Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in the RN Associate Degree nursing program at Northwest Mississippi Community College. The following information packet is designed to give you an extensive look at what we are proud to offer you as a prospective nursing student. Due to the increasing number of applicants to all nursing schools, only those applicants who reside within the state of Mississippi will be considered for admission.

The Division of Nursing is located on the Senatobia campus of NWCC. All required classes are offered on the main campus and some of the non-nursing classes are also offered at NWCC’s Desoto campus and Oxford-Lafayette Center. Clinical learning experiences are under the direction of the nursing faculty and are provided at various clinical sites in the Northwest Mississippi and in the area of Memphis, Tennessee. All classes may be obtained during the regular daytime hours. It must be noted, however, that clinical hours and days will vary each semester. It is not guaranteed that all clinical times will be during the daytime hours or during the regular Tuesday-Thursday clinical days.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the application for the nursing program and a copy of the application to Northwest. Each must be completed. In completing the application for the nursing program, be certain to indicate the semester for which you are applying and to note the September 30 deadline for the spring classes and the February 28 deadline for fall classes.

Transcripts of any previous college work must be sent to the Registrar’s Office along with ACT scores. These transcripts become property of NWCC and the Nursing Division and cannot be returned to an applicant or forwarded to another school or individual.

Admission is on a competitive basis. Once all entry criteria are met, your file will be placed in the “pool” of applicants to be considered for the next available position in the program. (See admission information on the next page).

We wish you much success in your pursuit of a career in nursing.

Sincerely,

The Faculty
Division of Nursing
NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF NURSING

Northwest Mississippi Community College has a reputation of promoting outstanding academic integrity. The Associate Degree Program offers a basic education in nursing with a clinical experience in a wide variety of settings. Also included are courses in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences. Upon completion of the curriculum, an Associate of Arts degree in Nursing is awarded. Graduates are eligible to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses.

ADMISSION: Due to the purpose and objectives of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, the requirements for admission to the program differ from the general admission requirements. Meeting the minimum standards for admission to the college does not guarantee admission to the nursing program as the admission process is highly competitive. The number of students admitted each semester is dependent upon educational resources available to the school. Two classes are admitted each year. The fall class is notified in March and the spring class is notified in October each year.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE NURSING OFFICE REGARDING YOUR ADMISSION STATUS. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU BY MAIL. Application forms for admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program may be obtained by mail from Northwest Mississippi Community College, Division of Nursing, P.O. Box 7009, Senatobia, MS 38668, by calling the main nursing office (662) 562-3283, or online at http://www.northwestms.edu/web/filemgmt_data/files/Division%20of%20Nursing%20Associate%20Degree%20Program.pdf.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: College admission forms should be sent to the Registrar’s Office and the applications to the nursing program should be sent to the Director, Division of Nursing. ONLY Mississippi residents are admitted to the nursing program. The following requirements must be met prior to consideration for admission into the nursing program. Students are admitted by meeting the following criteria:

1. An enhanced ACT composite score of 19 or greater. Those applicants who have previously earned a Bachelor’s Degree, regardless of major, will need an 18 or higher composite ACT score.
2. A sub score of 19 or better in the ACT math component or successful completion (grade of C or better) in College Algebra (MAT 1313).
3. Competitive scores on the Reading and Math portions of the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). The student MUST have a nursing application on file AND a score of 19 or greater on the ACT in order to register for the TEAS. To schedule a test date for the TEAS, the student must appear in person to the main nursing office on the Senatobia campus. The cost for this exam is $50, which is subject to change, and is to be paid by money order made out to NWCC. After payment is received and a date is set, a ticket will be issued for the student to present for entry to the exam only on the day that was scheduled. More information about this exam and study materials may be obtained at www.atitesting.com.
4. A GPA of 2.0 or greater on courses that is required in the nursing curriculum. Only the last two attempts on these courses will be utilized when calculating the GPA.
5. In addition, extra consideration is given to those applicants that are Licensed Practical Nurses, have completed greater than or equal to 24 college credits, and/or who have already earned a Bachelor’s Degree, regardless of major.
6. Due to early application deadlines, students may be provisionally admitted to the nursing program. However, they must successfully complete (grade of C or better) Anatomy and Physiology I (BIO 2513/2511) and II (BIO 2523/2521) with labs before beginning any nursing course. Science courses are now accepted for up to seven (7) years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:
1. All applicants must be Mississippi residents to be considered for admission to the nursing program. Proof of residency will be required.
2. No science course may be more than seven (7) years old from the date of admission to the program to meet graduation requirements.
3. Eligibility does NOT guarantee admission to the program. All applicants must apply to the college, but college admission does NOT guarantee admission to nursing. Applicants will be admitted using a point system on the above objective data. Applications will be ranked from highest to lowest points according to the rating scale by March 1 for the fall semester and October 1 for the spring semester. In the event of a tie score, admission will be based on the reading sub score of the TEAS. All complete applications received by the deadline will be considered for admission. Approximately 80 students will be admitted each semester. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the secretary in the nursing office if any information changes (e.g. change of address, phone number, etc). Applicants not chosen must notify the nursing division in writing if they wish to be reconsidered for admission the next semester.
4. Each applicant must submit all academic records including: application, high school transcripts, GED scores, ACT scores, TEAS scores and transcripts from all colleges attended other than NWCC. It is the applicant’s responsibility to see that all the above information is received in the nursing division by the February 28 or September 30 deadlines. Once a prospective student has an application to the nursing program on file and has a minimum ACT score of 19, a date and time to take the TEAS can be scheduled through the Division of Nursing. This can only be done in person at in the main office for the Division of Nursing on the Senatobia campus.
5. During the semester of application, applicants may be enrolled or plan to enroll in some of the prerequisite classes required for admission. Applicants who meet all other criteria and are competitive may be conditionally admitted provided that these prerequisite courses are passed with a “C” or better.

TRANSFER STUDENTS: All students desiring to transfer from another nursing program must meet NWCC Nursing Admission Criteria (see above) and be approved for transfer by the Nursing Admission Committee. Transfer applicants must be in “good standing” and eligible for readmission to the previous college attended. Transfer from the previous college must be submitted to the Division of Nursing’s Program Director and the Admission Committee for prior approval to be applied toward an associate degree in Nursing from NWCC. A letter from the Director of the nursing program previously attended stating the student’s academic standing and readmission status must also be received prior to action being taken by the Admission Committee. Applicants will be requested to present course descriptions, course outlines, lab/clinical skills, etc., from nursing courses competed to facilitate placement within the nursing curriculum. There must be space available in the class in order for a transfer to be made. All graduating nursing students must have completed 27 hours at Northwest Mississippi Community College.
Repeating Students: Nursing students who fail one nursing course and want to continue within the program are readmitted according to space available. Failure of two nursing courses is grounds for dismissal from the program. All students requesting to repeat a course after two nursing course failures must be approved by the Progression Committee. There must be space available in order to repeat a course.

EXPENSES: All nursing students MUST assume a 12-hour class load each semester. The fees are the same as listed for all full-time students in the current college bulletin.

Students are required to provide their own transportation to and from the clinical area. Car pools are usually available with other students living in the area.

The required student uniform must be purchased from the Northwest Bookstore to ensure uniformity among the students’ attire. Lab coats are also available in the bookstore with the NWCC patch displayed on the upper portion of the left sleeve. The following will also be required: solid white nursing shoes, white nursing hose (female students choosing to wear uniform skirts), penlight, nursing bandage scissors, watch with a second hand, and a stethoscope.

Mississippi Student Nurses’ Association membership dues are approximately $22.00 per year. Although membership is not required, it is strongly encouraged. The nursing faculty and administration feel that it is important to participate in one’s professional organization.

Required textbooks are available in the NWCC Bookstore. Each student must have a name tag that is worn in the clinical area. These identification badges are provided by campus security. See the attached list of estimated costs for the program.

During the last semester of the program (Fourth Semester—Sophomore II) each student will incur some extra costs. Students may opt to purchase a nursing pin; many options, styles, and price ranges are available (optional with cost starting around $30). A ceremony/reception may be held and paid for by the graduating class. Pictures of each graduating student are made for the composite and NCLEX-RN applications. Each student receives a packet of individual pictures as well as a smaller composite of the entire class. The cost to each student will be $35-55. The NCLEX-RN exam is taken after graduation and costs $200.00. There are several different review courses available. The ATI or Hurst Review course has been offered as an option on site and currently costs $300-350.00. The fee for individual licenses to practice as an RN varies from state to state and is also payable in the last semester. An approximate cost for Mississippi licensing is $100.00. The state of Mississippi now also requires fingerprinting and background checks for a cost to the students of $75.00.

It should be noted that all students are responsible for paying accident and health care expenses when enrolled in the nursing program.

Financial aid information is available in the NWCC Bulletin or by calling the Financial Aid Office at (662) 562-3271. The NWCC Bulletin can be found online at http://www.northwestms.edu/web/filemgmt_data/files/Division%20of%20Nursing%20Associate%20Degree%20Program.pdf or in print copy from the Registrar’s office.
HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

1. A current physical examination documented on the student health record form, TB skin test within the last year, evidence of two MMR immunizations or titers showing immunity for Rubella and Rubella, proof of two varicella immunizations or a positive titer demonstrating immunity, a tetanus booster within the last 10 years, proof of Hepatitis B vaccines or a signed waiver provided by the program, and current CPR certification (healthcare provider or professional rescuer) are required of all students prior to entering the clinical area. Proof of each is kept in the individual student’s file. All requirements must be kept current throughout the program. A random urine drug screen will also be performed at the student’s expense before the student is cleared for clinical the first semester. Random urine drug testing can also be expected at any time during the program. Positive drug screening is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

2. Each student must be able to demonstrate the following essential functions as witnessed by the healthcare provider or attested to by the student and documented on the student health form. These must be documented prior to going into the clinical area on every level.

   a. Visual acuity with corrective lenses to identify cyanosis, absence of respiratory movement in patients, reading very fine print on medication, containers physician orders, monitors and equipment calibrations. Must possess normal night, color and peripheral vision.
   b. Hearing ability (with auditory aids, if necessary) to understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker’s face, hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells from patients, and telephone orders; take and hear blood pressure, heart, lung, vascular and abdominal sounds with a stethoscope.
   c. Physical ability to stand for prolonged periods of time, perform CPR, lift patient/objects of 35 pounds or more without assistance and move from room to room or maneuver in limited spaces. Must also be able to push/pull 250 pounds, sit in one place, kneel, reach and bend.
   d. Effective communication skills in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures, describing patient conditions and implementing health teaching. Write legibly and correctly in patient’s chart for legal documentation.
   e. Manual dexterity to use sterile technique to insert catheters, withdraw blood and prepare medications (intravenous, intramuscular, oral, etc.). Must also be able to perform repetitive hand and wrist motion, grip, squeeze and possess good hand/eye coordination.
   f. Possess the emotional well-being required for the full use of intellectual abilities; the exercise of sound judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the care of patients, the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients, peers, and staff. Must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively when stressed.
   g. Ability to tolerate exposure to patient body fluids and other hazardous material frequently encountered in the clinical setting.
   h. Ability to administer narcotics safely.

MICELLANEOUS: When a student is in uniform, there can be NO VISIBLE tattoos. All tattoos must be covered by the standard uniform. Since no jewelry may be worn other than a watch and wedding ring, it should be noted that no earrings, rings in the nose, eyebrow, or any other part of the face will be allowed. Neither bars nor studs in the tongue will be allowed.
NURSING LEGALITIES: All prospective nursing students should note Section §73-15-29 of the Mississippi Nursing Practice Law which states that any individual having been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony may not be allowed to write the NCLEX for RN licensure. At their discretion, the Mississippi Board of Nursing has the authority to refuse licensure to anyone convicted of a misdemeanor or felony (http://www.msbn.state.ms.us/pdf/nsgpracticelaw2010.pdf); therefore, completion of the program in such a situation does not constitute the ability to write for the NCLEX examination.

Effective 01/01/04, pursuant to an amendment to Mississippi House Bill HB 1077, Section §43-11-13, Mississippi Code of 1972, all applicants to the School of Nursing must undergo a criminal background check before beginning clinical experiences and providing patient care.

GRADES: A minimum grade of “C” is required for each nursing course, BIO 2920, BIO 2924, and EPY 2533 for PROGRESSION in the program. A minimum grade of “C” is required for ALL REQUIRED COURSES in the nursing program curriculum in order to graduate from the nursing program. NWCC requires a GPA of 2.0 for graduation.

ADVANCED STANDING FOR LPNs: Licensed Practical Nurses have the opportunity to seek advanced standing in the Associate Degree Nursing Program by completing a challenge examination (both a written exam and a skills demonstration) which allows entry at the second semester level. Any LPN who meets the admission criteria into the associate degree program is eligible to request the challenge examination; this includes completing A & P I and A & P II with both labs with a “C” or better. The fee for the LPN challenge examination is $100.00. There are three components of the examination: a written theory exam, a practical lab skills demonstration, and a written pharmacology exam. ALL must be successfully completed in order for the student to advance to the second level of the nursing program. Refer to the LPN challenge section of the site for more information.

ACCREDITATION: The Division of Nursing at NWCC is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), located at 3343 Peachtree Road, NE; Suite 500, Atlanta, GA 30326, (phone number 404-975-5000 fax 404-975-5020) and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, State of Mississippi located at 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211-6453.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, ADDRESS YOUR QUESTIONS TO:

NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DIVISION OF NURSING
ELLEN P. WILLAMS, PhD, RN, DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 7009
4975 HIGHWAY 51 NORTH
SENATOBIA, MISSISSIPPI 38668
# NORTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
# DIVISION OF NURSING
# REQUIRED CURRICULUM

## FRESHMAN YEAR
### First Semester

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>NRS 1117</td>
<td>Nursing I</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>NRS 1211</td>
<td>Nursing Pharmacology I</td>
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<td>ENG 1113</td>
<td>English Composition I</td>
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<td>Computer Concepts</td>
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### Second Semester

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<td>MAT 1313</td>
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<td>EPY 2533</td>
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## SOPHOMORE YEAR
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<td>NRS 2124</td>
<td>Pediatric Nursing</td>
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<td>PSY 1513</td>
<td>General Psychology I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIO 2924</td>
<td>Microbiology</td>
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### Fourth Semester

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<td>NRS 2214</td>
<td>Psychiatric Nursing</td>
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<td>NRS 2224</td>
<td>Advanced Medical-Surgical Nursing</td>
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<td>NRS 2222</td>
<td>Nursing Seminar</td>
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<td>SPT 1113</td>
<td>Public Speaking I</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>Humanities (Music, Art, or Theatre Appreciation; Ethics; Philosophy; any Literature course; any Foreign Language course; or any other approved humanities elective approved by the Registrar’s office)</td>
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**ATTENTION:** BIO 2513/2511 and BIO 2523/2521 (A & P I and II with corresponding labs) are to be completed before starting the program. All science courses (BIO 2513/2511, BIO 2523/2521, and BIO 2924/2920 are accepted for seven (7) years or less at the time of admission into the program. **SEE MATH REQUIREMENT ON PAGE 1 OF THE ADMISSION INFO PACKET**

Rev 5/12
## FIRST SEMESTER:
- Tuition: $1125.00
- Lab & Testing Fee: 150.00
- Books: 500.00
- Uniforms/names tag/NW patch: 200.00
- Shoes: 50.00
- Desk Top Supplies: 50.00
- Watch with second hand: 25.00
- Stethoscope/pen light/bandage scissors: 75.00
- Background Check with Fingerprinting: 75.00

**FIRST SEMESTER TOTAL** $2250.00

## SECOND SEMESTER:
- Tuition: $1125.00
- Lab & Testing Fee: 150.00
- Books: 200.00

**SECOND SEMESTER TOTAL** $1475.00

## THIRD SEMESTER:
- Tuition: $1125.00
- Lab & Testing Fee: 150.00
- Books: 200.00

**THIRD SEMESTER TOTAL** $1475.00

## FOURTH SEMESTER:
- Tuition: $1125.00
- Lab & Testing Fee: 150.00
- Books: 200.00
- NCLEX ($200) & Mississippi licensing fee ($100): 300.00
- Background Check by Mississippi Board of Nursing: 75.00
- Graduation Pictures: 35-55.00
- NCLEX Review Course (optional—can be taken after 2nd semester): 300-350.00
- Nursing Pin (optional—many options and prices available): 30.00

**FOURTH SEMESTER TOTAL** $2285.00

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF PROGRAM** $7485.00

**ALL fees and requirements are subject to change at any time by the action of the NWCC Board of Trustees.**