

# Nursing (RN) Associate Degree Program Admission Criteria (2026) rev 4/13/26

<sup>6/</sup> **This is a selective and competitive admission program.** Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the clinical component of the program. Work with your advisor to apply to the clinical/core component of the program. The applicant must meet the **Minimum Criteria to Apply**: See the point system (attached).

[Admitted Students Profile](#) (pdf) provides information including the number of qualified applicants and minimum point range for students accepted into clinicals. Minimum TEAS required to apply does not guarantee admission.

All potential nursing students begin in the [Pre-Health Professions Program](#). Students may apply for admission into the Registered Nursing Program once they meet the requirements to apply. Students will discuss these admission requirements as part of their advising process.

**Advising:** Students must meet with a nursing advisor

**Information Session:** To be eligible to apply for clinicals, students **MUST** attend a mandatory information session within 9 months prior to the application. An RSVP alone does not serve as confirmation of attendance. \*Attending by phone call (without video) is NOT acceptable\*

## IMPORTANT TEAS TEST INFORMATION

- The TEAS test was updated to Version 7 June 2022. Beginning in **fall of 2023** ONLY Version 7 tests will be accepted.
- TEAS version 7 scores are valid for 3 years (if taken in person on a HACC campus).
- All TEAS testing completed on or after March 1, 2024 must be completed in person on a HACC campus.

Minimum TEAS required to apply does not guarantee clinical admission.

**You may submit one application for each application cycle. You must have taken the TEAS before applying.**

**APPLICATION: Application is completed on-line using CognitoForms. A link to the RN application will be on this webpage – <http://www.hacc.edu/ProgramsandCourses/Programs/HealthCareers/Nurse-RN.cfm>**

**Students will be notified via Hawkmail ONLY regarding program acceptance or denial.**

Cohort Start	January 2026 RN (ADN Program)	May 2026 RN (ADN Program)	August 2026 RN (ADN Program)
Campus/Program - with capacity	Harrisburg Day – 64 Harrisburg Eve – 32 Lancaster Day – 64 Lancaster Eve – 32 Gettysburg Day – 32	York Day (8-semester) – 40 York Eve (8-semester) – 40	Harrisburg Day – 64 Harrisburg Wkend -24 Lancaster Day – 64 Lancaster Eve – 32 Gettysburg Day – 32 Gettysburg Eve – 24
Applications Open	August 1	January 15	April 1
TEAS Cut Off Date (test on or before this date)	September 18 Thu	March 7 Sat	May 6 Wed
Applications Close	September 21 Sun	March 9 Mon	May 9 Sat
Student Notified	September 26 Fri	March 13 Fri	May 14 Thu
Intent & Deposit Due	October 10 Fri	March 27 Fri	May 28 Thu
Mandatory Student Orientation	<u>Harrisburg</u> Day-Oct 6, 4-7 pm Eve-Oct 13, 4-7 pm <u>Lancaster</u> Adv Stand-Oct 15, 9-noon Day-Oct 16, 9-noon Eve-Oct 15 1-4 pm <u>Gettysburg</u> Oct 16, 1-5 pm	York Day April 15, 10-1 Eve April 15, 5-8	<u>Harrisburg – ON CAMPUS</u> Day-May 27, 4-7pm Wkend - June 3, 4-7pm  <u>Lancaster – VIA ZOOM</u> Adv Stand- June 2, 9 am Evening – June 2, 1 pm Day – June 3, 9 am  <u>Gettysburg</u> Day & Eve - June 10, 3-7 pm
Background Checks Complete	January 1 Thu	May 9 Fri	August 4 Mon

## **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO STARTING THE CLINICAL PORTION OF THE PROGRAM (after acceptance)**

Additional information and required forms will be provided to you upon acceptance into clinicals. Failure to provide all the necessary documentation before the established deadline could lead to denial of admission into the clinical program. The following must be completed (at your own expense) after you have been selected for, but prior to starting the clinical portion of the program:

### **Physical Examination and Required Immunizations**

All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must submit a health examination form completed by a physician/nurse practitioner/physician's assistant with immunization history including verification through blood work. No student will be admitted with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline.

### **Immunization Requirements**

Students in any health career program are required to have the following immunizations or titers to enter programs: Annual TB testing, documentation of Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Covid -19, and annual flu vaccine or titers showing immunity for the listed diseases. While the College will attempt to work with students to make reasonable accommodations where feasible, declination statements for religious and medical reasons may not be honored by many of our Clinical Facility Partners (hospital systems, nursing homes, care facilities, etc.). Please note that some clinical facilities have restrictions that differ from those of their employees. As a student, you must adhere to the student restrictions regardless of whether you are employed at the facility. Students are not employees and have neither employee benefits nor access through employee health at those facilities. To assure that patients are protected, these facilities have very strict restrictions. As guests, HACC must abide by the rules of the facility.

### **Background Checks**

All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo annual Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Check and State Police Criminal Record Check. No student will be admitted with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance. Students with criminal backgrounds interested in admission into the clinical portion of any health career program at HACC must follow the Prohibitive Offense Procedure for Health Career Programs.

### **Drug and Alcohol Screens**

All students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo a drug and alcohol screen annually at the laboratory specified by the program on or before the stated deadline. This lab is used to protect the integrity of the results being reported. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline. Please refer to Health Careers Policy on the use of prescription Medical marijuana attached.

### **Current Certification in Adult, Infant and Child Healthcare Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) (American Heart Association recommended)**

Any candidate not meeting these criteria will be denied admission into the program.

## Nursing (RN) Associate Degree Program Point System – Effective Fall 2026

### Eligibility for Application:

Students are eligible to apply and will be considered for admission into the Nursing AS program who meet the following criteria:

- Earned a TEAS Version 7 score of **70** or higher (transfer students from another Nursing program may request to have this requirement waived). TEAS scores are valid for 3 years. All TEAS taken after March 1, 2024 must be taken in person at HACC. Minimum TEAS score of 70 does not guarantee admission to clinicals.
- Attended a mandatory information session **within 9 months prior to the application – beginning 2025**. An RSVP alone does not serve as confirmation of attendance. \*Attending by phone call (without video) is NOT acceptable\*
- Have an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher (at HACC or prior college if no HACC GPA) by the first day of the first clinical term
  - Transfer students coming from another Nursing program or any other program of study: must be leaving their transfer program in good standing and possess a GPA of 2.5 or higher (See [Nursing External Transfer Procedure](#))
- Completed the equivalent of a standard high school curriculum totaling at least 16 units, including 4 units of English, 3 units of Social Studies, 2 units of Mathematics (with at least 1 unit in Algebra), and 2 units of laboratory-based Science. This requirement must be verified by one of the following: **official U.S. high school transcripts that are signed and include the graduation date; official GED transcripts; or, for foreign education, documentation from a [HACC-approved credential evaluation service \(pdf\)](#).**
- Will be at least 18 years of age by the cohort start-date
- Eligible to enroll in (or has completed) ENGL 101 by the first day of the first clinical term
- Eligible to enroll in MATH 103 or MATH 202 by the first day of the first clinical term
- Enrolled in or has completed (with a 'C' or better) BIOL 121\* (Anatomy and Physiology I) and AH 100 (or equivalent FYS course) by the first day of the first clinical term. Both courses must be completed by the first day of the first clinical term.
- Completed a second science course (high school or college) with a 'C' or better by the first day of the first clinical term
- Scheduled an appointment with their advisor. Advisor information, including name and phone number can be found on the MyHACC portal. (Walk in advising does not count).

**Accepted students will only be admitted to begin the cohort if they meet the following criteria:**

- 2.5 overall HACC/Other GPA (as specified in Eligibility for Application)
- Completed (with a 'C' or better) or placed beyond developmental English and Math
- Completed BIOL 121\* plus one other science course (high school or college) and AH (or equivalent FYS course) with a C or better \* see **below**

**Students not meeting the above criteria by the first day of class will forfeit admission and will need to reapply.**

If you have NURSING courses to transfer in from another school - please see [this procedure](#) (pdf).

**All nursing program applicants will be ranked on the following criteria:**

Your Points	Points	Criterion (subject to change)
	<b>70 to 100</b>	TEAS score (highest score 70+ at the time of application will be used) (You may submit ONE application only.) (overall / composite / percentage)
	1 to 5	Previous Education: points awarded for the highest education achieved. Degree must have been completed at a <i>regionally accredited</i> school and official transcripts must be on file by the application deadline in the Records Office to receive points. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurse Aide on Pennsylvania State Nurse Aide Registry (CNA) = 1</li> <li>• Current PA EMT license = 1</li> <li>• Current credentialed Medical Assistant (CCMA (NHA), CMA (AAMA), RMA (AMT)) = 1</li> <li>• Current PA Paramedic license = 2</li> <li>• Current PA Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) (unencumbered) = 2</li> <li>• Associate degree (completed at a regionally accredited school) = 3</li> <li>• Bachelor's degree (completed at a regionally accredited school) = 4</li> <li>• Master's or higher degree (completed at a regionally accredited school) = 5</li> </ul>
<b>Total Score (105 MAX)</b>		

*HACC does not discriminate in employment, student admissions, and student services on the basis of race, color, religion, age, political affiliation or belief, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, place of birth, General Education Development Certification (GED), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or any other legally protected classification.*

*Revised 3/10/26 for clarity cld*

**HACC**  
**Early/Guaranteed Admission Criteria for Associate Degree Nursing (RN) Program**

**Eligibility for Early/Guaranteed Admission to Associate Degree Nursing (RN) Program:**

**Students will be considered for Early/Guaranteed admission who at the time of application meet ALL of these criteria.**

- **TEAS score of 88 or above**
- **2.5 overall HACC GPA**
- **Eligible to enroll in ENGL 101 (or has completed with a C or higher)**
- **Eligible to enroll in MATH 103 or MATH 202 (or has completed with a C or higher)**
- **Completed BIOL 121 plus one other science course (high school or college) with a C or higher**
- **Completed AH 100 (or equivalent FYS course) with a C or higher**

**Course requirements being satisfied by prior college transcripts must have been submitted and evaluated by the Records office prior to application**

## Code of Ethics School of Health Sciences

In order to promote excellence in patient care, the HACC Health Career student, **while in their program,** and/or in their clinical uniform, are to:

- Treat patients with respect for the dignity, rights, and value of each individual.
- Provide nondiscriminatory and equitable treatment for all patients.
- Promote and strive to protect the health, safety, and rights of each patient.
- Maintain confidentiality of patient information following privacy regulations required by law (HIPAA and Protected Health Information (PHI)).
- Not disclose or share information associated with their health career program about or relating to any patient, person, clinical facility, or clinical experience outside of the sanctioned educational context of the classroom or online course environment with oversight of an instructor. This includes communication in any format including verbal, written, and digital (includes but is not limited to text, email, photographs, and social media).
- Perform procedures or functions within his/her level of education in the profession.
- Refuse to participate in any illegal, unethical, or incompetent acts.
- Disclose any illegal, unethical, or incompetent acts of others to the proper authority.
- Avoid any conduct that creates a conflict of interest.
- Demonstrate professional behavior that reflects integrity and a positive image of the profession and the college.
- Follow all principles of ethical and professional behavior, as identified in the code of ethics of his/her chosen health career.

Students must understand that we take the code of ethics seriously, as do our clinical partners. As a result, violation of the code of ethics may result in the faculty filing a BIT (Behavioral Intervention Report) and may result in a student being asked to leave a clinical placement, and/or failing the course in which the violation occurred. If the student is dismissed from a clinical placement we may not be able to place a student at another clinical site, which will result in the student having to leave the program. Students must also be aware that violating HIPAA is a criminal offense.

Because we want all of our students to be successful, if you are ever in doubt of the ethics of a given choice, please consult your faculty in the program.

6/2024 MME/tlb

## Health Careers Medical Marijuana Policy

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is currently implementing the Pennsylvania Medical Marijuana Program, a component of the Medical Marijuana Act (MMA) that was signed as [law](#) on April 17, 2016. This program provides access to medical marijuana for patients with serious medical conditions as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Currently, the federal government regulates drugs through the Controlled Substances Act, which does not recognize the difference between medical and recreational use of marijuana. Under federal law, marijuana is a Schedule 1 controlled substance, which means that it is considered to have no medical value. Practitioners may not prescribe marijuana for medical use under federal law.

Students entering any Health Careers Program are required to have laboratory screenings for drugs and alcohol upon admission to the clinical phase of the program and on a yearly basis while participating in the clinical experiences. As per current policy, if the results are positive, the student will be dismissed from the program immediately and referred for appropriate counseling.

**Students using medical marijuana will not be eligible for clinical placement in any HACC clinical program**, due to the current discrepancy between state and federal law regarding Drug Free Work Place Act and the MMA . Businesses who are not in compliance with federal law are at risk for criminal or civil charges; and additionally, may find issue with eligibility for federal contracts and grants. Additionally, Pennsylvania's Medical Marijuana statute specifically provides that an employer does not have to accommodate an individual in a safety sensitive position if that person is under the influence of medical marijuana. Most positions involving direct patient care will be considered safety sensitive positions.

Students should also understand that under current Pennsylvania State Board law, many health career licensing boards require drug screening at the time of application for licensure. Similarly, most health care employers will perform routine drug screening as a condition for employment, as these positions involve direct patient care, and are considered safety sensitive positions. **This discrepancy between federal and state law allows our clinical partners to deny student placement for clinical experiences and the State of Pennsylvania to deny licensure.**

In order to be transparent with this entire process, we recognize our responsibility to fully inform students of HACC's policy regarding the use of medical marijuana. Due to current laws we cannot provide admission to the clinical phase in any of our Health Career Programs and students who have been admitted and are later to be found positive for medical marijuana will be removed.

*Revised 11-18-18 me/mjf*

## **ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH CAREERS PROGRAMS NURSING AND PRACTICAL NURSING**

All individuals, including persons with disabilities, who apply for admission to the Nursing program must be able to perform specific essential functions with or without reasonable accommodation.

The following outlines the abilities and behavioral characteristics necessary for the student to be admitted to, continue in, and graduate from, the Nursing program at HACC. **These essential requirements are standards of admission.**

The applicant should carefully review the essential requirements for the program and ask questions if not familiar with the activities or functions listed. The applicant must decide if he or she has any limitations that may restrict or interfere with satisfactory performance of any of the requirements. It is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to meet these essential requirements if accepted into the program.

The applicant should consult with the program director to discuss any individual situation if he or she may not be able to meet these essential requirements. Requests for reasonable accommodation will be considered. Contact the program director if you have any questions about this matter.

### **COMMUNICATION**

1. Communicate verbally using clear and effective English
2. Write legibly in clear and effective English using correct grammar, punctuation and spelling
3. Quickly and accurately comprehend and follow verbal instructions in English
4. Quickly and accurately read, comprehend and follow written instructions in English
5. Actively participate in group discussions
6. Use communication equipment – telephone, computer, other device used for communication.

### **PHYSICAL SKILLS**

Possess fine and gross skills sufficient to handle equipment and provide safe and effective patient care

1. Exert maximum physical force to lift, push, pull or carry objects up to 50 pounds (oxygen cylinders, beds, patients, or any other type of equipment)
2. Move quickly, freely and safely around the assigned work area and patient care settings
3. Sustain professional activities for up to 8 or more hours
4. Reach above shoulder level (to manipulate equipment)
5. Reach below waist level (to manipulate equipment)
6. Move upper and lower extremities, back, hips, and knees without restriction - bend, stoop, and squat
7. Keep hand and arm steady while moving arm or while holding arm and hand in one position
8. Make precisely coordinated movements of the fingers of one or both hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble very small objects
9. Coordinate two or more limbs (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while sitting, standing, or lying down

### **OBSERVATION AND SENSORY SKILLS**

1. Hear, comprehend and interpret conversation and sounds not solely based on visual cues (including alarms, monitors, faint sounds, such as heart and breath sounds, taking blood pressure)
2. Ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer) and at a distance
  - a) Function efficiently in various degrees of light, from dark to bright lighting
  - b) Differentiate colors, varying shades of same color, and shades of black, white and gray
  - c) Read fine print and hand writing
3. Detect and distinguish odors from clients and environment
4. Distinguish textures, degrees of firmness, temperature differences, pulse rate and vibrations; feel anatomical landmarks and veins
5. Distinguish and describe patient affect, body language and physical responses which the patient cannot verbally relay (i.e. facial expressions, sweating, trembling, color change, bleeding, etc)

### **INTELLECTUAL, COGNITIVE, AND CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

1. Concentrate on a task over a period of time without being distracted
2. Apply principles of critical, logical thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw sensible and valid conclusions
3. Combine pieces of information to form general rules or conclusions (includes finding a relationship among seemingly unrelated events).
4. Perform multiple tasks simultaneously
5. Arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern according to a specific rule or set of rules (alphabetize)
6. Integrate information quickly, consistently, accurately, especially in an emergency situation

### **BEHAVIORAL / SOCIAL SKILLS / ETHICS**

1. Display a high level of professionalism and discretion in all actions and communication (written, oral and electronic)
2. Function effectively and display integrity, poise and emotional stability under stress (emergency, critical, or dangerous situations) in actions with all (peers, patients, staff, faculty)
3. Use team approach to carry out responsibilities
4. Maintain general good health and self-care
5. Display flexibility and adapt to changing environments
6. Manage time effectively
7. Accept responsibility for own behavior and be forthright about errors or uncertainty
8. Refuse to perform or participate in any illegal, unethical or incompetent acts, to include but not limited to the following: falsifying or knowingly making incorrect entries into a patient's record or related document; copying other student's written assignments; cheating on a quiz or examination; making untrue statements to a faculty member or administrator

9. Monitor/assess performance of self, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action
  10. Capable of developing mature sensitive and effective relationships (with patients, staff, coworkers, etc.)
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### **Legal Requirements**

**Legal Requirements for Nursing Programs** – Students entering nursing programs will be required to **undergo a Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Check, and State Police Criminal Record Check**. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance

**Legal Limitation on Qualification for Licensure** - The Professional Nursing Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania states that the Board of Nursing may refuse to license a person who has been found guilty or pleaded guilty to felony charges. The application for licensure asks, “Have you been convicted \* of a misdemeanor, felony; felonious act; an illegal act associated with alcohol, an illegal act associated with substance abuse(s)?”

\*Convicted includes judgment; admission of guilt; pleas of nolo contendere; probation without verdict; incomplete ARD (this refers to both RN and LPN licensure applications)

Applicants should be aware of these limitations **prior** to entering the nursing programs. Practice of deceit in the application procedure is cause for dismissal from the program.

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Print Name	HACC ID
Program	Date

**Health Careers Admission Criteria Acknowledgement**

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I acknowledge that I have read and understand the program Admission Criteria.

**Essential Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) As an applicant to this program or student in this program, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the essential requirements. **I acknowledge that I am capable of performing the abilities and skills outlined in this document** with or without reasonable accommodation and understand that my status as a student in this program depends on my continued ability to successfully demonstrate these abilities and skills. **I understand that if I am no longer able to meet these essential requirements I will immediately notify the program director.**

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I understand that **all students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo a physical and a drug and alcohol screen annually at the student's expense** at the laboratory specified by the program on or before the stated deadline. This lab is used to protect the integrity of the results being reported. The test is at the cost of the student. No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying result or failure to meet the specified deadline.

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I have read and understand the **Prohibitive Offense Procedure** as posted on the HACC Health Careers website.

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I understand that **some clinical sites do not allow tobacco/vaping use** and may require testing at the student's expense.

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I understand that **all students accepted into the clinical component of the program must undergo an annual Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Check, and State Police Criminal Record Check at the student's expense.** No student will be admitted or retained in the program with a disqualifying criminal history or child abuse clearance.

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I understand that **students accepted into the clinical component of the program may perform procedures which may expose them to bloodborne and airborne pathogens, ionizing radiation and potentially hazardous materials.**

\_\_\_\_\_(initial) I understand that **all students accepted into the clinical component of the program must have the following immunizations (at the student's expense):** MMR, DPT, Varicella, Hepatitis B, an annual TB screen, and an annual influenza vaccination.

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I understand that **students accepted into the clinical component of the program may be required to have the COVID-19 vaccine and the program cannot guarantee clinical placement if I have not received the vaccination.** Clinical affiliates MAY require the vaccination and do not accept waivers to any vaccination from a student since we are considered guests in their facilities. If I choose not to be vaccinated, HACC may not be able to place me in a clinical rotation which would prevent me from completing the program. HACC currently does not require me to be vaccinated against COVID. It is the decision of the clinical sites, not HACC, if immunizations are required for our students

\_\_\_\_\_(Initial) I understand that **in the event of an incident in the clinic, lab or outside rotation that I am responsible for all related medical expenses.**

Have you ever been admitted to another clinical health career program at HACC from which you did not graduate?

\_\_\_\_I have not                    \_\_\_\_I have (Good Standing Form to be completed)

\_\_\_\_\_(initial) I understand my **responsibility to disclose to the program director, any release from work at a hospital or health care facility resulting in ineligibility for rehire.** This includes events that occurred prior to admission or during enrollment in the program of study. \_\_\_\_\_(initial) I also understand that this may affect my eligibility to be admitted or continue in the program.

**Health Careers Code of Ethics**

\_\_\_\_\_(initial) I understand that students shall be denied admission to a program for breaches in any of the Health Careers Code of ethics. Students who are in a clinical program and breach the code of ethics will be dismissed from the program and denied access to any other health career program at HACC.

**Health Careers Medical Marijuana Policy**

\_\_\_\_\_(initial) I understand that due to current laws we cannot provide admission to the clinical phase in any of our Health Career Programs and students who have been admitted and are later to be found positive for medical marijuana will be removed.

\_\_\_\_\_(initial) I understand that **intentional deceit, falsification or failure to disclose any information on this document will disqualify me from admission and/or continuation in any health career program at HACC.**

Student Signature	Date
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