

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. It is known as UAA's Kenai program.

The program at KPC or Kenai River Campus will start a cohort of eight students every fall. The application deadline for the next cohort will be May 1st, of that year. Those accepted into the next cohort will begin their classes in August.

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

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 encouraged. The HESI exam does not have to be completed to submit the application but must be done prior to deadline. 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 is a possibility, consider this option. The exact same Associates Degree-RN program starts every semester in Anchorage (in August and January) and they accept 48 students each semester. The application deadline for the Anchorage-based program is February 1st and July 1st each year. Students may apply to both the Anchorage-based program and the Kenai-based program since these application dates are several months apart.

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 Chemistry 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 to other schools. Chem 103 is offered face-to-face each Fall at KPC and Chem 103 is offered online in the Spring and Summer semesters.

It is very important that students have 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 Chemistry 103 class at KPC for a waiver of the math requirement ... but UAA computer registration programs will not allow registration for Chem 103 without Math 105 or a waiver from the instructor.)

The Chemistry Department requires those without Chemistry in High School to start with Chem 055 but KPC instructors will freely override that requirement if students have adequate math background. Remember that students will also 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 pre-admission 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)	3cr + 3cr
Oral Communications (Comm 111, 235, 237, or 241)	3cr
Social Sciences: an introductory course in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology	3cr
Humanities, Math, or Social Science (Math 105 preferred)	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 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
1 pt	Life Span Development (Psy 150)	Every term
1 pt	Nutrition for Health Sci. (DN 203)	Online or Spring

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 but the certification does not have to be current.

Grade Point Average:

Up to 4.0 points are available (e.g. 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 application was for the same location and the applicant had at least the basic requirements completed (Algebra, Biology, & Chemistry).

Test Score:

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

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

Comments:

1. The Nursing Admissions Department (in Anchorage) 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. The 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. **Students MUST be listed as a Pre-Nursing Major at UAA to have their application evaluated. (Can be done at KPC)**
3. The HESI test is usually given in the spring at KPC's Learning Center. (See separate brochure) It is also available frequently on the UAA

Anchorage campus. It is administered via computer. **The NLN website lists the sites and testing dates available. The tests are only given on the pre-arranged date & time. Prior registration is done at the NLN Testing website after making arrangements with the local testing facility. (Check to see if there are seats available at the local testing facility before registering.) Payment can be done at KPC's bookstore after all other arrangements are completed.**

For info... 262-0237. It will cost approximately \$88 to take the test plus there is a testing charge of approximately \$30. Fees may have increased. **Students may only take the test once in 365 days.** The exam is valid for 3 years. A student may take the HESI the following year (optional), however, the most current score will be used even if it is less than the previous year.

Study Guides for this important test are available through KPC's Library, KPC's bookstore, 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 important score is 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.uaa.alaska.edu>)
5. Students are advised to attend an advising session/interview with the Nursing Department.
6. Realistically, due to strong competition for admission, students need to have completed all of the Prerequisite Courses, all of the General Education courses, have a decent grade point average, and have a reasonable HESI score to have a chance to be accepted into one of these programs.
7. Kenai students should be notified of acceptance during the early summer.

A caveat.... Because the AAS-RN program is changing in Kenai and elsewhere, 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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