

POLICY #100 – HOLISTIC REVIEW FOR NURSING STUDENT ADMISSION

Holistic review is a nursing admissions strategy that assesses an applicant's unique experiences alongside traditional measures of academic achievement such as grades and test scores. It is designed to help nursing programs consider a broad range of factors reflecting the applicant's academic readiness, contribution to the incoming class, and potential for success both in school and later as a professional (AACN, 2020)

The Four Core Principles Established by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing for Holistic Review are as follows:

- 1) Criteria for selection must be linked to the mission of the college. Selection criteria are linked to the Hope College mission of "educating students for lives of leadership and service in a global society". Selection criteria are linked to the Hope College values by "recognizing, embracing and celebrating the uniqueness of all people"
- 2) A balance of applicant experiences, attributes, and academics are used to assess applicants.
- 3) Individual consideration will be given to how each applicant may contribute to the Hope College Nursing Department learning environment and to the nursing profession.
- 4) Student diversity is considered as it relates to the applicant's personal attributes, experiential factors, and demographics (AACN, 2020).

Admission Process

1. All applicants must be accepted to Hope College and be in good standing.
2. Print or type all information on the Student Admission Application Form (available on the Hope College Nursing Department website). Submit the Application Form to the following address:

Hope College Nursing Department
Attention: Nursing Department Chairperson
Hope College
35 East 12th Street
Holland MI 49423
Email: nursing@hope.edu

3. References from two professional people (non-family) are required using the form available on the Hope College Nursing Department website. One of these must be a recent Hope College professor. The Student Reference Form should be returned in a sealed envelope directly to the address above.
4. In a proctored environment at Hope College, all applicants will write an essay and take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Please see the nursing department website for detailed information and instructions for the TEAS.

5. If a student qualifies for testing accommodations, arrangements will be made on an individual basis in conjunction with Disability and Accessibility Resources.
6. If a required pre-requisite course has been taken at an institution other than Hope College, an official transcript must be sent directly to the Hope College Nursing Department Chairperson at the address or email listed above. This includes dual enrollment credits for pre-requisite courses.
7. Completed admission materials must be submitted by February 1st for a fall semester admission and by October 1st for a spring semester admission. Applicants who submit applications after the due date are not eligible and must re-apply. All documents submitted as part of the application process are the property of the Hope College Nursing Department and will be kept strictly confidential.
8. Transfer students must complete 12 credits at Hope College before applying to the Nursing Program. One of the Hope College courses must be BIO 103, BIO 221, KIN 200, BIO 231, or CHEM 103. If all of these courses were completed by transfer credit, then NURS 260 or NURS 320 must be completed prior to being considered for admission into the nursing major.
 - a. The number of transfer students will be limited to 10% per semester but will not exceed 10% of total admissions per year. The number of transfer students admitted each semester/year may be less than 10% based on the admission process and the discretion of the Student Admission and Progression Committee.
 - b. Transfer students who have been dismissed from another nursing program are not eligible for the nursing major at Hope College
 - c. The Department reserves the right to determine Hope College pre-requisite and nursing courses that may be substituted by transfer courses and to designate additional courses that are needed for completion of the nursing major. In addition to the requirements listed above, the following should be done:
 - Arrange to have official transcripts of all college credits sent directly to the Hope College Nursing Department.
 - Submit a detailed course description and outline for each baccalaureate nursing course completed to the address listed in #2.
 - If transferring from another nursing program, request two references from nursing faculty in the prior baccalaureate program. The Reference Form should be returned in a sealed envelope to the Nursing Department at the address or email listed above.
 - Meet with the Hope Nursing Department Chairperson prior to application.
 - d. For purposes of admission into the nursing program, a student will no longer be considered a transfer student after they have completed 2 full time semesters at Hope College.

Guidelines for Selection

1. The following guidelines must be met for consideration into the nursing program:
 - Cumulative minimum grade point average of 3.2 at Hope College
 - Minimum grade of C (2.0) in each required pre-nursing course
 - One required pre-requisite natural science course must be successfully completed
 - At the time of application students must also be enrolled in or have successfully completed an additional pre-requisite natural science course and one pre-requisite social science course
 - A student can receive less than a C (2.0) or withdraw for academic reasons from only one non-nursing pre/co-requisite course one time and must repeat this course with a grade of C or higher in order to be eligible to apply
 - A student can receive less than a C (2.0) or withdraw for academic reasons from only one nursing course one time and must repeat this course with a grade of C or higher to be eligible to apply
 - Preference is given to students who complete a minimum of 12 credits at Hope College prior to being considered for admission to the nursing program
 - Students returning to Hope College after 10 years will be evaluated based on most recent GPA (minimum of 12 credits)
 - The following outlines the time period for accepting previously taken pre-requisite courses. Variations from this recommendation will be reviewed on an individual basis.

Pre-requisite courses	10 years	5 years	2 years
BIO 103	X		
CHEM 103	X		
SOC 101	X		
PSY 100	X		
PSY 230		X	
KIN 200		X	
BIO 221		X	
KIN 208		X	
BIO 231		X	
MATH 210			X
ENGL 113	X		

- Any nursing course taken more than 2 years prior to the time of admission/transfer into the nursing major will not be accepted for credit and will need to be retaken.
2. Consideration is given to the following factors identified in the student essay and professional reference forms:
 - Critical thinking: goal directed, creative, utilize a problem-solving process

- Caring
 - Communication: demonstrates effective speaking, writing, & listening skills
 - Leadership and additional strengths and attributes (for example, dedication, honesty, integrity, value based, empathy, accountable, and emotional maturity)
3. The number of admissions to the nursing program per year is limited.
 - a. Consideration is given (in no particular order) to:
 - Volunteer and work experience
 - Geographical factors
 - Cumulative grade point average
 - Grade point average in pre-requisite courses
 - ACT and SAT scores
 - TEAS scores
 - Essay and references
 - Mid-term grades
 - Achievement in individual courses
 - b. Admitted students are expected to begin nursing major courses in the academic year following admission. Admission will be forfeited in the event of an absence of on-campus study for two or more semesters.
 4. Acceptance into the nursing program and continuation in the nursing program is contingent on passing a criminal background check and drug screening; and may be jeopardized by a previous or new HIPAA violation (see Student Handbook policy #126) or by the inability to meet clinical agency (e.g. hospitals, clinics, etc.) requirements for functional abilities.

Admission Decisions

1. Students will receive a written response via email regarding acceptance into the nursing major prior to registration for the next semester.
2. All admission decisions by the Hope College Nursing Department Student Admission and Progression Committee are final. Student scores are for use by the Hope College Nursing Department and will not be released. See guidelines for re-application below.

Guidelines for Re-application

1. Re-applicants may request to meet with a member of the Student Admission and Progression Committee.
2. If the initial application is less than 1 year old, the student is only required to complete the application form indicating the new admission semester. Submission of new references and/or TEAS/Student Essay will be optional.
3. If the initial application is more than 1 year old, the student will be required to submit a new application, two new references, and a new essay. Repeating the TEAS is optional.
4. Applicants may take the TEAS only one time per semester. The TEAS may be retaken only one time.

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Revised February 24, 2009 and April 8, 2009
Revised April 21, 2010
Revised March 16, 2011
Revised September 27, 2012
Revised February 21, 2013
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Revised February 6, 2015
Revised March 3, 2016
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