

# MILES COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM

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# **Miles Community College**

## **2715 Dickinson Street**

### **Miles City, MT 593012**

#### **Nursing Information**

Miles Community College offers a two-year Associate of Science in Nursing Degree which prepares students for Registered Nursing licensure.

#### **Accreditation**

The Miles Community College Registered Nursing Program has continued accreditation with the condition of submitting a follow-up report spring 2017 by: Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN) *formally NLNAC*. 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850 Atlanta, GA. 30326.  
Phone: 404.975.5000 Fax: 404.975.5020 Website: [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)

And fully approved by:  
Montana State Board of Nursing  
301 South Park  
PO Box 200513  
Helena, MT 59620-0513  
Phone: 406-841-2342  
Website: [http://mt.gov/dli/bsd/license/bsd\\_boards/nur\\_board/  
board\\_page.asp](http://mt.gov/dli/bsd/license/bsd_boards/nur_board/board_page.asp)

## **Mission**

The Miles Community College Nursing Program reflects and supports the mission and objectives of the College. Miles Community College prepares students for success and provides opportunities for lifelong learning through quality programs, community outreach, and partnerships. The College's core themes are 1) Student Success; 2) Academic Achievement; 3) Workforce Training and Partnerships; 4) Community Outreach and Lifelong Learning.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

The purposes of the Miles Community College Associate of Science Nursing Program are to prepare students to:

- Advocate for patients and families in ways that promote their self-determination, integrity and ongoing growth as human beings.
- Make judgments in practice, substantiated with evidences that integrate nursing science in the provision of safe, quality care and promote the health of patients within a family and community context.
- Implement one's roll as a nurse in ways that reflect integrity, responsibility, ethical practices, and an evolving identity as a nurse committed to evidence-based practice, caring, advocacy and safe, quality care for diverse patients within a family and community context.
- Examine the evidence that underlies clinical nursing practice to challenge the status quo, question underlying assumptions, and offer new insights to improve the quality of care for patients, families, and communities.

## **Program Outcomes**

1. Completion Time; 80% of students who began the Nursing Program will graduate in five (5) semesters
2. NCLEX Pass Rates: 88% (or within 4% points of national average) of graduates will pass NCLEX-RN exam on first attempt.
3. Graduate Satisfaction: Data collected from graduate nurses will reveal a cumulative 85% Nursing Program satisfaction.
4. New Graduate Employment: 85% of graduates will be employed as an RN within six-12 month (6-12) months post-graduation.
5. Employer Satisfaction: 85% of employers of graduates will express satisfaction with the program.

## **Program Guiding Principles**

People are biopsychosocial beings who grow, develop, and adapt throughout the lifespan. The faculty of the Nursing Program believes that people, as members of the global society, are endowed with intellects and capacities which direct them toward uniqueness, autonomy, and self-fulfillment with dignity. People have rights, privileges, and responsibilities as members of the family, the community, and the global society. Individuals are further impacted by economics; urban or rural settings; and cultural, ethnic, or religious orientation.

Health is a dynamic state which fluctuates within a wellness-illness continuum with optimal-level wellness as the goal. The Nursing Program curriculum addresses acute and chronic health needs and wellness throughout the lifespan.

## **Nursing Practice**

The goal of nursing is to facilitate, maintain, or restore optimal-level wellness as perceived by the client or to provide support for the dying. Nursing as a discipline draws from a body of evidenced based behavioral and scientific disciplines as well as experiential knowledge. Nursing is a caring profession which applies core values, integrated concepts and outcomes. Nursing is guided by the principles of the American Nurses Association nursing standards of practice and Code of Ethics, all within the legal boundaries of nursing.

The systematic process used for the Associate Degree Registered Nurse (ADRN) is primarily based on seven core values, eight integrated concepts and four outcomes. The foundation is built upon the core values of; caring, diversity, integrity, excellence, ethics, patient-centeredness and holism. Integral to nursing practice is the application of eight concepts; context and environment, knowledge and science, personal and professional development, quality and safety, relationship-centered care and teamwork.

The ADRN communicates effectively, collaborates with clients and health care team members and serves as a patient advocate. The ADRN uses evidence based data; engages in practice using reflection and rationale thought, while recognizing the responsibilities and boundaries in the nursing profession.

## **Nursing Education**

The process of nursing education is based on professional interaction and mutual respect between the student and the teacher. Faculty members serve as role models and facilitators of learning. Faculty strives to provide clinical experiences in which students can apply nursing concepts to a variety of clients in various settings. Nursing concepts are presented and revisited in greater complexity throughout the curriculum. Through knowledge and experience, students are expected to progressively apply concepts in order to reach a level to where they can critically analyze a situation, synthesize and implement a plan of care, and evaluate outcomes. Lifelong learning is valued and necessary owing to the rapid changes in the health care environment, including increased client acuity, increased demands for knowledge, and the explosion of technology.

Nursing education is a sequence of planned activities and dynamic experiences by which students learn and are socialized into the profession of nursing. The optimal learning supports caring, recognizes differences, committed to excellence, demonstrates open communications, encourages personal/professional growth, and advocates for every person to functions according to their own values, beliefs and practices.

Faculty members serve as facilitators of learning, providing a learning environment in which nursing concepts are applied in a variety of situations and practice settings. The learning environment stimulates within the student the ability to recognize nursing values and use integrated concepts to critically analyze a situation, synthesize and implement interventions and, finally, to evaluate the outcomes.

### **The Associate of Science in Nursing Graduate**

The Associate of Science in Nursing (A.S.N.) graduate is a valuable member of the health care team and the nursing profession.

The graduate's practice include professionalism, written and spoken communication, assessment, clinical decision making, caring interventions, teaching and learning, collaboration, managing care, concern for safety for both the client and the health care team, utilization of technology, client advocacy, nursing diagnoses, prioritization, planning, implementation, delegation, evaluation of outcomes, maintenance of ethical and legal standards, practicing in a cost effective manner, providing for continuity of care, discharge planning . The graduates who possess the knowledge and skills will have a solid foundation to pursue a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree.

### **Program Objectives**

The objectives of the College's Associate Degree Nursing Program are to graduate individuals who are prepared to:

- Serve as advocates in promoting integrity and growth in human beings.
- Provide safe quality care that is backed by evidence based practice.
- Execute the role of a professional nurse committed to improving nursing care.
- Question assumptions; challenge the status quo and offer alternate ideas.

### **General Advising Information – Nursing Program Completion:**

#### **Full-Time and Part-Time Options**

The Associate of Science in Nursing Degree may be completed in five semesters, full-time plan of study. However, students may choose a part-time option and complete the degree requirements over a longer period of time. The part-time option is accomplished by completing any or all of the required "non-nursing," general education courses prior to applying for admission into the Nursing Program. Once admitted to the Nursing Program, students must complete the A.S.N. requirements within the five semesters. Students choosing the part-time option are initially designated Pre-Nursing students. Pre-Nursing students are assigned a nursing faculty advisor to develop a plan of study. The part-time option is highly recommended for students with job and/or family responsibilities.

#### **Nursing Program Admission**

Because of the critical nature of patient care, accreditation standards established by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, INC. (ACEN), formerly NLNAC, and licensure standards established by the Montana State Board of Nursing, students seeking admission to the Associate Degree Registered Nursing Program are subject to requirements and review procedures beyond those associated with general admission to the College.

Please note: Admission, progression, and graduation criteria are subject to annual revision. Contact the nursing office for the most current information.

#### **Other nursing program requirements:**

All required pre-requisites and general education must be completed with a "B-" or higher grade.

A selective GPA of 2.75 or higher is required for admission to the Nursing Program. The pre-requisites that make up the selective GPA are: CHMY 121/122, BIOH 201/202, WRIT 101, M 121.

#### **Sample GPA Calculation Worksheet:**

Instructions for calculating selective GPA:

1. Insert grade earned for classes taken through spring
2. Enter points based on grades as follows: A=4, A-=3.75, B+=3.3, B=3, B-=2.7, C+=2.3, C=2.0
3. Multiple points by credits for each class and enter in the last column
4. Total number of credits completed (13).
5. Total last column.
6. Divide last column by total credits to find GPA.

For students applying for admission who have no prior college work, students must complete the College's general placement exam.

Course	Name	Grade	Points	Credits	Points x Credits
BIOH 201/202	Human Anatomy and Physiology I w/ Lab	B	3.0	4	3 x 4 = 12
CHMY 121/122	Intro. General Chemistry w/ Lab	C	2.0	4	2 x 4 = 8
M 121	College Algebra	B	3.0	4	3 x 4 = 12
WRIT 101	College Writing I	C	2.0	3	2 x 3 = 6
Total				13	38
GPA				38/13	2.93

All required A.S.N. Degree courses, including general education courses, may be repeated only once, Developmental courses not included. Students can request an appeal, but should be aware that financial aid restrictions may apply.

To progress successfully through the program, pass return skills demonstrations, and function as a nurse after graduation, applicants shall have

1. Adequate visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to read calibrations on insulin syringes and fine print on drug inserts.
2. Adequate hearing ability with or without auditory aids to be able to auscultate breath sounds and understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face.
3. Adequate physical ability of upper and lower extremities to perform skills such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and sterile technique correctly.
4. Sufficient speaking ability of the English language to effectively communicate with patients and relay information verbally to others.

Applicants who have been convicted of a felony or treated for substance abuse should discuss their eligibility status with the Montana Board of Nursing prior to admission.

All science courses must be less than five years old.

Acceptance to and graduation from the Nursing Program does not assure eligibility to take the RN licensing examination. The Montana Board of Nursing makes all final decisions on issuance of licenses.

### **Applying for Admission to the Nursing Program**

Admission to the Nursing Program is based on points assigned to each student from the categories in the Selection Points Table, (below). In case of a tie score students will be selected according to the highest selective GPA.

The Kaplan Admissions exam is offered through the Miles Community College Nursing Department twice per year in October and April. Applicants self-register for the Nursing Entrance Exam on the Miles Community College home page at [www.milesc.edu](http://www.milesc.edu). The registration link will become active for use approximately three (3) to four (4) weeks prior to exam dates. Applicants will be responsible for registering themselves for one of the exam dates. Information about exams and exam requirements is posted on the registration site; please read this important information prior to testing. Contact the Nursing office (406-874-6189) if you have questions.

To be considered for the Miles Community College Nursing Program the exam must have been taken within one year of the Nursing application deadline, which is June 1. Applicants will include one score sheet in their Nursing application. Applicants are cautioned to make sure the score sheet they use has the highest score in order to improve their chance of being selected into the Nursing program. A minimum score of 70% is required.

### **Selection Points Table**

#### **Point System Work Sheet:**

There is a total of 97 possible points. Selection into this Nursing program is competitive. To assure you receive credit for all of your points we strongly encourage you to make sure ALL documentation is available to us by June 1st The selection process for fall admission will begin in June. Students will receive notification in July.

<b>Selective GPAs: 10-60 points</b>	<b>Kaplan Nursing Entrance Exam: 10-30 points.</b>	<b>Work Experience 1 point for this column</b>	<b>Military Experience: 1 point for this column</b>	<b>Academic Degrees: 2 – 5 points</b>
3.80 – 4.00 60 3.59 – 3.79 50 3.38 – 3.58 40 3.17 – 3.37 30 2.96 – 3.16 20 2.75 – 2.95 10	90-100% 30 80-89% 20 70-79% 10          *Provide printout of Kaplan exam score sheet	LPN, C.N.A, Med. Tech, Surg. Tech, Paramedic, EMT, military medical experience, (Any other experience used will be at the dis- cretion of the nursing program director).          *Provide documentation with Nursing application	All branches of the Armed Forces.          *Provide documentation with Nursing application	AS = 2          BS = 3          Master's = 4          PhD=5          *Provide documentation with Nursing application

### Initial Admission Requirements

The Nursing Program follows the requirements for Mandatory Placement into college level courses. The following must be completed before applying to the nursing program: Human Anatomy and Physiology I w/lab, General Chemistry w/ Lab, College Writing I and College Algebra.

In order to be eligible for consideration for admission to the Nursing Program, students must complete:

- Completed Miles Community College general application
- Official High School transcripts or state-approved high school equivalency transcripts
- Official college transcripts, if applicable, from all institutions attended
- Completed Miles Community College Nursing application

The College's Nursing Admissions Committee determines acceptance of students based on:

- An applicant's completion of all the application and transcript requirements by the deadline date of June 1.
- Rank order of each applicant's points.

### Admission to Designated Sites

Starting with the highest points students will be admitted to each of the designate "sites" according to the rank order points. Students will be placed according to their requested and previously designated site location. In the case that all of the slots have been filled at that particular site location, students will be given notice and will be allowed two working days to choose an available alternative site. If the alternative site placement is not agreeable, students have no option but to withdraw from the admission process. Students may apply for admission the following year. In case of a tie score for the last available "slot" students will be selected according to the highest GPA. Notification letters will be mailed in July after the final decisions have been made by the Nursing Admissions Committee.

### Admission Process after being accepted into the Nursing Program:

Students who are accepted into the Nursing Program must complete the nursing admission process to be eligible to enroll in: NRSG 256 Pathophysiology; NRSG 232 Foundations of Nursing; and NRSG 233 Foundations of Nursing Lab. Failure to complete any of the following may lead to the revocation of a students' admission into the MCC Nursing Program.

## **Accepted Students must submit:**

### **By July 15th:**

- A nonrefundable deposit of \$200 to hold their “slot” (this deposit will then be applied toward fall tuition and fees.)

### **By July 25th:**

- Evidence of current Criminal Background Check through Verified Credentials Inc.
- The following documents must be submitted to the Nursing Program:
  1. A completed Nursing Program Basic Health Screening Form (includes screening; vital signs; vision; hearing; allergies, including latex screening if indicated; current medications; health problems; and demographic and insurance information).
  2. Evidence of Health insurance or signed waiver (insurance waiver forms must be picked up & turned in at the Nursing office on campus NOT submitted to Verified Credentials Inc.)
  3. Completed drug screen

**All required uniforms, name tags, books, and lab supplies must be purchased prior to the beginning of Fall classes.**

### **By September 10th:**

Payment of professional liability insurance (fee is included in fall tuition & fee payment)

Note: Any discrepancies found in a student's file, inaccurate or fraudulent information, or other circumstances occurring or discovered subsequent to a student's acceptance can lead to revocation of acceptance by a majority decision of the Nursing Admissions Committee.

## **Ongoing Nursing Program Requirements**

In order to maintain ongoing enrollment in the Nursing Program, students must meet the following requirements:

A = 91.0-100%

A- = 89.51 – 90.99

B+ = 87.0 – 89.50

B = 81.0 – 86.99

B- = 79.51 – 80.99

C+ = 77.0 – 79.50

C = 71.01 – 76.99

C- = 69.51 – 70.99

D+ = 67.0 – 69.5

D = 61.0 - 67.99

D- = 60.0 – 60.99

F = Below 60%

- A final grade of “B-” or better must be earned in each of the required general education courses and nursing courses.
- Students with a final grade lower than a “B-” in any of the required nursing courses or in the required general education courses will be dropped from the Nursing Program.
- All nursing classes must be taken in the appropriate sequence (see pre-requisites and co-requisites).
- A final grade of 79.51 “B-” or better in each of the clinical and theory portions of the nursing courses must be earned in order to proceed in the nursing program.
- Basic Health Screening update, including current CPR must be submitted yearly.
- Negative test on any drug screening as required by agencies providing clinical experiences must be submitted.
- Students' signed last page of current Nursing Student Handbook stating that they understand and agree to abide by the policies and procedures of the Miles Community College's Nursing Program.

## **Clinical Experience – Nursing**

Nursing students are required to participate in a variety of clinical experiences hospitals, clinics, extended care facilities, schools, and multiple community health care service agencies. To progress successfully through the program, pass return skills demonstrations, and function as a nurse after graduation, applicants shall have:

- Adequate visual acuity with or without corrective lenses to read calibrations on insulin syringes and fine print on drug inserts.
- Adequate hearing ability with or without auditory aids to be able to auscultate breath sounds and understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker's face.
- Adequate physical ability of upper and lower extremities to perform skills such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation and sterile technique correctly.
- Sufficient speaking ability of the English language to effectively communicate with patients and relay information verbally to others.

Clinical assignments are usually at a set time but may vary and involve early mornings, evenings, and occasional weekends. Students will be given a clinical schedule at the beginning of each semester. It is expected that students will arrange family and employment responsibilities in order to participate at assigned clinical times.

Principles of Universal Precautions are taught, observed, and reinforced throughout the nursing curriculum beginning in NRS 232 Foundations of Nursing and NRS 233 Foundations of Nursing Lab. Students who are or may be pregnant should inform the clinical instructor immediately so appropriate precautionary measures can be implemented. As professional practitioners, faculty members have an obligation to clients, clinical agencies, and members of the health care team to ensure that nursing students are prepared and competent to provide safe nursing care.

In order to participate in clinical experiences, students must consistently:

- Demonstrate emotional stability.
- Demonstrate professional behaviors, including respectful and appropriate communication with faculty, staff, and peers.
- Demonstrate good health and be free from any conditions that could jeopardize self or client health and/or safety. This includes the use of alcohol and mind-altering drugs.
- Demonstrate safe and competent student nurse practice regarding client safety and comfort
- Maintain confidentiality (HIPAA standards).
- Comply with all affiliating agency policies and procedures.
- Practice within the legal boundaries of nursing and the student nurse.

More specific information on student behaviors that may lead to students being denied access to a clinical area and subsequent disciplinary actions can be found in the current Nursing Student Handbook at <http://www.milesc.edu/DownloadFiles/NursingStudentHandbook.pdf>.

#### **Licensed Practical Nurse:**

Licensed Practical Nurses are considered for the five semester ASN Nursing program. Interested LPN's must have:

- Unencumbered licenses to practice as an LPN.
- One year's experience working as an LPN.

#### **Transfer Students – Nursing**

Students wishing to transfer to the Miles Community College Nursing Program from other schools of nursing should contact the Nursing Program Director. Transfer students must complete all nursing program admission requirements and admission is dependent on space availability. Transfer of nursing credits is on a case-by-case basis through course evaluation. Nursing courses must have been taken within the past year from a nursing program that is approved by Montana State Board of Nursing or a nationally recognized nursing accrediting body.

A letter requesting admission to the College's Nursing Program is required and should be addressed to the Nursing Admissions Committee. The letter should outline the reasons for leaving the previous nursing program and the reasons the student thinks they will be more successful in the Miles Community College Nursing Program. A letter of recommendation from the student's previous nursing school director or dean is required.

Students requesting transfer into freshman nursing classes are required to take the Kaplan Admissions entrance exam. Students requesting transfer into sophomore-level nursing classes are required to take the Kaplan Step exam. Transfer students may also be required to demonstrate skills and the Nursing Process through care plan writing.

#### **Nursing Readmission Process**

A letter from the student requesting readmission to the Miles Community College Nursing Program is required and should be addressed to the Nursing Admissions Committee stating students' understanding of why they were unsuccessful in the Nursing Program and what has changed that will allow them to be successful on a second attempt. There must be space available in limited-enrollment courses in order to readmit students. A student's GPA will be the deciding factor in the event there are more applicants than clinical slots available. Nursing courses must have been taken within the past year from a nursing program that is approved by a nationally recognized nursing accrediting body. The procedure for readmission is detailed in the current Nursing Student Handbook available on the Nursing website at [www.milesc.edu/Programs/Nursing/](http://www.milesc.edu/Programs/Nursing/) or at the Nursing office.

**Military:** Military experience in the medical field and education will be evaluated on a case by case basis. General Education courses are evaluated by the college Registrar.

#### **Military Deployment: Miles Community College Nursing Students:**

Readmission into the Nursing Program, for the Miles Community College Nursing students, after a Military Deployment will be done in accordance with "Military Personnel and Veteran; Higher Education Act Provisions". In addition to the Higher Education Act Provision for Military Personnel, the student must have met "Ongoing General Requirements for Nursing" at the time of deployment and must complete the "Nursing Readmission Process". Each request will be handled on a case by case basis and will be reviewed by the Miles Community College Nursing Admissions Committee. Student must complete all nursing program admission requirements and admission is dependent on space availability.



