

NURSING FAQs

I am interested in nursing, but how do I get started? What do I do first?

Attend an informational session or complete an online information session to “Collect all the facts.” Contact MSTC at 422-5300 and ask to have a nursing admission procedure mailed to you or reserve your information session online at <http://www.mstc.edu/nursing/informationssession.htm>.

What are the admission requirements (STEP1) for conditional acceptance to nursing?

- Application and fee
- Required scores on the admission test
- High School and College transcripts
- Caregiver Background Check

Once Step 1 is completed the student will be eligible to apply for Financial Aid.

What is Step 2?

Step 2 is a list of courses and activities that must be completed prior to starting the nursing core courses.

Step 2 of the Accuplacer Process

- Achieve required scores on Accuplacer test or complete the required prep course.
- Pass Nursing Assistant or Basic Nursing Skills course.
- One year of high school chemistry with at least a B grade, or equivalent; or one semester of college chemistry with a C or better.
- General Anatomy & Physiology with a B- or better. This course has a biology prerequisite.
- Completion of Developmental Psychology, Written Communication, Advanced Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology with a C or better. Please note: Advanced Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology are not required for Practical Nursing Students.
- Students are highly encouraged to have all General Studies courses completed prior to entering nursing core courses.
- Must have a total program GPA of 2.00 or higher.
- Updated Background Information Disclosure Form.

Intent to Enroll

When all of Step 2 is completed, the student may indicate their intent to start nursing core courses by completing the Step 3 “Intent to Enroll” and submitting it to the Student Affairs office. This will let us know that you are ready to start core courses.

Application deadlines

- Completed packets submitted by March 15th will be considered for Fall Nursing Core Course enrollment.
- Completed packets submitted by June 15th will be considered for Spring Nursing Core Course enrollment.
- Practical Nursing students are considered for Fall semester enrollment only.

What are Nursing Core Courses?

- Core courses are both theory and clinical nursing courses.
- These courses begin with a course number of 10-543-XXX.
- When all of the requirements in Step 2 of the admission/progression process are completed you may request to enter the nursing core courses.

Can students defer their enrollment to the core courses if they are ready to enroll?

No. Only students who are prepared to begin nursing core courses should submit a packet. If a student submits a packet & chooses not to begin, their paperwork will be discarded and they must submit a new packet.

What if I complete the intent to enroll for nursing core courses and I don't get in?

Do I need to request again? No your intent to enroll will be carried over to the next semester. If all of your General Courses are completed you will be eligible to begin a nursing core course (543-101 and/or 543-103) one semester prior to your first semester clinical.

How are students selected to start the nursing program?

Students will be selected based on completion of program requirements and date of original application to the program.

Where can I get additional information?

Please attend an informational session. Contact Student Affairs at 715/422-5445 for more information.

<http://mstc.edu/nursing/informationssession.htm>

How will I be notified if I was selected or not?

Students who applied will receive a letter from the Nursing Program Counselor within 60 days of the deadline. Please Do Not call to inquire about your selection status.

Are there any additional requirements to start nursing core courses?

To start a nursing clinical course you must:

- Obtain a current CPR certification- adult, infant, and child.
- Purchase the college uniform and nametag in order to attend a clinical.
- Meet the health requirements such as rubella, rubeola, varicella & mumps titers; and 2 TB skin tests.
- One TB skin test within one year and one within 30 days of the start of the semester.
- Fill out a form verifying that you can perform the essential functions required of a nurse or see the disability specialist.

What are the ADN program costs?

The following are estimates:

- Tuition and fees – \$7100.
- Textbooks - \$1200.
- Malpractice Insurance -\$30.
- Testing fees - \$375.
- Uniforms/supplies - \$200.
- Health work required for clinical- \$175.
- Graduation Fees - \$25.
- Licensure – \$285.
- Total estimated costs - \$10,431.

What are the strengths of MSTC's nursing program?

Small class sizes in Nursing Courses:

- Class- 24 students
- Lab 8-10 students
- Clinical – 8 students

Individualized attention from Faculty

Support and Resources from the Nursing Program Counselor

Early intervention and assistance for students having difficulty.

Graduate Employment rate of >95%.

Nursing Graduate satisfaction with their education at MSTC > 97%

NCLEX pass rates higher than state and national averages

What is the difference between an LPN and an RN?

PN/LPN

Length of training: 1-1 ½ years

Estimated cost at MSTC: \$5460

Typical Places of Employment: Nursing Homes, Doctor's offices, Clinics

Typical Hourly wage: \$16.

ADN/RN

Length of training: 2-3 years

Estimated cost at MSTC: \$10,430.

Typical Places of Employment: Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Clinics, Home Health Agencies, Insurance Companies

Typical Hourly wage: \$25.

Are there more job openings for RNs or LPNs?

Currently in Central Wisconsin there are more openings for registered nurses. However, there are opportunities for licensed practical nurses as well. All job postings are down now in 2010 due to the poor economy but it is expected to rebound soon.

If I graduate in nursing from MSTC can I transfer my credits to a 4 year university?

Yes, MSTC has articulation agreements with the University of Wisconsin System as well as private universities in Wisconsin. Typically these universities will accept 60-64 credits toward a baccalaureate degree that requires about 120 credits.

How big is the nursing program at MSTC?

Currently there are about 175 students enrolled in (543) nursing courses. There are also about 250 students completing general education courses in preparation for nursing courses.