

**Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP)
Capital Community College**

Capital Community College is one of five colleges offering **The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program (CT-CCNP)**, an innovative associate degree nursing program. The common nursing programming offers a four-semester curriculum designed to prepare registered nurses to function in the professional role utilizing current standards of nursing practice. The curriculum is built upon courses from the social and biological sciences, liberal arts, and nursing. These courses provide the foundation for the practice of nursing. Six core values - critical thinking, safe and competent practice, caring, professionalism, communication, and holistic care – provide the framework for organizing the nursing curriculum.

A graduate of the nursing program is awarded an Associate in Science degree and is eligible to take the **National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)**.

Graduates can apply for licensure through the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The graduate is prepared to function as an entry-level practitioner in health care settings such as general or specialty hospitals, extended care facilities, doctors' offices, and clinics.

The Connecticut Community College Nursing Program is approved by the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing with the consent of the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. All five colleges maintain accreditation by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), 61 Broadway, New York, New York 10006 (212-363-5555).

NURSING COLLEGES

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Enrollment Services Office
950 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
Phone: 860-906-5126
www.ccc.commnet.edu

Gateway Community College
Admissions Office, Long Wharf Campus
Attention: Nursing
60 Sargent Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
Phone: 203-285-2010
www.qwcc.commnet.edu

Naugatuck Valley Community College
Admissions Office
750 Chase Parkway
Waterbury, CT 06708
Phone: 203-575-8040
www.nvcc.commnet.edu

Norwalk Community College
Admissions Office
188 Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06854-1655
Phone: 203-857-7060
www.ncc.commnet.edu

Three Rivers Community College
Nursing Admissions
574 New London Turnpike
Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: 860-892-5702
www.trcc.commnet.edu

Nursing is a dynamic profession that incorporates evidenced-based theory and skills required for safe practice. Nursing practice integrates the art and science of nursing with theoretical principles from the natural, social, behavioral, biological and physical sciences. Six core values provide the framework for organizing the curriculum:

Critical Thinking – Critical thinking skills are essential in today’s rapidly changing health care environment. A complex process that is purposeful, goal-directed and based on factual evidence, critical thinking requires the skills of collecting, identifying, examining, interpreting and evaluating data. Critical thinking in nursing utilizes the nursing process to identify problems, determine goals and interventions and evaluate outcomes in client care situations. Nursing students are encouraged to think for themselves and initiate appropriate interventions after defining the health care needs.

Safe and Competent Practice – Safe and competent practice embraces standards of professional nursing. These standards are implemented through clinical, cultural, and technological proficiency in a variety of health care settings. Nurses continuously strive to provide high level nursing care and to improve client outcomes based upon scientifically supported evidence.

Caring – Caring is fundamental to nursing practice and encompasses comfort, empathy, compassion, concern and advocacy within a culturally diverse client population. By approaching every action with integrity and treating all people with dignity and respect, caring nurses strengthen individuals, families and groups within the health care delivery system.

Professionalism – Professionalism is acquired through a complex process by which the nursing student internalizes values inherent to the practice of nursing. These values include integrity, legal-ethical standards, confidentiality, political awareness, and collegiality. Professional role development includes the acquisition of knowledge and skills through life-long learning.

Communication – Communication is essential to the practice of professional nursing and includes both verbal and non-verbal skills, and information technologies to enhance client care. The nursing student develops skills in presentation, documentation, teaching, conflict resolution, assertiveness, negotiation, and therapeutic communications with individuals, families, groups, health care team, and community agencies.

Holistic Care – Nursing utilizes a multidisciplinary approach to managing care that recognizes the uniqueness of the individual. The goals of holistic nursing are illness prevention, health promotion, wellness maintenance, and health restoration across the life span. Holistic care involves the identification of the bio-psycho-social and cultural dimensions of the client across the life span on the wellness-illness continuum. The unique physical, emotional, social, economic, cultural, and spiritual needs of clients, families and groups, are acknowledged and respected.

The Nursing Program is a two-year, four- semester program which, upon successful completion, awards an Associate in Science Degree. Sixty-eight credits are required for graduation. The general education courses and nursing courses are sequenced to build from fundamental skills to complex critical thinking skills. The program is challenging in nature, demanding

mathematics, science, social science and English skills as building blocks to all that encompasses nursing practice.

The Role of the Associate Degree Graduate within the Scope of Nursing Practice

The Nursing program will provide the student with the knowledge and technical skills to practice in a safe, effective and competent manner within the legal and ethical framework for an entry-level Registered Nurse. The scope of practice for the Associate Degree graduate is to provide and manage care for a diverse group of individuals, families and communities in collaboration with members of the health care team consistent with the CT-CCNP core values. The Associate Degree Nurse is responsible for his/her continued professional growth and development through continuing education programs and educational advancement to a higher degree level.

Clinical practice is offered in hospitals, extended care facilities, and community health centers during both day and evening hours. Weekend clinical practice may be required. Faculty cannot address requests for clinical placements. Students are responsible for their own transportation and must be prepared to travel to facilities a distance from their homes.

Flexibility is required to meet changing course needs.

An orientation session scheduled in late spring or early summer is mandatory for all admitted students

Admitted students must submit the following required health information to the Laboratory Teacher, Department of Nursing, **by date TBA of the admitting year** or their place in the program will be relinquished:

1. Physical examination done within the last year
2. Documentation of required immunizations as described in the Nursing Admission Letter
3. Documentation of current certification in Professional level CPR certification must remain current throughout the program

RN Licensure: Legal Requirements

Eligibility for the National Council of State Boards of Examiners Registered Nurse Licensure Exam (NCLEX-RN) to become Registered Nurses in Connecticut is dependent on completion of an approved Registered Nurse program and graduate compliance with Chapter 368a Dept. of Public Health Sec. 19a-14.6

The Department of Public Health is authorized to perform the following functions:

- Determine the eligibility of any applicant for licensure, registration, certification or a permit; and
- Deny any applicant's eligibility for a permit or licensure by examination, endorsement, reciprocity or for the restatement of a voided license if the Department determines that such applicant has committed or has been found guilty of committing acts which are contrary to public health and safety.

The Department of Public Health makes these decisions on a case by case basis.

Program Objectives/ Learning Outcomes:

The graduate will:

1. Integrate the principles of the natural, physical, social, biological, and behavioral sciences and nursing theory to provide holistic care to individuals, families and groups across the wellness-illness continuum.
2. Integrate nursing process and critical thinking skills for decision making in nursing practice.
3. Provide safe and competent care to clients grounded in evidenced-based practice, quantitative competency and technological proficiency.
4. Integrate effective communication skills through professional interactions with individuals, families, groups and the health care team.
5. Create an environment where therapeutic interventions reflect a respect for human dignity.
6. Collaborate as a member of a multidisciplinary health team.
7. Integrate accountability and responsibility for practice within the legal and ethical standards of the nursing profession.
8. Function in the professional role utilizing current standards of nursing practice.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Complete listing of admission pre-requisite courses to the Nursing Program are listed under [Related Link](#) at top of page under [Nursing Admission Requirements](#).

The following program of study reflects a full-time curriculum plan that students enrolled in the nursing program are required to complete for graduation. Many students make the decision to enroll in the nursing program on a part-time basis, taking the general education courses prior to the nursing courses. Non-nursing courses must be taken in the semester indicated in the plan of study below or may be taken earlier; nursing courses must be taken in the stated sequence.

The admission and pre-requisite requirements of BIO*211: Anatomy & Physiology I, BIO*212: Anatomy & Physiology II, and ENG*101: English Composition are credits (11 credits) that are part of the total 68 credits required for graduation. BIO*211 and ENG*101 must be completed prior to submitting an application; BIO*212 may be in progress and the applicant may be accepted pending successful completion with a grade of C+ or higher.

A grade of C is required for all co-requisite courses in the nursing plan of study unless a higher grade is required for admission to the program. Co-requisite courses must be satisfactorily completed before or during the semester in which they are scheduled in the curriculum. Students who fail to complete required co-requisite courses may be dismissed from the program.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS	<u>Credits</u>		<u>Credits</u>
+BIO*211: Anatomy & Physiology	4		
+ENG*101: English Composition	3		
PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS:			
+BIO*212: Anatomy & Physiology II	4		
FIRST SEMESTER		SECOND SEMESTER	
NUR*101: Introduction to Nursing Practice	8	NUR*102: Family Health Nursing	8
+BIO*235: Microbiology	4	NUR*103: Pharmacology for Families Across the Life Span	1
+PSY*111: General Psychology	3	+PSY*201: Life Span Development	3
		+SOC*101: Principles of Sociology	3
THIRD SEMESTER		FOURTH SEMESTER	
NUR*201: Nursing Care of Individuals and Families I	9	NUR*203: Nursing Care of Individuals and Families II	8
NUR*202: Pharmacology for Individuals and Families with Intermediate Health Care Needs	1	NUR*204: Pharmacology for Individuals Families, & Groups with Complex Health Care Needs	1
+ENG*102: English Composition & Literature	3	NUR*205: Nursing Management and Trends	2
		+Elective: Humanities++ or Fine	3

Total Program Credits - 68 credits (General Education Credits - 30 credits; Nursing Credits - 38 credits)
+ There may be a prerequisite course that must be successfully completed prior to taking the course.

.++ Norwalk Community College requires one interdisciplinary course to fulfill core curriculum requirements.

Technical Standards

Students must be capable of performing the skills of a nursing student.

The standards reflect reasonable expectations of the RN student for the performance of common functions of the registered nurse. In adopting these standards the CT-CCNP is mindful of the patient's right to safe and quality health care provided both by our students and graduates. The RN student must be able to apply the knowledge and skills necessary to function in a broad variety of clinical situations.

Each student in the Associate in Science degree program must have the ability to learn and perform the following competencies and skills:

Motor: The student must possess sufficient motor capabilities to execute the movements and skills required to provide safe and effective nursing interventions. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Coordination, speed and agility to assist and safely guard (protect), with safe and proper body mechanics, patients who are ambulating, transferring, or performing other activities.
2. Ability to adjust and position equipment and patients, which involves bending or stooping freely to floor level and reaching above the head.

3. Ability to move or position patients and equipment, which involves lifting, carrying, pulling, up to and including 50 pounds.
4. Ability to guide, resist, and assist patients, or to provide emergency care, which involves the activities of standing, kneeling, sitting, or walking.
5. Ability and dexterity to manipulate the devices used in giving nursing care.
6. Ability to administer CPR without assistance.

Sensory: The student must possess the ability to obtain information in classroom, laboratory or clinical settings through observation, auscultation, palpation and other measures, including but not limited to:

1. Visual ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize and interpret facial expressions and body language, identify normal and abnormal patterns of movement, to read or set parameters on various equipment, to discriminate color changes, and to interpret and assess the environment.
2. Auditory ability (corrected as necessary) to recognize and respond to soft voices, auditory timers, equipment alarms, call bells, and to effectively use devices for measurement of blood pressure, breath sounds, etc.
3. Tactile ability to palpate a pulse and to detect changes or abnormalities of surface texture, skin temperature, body contour, muscle tone, and joint movement.
4. Sufficient position, movement and balance sensations to assist and safely guard (protect) patients who are ambulating, transferring or performing other activities.

Communication: The student must be able to utilize effective communication with peers, faculty, patients and their families, and other health care providers. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to read at a competency level that allows one to safely carry out the essential functions of an assignment (examples: handwritten chart data, printed policy and procedure manuals).
2. Ability to effectively interpret and process information.
3. Ability to effectively communicate (verbally and in writing) with patients/families, health care professionals, and others within the community.
4. Ability to access information and to communicate and document effectively via computer.
5. Ability to recognize, interpret and respond to nonverbal behavior of self and others.

Behavior: The student must be capable of exercising good judgment, developing empathic and therapeutic relationships with patients and others, and tolerating close and direct physical contact with a diverse population. This will include people of all ages, races, socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, as well as individuals with weight disorders, physical disfigurement and medical or mental health problems. This also includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to work with multiple patients/families and colleagues at the same time.
2. Ability to work with classmates, instructors, health care providers, patients, families and others under stressful conditions, including but not limited to providing care to medically or emotionally unstable individuals, situations requiring rapid adaptations, the provision of CPR, or other emergency interventions.
3. Ability to foster and maintain cooperative and collegial relationships with classmates, instructors, other health care providers, patients and their families.

Critical Thinking: The student must possess sufficient abilities in the areas of calculation, critical problem solving, reasoning, and judgment to be able to comprehend and process information within a reasonable time frame as determined by the faculty and the profession. The student must be able to prioritize, organize and attend to tasks and responsibilities efficiently. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Ability to collect, interpret and analyze written, verbal and observed data about patients.
2. Ability to prioritize multiple tasks, integrate information and make decisions.
3. Ability to apply knowledge of the principles, indications, and contraindications for nursing interventions.
4. Ability to act safely and ethically in the college clinical lab and in clinical placements within the community.

Miscellaneous Information
(For Accepted Nursing Students)

BASIC CARDIAC LIFE SUPPORT

Students must provide proof of current certification as a Healthcare Provider through the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross by July 1st of the admission year. Certification must remain current throughout the nursing program.

CLINICAL SITES

Clinical learning experiences are planned as an integral part of the nursing courses and are held at a variety of healthcare settings, such as hospitals, extended care facilities, and selected community health centers. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from assigned clinical sites. Clinical experiences may be assigned during daytime, evening, or weekend hours. Assignment of clinical sites is at the discretion of the nursing faculty. Clinical sites could be within an hour radius of the college, and may require a mandatory parking fee.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Some clinical learning sites require students to undergo a background check for felony convictions. Students who do not pass the background check may be excluded from the clinical site and may not be able to meet the competencies required for the program.

FELONY CONVICTION

At the time of application for RN licensure an applicant will be asked the following question by the Connecticut Department of Public Health: *"Have you ever been found guilty or convicted as a result of an act which constitutes a felony under the laws of this state, federal law or the laws of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a felony under the laws of this state? If your answer is "yes", give full details, dates, etc. on a separate notarized statement and furnish a Certified Court Copy (with court seal affixed) of the original complaint, the answer, the judgment, the settlement, and/or the disposition."*

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Immunization Requirements- Students will receive a packet of information at the time of acceptance into the CT-CCNP.

Physical Examination- A complete physical examination must be on file. The physical examination must be current within a year of the student entering the clinical area.

WAIVER OF LICENSURE GUARANTEE

Upon successful completion of the Associate of Science degree with a major in Nursing, the graduate is eligible to take the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination for Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN). Graduation from the CT-CCNP does not guarantee licensure to practice nursing. Licensure requirements and procedures are the responsibility of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, State Board of Examiners for Nursing. Permission to take the NCLEX-RN examination is established by law and granted by the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing.