

FAQs

What courses should I take in High School?

Focus on algebra, biology, and chemistry (regular or advanced biology and chemistry with a lab component). You need to make at least a C in these courses. If you plan to progress to your Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, it will help you to have 3 years of a world language, as you may not be required to take more in college, depending on the college you choose.

What do I need to do to be admitted into the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Degree in nursing program?

- Submit an application to the college
- Consult one of the college counselors to review transcripts and determine placement.
- Consult one of the financial aid counselors
- Complete any recommended developmental courses (pre-college level) needed.
- Attend an [ADN Information Session](#). Virtual. Click "Info Session/Application/Links"
- Register for and complete all [pre-requisite courses](#). Pre-requisite courses must be completed or be currently enrolled in prior to the application deadline.
- Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA on the courses required in the Nursing Curriculum.
- Register for and take the ATI-TEAS test, scoring at least minimum scores (65% correct Total Score, 73.5% correct on Math section). Registration is online at www.atitesting.com
- Submit an [application to the AAS Degree Nursing Program](#). 2nd link under "Important Links". When you apply, you will choose your campus of choice. (Alberta, Keysville, or South Boston)
- Meet application deadline
- Admission is competitive and is based on an objective point system

Are there any scholarships or other funds available to help me with school related expenses?

The college participates in state and federal financial aid programs as well as several scholarship programs administered by the SVCC foundation.

Are there any other tests that I need to take?

Applicants must register for and take the ATI-TEAS (7th Edition. Test of Essential Academic Skills, Version 6 will be accepted if taken within previous 3 years and meets at least minimum requirements). This test may be taken no more than 3 times in an academic cycle and scores are good for 3 years. Check the [testing portion of this website](#) for dates, cost, location and information on registration.

How long will it take me to get through the program?

Prerequisites may take one to two semesters to complete and the clinical portion of the ADN program is 4 semesters over 2 years: Fall and Spring semesters in the first year, then Fall and Spring semester for the second year.

It is highly recommended that all non-nursing courses (even those that are not pre-requisites: BIO 142, BIO 150, ENG 112, HUM elective) be completed prior to beginning the first Summer Semester in the Clinical Nursing courses as these courses are rigorous and demanding. Alternatively, BIO 150, ENG 112, and HUM elective may be taken in summer between first and second clinical year, though students must note that summer semesters are 6 weeks shorter and therefore more intense!

How many days a week and when will I be in school once I begin the nursing courses?

You will attend classes or clinicals 4 days a week, sometimes 5.

Clinicals in the hospital may run from 6:30AM until 4PM or from 2PM until 10PM.

Classes will be scheduled between 8AM and 4PM.

Can I take some of my prerequisites while I'm still in high school?

Yes, you will need approval from your principal. Remember that our summer classes start in May before the school year ends for some school divisions. Some general education courses, such as ENG 111 and ENG 112, are offered as [Dual Enrollment](#) in many high schools.

What classes should I take first and in what order, before getting into the program?**Should I take each course one at a time or can I take more than one?**

This will depend upon your ability, your placement and the demands upon your time. Any required developmental courses determined by your placement would be taken first. SDV 100, College Success Skills should ideally be taken in your first semester. Human Anatomy and Physiology 1 (BIO 141) requires co-enrollment with NAS 2 to review biochemistry concepts needed for A&P. Other prerequisites are English, Developmental Psychology, and Information Literacy.

Can I take the required classes online?

Many of the pre-requisites are offered online as well as seated. Online learning is a very flexible option, but you want to do some research on how to be successful in an online learning environment. [Distance Learning at SVCC](#) is an excellent resource. Please visit our [Technology HelpDesk](#) with any questions about technical requirements needed to be a successful online learner! Also, don't miss our [Student Orientation to Online Learning](#)! Scroll down and click on the big arrow to start the presentation.

Will I be able to work and go to school at the same time?

It is not recommended. Clinical Nursing Courses are very demanding and require extra out-of-class time for preparation and study.

How many credits are required for the program?

67 credits

Will my credits help me and be transferable if and when I go for my BSN?

Yes! We have guaranteed admission agreements for RN to BSN programs with several universities, most of which offer a distance education option for [RN to BSN](#).

If I have a GED can I still be accepted into the nursing program?

Yes.

Where might my clinicals take place?

Keysville--J.H. Daniel Campus: Clinical Facilities in Farmville, South Boston, South Hill, Richmond, Burkeville, Va. (Other locations also possible.)

Alberta--Christanna Campus: Clinical Facilities in South Hill, Emporia, Richmond, and Burkeville, Va., and in Roanoke Rapids, NC (Other locations also possible.)

South Boston--Southern Virginia Higher Education Center: Clinical Facilities in South Boston, Clarksville, Burkeville, and Richmond, Va. (Other locations also possible.)

Other clinical locations are also possible.

If I miss a semester for some reason may I come back into the program?

Yes, if you do not stay out for longer than one year. However, this is on a space-available basis. What does your grade point average have to be to be readmitted to the program? 2.5 minimum

How much does this program cost?

See our detailed cost estimate linked in "Important Links". In addition to tuition and subject to change is around \$6600, including NCLEX exam and licensure costs. Tuition and fees for the required credits at \$161.61/credit hour: $\$161.61 \times 67 = \$10,827.87$ (if no financial aid is awarded.)

What happens if I fail a course?

If you withdraw from or fail a course one time, you may retake the course. You will need approval by the Admissions Office with input from the ADN Director and faculty of the school attended before being officially readmitted. Once approved, you may be readmitted to the nursing class on a space available basis, after all other qualified applicants have been accepted.

How much of my life do I have to give up while in nursing school?

There are at least 16 hours of homework (reading, preparing for clinical) per week for a typical clinical nursing course. This does not include library time or driving time. Clinical experience may require you to visit the clinical site the day before to receive your assignment and prepare for giving safe and competent care the next day. Also, there can be follow-up assignments after clinical to help you process your learning.

How much will I need to study?

This can vary by person, but about 12 - 16 hours per week for the major nursing courses. Allow for study time in your schedule! It is also critical to develop effective study strategies to move you beyond just memorizing and into thinking and using your new knowledge to solve nursing problems. Don't focus on hours as much as mastery. Do you know it well enough to close your books and teach it to someone?

How many different teachers will I have?

You will have a different teacher for almost all of the general education courses; you will have a minimum of 3-4 nursing instructors, counting clinical instructors and classroom/lecture instructors.

How long are the classes?

1-4 hours per session with breaks during longer sessions.

If I miss a required day am I able to make it up?

If it is excused by the nursing instructor prior to the absence.

What extra money do we have to anticipate spending?

Some expenses to consider are: gas, car repair, food, pens, paper supplies, and babysitting fees to name a few.

How many times may I take the ATI-TEAS Exam?

You may take it only three times in an admission cycle or four times in a year. Prepare before you take the test, even the first time! If you are not successful the first time, please consult your advisor for recommendations. Tutors are available on both main campuses (Keysville and Alberta) and at some off-campus centers to help students prepare for this test. Contact the [The Learning Commons](#) for more information on tutor availability.

What if I've had a lot of traffic tickets?

Minor traffic offenses are not a problem. However, if you've been convicted of other criminal offenses you need to speak confidentially with the head of the program. Our facilities require criminal background checks and will not allow those with prior convictions to work in their facility. However, this does not prevent you from attending the nursing school program. However, to pass the clinical courses, you must be able to attend clinicals. Once you have completed the program, the Board of Nursing will review your case individually and decide if you will be allowed to obtain a license to practice nursing.