This fact sheet outlines the most pertinent requirements of the Nursing Program, but is not inclusive of all requirements of the program.

**Academic Readiness**

For the required prerequisite courses for acceptance into the Nursing Program, academic readiness is demonstrated in any of the following ways:

- ACT® score
- SAT® score
- Compass Test Scores

To progress successfully through the program, applicants should have:

- Adequate visual acuity, with or without corrective lenses, to read fine print
- Adequate hearing ability, with or without auditory aids, to be able to hear heart, lung, bowel sounds, etc. and understand a normal speaking voice
- Adequate physical ability to perform basic client/patient care
- Sufficient command of the English language to effectively communicate (verbally and in written form) with clients/patients, families, and other healthcare professionals.
- Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in class are encouraged to contact a Montana Tech Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) at either 496-4429 (North Campus) or 496-3730 (Highlands College).

Students are presumed to possess basic computer skills (use of word processing & presentation software and ability to use the Internet & send/receive email), prior to beginning the nursing program. Students should enroll in CAPP 131 – Basic MS Office (or similar course) if they need introductory coursework in computer use.

Admission to Montana Tech does not guarantee acceptance into the ASN program. Students entering Montana Tech with the intent to become a registered nurse may declare a major in pre-nursing upon admission to Tech, but are not accepted into the nursing program until after a formal application and selection process occurs.

Students must meet minimum Nursing Department requirements to be eligible for application to the Nursing Program. Acceptance into the Nursing Program is competitive and based on:

- A selective grade point average (GPA) calculated from grades received for the required prerequisite courses below, and a standardized test (Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS V)). The cost of the exam is approximately $40 Review materials for TEAS V are available at www.atesting.com. The selection will be made based on 60% GPA and 40% TEAS V score. Minimum competitive GPA for application to the nursing program is 3.0 (out of a 4.0 scale). Minimum acceptable TEAS V score is 68.3%. The selection process will take place twice yearly. There is a fall application available in April and a spring application available in November. Specific dates are announced at the beginning of each semester at our Pre-Nursing Orientation.

Students must complete with a grade of "C+" or higher all nursing courses (and be currently enrolled in and complete with a grade of "C+" or higher) the following prerequisite courses prior to formal application to the Nursing Program:

- BIOH 201/202 Human Anatomy & Physiology I -w/lab
- WRT 101 College Writing I
- M 121 College Algebra
- NUTR 258 Fundamentals of Nutrition
- PSYX 100 Intro to Psychology
- CHMY 121 Intro to General Chemistry
- CHMY 122 Intro to General Chemistry Lab

**Beginning Fall 2013:**

- A&P I and II must be taken in person and can only be repeated one time.

Minimum Nursing Department requirements for acceptance into the ASN program are:

- Completion of the required prerequisite courses listed above
- Minimum selective GPA of 3.0 in NUTR 258, WRT 101, M 121; BIOH 201/202, BIOH 211/212, CHMY 121, CHMY 122, and PSYX 100.
- General Education courses must be completed within the last 10 years.
- Science courses must be completed within the last 5 years.
- Completion of the TEAS V exam with a Proficient score of 68.3% or higher proficiency. Proficiency scores generally indicate a moderate level of overall academic preparedness necessary to support learning of nursing-related content.
- *Proof of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination or immunity
- *Evidence of Hepatitis B vaccination (series of three shots) or seroimmunity (demonstrated with a positive titer)
- *Current evidence of freedom from tuberculosis (TB skin test or chest x-ray)
- *CPR - evidence of current completion of an approved CPR course, must have adult and infant (American Heart Association Health Care Provider or American Red Cross Professional Rescuer)

**Clinical Requirements:**

Clinical practice is a mandatory part of Montana Tech of the University of Montana Nursing Programs. To ensure the safety and well being of all patients, many employing institutions in health care have increasingly stringent requirements such as background checks, immunizations and CPR as conditions for providing patient care by students. Therefore, it is required that all students within the nursing program complete a background check in August of every year, following admission to the clinical portion of the program. Additionally, it is required that all students must have immunizations and CPR (*see above) before applying to the nursing program.

**Background Check**

Clinical practice is a mandatory part of Montana Tech of the University of Montana Nursing Programs. To ensure the safety and well-being of all patients, many employing institutions in healthcare have increasingly stringent requirements and background checks as conditions for providing patient care by students. Therefore, it is required that all students within the nursing program complete an annual background check through Verified Credentials by August 26th. The involved clinical affiliate receives and reviews the background check to determine if each student may complete clinical hours within the agency. Since clinical practice in actual (not simulated) health care settings is a mandatory component of Montana Tech’s nursing curriculum, students who are denied access to a clinical affiliate are generally unable to meet course and curriculum objectives and therefore are unable to progress through the program.

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**Immunization:**

If a student does not wish to be immunized due to a religious belief, they must provide the clinical facility with a written explanation, including the specific religion that they practice, the reason(s) that the religion does not permit immunizations, and supporting documents that would establish their membership in an established religion which holds a bona fide religious belief opposing immunization. The clinical facility will evaluate any such request upon receipt of the above mentioned information.

**Latex Sensitivity:**

Latex sensitivity is a concern in the laboratories and clinical settings that you will experience in the Nursing Program at Montana Tech. We are unable to provide a latex-free environment. Although we provide nitrile gloves, you will still be exposed to latex from lab specimens, equipment and models. It is important that you fully understand the risks of repeated latex exposure, particularly if you are a person with latex sensitivity. If you have questions or concerns about exposure to latex, you should contact Karen Vandezee, Director of Nursing (406) 496-4390.

Fulfillment of the minimum requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the Nursing Program. All candidates who meet application requirements will be considered for acceptance. The number of students accepted into the nursing program is limited. If the number of qualified Applicants exceed available spaces, not all qualified applicants will be accepted and GPA and the TEAS V exam will be used as selection criteria.

A grade of "C+" or higher is required for all nursing AND a "C-" or higher is required for all non-nursing courses within the Nursing Program curriculum. After a student is accepted into the nursing program, courses can only be attempted once and must be passed with a grade of at least a "C+" for nursing courses and at least a "C-" for non-nursing courses for the student to progress through the program. If any course grade is less than a "C+" (or a "C-" for non-nursing courses) the student must withdraw from the Nursing Department. Petitions for re-entry into the program are considered on a case by case basis and all placements are dependent upon availability to the program.

Any student reapplying and competing for selection into the 3rd semester must retake the TEAS V exam in the semester they are reapplying.

**After acceptance into the ASN nursing program, students are allowed to repeat only one nursing course throughout the curriculum. In the event the student fails a second course, the student must withdraw from the program and reapply.**

Many Nursing Department standards and requirements (such as behavioral standards, grading scale, attendance, course repetition, graduation requirements, etc.) are more rigorous and strict than general Montana Tech requirements.

Completion of a degree in nursing is costly. In addition to tuition and fees, nursing students should be aware that required nursing textbooks/reference materials are expensive and that many courses require several texts. The student should also plan for a number of out-of-pocket expenses related to clinical supplies and course/program requirements. Once accepted into the nursing program, both ASN and BSN students are assessed a program fee each semester ($550.00 per semester for 2013-2014).

To assure progression through the program, the student must meet the total academic and clinical requirements. The student must demonstrate a continuing ability to assure patient/client safety and welfare. Satisfactory classroom academic performance does not, in and of itself, assure progression through the program. The student must continually adhere to the Nursing Department’s Code of Conduct and must be able to adhere to clinical agency policies.

Students are required to successfully complete program assessment tests, including an end-of-program assessment in order to progress through and graduate from the program. The purpose of the program assessment is to improve the graduate's ability to pass the NCLEX-RN examination.

Many courses are only offered once a year. Many courses have prerequisites. Many courses must be taken in sequence. It is essential to meet with a nursing advisor prior to enrolling in or dropping any courses. Failure to work directly with a nursing advisor may have a significant impact on the student’s ability to progress through the nursing program in a timely manner.

Once a student is admitted into the nursing program, s/he will be provided with a copy of the Montana Tech Nursing Student Handbook. This document outlines specific Nursing Department policies and procedures which the student is required to adhere to while completing nursing program requirements at Montana Tech. An agreement to adhere to the Nursing Student Handbook is required to be signed yearly (or when changes occur).

All Nursing Department announcements and essential communication are communicated via e-mail (MT Tech account). Once accepted into the program, each student will be assigned a mailbox to retrieve corrected assignments, test score sheets, etc.

It is the student’s responsibility to obtain written documentation from the MT Tech Office of Enrollment Services regarding approval of transfer and/or course substitutions. Students must have PRIOR written approval from the Office of Enrollment Services that a course taken at another campus is equivalent to a MT Tech course.

Students who retake a course should be aware that Montana Tech's policy is that the last grade received is the grade that will be used when calculating GPA. Students can repeat both A&P I and II one time.

Student signature indicates that the information contained in this document was reviewed, an opportunity was provided to ask questions, and questions were answered to the student’s satisfaction.

Print Name

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Student Signature

Date

Advisor Signature/Date

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