

## REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in the nursing program. It is a dynamic, growing program. Here are some bits of information to plan for as you consider your application.

- To be accepted into the ASN program, a **selective GPA of 2.75** is required based on the pre-requisite courses. All pre-nursing and courses have to be completed with a **C or better**. (see GPA calculation worksheet)
- The ASN Program requires that all general education courses within the nursing program be completed within 15 years of application to the nursing program with the exception of the following science courses that must be completed within 5 years:
  - BIOH 201 and 202 Anatomy and Physiology I and Lab
  - BIOH 211 and 212 Anatomy and Physiology II and Lab
  - BIOM 250 and 251 Microbiology for Health Sciences and Lab
  - CHMY 121 and 122 Introduction to General Chemistry and Lab
- The ASN Program requires that the general education courses (pre-requisite and within core program) can only be taken a maximum of two times. The grade accepted is the most recent grade.
- Any course that is passed with a “P” grade will be counted as a C on the points criteria and selective GPA points calculation.
- Application to the ASN program requires passing a Kaplan Admission Test. The admission test can be taken twice during each application process with one month time frame between tests. The passing score is 65. The test can be taken in group sessions or can be taken in the Library Testing center any day with an appointment (247-3025). The test is free. If taken in the testing center then there is a \$35.00 testing fee charge. The test topics are writing, reading, anatomy and physiology, and math. A study guide is in the library on reference and can be purchased through Amazon “Kaplan Nursing School Entrance Exams”.
- The admission process includes: (two phases)
  - Phase 1
  - Passing the Kaplan Admission Test
  - Having a GPA of at least 2.75 on the pre-requisite courses.
  - Submission of ASN application.
  - Phase 2

- After the above is received and points totaled the top 25 applicants will be scheduled for an interview.
- After reviewing the interview rubrics, the top 20 students will be invited to start the core ASN classes.

**For those accepted into the RN Program:**

- All students are required to pass a criminal background check and urine drug testing to be accepted into clinical settings. The total cost for both is around \$130.00. Information will be given on how to do these once you are accepted into the program.
- Students are required to have an Adult, Infant, Child American Heart Association CPR (Healthcare Provider or BLS Provider) class before the start of the semester. St. Vincent Healthcare, Billings Clinic, All Business CPR and First Aid, and other employer sites offer this course. Sometimes it takes about a month to get into a class so we suggest that you have this completed before the start of the semester if possible.
- Submit required immunization records for TB, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Varicella, and MMR as directed in your acceptance letter.
- Kaplan software is a program of study that is utilized to enhance the nursing curriculum and help prepare students to pass the NCLEX test. It is used in every course in the nursing program. This product access has to be **purchased by each student** through Kaplan. The cost will be approximately \$450.00 and includes an NCLEX study session after graduation. Kaplan will send you an email.
- A common question – Is the nursing program accredited?
  - Montana State University-Billings is accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).
  - City College PN and ASN RN nursing programs are fully approved by the Montana State Board of Nursing.
  - Graduates of the PN and ASN programs are eligible to sit for the NCLEX exam.
  - The ASN RN program is nationally accredited through the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation.