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 can be demonstrated in any of the following ways:**

- ACT® score
- SAT® score
- Compass Test Scores
- Prior completion of WRIT 101 and M 121 (or their equivalents).

### Clinical Requirements:

- 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

- Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in class are encouraged to contact a Montana Tech Disability Services Coordinator (DSC) at either 496-3730 (South Campus) or 496-4429 (North Campus).

### Admission to Montana Tech

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.

### Minimum Nursing Department requirements

- Completion of the required prerequisite courses listed above
- 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)

### Background Checks:

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. Complete instructions on how to complete the background check will be provided to the newly admitted students during orientation.

### Immunization:

If a student does not wish to be immunized due to a religious belief, they must provide St. James 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. St. James 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 Vandaveer, 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 exceeds available spaces, not all qualified applicants will be accepted and GPA and the TEAS 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.

After acceptance into the ASN nursing program, students are allowed to repeat only one nursing course throughout the curriculum.

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 2011-2012).

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.

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