

Program Overview: Associate of Applied Science/ Registered Nurse, Nursing

About This Major . . .

This program is designed for a Licensed Practical Nurse to achieve an Associate of Applied Science/Registered Nurse degree, opening up greater employment opportunities, increased compensation, and more job security. The program prepares students to achieve a balance between general college and nursing coursework. Graduates of the program are prepared to be a direct care giver in hospitals, long-term facilities, and ambulatory care-clinic settings.

The potential student must demonstrate college-level proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics in order to be admitted to this program. This program has selective admission requirements that may change from year to year. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the current admission requirements.

Graduates are highly competent nurses who are ready to provide excellent care in the ever-changing health care system. The AAS program provides an educational framework based on a culture of excellence in nursing and academic rigor. Students are held to high standards of clinical practice as well as theoretical learning. Critical thinking skills are learned and practiced throughout the program, including clinical experiences in hospitals, with acute and chronic illness, long term care settings, and areas with rural health focus. State-of-the-art simulation clinical and classroom learning supplement the curriculum. Faculty members employ educational strategies that are based on adult learning principals, understanding that learning styles vary from person to person. Faculty members cultivate confidence in graduates to provide care across the life span in a variety of health care settings.

All CMU associate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning.

Graduates of the AAS/RN program will:

1. utilize critical thinking skills in the application of the nursing process to provide safe quality care by incorporating evidence-based practice (Critical Thinking).
2. demonstrate effective communication utilizing technology, written documentation, and verbal expression (Communication).
3. incorporate empathetic, compassionate, and caring interventions and behaviors while providing care (Specialized Knowledge).
4. demonstrate sensitive professional nursing care to culturally diverse clients across the lifespan (Specialized Knowledge).
5. utilize data to ensure quality improvement and support of evidence-based practice (Quantitative Fluency).
6. incorporate knowledge of delegation and leadership management skills (Specialized Knowledge).
7. utilize information systems in the healthcare system (Specialized Knowledge).
8. demonstrate accountability using ethical/legal guidelines and evidence based nursing practice (Applied Learning).

Program Highlights:

Graduates from the Associate of Science/Registered Nurse Program

Program graduates are employed nationally in a multitude of fields. Students have taken positions in:

- Medical-surgical nursing
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics
- Neonatal nursing
- Surgical nursing
- Geriatric Nursing
- Emergency Nursing
- Critical care nursing
- Heart Cauterization labs
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Orthopedics
- Woman's Health

Get Involved!

All pre-nursing and nursing students are welcome to join the CMU Student Nurse Association (SNA) through which students collaborate to enhance their nursing education experience. Service learning opportunities and "Lunch and Learn" sessions offer creative and professional activities to engage in peer professional groups.



Program Requirements

To complete the AAS/Registered Nurse program, students must complete 74 semester hours of lower-division courses. The course requirements cover Essential Learning, Nursing, and other lower-division requirements that include biology and kinesiology courses. The program also requires that the student have a NLN-accredited Practical Nurse License. The degree requirements include 18 semester hours of credit given for prior coursework leading to the LPN. In general, CMU's program of study are based on two curriculum groups:

1. Essential Learning

CMU's Essential Learning program provides the foundation of skills and information that cuts across all fields of study and the support for advanced concepts that students will later encounter in their majors. Students also complete the Maverick Milestone and its co-requirement, Essential Speech. This pair of courses is a capstone experience where students integrate what they have learned from their foundation courses by making connections among diverse areas of knowledge. The capstone is also an opportunity for students to work with disparate ideas, a critical skill expected of all CMU graduates that will aid them in solving the complex and unscripted problems they will encounter in their personal, professional, and civic lives.

2. What You Will Study in This Major. . .

Foundational Courses:

These courses prepare you for the scientific process to evaluate evidence in the healthcare field:

- Human Anatomy and Physiology I & II with Labs
- Pathophysiology
- Human Growth and Development Across the Life Span
- Microbiology

Nursing Core Courses

These courses prepare you to be a generalist nurse through classes and clinical opportunities in the following areas:

- Advanced Concepts of Medical-Surgical Nursing I & II Theory and Clinical Practicum
- Practicum: Health and Physical Assessment for Nursing
- Nursing Role Transition
- Advanced Pharmacology for Nurses
- Leadership for Professional Nursing Practice
- Nursing Care of Psychiatric Clients
- Nursing Care of Complex OB and Pediatrics
- Capstone: Comprehensive Nursing Internship

Electives

Nursing in a prescribed discipline. Your electives in the major of study will be defined by clinical opportunities in a variety of settings.

Note: This degree also includes 18 hours of credit for prior coursework to be licensed as a LPN.

General Admission Requirements for the BSN Program:

- Complete the CMU AAS application and submit per deadline requirements.
- Request transcripts be sent to the Department of Health Sciences.
- Schedule and take the Kaplan Nursing School Entrance Exam through the CMU Testing Center.
- Complete prerequisites and foundation courses (may be currently enrolled and in good standing in the semester of application).
- Be a current CMU student or in the process of admission to CMU.
- Complete a successful background investigation, at the applicant's expense, after conditional admission.
- Top candidates will be invited to interview for admission.

Additional information:

- Applicants' average cumulative GPA for the past five years was 3.6 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants' average GPA for Anatomy & Physiology I & II and Pathophysiology was 3.6.

For more information about this major, go to: <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/healthsciences/ladder.html> or contact the Academic Department Head for Health Sciences, 170 Maverick Center, 970.248.1398.