

## HCC Nursing Admission Criteria

Item	Exceptional Suitability for Nursing	Adequate Suitability for Nursing	Marginal Suitability for Nursing*
<i>Grade Point Average</i>	≥ 3.0	2.5 – < 3.0	< 2.5 Will not be considered
<i>TEAS Test Reading</i>	≥ 92 % Correct **	≥ 85 % Correct **	< 85 % Will not be considered
<i>*TEAS Test Total Score</i>	≥ 82 % Correct **	≥ 75 % Correct **	< 75 % Correct
<i>ATI PN Comp.</i>	≥ 95 % pass rate **	≥ 88 % pass rate **	< 87 % Will not be considered
<i>*Personal Statement</i>	Clear, well written, articulates awareness of nursing as a profession and his/her potential contribution	Understandable, written with some grammatical errors, with some understanding of nursing as a profession and his/her potential contribution	Poorly written, with multiple grammatical errors, and a limited awareness nursing as a profession and his/her potential contribution
<i>*Experience in a health care field</i>	≥ 1 year either part time or full time experience + CNA skills or course	< 1 year either part time or full time experience + CNA skills or course	No experience in a health care field
<i>*Service to Others</i>	≥ 1 year commitment to volunteer activities post high school	< 1 year commitment to volunteer activities post high school	No volunteer activities post high school
<i>*Letters of Recommendation</i>	Letters reflect qualities desirable in nursing (hard worker, caring, empathetic, etc.) with examples of these characteristics		Letters reflect general statements without examples of qualities

\* While you may score zero points for these categories, your file will still be considered.

\*\* Score values are tentative and may change.

## HCC Nursing Admission Criteria

**Goal:** *To admit well rounded students into the HCC Nursing Program who are academically able to meet the demanding workload nursing requires, who are well suited for a health care profession, and who have exhibited a commitment to serving their communities.*

**Getting Started:** In order to be considered for our program, the first thing that needs to be turned in is the application. The completed application is what will start your folder.

### **Measurement Categories:**

- *Exceptional Suitability for Nursing* - This represents an exceptional ability to meet the specific criteria requirements. The individual who exhibits exceptional suitability for nursing would have a very strong potential to be successful in a nursing career.
- *Adequate Suitability for Nursing* – This represents an average ability to meet specific criteria requirements. The individual who exhibits adequate suitability for nursing would have a good potential to be successful in a nursing career.
- *Marginal Suitability for Nursing* – This represents an inadequate ability to meet specific criteria requirements. The individual who exhibits marginal suitability for nursing would have very limited potential to be successful in a nursing career.

### **Items included in the admission assessment:**

1. **Academic requirements:** Academic ability is important to success in the HCC nursing program. The minimum GPA will be set at 2.5; a higher GPA will be considered as exceptional. Anything that is less than 2.5 will **not** be considered for admission.
2. **Personal statement:** We will require a typed, double spaced, essay form, personal statement responding to the following questions –
  - a. What are ideal attributes of a nurse? and
  - b. What would be your contribution to nursing?

This written statement should be limited to 1-1 ½ pages. It will be evaluated for writing ability, clarity, and pertinence to nursing. Statements that are well written, clear, and are pertinent to the nursing profession will be scored as exceptional, adequate, and marginal. Students must write their own statements.

3. **Experience in a health care field:** Applicants who have worked in the health care field as a CNA, or in other “hands on” patient care, such as respiratory therapy, emergency medical technician, medical technician, military medic/corpsman, or a similar occupation. Applicants who have experience in health care, but not in “hands on” health care, such as ward clerk, dispatcher, or similar role do not meet these requirements. If this experience is  $\geq 1$  year, it will be considered exceptional; if  $< 1$  year, the experience will be considered adequate. No experience in health care will be considered marginal. Regardless of experience in a health care field, successful completion of CNA skills assessment or the completion of a CNA course with documentation of an active CNA certificate is required. Please go to <http://www.idph.state.il.us/nar/home.htm>. Under last employment verification it must say where you are currently working. If it does not say where you are working, you will be required to get a “proof of employment” letter from your employer’s HR department stating your month and year of hire along with a statement verifying that you are using the 21 CNA nursing skills.
  
4. **Service to others:** Because nursing is a “helping profession” it is important for our applicants to have participated in service to others. This service may include, but not be limited to volunteer work, community activities, leadership experience with projects that affect others, and other similar activities. This service exemplifies what we are looking for in a professional nurse. If this service is  $\geq 1$  year, representing a sustained commitment to the organization or community, it will be considered as exception; if the service is  $< 1$  year, representing an important, but not sustained commitment to the group and organization or community it will be considered adequate. No experience with service to others will be considered marginal. The applicant who reports service to others must have one letter of recommendation from the community or group leader to substantiate the applicant’s activities in the organization or group. Please be sure to have your reference indicate on the letter that this is your volunteer letter. Staying at work after your shift has ended would not count as volunteer work, but doing things at work such as planning an afternoon event, bringing your dog, etc. would count, as long as this time was unpaid.
  
5. **Recommendation letters:** Three letters of recommendation are required for admittance into the nursing program. These letters will be in written form, rather than checklists. The review committee is looking for substantial comments about the applicant and his/her suitability for the nursing profession. To receive the full two points, three letters from the appropriate people must be turned in. \*Please see page 3 on the application for specifics on who the letters must come from.
  
6. **TEAS Reading:** (1<sup>st</sup> Level Applicants Only) This score equals the percentage of correct answers of the reading component of the TEAS test. The following is how this score will be applied to HCC admission:
  - a.  $\geq 92$  % Correct = Exceptional
  - b. 85 – 91 % Correct = Adequate
  - c.  $< 85$  % Correct = Will **Not** be Considered
  
7. **TEAS Total Score:** (1<sup>st</sup> Level Applicants Only) The TEAS total score reflects how well the applicant scores correct answers in the following areas: reading, science, math, and English. The following is how this score will be applied to HCC admission:
  - a.  $\geq 82$  % Correct = Exceptional
  - b. 75 – 82 % Correct = Adequate
  - c.  $< 75$  % Correct = Marginal

8. **ATI PN Comp. Test:** (2<sup>nd</sup> Level Applicants Only) This is a 200 question test covering all topics of the NCLEX. Upon assessment completion, ATI's detailed diagnostic score report is generated for each individual assessment taker. The following is how this score will be applied to HCC admission:
- a.  $\geq 95$  % Pass Rate = Exceptional
  - b. 88 – 94 % Pass Rate = Adequate
  - c.  $< 87$  % Pass Rate = Will **Not** be Considered
9. **Pre-requisites and Support Courses:** All pre-requisites must be completed by the end of the spring semester you are applying for. Support courses are not required to be completed for entrance in the nursing program. It is recommended to complete a few and or all of the support courses before entering the program. The nursing core curriculum is a full course curriculum each semester and adding a support course makes it a very busy schedule. All pre-requisite and support courses must be a letter grade of a C or better.
10. **TOEFLE (Test of English as a Foreign Language Evaluation):** Students having English as a second language may be asked to take the TOEFLE prior to admission, and complete any necessary skills recommendations made by HCC learning lab faculty.

*Please remember, everyone is welcome to apply for the Highland Community College Nursing Program, but we accept all in district students who qualify and meet our criteria first. If we have room left we will then review out of district applicants for admittance into our program. **In-district, “students who meet the residency requirements and/or work 20 or more hours a week in our district”.***