limited seats is rigorous and there is a well-defined ranking system that the Nursing Department will use. Those students with the highest rank will be offered the available seats. Completed applications and HESI test scores must be in the Nursing Department’s Anchorage office by the stated deadline. Please know that earlier application submission is strongly encouraged. Courses must be completed before the application deadline date. However, courses that students are currently completing during the Spring semester will count in their May 1st application.
Realistically, it takes most students 1 - 2 full years to acquire the “credentials” for a complete application with a real chance of being accepted. This time varies according to the course load a student can take and any previous college background.

If going to school in Anchorage, Homer, or Mat-Su is a possibility, consider these options. The exact same Associates Degree-RN program starts every year in Anchorage (in September ) and they accept 48 students each year. The program based in Homer will start a cohort of 8 students every other year. The next Homer-based cohort will have an application deadline on July 1st 2015 and those selected will begin their classes in January 2016. The Mat-Su program also starts every-other year with the next cohort starting Jan 2016. The application deadline for the Anchorage-based program is February 1st each year. The application deadline for Mat-Su is July 1st. Students may apply to both the Anchorage-based program and the Soldotna-based program since these application dates are several months apart. But, students may NOT apply for both the Homer 2016 and Mat-Su 2016 program since both have deadlines on July 1st. Apply for one or the other.

**Getting Started:**

Step # 1 – **Students must take a Chemistry course with a lab in High School or College?** Those who have not taken a Chemistry course will need to take Chem 103 and the lab, or Chem 055 and the lab. KPC does not offer Chem 055 anymore since it won’t transfer to outside schools but Chem 103 and labs will transfer. Chem 103 is offered face-to-face each Fall at KPC and often in the Spring as well. Chem 103 is offered online in the Spring and Summer semesters.

It is very important that students have Intermediate Algebra skills that are equal to Math 105. The Chemistry Department is now requiring completion of Math 105 before being able to register for Chem 103. (Please note that students may contact the instructor of the Chem 103 class at KPC for a possible waiver of the math requirement … but UAA computer registration programs will not allow registration for Chem 103 before completing Math 105 ….or without a waiver from the instructor.)
If you have no high school Chemistry, the UAA Chemistry Department requires you to start with Chem 055 before Chem 103. Since we do not offer Chem 055, KPC instructors will freely override that requirement if students have adequate math background. Remember that students will need to do the lab portion of Chem 103, even if it is done online.

**Note:** Math 105 is becoming a required course. It is required for Chemistry courses students may need and will be beneficial for those taking the required HESI test. Most math courses are available at KPC each semester, face-to-face or online, and often in the summer too.

**Complete the University-wide required General Education courses:**

- English (Eng 111 and 211, 212, or 213)  
  *(Eng 213 is preferred)*  
- Oral Communications (Comm 111, 235, 237, or 241)  
- Social Sciences: an introductory course in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology  
- Humanities...Math 105
  
  **3cr**

Co-requisite courses:

- Anatomy & Physiology I and II  
  4cr + 4cr
- Microbiology  
  4cr
- Lifespan Development Psychology  
  3cr
- Nutrition for Health Sciences  
  3cr

These ten courses are the ones used in the ranking system that follows:

**The Ranking System:**

The ranking system awards points for the following courses, credentials & Co- requisite courses:

**Courses completed:**

- 2 pts  
  A & P I (Bio 111)  
  Fall Term
- 2 pts  
  A & P II (Bio 112)  
  Spring Term
- 2 pts  
  Microbiology (Bio 240)  
  Spring Term
General Education Courses Completed: 1 point is awarded for each General Education course completed...(up to 5 points)

Experience: One point is awarded for having a medical certification AND experience working in that medical capacity. (eg. CNA, EMT, Medical Assistant, Pharm. Tech. etc.) Documentation of the certification and employment is required with the application. Note: the certification does not have to be current at application time.

Grade Point Average: Up to 4.0 points are available ( eg. gpa of 3.4 => 3.4 points ), The School of Nursing uses your most recent transcript GPA.

Previous Ranking as an Alternative Student for a given Cohort. Students that have applied in a specific location and not gained admission will be awarded an extra point in the ranking system. Students may gain up to two (2) possible extra points as long as their previous applications were for the same location and the applicant had at least the basic requirements completed ( Algebra & Chemistry).

Test Score: Up to 10 points for the score on the HESI test. ( eg. 84% Composite Percentile => 8.4 pts )

+ Those students with the highest total point ranking are offered the limited number of seats in each program. A ranked waiting list is also created for those not initially offered a seat. Frequently someone from the waiting list is then offered a seat due to students turning down the opportunity.

Comments: 1. The Nursing Department does the ranking and makes all decisions on acceptance into these programs.

2. Students from KPC MUST apply for the RN program at UAA and
Admission to UAA. This is necessary, even if students are already admitted to KPC. Also, students MUST be listed as a Pre-Nursing Major at UAA to have their application evaluated. Applications must be complete and include three letters of reference. By applying early, students can contact the School of Nursing to make sure all credentials and references have been received.

3. The HESI test is a very recent change in the application process. (Please be aware that the current 2014-15 UAA catalog still indicates that they will use the NLN-PAX test.) We do not know if the testing center at KPC’s Learning Center will be able to administer the HESI test. It will be available on the UAA Anchorage campus. It is administered via computer and costs $85.00. The tests are only given on pre-arranged dates & times. Prior registration is done through the UAA Testing Center by calling 907 786-4525. Students may only take the test once in 365 days.

    Study Guides or practice exams for this important test are available through KPC's bookstore, KPC’s Library, or via the internet. After taking the test, the results are then posted on your individual account and are made available to the UAA School of Nursing. The School of Nursing will use the “overall average”. This test score is very important in the ranking system so preparing for this test is absolutely critical!

4. There is a video about being an Associate Degree Nurse for students to view at the School of Nursing’s website. (http://nursing.ualaska.edu)

5. Students are advised to attend an advising session/interview with a member of the Nursing Department or one of the Nursing advisors.

6. There is strong competition for admission. Realistically, in order to be accepted, students need to have completed all of the Prerequisite Courses and the General Education courses, have a decent grade point average, have experience & certification in some area of the medical arena, and have a good Entrance Exam score. This is especially true for the programs based in Soldotna, Homer, and Fairbanks.
7. For the 2015 year, after applying by May 1st, Soldotna Nursing Students should be notified of acceptance during the early summer so they are ready to start in August.

A caveat…. Because the AAS-RN is undergoing changes, there may be unforeseen issues in the next couple years. Students are advised to stay in contact with one of the advisors so important changes are not missed.

For additional information, contact:

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