

Associate of Applied Science in Nursing

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I. Program Overview

COCC’s nursing program is an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) program and all information contained in this handbook reflects an AAS focus. Admission to the nursing AAS program (and the embedded practical nursing certificate program) is competitive and enrollment is limited. Nursing prerequisite and support courses are open to all students.

Nursing Program Information Sessions

Information sessions are held multiple times each year to explain admissions eligibility, prerequisites, selection criteria, and general information about the COCC nursing program – check the nursing website for exact days/times (type ‘nursing application’ in the search bar, click the first option on the list). **The information session is the first step for those interested in the nursing program and attendance is strongly encouraged prior to applying to COCC and the nursing program.**

The nursing program is approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), and is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), to provide students with the academic and clinical preparation to sit for the national licensure exam (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse upon completion of the program.

Nursing AAS Program Course Requirements

General Education/Foundational Requirements		Credits
MTH 105/105Z	Math in Society	4
WR 121/121Z	Composition I	4
WR 122/122Z or WR 227/227Z	Composition II Technical Writing	4
Program Prerequisites		
BI 231	Human Anatomy and Physiology I ¹	4
BI 232	Human Anatomy and Physiology II ¹	4
BI 233	Human Anatomy and Physiology III ¹	4
BI 234	Microbiology ¹	4
Other Required Support Courses		
CH 104 or CH 221/221Z (w/ lab 227Z)	Introduction to Chemistry I ¹ General Chemistry I ¹	5
FN 225	Human Nutrition	4
PSY 215	Developmental Psychology	4
Choose one of the following: PSY 202/202Z, PSY 228, SOC 201/SOC204Z OR SOC 212	Intro to Psychology II, Positive Psychology, Intro to Sociology OR Race, Class, and Gender	3-4
Program Requirements		
NUR 106	Nursing I	12
NUR 107	Nursing II	10
NUR 108	Nursing III	11
NUR 206	Nursing IV	11
NUR 207	Nursing V	10

Footnotes

¹These courses are subject to an expiration policy for selective admissions eligibility to the program (see Selective Admissions Eligibility section for more information).

More program information (e.g. program costs, LPN and CNA certificate options, Advanced Placement/Transfer instructions, FAQs, etc.) can be found on COCC's Nursing Program website.

II. Selective Admissions: Application Eligibility

A nursing program cohort begins every fall term and is filled using a selective admissions process.

The 2026 nursing program application opens March 1, 2026 and closes May 1, 2026 at 5:00pm. Only completed applications received by the deadline are considered for admission. Note: this does not mean that your application is in progress by 5:00pm on May 1, 2026; rather, you must hit the submit button by that deadline.

Applicants must meet the listed application eligibility requirements in order to apply to the program – **zero points are awarded for these requirements.** You are solely responsible for ensuring you meet all application requirements by the application deadline (you can check application requirements on GradTracks via your Bobcat web account). **Again, you should attend a nursing program information session and work closely with your advisor to ensure degree requirements are part of your academic plan.**

Application Eligibility Checklist

COCC Application, Campus Cohort Selection and Residency Requirements

COCC Application Requirements:

A COCC application for admission is required prior to applying to the nursing program and it must be current for the Fall term to which you are applying (e.g. **if you are applying for Fall 2026, you need to verify your application will be active for the Fall 2026 term**). COCC accounts are inactivated if you apply to a prior term, but don't attend or if you do not register for courses for one year or more. See the Getting Started information on our website (under the Admissions tab and then by selecting "Apply Now") for more information on how to apply or re-new your application.

If you have transfer credits, you must submit official transcripts to the Admissions and Records Office prior to advising, registration, and/or nursing application submittal.

- The transcript evaluation must be completed on or before the first advising appointment.
- This evaluation is used to determine placement testing requirements and progress towards meeting both the application eligibility and the AAS in nursing degree requirements.
- Notifications are sent to your COCC email account when official transcripts have been received, and when they have been articulated (evaluated and applied toward your application/degree requirements). Processing time may vary, so you are encouraged to submit transcripts as soon as possible.

COCC Campus Cohorts:

The COCC Nursing Program will have two cohorts for the Fall 2026 program; one cohort will attend classes at the Bend campus (48 seats available annually) and the other will attend classes at the Madras campus (8 seats available in the 2026 cohort) – clinicals for the Madras cohort will also take place in Jefferson or Crook Counties. You must designate your cohort selection on your application. The cohort application options are listed below: (note: you may not change your selection after the application deadline)

- Option 1: Apply for the Bend cohort only
- Option 2: Apply for the Madras cohort only*
- Option 3: Apply for the Bend cohort first, if not selected, move application to Madras cohort*

- Option 4: Apply for the Madras cohort first, if not selected, move application to Bend cohort*

* Proof of residency will be required to determine priority ranking

Residency Requirements for Bend and Madras Cohorts:

Residency status will be determined according to the COCC Residency Policy at the time you submit your COCC application. **To be eligible to apply to the nursing program, you must be classified as an in-district resident for the fall term in which you will potentially be admitted to the program.** You may be required to provide documentation if inconsistencies are noted between your application and your student record information.

- **Additional Residency Requirements for the COCC Madras Cohort Applicants:**
 - Admission is based on the following priority (documentation of current residence is required when applying for this cohort – examples include: current utility bills, property tax records, tribal ID, vehicle title or registration card, etc.)
 - Priority 1*: In-district residents of Jefferson County and in-district residents and members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
 - Priority 2*: In-district residents of Crook County.
 - Priority 3*: All other in-district residents

***No points are awarded for priority groupings. Applicants for the Madras cohort will be organized into three priority groups: priority group 1 will be ranked and awarded seats first, then priority group 2 will be ranked and awarded seats (if any are remaining), then priority group 3 will be ranked and awarded seats (if any are remaining).**

In-district residency policy (see COCC website for all residency definitions)

- An individual who, for one full year prior to taking credit classes has either: a) owned property (or if 23 or younger, whose parent/guardian owns property); or b) maintained a permanent and continuous residence in the district will be classified as an in-district resident. The COCC District consists of all of Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson Counties, the northern portion of Klamath, and the Warm Springs Reservation in Jefferson and Wasco Counties.

If you are classified as an out-of-district student and you start taking courses at COCC, your residency status will convert to in-district two calendar years after the term you start taking courses.

Prerequisite Courses

Prerequisite courses must be completed with a “C” grade or better AND a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Prerequisite cumulative GPA is calculated by multiplying the number of credits of each course by the letter grade (A=4, B=3, and C=2), adding these numbers together, and then dividing the total by 24 (the total number of prerequisite credits). The result must be 3.0 or higher.

Prerequisite Courses	Prerequisite GPA Calculation Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BI231: Human Anatomy and Physiology I* • BI232: Human Anatomy and Physiology II* • BI233: Human Anatomy and Physiology III* • BI234: Microbiology* • MTH 105/105Z: Math in Society (or higher) • WR 121/121Z: Composition I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only whole letter grades are used in the calculation of cumulative GPA, meaning plus (+) or minus (-) designations will not be considered in the final calculation. • When transferring applicable courses, the number of credits used for GPA calculation will be based on the number of credits of the equivalent COCC course, regardless of how many credits the course was worth at the transfer institution (see Appendix B: Nursing Program Transcript Evaluation Policies). • If you’ve challenged, or received a pass/no pass, your prerequisite GPA is calculated based on the courses in which an actual letter grade was issued.

- Your advisor can help you determine if you've met the minimum GPA requirement.

**Expiration Policy: Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology cannot be older than five academic years by the start of the nursing program cohort. The five-year requirement is defined as the academic year the course was taken, e.g., five years from 2026 is fall 2021.*

III. Selective Admissions: Application Points Criteria

Once your application is submitted and eligibility is determined, points will be awarded using the following criteria (see Appendix A: Application Worksheet)*:

Required Support Courses 30% of total points (30 points)

Due to the rigor and time commitment involved with program courses, the nursing department encourages potential students to complete as many support courses as possible prior to applying to the program. Therefore, application points are awarded based on the number of support courses completed by the application deadline (COCC spring 2026 courses apply; if taking a spring course(s) from another college, see Appendix B: Nursing Program Transfer Evaluations Policies). All support courses must be completed with a "C" grade or better (only whole letter grades are used when determining "C" or better). Prerequisite courses still in progress at the time of application will be considered and admissions contingent upon successful completion.

Support Courses Include:	Points Awarded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CH 104* Introduction to Chemistry I, OR CH 221/221Z (w/ lab 227Z)* General Chemistry I FN 225 Human Nutrition PSY 215 Developmental Psychology WR 122/122Z Composition II, OR WR 227/227Z Technical Writing Choose one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSY 202/202Z Intro to Psychology II; PSY228 Positive Psychology; SOC 201/SOC204Z Intro to Sociology; OR SOC 212 Race, Class, and Gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 classes complete = 30 points 4 classes complete = 24 points 3 classes complete = 18 points 2 class complete = 12 points 1 class completed = 6 points No classes complete 0 points

** Expiration Policy: Chemistry cannot be older than five academic years by the start of the nursing program cohort. The five-year requirement is defined as the academic year the course was taken, e.g., five years from fall 2026 is fall 2021. Additionally, both the lecture (CH 221Z) and lab (CH 227Z) must be completed with a C or higher.*

Health Science Reasoning Test Score 27.5% of total points (27.5 points maximum)

The Health Science Reasoning Test – Associates Degree (HSRT-AD) is a multiple-choice test specifically designed for two year and certificate programs. The HSRT-AD is an online test administered in a 50-minute timed setting and measures critical thinking as well as quantitative reasoning skills. The HSRT-AD presents a variety of scenarios (in clinical and professional practice contexts) with information provided in text-based and diagrammatic formats. HSRT-AD questions ask test takers to apply their skills in order to:

- Make interpretations
- Analyze information

HSRT-AD test questions range in difficulty and complexity – any specialized information needed to respond correctly

- Draw inferences and warranted inferences
- Identify claims and reasons
- Evaluate the quality of arguments

is provided within the question itself. Questions do not require specialized health science knowledge – there is no study preparation required.

Tests will be offered in winter and spring terms. To reserve a seat, a \$17* testing fee per test must be paid to the COCC Cashier (Boyle Education Center, or call 541-383-7229 with credit card information). The \$17* fee is NOT refundable, even if just changing test dates/times. You must have a valid ID and be currently enrolled at COCC to test. Test results are available immediately following the exam and are added to your application file once the online application has been submitted. *Prices are subject to change.

- **There is a seat limit for each test date - sign up early and at least 5 business days in advance. Reservations are on a first-come first-serve basis. Seats are filled every year so don't wait until the last month the test is offered to schedule – plan ahead!**
- There is no minimum score required for application to the program. However, the student's "HSRT-AD OVERALL Score" will be used in calculating points towards the student's application.
- The score will be multiplied by .275 in order to determine actual application points.
- You may take the exam up to **two times before you apply to the program for the first time**. After your initial application to the nursing program, you can take the test **once per application year going forward**. If you applied previously, under the twice lifetime limit, you will have one test per application year. If you leave the testing area without completing the exam, for any reason, the testing period is counted as a testing attempt for that application year – so come prepared to take the test. If you take the test before you apply, this attempt will count as one of your two attempts for the year that you do apply.
- This test must be taken at COCC – we will not accept scores from other institutions or testing centers.

□ ATI TEAS Score
maximum)

37.5% of total points (37.5 points)

The Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS™) is a scholastic aptitude test designed to measure basic essential skills identified as important for entry-level nursing program applicants. Skill areas include:

- Math: whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions and decimals, algebraic equations, percentages, and ratio/proportion
- Reading: paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension, and inferences/conclusions
- English: punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, contextual words, and spelling
- Science: science reasoning, science knowledge, biology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology, basic physical principles, and general science

The ATI TEAS™ is an online test, administered in a 3.5 hour timed setting. Tests will be offered each winter and spring terms (typically starting January, ending in April in one of COCC's computer labs. ATI TEAS™ information and testing schedules can be found on the COCC CAP Services website (type 'TEAS' in the COCC search bar and click the first option on the list) – test dates are released each December for the upcoming application year. To reserve a seat, a \$70* testing fee per test (cost per test subject to change) must be paid to the COCC Cashier (Boyle Education Center, or call 541-383-7229 with credit card information). The \$70* fee is NOT refundable, even if just changing test times. You must have a valid ID and be currently enrolled at COCC to test. Test results are available immediately following the exam and are added to your application file once the online application has been submitted.

- **There is a seat limit for each test date, so sign up early and at least 5 business days in advance. Reservations are on a first-come first-serve basis. Seats are filled every year so don't wait until the last month the test is offered to schedule – plan ahead!**

- There is no minimum score required for application to the program. However, the student’s “adjusted composite score” will be used in calculating points towards the student’s application.
- The score will be multiplied by .375 in order to determine actual application points.
- You may take the exam up to **two times before you apply to the program for the first time**. After your initial application to the nursing program, you can take the test **once per application year going forward**. If you applied previously, under the twice lifetime limit, you will have one test per application year. If you leave the testing area without completing the exam, for any reason, the testing period is counted as a testing attempt for that application year – so come prepared to take the test. If you take the test before you apply, this attempt will count as one of your two attempts for the year that you apply.
- This test can be taken at COCC or through an ATI approved testing center or method – see the ATI site for more information. If you choose this option, we will only accept test scores that are delivered to COCC directly from ATI – we will not accept scores sent by the student.
- The ATI TEAS™ Study Manual is available at COCC’s bookstore. You may also find additional study and test preparation materials online at <http://www.atitesting.com/Solutions/PreNursingSchool/TEAS.aspx>.

*Prices are subject to change.

☐ Healthcare Experience 5% of total points (5 points maximum)

Applicable healthcare experience includes verified certification or licensure and employment. A minimum of 200 hours will be required for Healthcare Experience points for 2026 application, and then an increase to 600 hours minimum beginning in 2027. Verification of employment and release to contact employer for verification will be required:

- Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant (MA)
- Paramedic
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Military Corpsman
- Medication Tech
- Emergency Department (ED) Tech
- Respiratory Therapist (RT)
- Occupational Therapist (OT)
- Physical Therapist (PT)

if an applicant would like healthcare experience other than that listed above to be considered, a petition can be submitted to the Nursing Department Chair, and must be submitted at least five weeks before the Nursing application deadline

IV. Selective Admissions: Point Ranking, Notifications, and Applicant Status Definitions

Admissions & Records will review all applications and award points as indicated above. Admission will be granted to the top point recipients (up to 48 for the Bend cohort, depending on the number of alternates from the year prior and a total of 8 for the Madras cohort). After the seats are filled, the next four highest point recipients will be considered alternates (this number is subject to change based on the number of available seats in the program, the program reserves the right to appoint up to six alternates if needed). The highest GPA in prerequisite and completed/graded support courses will be used if a tie-breaker is needed. If a tie still exists after determining GPA, the highest TEAS exam score will be used.

Admissions & Records will notify applicants of their status via an official email, that will be sent to COCC email addresses only, no later than May 15th of each application year (unless deadlines shift due to extenuating circumstances); admission status will not be given over the telephone or in person. Verification that an application is complete will also not be provided at any time – it's your responsibility to make sure you've completed the application and the application requirements by the deadline.

There are four types of applicant statuses:

Selected Applicants:

If an applicant is selected, they are conditionally admitted to the program pending completion of the following steps:

- Return Letters of Acceptance/Agreement and Deposit:
 - Signed Letters of Acceptance and Letters of Agreement – indicating acceptance of program policies – and a \$50 nonrefundable deposit, must be returned to Admissions and Records office by the date designated in the welcome letter. The deposit will be applied to Fall term tuition.
 - Nursing program students must be able to meet COCC's Nursing Program Entrance and Technical Standards and Policies to begin the program. Please review these standards on the nursing department website. A copy of these standards will be emailed to you upon admission into the program. Please contact the nursing department or your advisor for details.
- Provide official documentation of required immunizations, TB screening, and BLS provider card (more details and deadlines are provided in the welcome letter).
- Undergo drug screening and criminal history check with the vendor approved by COCC (more details and deadline are provided in the welcome letter).
 - All applicants whose background checks reveal potentially disqualifying information will be reviewed individually by the Nurse Administrator, Nursing Department Chair and/or appropriate College representatives, and may result in disqualification from entering the program – see Nursing Program Entrance and Technical Standards and Policies document for more information.
- If an applicant declines their seat in the program, they will be required to re-apply the following year if they choose to return.

Selected Alternates:

Alternates are notified of their position on the wait list and will be granted conditional admission if an admitted student declines; alternates may be granted admission as late as the week prior to fall term. If COCC is not able to offer an alternate a seat, the alternate(s) will be guaranteed admission into the following year's program and they will not need to reapply – an acceptance package is sent via email according to the following year's selection process. If an alternate chooses to decline a seat offered to them in the program, they will **not be** guaranteed a seat the following year.

Applicants Not Selected:

Applicants not selected for admission need to submit a new application for each application cycle. COCC will keep official transcript(s) received from a student's previous application(s) on file. It is the applicant's responsibility to confirm inclusion in the next selection process and ensure that any new application prerequisites have been met. Applicants may retake the ATI TEAS™ or HSRT-AD exams (if eligible under exam guidelines); only the highest exam scores are used to calculate application points.

Ineligible Applicants:

Ineligible applicants will be notified that their applications were not considered for the selection process for one or more of the following reasons:

- Out-of-district residency status
- Missing TEAS and/or HSRT scores
- Missing or expired prerequisite(s)
- Prerequisite GPA below 3.0

V. Appendix A: Application Worksheet

Use this worksheet and your GradTracks record to assess if Fall 2026 application requirements have been met and to tentatively tally points towards application. See Appendix B: for notations associated with these courses.

Application Eligibility Requirements – No Points Awarded				Complete
COCC general application for Fall term to which you are applying and official transcripts (for courses taken at other institutions)				Y
Nursing Program Application				Y
In-District Residency / Madras Cohort Residency Documentation				Y
Prerequisite Courses: Must be at a C grade or better for each course & cumulative 3.0 or higher	School	Year	Credit	Grade
BI 231 Anatomy & Physiology I ¹			4	
BI 232 Anatomy & Physiology II ¹			4	
BI 233 Anatomy & Physiology III ¹			4	
BI 234 Microbiology I ¹			4	
MTH 105 or 105Z Math in Society or higher			4	
WR 121/121Z Composition I ²			4	
Prerequisite coursework above must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Cumulative GPA is calculated by multiplying the number of credits by the letter grade (A=4, B=3, and C=2), adding these numbers together, and dividing the total by 24 (the total number of prerequisite credits). The result must be 3.0 or higher (whole grades only). When transferring applicable courses, the number of credits used for GPA calculation will be based on the number of credits of the COCC course, regardless of how many credits the course was worth at the transfer institution.				Calculated GPA: Grade Points Total _____ /24 = _____ GPA Y 3.0 GPA Requirement Met?
Selective Admissions: Application Point Criteria				Points
HSRT Score				Score _____ x .275 = _____ Points
TEAS Score				Score _____ x .375 = _____ Points
Healthcare Experience				5 Points = _____ Points
Other Required Support Courses: Must be at a C grade or better (whole grades only)	School	Year	Complete?	Total Course Points: _____
WR 122/122Z Composition II or WR 227/227Z Technical Writing			Y	5 classes complete = 30 points; 4 classes complete = 24 point; 3 classes complete = 18 point; 2 class complete = 12 point; 1 class completed = 6 points
FN 225 Human Nutrition			Y	
PSY 215 Developmental Psychology			Y	
CH 104 Introduction to Chemistry I, or CH 221/221Z General Chemistry I (w/ lab 227Z) ¹			Y	

PSY 202/202Z, PSY 228, SOC 201/204Z, SOC 212*			Υ	No classes complete 0 points
Estimated Application Point Total (HSRT points + TEAS points +Support Course Points + Healthcare Experience)				

VI. Appendix B: Nursing Program Transcript Evaluation Policies

1. Science courses cannot be older than five years old at the time of completed application.
2. WR 121/121Z Composition I will be automatically waived if the student submits an official transcript verifying a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited educational institution **and** transcripts do not indicate completion of the English Composition class. The grade assigned to the English Composition class will be based on the student's overall GPA average in the remaining prerequisite courses.
3. Semester hours transferred from other institutions will be converted to quarter hours before scoring. Fractions for single courses will be dropped. Fractions for two-term sequences will count.

Semester Hours	Quarter Hours	Semester Hours	Quarter Hours
1	1.5	5	7.5
2	3.0	6	9.0
3	4.5	7	10.5
4	6.0	8	12.0

Courses in Progress: If using term-based courses from another college or university that are in progress during the spring term in the year the student applies to the program, the following must be completed – please note, semester courses or courses that end after the deadline and/or will not have a final grade assigned by the deadline will not be accepted:

- Submit an unofficial transcript or registration detail by the application deadline verifying spring term enrollment.
- Request that their instructor email Admissions & Records “Attn: Assistant Director of A&R” (SelectiveAdmissions@cocc.edu) directly with their final grade as soon as it is computed – must be received before the deadline).
- Request that an official transcript be sent from the other college or university as soon as spring grades post. COCC must receive the official transcript of spring term class(es) by the end of June of the application year.

Petitions: Exceptions or special conditions not covered by the transcript evaluation policies listed above must be petitioned. Normally, petitions are used when a student has a prior educational experience comparable to a requirement, and they wish to have that prior work counted toward the COCC requirement. Petitions are available online at www.cocc.edu or in the Admissions and Records Office, located in Boyle Education Center and must be submitted at least five weeks before the application closes to be considered.

The information in this document reflects an accurate description of the nursing program selection criteria and process at the time of its publication. However, conditions can and do change; therefore, the College reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the information contained in this packet.

It is the policy of the Central Oregon Community College Board of Directors that there will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, ethnicity, color, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, citizenship status, veteran status or any other classes protected under the Federal or State statutes in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and nondiscrimination should contact the Equal Employment Officer, c/o COCC's Human

Resources office, (541) 383-7216. Faculty, staff and students are protected from discrimination and harassment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Students attending classes or events who need accommodation for a specific disability should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 541-383-7583. Other persons who, because of a physical or learning disability, need special accommodations to attend events should contact ADA Coordinator in Campus Services, 541-383-7775, in advance of their need for accommodation.