

# THE PATHWAY TO NURSING



## PHILOSOPHY OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The philosophy of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Schools School of Nursing is derived from and is in accord with the mission statement of Solaris Health System, of which it is a part.

The Faculty of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Schools School of Nursing believes that:

Man\* is a complex rational being capable of self-determination. Interacting with his environment, Man uses his intellect to engage in self-care activities aimed at meeting universal and developmental self-care requisites. Subsumed in Man's freedom of choice is that he is responsible and accountable for his actions.

Health is a dynamic state of well being encompassing both structural and functional wholeness. It is sustained by self-care activities that are learned and reinforced by values, beliefs and habits. The faculty believes that the pursuit of health is a basic right of all individuals.

Nursing is a health service with the goal of collaborating with the client and helping him acquire the knowledge and abilities to achieve the highest level of well being possible. This is accomplished by nurses designing a series of nursing systems to help individual's meet universal and developmental self-care requisites. The nurse engages in cooperative relationships in an integrated health care system in order to deliver quality outcomes that the client may require.

Nursing is an art and a science. It is a unique body of knowledge drawing on the contributions from the natural and behavioral sciences and the humanities and synthesized and developed through nursing research. Caring is an essential element of this art and science. It involves comforting, empathizing, nurturing and supporting clients to attain and maintain self-care.

Education for professional nursing practice prepares individuals from various types of educational programs to sit for a common licensing examination. The faculty believes that one means of preparation as a registered nurse is through diploma education. Accordingly, the faculty embraces the belief that the graduate of this program is prepared for entry into practice to function as a generalist in organized nursing services where nursing roles are well defined. The graduate can assess, diagnose and treat commonly occurring human responses to clients to actual and potential health problems where outcomes tend to be predictable.

Teaching-learning is an interactional, ongoing process in which a person integrates new and previously held knowledge and beliefs to form new insights and ideas. Learning is a self directed activity with the faculty functioning as facilitators of learning creating an environment which promotes self discovery, creativity, problem solving, and beginning critical thinking skills. As a result of the teaching-learning process the learner demonstrates growth and/or change in behavior.

It is the responsibility of the School to provide an environment in which the student can acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to function as a beginning practitioner, and it is the responsibility of the School to socialize the student into nursing and foster accountability in the individual.

Society is a complex social system created by Man for nurturing, protection, education and welfare. It is the responsibility of the School, its faculty, students and graduates to be aware of the multicultural diversity of the community, to be responsive to its health needs and to strive to interact with members of the community in order to meet these needs to the fullest extent possible.

Within the profession of nursing, opportunities must be actively fostered to provide educational opportunities for individuals who wish to change goals and advance from one level of nursing to another.

\* The use of the term Man, he or she is intended for convenience sake and does not connote sexual discrimination.

## PROGRAM PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

The Program Goals and Objectives are as follows:

### PROGRAM GOALS:

- To educate graduates who are eligible to sit for the professional registered nurse licensing examination.
- To instill in the graduate the desire for continued learning, critical thinking, and self-development.

### CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES:

- Function as a registered professional nurse within structured health care settings.
- Provide competent nursing care to clients with commonly occurring health deviations through application of nursing theory and concepts from the behavioral and natural sciences, the humanities, ethical principals and legal standards.
- Utilize opportunities for continued personal and professional development.
- Accept accountability/responsibility for professional practice as a nurse.
- Teach clients self-care practices related to the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health.
- Cooperate with health team members to facilitate optimal health of clients in primary, secondary and tertiary settings.
- Select appropriate communication, coordination and collaborative skills when interacting with individuals and groups.
- Apply critical thinking to nursing care situations.

## SCHOOL OF NURSING

Nursing provides the opportunity for a productive career and personal fulfillment. Nurses are recognized and respected as critical members of the health care professional team; their salaries, levels of authority and the respect of their peers have risen accordingly in recent years.

Employment opportunities exist in all specialty areas of nursing, such as medical/surgical, maternal and child health, emergency services, psychiatric nursing, geriatrics and outpatient services. Opportunities exist in the hospital environment and are continually expanding in the areas of home health care, extended care, rehabilitation centers and the corporate sphere.

What attracts and holds many to nursing is the personal satisfaction a nursing career offers. Nurses assist people to stay healthy, work and educate to prevent illness, and help those who are critically ill improve and resume normal lives. Nursing is a way to reach out to others when they urgently need help - nurses are present when life begins, when life is saved and when life ends.

## COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

**The School of Nursing at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center offers a cooperative program with Union County College that leads to a Diploma in Nursing from Muhlenberg and an Associate in Science (AS) degree from Union County College. Graduates are eligible to sit for the National Council of Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN) for registered nurse (RN) licensure.**

The cooperative program, acknowledged as a model in the field of nursing, offers the graduate a sound preparation for nursing and the opportunity to transfer credits toward a baccalaureate degree if desired. Providing classroom and clinical learning experiences, the program offers a firm foundation for nursing practice, as well as a basis for advanced study.

The program is accredited by the National League for Nursing and the New Jersey State Board of Nursing. The School is approved for the training of veterans.

## THREE TRACKS LEADING TO RN

The School of Nursing offers three tracks for the recent high school graduate, an individual looking for a career change, or the licensed practical nurse wishing to obtain registered nurse licensure. The three tracks, all leading to registered nurse licensure, are: the Generic Track, the Accelerated Track, and the LPN to RN Career Ladder Track.

## GENERIC TRACK

The Generic Track is a flexible 75 credit curriculum for either high school graduates, students with a Graduate Equivalent Diploma (GED) or transfer students. Students may attend full-time or part-time, day or evening. Classes are admitted for the fall (end of August) and spring (January) semesters.

If attending as a full-time student, the program can be completed in 2.5 years (five semesters). Students have a maximum of six years to complete the program.

## ACCELERATED TRACK

The Accelerated Track builds on existing knowledge and life experience. It is designed for individuals with a bachelor's level degree (or higher) who wish to change career goals without repetition of college courses.

Students eligible for the Accelerated Track are first accepted into the Generic Track until they satisfy all general education (pre-clinical) requirements, either through transfer and/or enrollment in the nursing program. While completing the general education portion, students may be admitted to the fall (end of August) or spring (January) semesters. Further, the general education portion can be completed full-time or part-time, day or evening.

When matriculating into the nursing (clinical) portion of the Accelerated Track, students must attend for one calendar year, January through December (including the summer). Classes are offered during the day only.

Students who are accelerated eligible also have the option of matriculation into the generic nursing sequence which offers the flexibility of day or evening nursing (clinical) courses, full or part-time.

## LPN TO RN CAREER LADDER TRACK

The Career Ladder Track is designed for the licensed practical nurse (LPN) who wishes to continue studies to be eligible to sit for the registered nurse (RN) licensure examination (NCLEX-RN). The track builds on existing knowledge, skills and strengths. Students are admitted in the fall (September) and spring (January) and may attend the general education portion part-time or full-time, day or evening.

Upon matriculation into the nursing (clinical) portion of the track, students can attend day or evening with the exception of the first nursing course, LPN Transition Course, NURM 120. This annual, three week, days only course begins in May and finishes in mid-June. Upon successful completion of the LPN Transition Course, students will receive 4 credits for NURM 120 and 4 credits of advanced standing for NURM 121. The completion of these 8 credits will establish eligibility for NURM 122. One credit of advanced standing is awarded for Math for Pharmacology (NURM 100). Advanced credit is also granted for Nursing Theory (NURM 119).

Students are eligible to take a challenge examination for NURM 122 and, if successful, gain advanced standing for NURM 122. Failure to pass the challenge examination will require the student to take NURM 122. Failure to achieve a "C" or better in the LPN Transition Course, NURM 120, will require the student to take NURM 119 and NURM 121.

Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center School of Nursing and Union County College have a written agreement which facilitates the transition of students from the Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program at Union County College to the cooperative Union County College/Muhlenberg/Registered Nursing (RN) Program. An Associate in Science Degree is granted by Union County College and a Diploma in Nursing is conferred by Muhlenberg School of Nursing. Those students who graduated from the LPN Program **after** August 1997 and



who followed the LPN to RN track of the Union County College LPN Program are eligible for advanced standing. Upon successful completion of NURM 120 (Transition course) and the required pre-requisite courses, this student will be awarded advanced standing for NURM 119, NURM 120, NURM 121 and NURM 122 and will be eligible for entry into NURM 221. A similar agreement exists with Somerset County Technical Institute LPN Program. Any LPN who has graduated from a New Jersey Board of Nursing accredited Licensed Practical Nursing program may also request the same privilege.

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The Faculty of the School of Nursing seeks to admit those candidates who are best qualified to meet the academic requirements of the nursing program, and who, by reason of academic potential, purpose and maturity, show promise of successful completion of the program. Admission is selective and competitive.

**Each applicant is evaluated for admission to all three tracks, Generic, Accelerated and/or LPN to RN Career Ladder, on the basis of:**

- **HIGH SCHOOL RECORD (OR GED)\*** Including the completion of biology with a lab, chemistry with a lab, algebra I and a second unit of mathematics. A "C" (70 percent) or better in each subject is required.\*\* High school rank is not considered for admission purposes.
- **SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT/APTITUDE TEST (SAT)** Candidates who graduated from high school within the last three years must submit combined SAT scores of 750 or higher. This requirement is waived for all other applicants. The school code is 2452.
- **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) REQUIREMENTS** Applicants with previous college experience are required to have a 2.5 cumulative GPA in all relevant courses. No more than one repeat is permitted in the relevant science courses.\*\*\* There can not be any failures in attempted science or English courses at the last college attended. Those not meeting these criteria may be assigned to the Goal Attainment In Nursing (G.A.I.N.) Track under the mentorship of the Dean of the Schools.

\* ALL APPLICANTS must submit an official copy of his/her high school transcript or GED. No exceptions.

\*\* Students who have not met this requirement must take the high school equivalent courses at Union County College which are:  
 High School Biology..... BIO 102  
 High School Chemistry..... CHE 005  
 High School Algebra ..... MAT 022 or  
 MAT 015/016 sequence

\*\*\* See Curriculum Design on page 6

- **LETTERS OF REFERENCE** Each program requires three letters of reference. These references may be obtained from teachers, guidance counselors, professors, instructors, employers, clergy and/or any individual who knows the applicant in a professional capacity.

The following specific requirements may apply to School of Nursing applicants:

- a. If the applicant is a high school senior, or has graduated from high school within the last three years –
  1. Reference letter 1 must be from his/her guidance counselor.
  2. Reference letter 2 must be from one of his/her teachers.
  3. Reference letter 3 must be another professional reference.
- b. If the applicant is transferring from another school of nursing and is seeking transfer of clinical courses –
  1. Reference letter 1 must be from an instructor and/or dean currently employed at that school.
  2. Reference letter 2 must be from the most recent employer.
  3. Reference letter 3 must be another professional reference.
- c. If the applicant is an LPN having graduated within the last five years –
  1. Reference letter 1 must be from an instructor and/or dean currently employed at that school.
  2. Reference letter 2 must be from the most recent employer.
  3. Reference letter 3 must be another professional reference.
- d. If the applicant is an LPN having graduated more than five years ago –
  1. Reference letter 1 must be from an employer.
  2. Reference letters 2 and 3 must be from other professional sources.

*Personal references from friends or family members are not acceptable.*



- **APPLICATION ESSAY**  
See page IV of the application.
- **EXTRACURRICULAR/COMMUNITY/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**  
See page III of the application.
- **CONSUMER INFORMATION SHEET**  
See the School of Nursing Consumer Information sheet in the application packet. This form must be read, signed and returned with the application and essay.
- **NURSE ENTRANCE TEST (NET) All** School of Nursing applicants must take the Nurse Entrance Test. This test is offered twice a month at the Muhlenberg Schools.

A schedule of testing dates is available at the Schools' website, [www.muhlenbergschools.org](http://www.muhlenbergschools.org).

### ADDITIONAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants for the Accelerated Track must have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university in addition to the previous criteria.
- Applicants to the LPN to RN Career Ladder Track are required to show an original copy of their current, unexpired LPN license and submit a transcript from the LPN school.\*
- **It is not necessary to attend Union County College prior to applying to the School of Nursing. However, students who are currently enrolled, previously enrolled and/or plan to enroll at Union County College prior to their admission to the School of Nursing Union County College Cooperative Nursing Program, must have achieved a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 at Union County College.\* Students not meeting this criteria may seek guidance from a Union County College counselor**
- Applicants with educational credentials from schools outside the United States must first have their transcripts translated and evaluated.\*\*
- For those who are not U.S. citizens, a permanent resident card/naturalization papers are required. An application will not be processed without this documentation.
- A student who has withdrawn from the School of Nursing and who seeks reinstatement must complete a new application and provide new documentation

\* Only official transcripts can be considered to process an application. Official transcripts are those transcripts sent directly from one school to another school without student receipt and include an official seal of the School.

\*\* Consult the Applicant Checklist (included with the application) for additional information.

### ADMISSION WITH ADVANCED STANDING

A student may transfer into the nursing program from another accredited institution of higher education. The cooperative nursing program may grant up to 32 credit hours of advanced standing in general education courses that correspond in subject matter, number of credits and with a grade of "C" or better. Students holding a baccalaureate degree may transfer up to 40 general education credit hours. All students seeking transfer credit need to have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher with no grade lower than a "C" in all relevant courses. No more than one repeat is permitted in these relevant courses. There may not be any failures in science or English courses in the last college attended.

Credits earned in Anatomy and Physiology I and II and Microbiology taken more than five years prior to application for admission will NOT be accepted for transfer credit. Chemistry is transferable for ten years. There is no time limit on liberal arts courses for transfer. Courses that exceed the time limit must be retaken.

The School of Nursing may grant up to 20 credit hours of advanced standing in nursing (clinical) courses for the Generic and LPN Tracks that correspond in subject matter and number of credit hours to Muhlenberg nursing courses. The courses must have been successfully passed at the previous nursing school for transferability to be considered. In addition, an applicant seeking to transfer any nursing courses must include a letter of reference from the director of the school of nursing or from the respective course instructor.

All advanced standing in nursing courses will be granted sequentially. For example, awarding of advanced standing in NURM 121 is a prerequisite for the awarding of advanced standing in NURM 122. Credit earned in nursing courses taken more than five years prior to application for admission will NOT be accepted for transfer credit.

**An official evaluation of previous college credits will be completed after enrollment.**

The Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center School of Nursing curriculum includes both general education (pre-clinical) and nursing (clinical) courses. While many sections are offered, the maximum number of seats in each course may be limited. **Registration for all courses is on a seat-available basis.**





### COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP)

The CLEP provides a method of earning college credit by taking examinations in various subject areas. Union County College recognizes CLEP scores and will allow credit in many subject areas when the scores meet the college requirements. Not more than 32 credit hours will be accepted under this program. Credit will not be given where there is evidence of previous academic work. For further information, contact the Union County College's Admissions Offices. Ask for the transfer credit evaluation professionals.

### STUDENT CLASSIFICATIONS

**Full-time Student** – A student is considered full-time academically when he/she pursues 12 or more credit hours.

**Part-time Student** – A student is considered part-time academically when he/she pursues 11 credit hours or less.

### EVENING DIVISION

In addition to the daytime program, the School of Nursing also offers an evening Generic program of study which is designed to meet the needs of those individuals who are interest in a nursing career and who are unable to attend class during the day. It offers the same curriculum as the Day Division.

### DEADLINES

Applications are processed as received on a rolling basis. The School of Nursing accepts applications for the Fall (September) and Spring (January) semesters. Applications for the Fall semester must be complete by April 15th. Applications for the Spring semester must be complete by October 8th.

**ONLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS WILL BE REVIEWED FOR ACCEPTANCE.**

A completed application includes **all** required documents/credentials. An application will not be considered complete until **all** documents/credentials are received.

### COST

See the enclosed tuition and fee sheet.

### FINANCIAL AID

The Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Harold B. & Dorothy A. Snyder Schools are approved for Title IV Financial Aid Programs, as well as the training of veterans. All inquiries should be directed to the Financial Aid Office in the Schools.

### ACCREDITATIONS

National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.  
61 Broadway, 33rd Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
(800) 669-1656

New Jersey Board of Nursing  
PO Box 45010  
124 Halsey St.  
Newark, NJ 07101  
(973) 504-6430

# Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center Harold B. and Dorothy A. Snyder Schools

## NURSING CURRICULUM

All tracks lead to a Diploma in Nursing from Muhlenberg and an Associate in Science (A.S.) degree from Union County College

GENERIC TRACK				ACCELERATED TRACK					L.P.N. TO R.N. TRACK					
Course		Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credit Hours	Course		Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credit Hours	Course		Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Credit Hours
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>														
*BIO 105	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4	*BIO 105	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4	*BIO 105	Anatomy and Physiology I	3	3	4
CHE 105	Chemistry-Health Sciences	3	3	4	*BIO 106	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4	*BIO 106	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4
ENG 101	English Composition I	3	1	3	*BIO 108	Microbiology	3	3	4	CHE 105	Chemistry-Health Sciences	3	3	4
NURM 119	Introduction to Nursing Concepts	3	0	3	CHE 105	Chemistry-Health Sciences	3	3	4	PSY 101	General Psychology	3	0	3
NURM 100	Mathematics for Pharmacology	1	0	1	ENG 101	English Composition I	3	1	3	ENG 101	English Composition I	3	0	3
				<b>15</b>	ENG 102	English Composition II	3	1	3					<b>18</b>
					PSY 101	General Psychology	3	0	3					
					PSY 205	Child Psychology	3	0	3	<b>SUMMER SESSION I</b>				
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>					SOC 101	Principles of Sociology	3	0	3	NURM 120	LPN Transition Course	7.5	7.5	4
*BIO 106	Anatomy and Physiology II	3	3	4	NURM 100	Mathematics for Pharmacology	1	0	1	ENG 102	English Composition II	3	1	3
PSY 101	General Psychology	3	0	3		Humanities Elective	3	0	3					<b>7</b>
NURM 121	Nursing I	4	12	8		Humanities Elective	3	0	3	<b>SUMMER SESSION II</b>				
				<b>15</b>					<b>38</b>	SOC 101	Principles of Sociology	3	0	3
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>					<b>SPRING SEMESTER</b>									
*BIO 108	Microbiology	3	3	4	NURM 141		6.5	19.5	13	PSY 205	Child Psychology	3	0	3
PSY 205	Child Psychology	3	0	3					<b>13</b>					<b>6</b>
NURM 122	Nursing II	4	12	8	<b>SUMMER SEMESTER</b>									
				<b>15</b>	NURM 241		6.8	20.4	11	<b>SEMESTER III</b>				
<b>FOURTH SEMESTER</b>					<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>									
SOC 101	Principles of Sociology	3	0	3	NURM 242		6.5	19.5	13	*BIO 108	Microbiology	3	3	4
ENG 102	English Composition II	3	1	3					<b>13</b>	NURM 122	Nursing II	4	12	8
NURM 221	Nursing III	4.5	13.5	9							Humanities Elective	3	0	3
				<b>15</b>						NURM 221	Nursing III	4.5	13.5	9
<b>FIFTH SEMESTER</b>														<b>12</b>
	Humanities Elective	3	0	3						<b>SEMESTER IV</b>				
	Humanities Elective	3	0	3							Humanities Elective	3	0	3
NURM 222	Nursing IV	4.5	13.5	9						NURM 221	Nursing III	4.5	13.5	9
				<b>15</b>										<b>12</b>
										<b>SEMESTER V</b>				
											Humanities Elective	3	0	3
										NURM 222	Nursing IV	4.5	13.5	9
														<b>12</b>

Nursing Credits: 38  
 General Education Credits: 37  
 Total Credits 75

*\*These sciences must have been taken within the last five years to be transferrable.*

Note: CHE 113 and CHE 114 may be needed for transfer into a BSN program.

Advanced standing awarded for:  
 NURM 100 1 credit  
 NURM 119 3 credits  
 \*\*NURM 121 (upon passing NURM 120) 8 credits

Advanced standing may be awarded for N122.