SLCC ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE RN PROGRAM INFORMATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When will the SLCC Associate of Science RN program start?  Fall 2014

2. What is the difference between a diploma, associate degree (ASN), and bachelor degree (BSN) RN Program?  The major difference between the 3 types of programs are the amount of general education courses required for degree completion. All graduates take the same licensing exam. In the United States, a Diploma in Nursing or Nursing Diploma is awarded by hospital-based nursing schools. Students awarded a Diploma in Nursing are qualified to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and to apply for licensure as a Registered Nurse. At one time, all RNs in the United States were diploma-prepared. The number of hospital-based nursing schools in the United States continues to decrease, and the majority of nursing schools now are Associate Degree RN Programs, or Baccalaureate Degree RN Programs. An Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) or Associate’s Degree in Nursing (ADN) is a nursing degree which typically takes 2-3 years to complete and usually is awarded by community colleges or similar nursing schools. Some four-year colleges also offer this degree. Students awarded an Associate of Science in Nursing are qualified to sit for the NCLEX-RN and apply for licensure as a Registered Nurse. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing, or BSN, is a four-year academic degree in the science and principles of nursing, granted by a tertiary education university or similarly-accredited school. Upon completion of this four-year degree, the graduate of such a program also is eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN and to apply for licensure as a Registered Nurse. Those holding a BSN degree are qualified to assume research, consulting, and administrative positions that might not be available to those with an ADN or Diploma in Nursing. The BSN degree is required for those seeking advanced nursing degrees, such as a Master’s in Nursing.

3. When will the selection process for the RN Program begin?  Applications are due no later than July 7, 2014. See website for detailed information.

4. Is there a waiting list now for the RN Program?  No
5. How many students do you plan to accept into the first RN program once the Louisiana State Board of Nursing gives permission for the program to start, and why? Forty students will be admitted.

6. What should my major be if I am planning to take the pre-requisites to apply to the RN Program? One should apply to SLCC as majoring in an Associate Degree, General Studies, or AGS.

7. I am a first time student who is interested in the RN Program at SLCC. What do I need to do in order to begin to register for classes? Where do I begin? Visit the SLCC website and apply online at https://ssb.lectes.edu:9040/PROD_SLCC/bwskalog.P_DispNewApp. Alternatively, one may come to the campus at 1101 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506, and complete the admission process in person, and have one’s questions answered by an individual in Admissions and/or the Registrar’s Offices.

8. I scheduled BIOL 1002 for next semester. Will I still have to take BIOL 1020 as a pre-requisite for the RN Program? Why or why not? Yes, one will need to take BIOL 1020. BIOL 1020 is a pre-requisite for BIOL 2022/2023, Human Anatomy and Physiology (Lecture and Lab). There are no substitutions of one biology course for another.

9. Will my ACT and/or COMPASS scores be evaluated by my advisor when I am scheduling courses for the RN Program? ACT and/or COMPASS score(s) are used during the initial application process to SLCC. A separate entrance examination is given for admission to the RN Program. The results of that entrance examination will be used to assist one with admission to the RN program.

10. At what point can LPN’S be admitted into the program? At this point, LPN’s will undergo the same process for admission into the program as a person who is not an LPN. LPNs seeking advanced standing will wait until the second year of the program. Details will follow at a later date.

11. I registered for the PN Program when what I really wanted was the RN Program—what do I do now? Obtain a Change of Academic Major Form from your academic advisor. Complete the form, obtain signatures as appropriate, and then hand-carry it through the Financial Aid and Registrar’s Offices.

12. I have C’s in a few of the pre-requisites that I will need to qualify for admission into the program. Should I repeat any of those to improve my chances of getting into the RN Program when I apply? If you strongly feel that you might do better by repeating the class, and if you have the time and money to do so, this may be a good idea for you.
Admission to the program is based on grades on prerequisites, so it behooves the applicant to have the highest grades as possible, in all pre-requisites.

13. Which GPA will be used to consider whether or not I am eligible to be accepted into the RN Program—the overall GPA, or the GPA from the pre-requisites? Both the cumulative GPA and the GPA on RN Program pre-requisites will be weighted in the rubric applied to test scores, GPA and other admission criteria. See FAQ’s 18, 19 and 20, below.

14. What nursing entrance test will you be using to test potential applicants and what will be the minimum admissible composite (overall) score? The TEAS V test will be administered. The minimum admissible composite (overall) score will be 60. No sub-score may be less than 58, in order to be considered for admission.

15. How many times can I take the nursing entrance exam if I don’t do well the first time? You may take the test a maximum of two times.

16. If I have taken a nursing entrance exam in the past, how long are my scores considered valid? TEAS scores will be valid for one calendar year.

17. What are some of the admission criteria for acceptance into the RN Program? The following factors will be weighed when selecting the class: The applicant must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or better, and must have completed all prerequisites with grades of C or better. The overall GPA on the pre-requisites must equal or exceed 2.8. The TEAS score must be equal to or greater than 60, with no less than a 58 in each individual subsection of the test. A rubric is being used to assign applicants points on a 100-point scale. The higher the grades and the higher the test scores, the higher the number of points awarded. Points are earned for prerequisites taken at SLCC and previous licensure or certification in a health field. Points will be deducted for pre-requisites repeated.

18. Does it increase the likelihood of being accepted into the program if I have taken all/most of my pre-requisites at SLCC? Yes. A rubric is being used to assign applicants points. Additional points will be awarded for each prerequisite completed here at SLCC.

19. Will it be an advantage for me if I already have a degree in a healthcare-related occupation or if I am licensed or certified as a healthcare provider? Yes. On the aforementioned rubric used to score applicants, additional points will be awarded if the applicant is licensed or certified and currently employed in a health occupation (i.e.: CNA, LPN, Respiratory Therapy, EMT, Paramedic)
20. Can I test out of any RN classes if I have **experience** as an LPN? How much **experience** should I have as an LPN before I consider applying to enter the LPN-RN bridge program?  The LPN-RN bridge program has not been finalized but is under development.  The earliest this could be available for students will be 2015.

21. I took some of the pre-requisites listed on your website nearly 20 years ago. How recent do any of my pre-requisite courses have to be in order to be considered by the SLCC RN program?  We normally prefer courses to have been taken within the last 10 years. On a course-by-course and individual-by-individual basis, the Deans of SLCC will determine which courses are acceptable for transfer.

22. If I have already taken 6 credit hours of **Fine Arts** courses, will I still need to take 3 credit hours of **Humanities** courses as a pre-requisite for the RN Program?  To be considered as an applicant, one must have taken EITHER a 3-credit Arts OR a 3-credit Humanities course. To COMPLETE the requirements for this Associate’s Degree, the student must have completed BOTH any 3-credit-hour Arts course AND any 3-credit-hour Humanities course.  Thus the student in this question may apply to the program, but later will still need to complete a 3-credit Humanities course.

23. I have already taken **Math 1100**.  Will I still have to take **MATH 1105** as a pre-requisite for the RN Program?  If taken previously, MATH 1100 will be accepted, but SLCC prefers students to take MATH 1105.

24. Am I allowed to take any of the prerequisites **along with** the nursing courses once I am accepted into the RN Program?  No. The five pre-requisites listed on the SLCC website’s RN Program link must be completed **prior to** application to the program.

25. What is the approximate **cost of attendance** for the average ASN RN student at SLCC?  Total costs associated with attending the program are approximately $12,000.  This does not include living expenses (housing, food, transportation).

26. Once a student is admitted into the RN Program, how long should it take to complete the program?  The core nursing courses span four semesters, or two calendar years.  (The pre-requisites usually will take the student two semesters to complete.)

27. Once I complete the ASN (Associate of Science in Nursing) RN Program, will that degree assist me in pursuing a BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) RN degree in the future?  Yes. Many universities and online schools host programs that allow the graduate to articulate to a BSN level of education.
28. If I have a **criminal background** (misdemeanor/felony), can I still apply to the program? Yes, such an individual is welcome to apply. The Louisiana State Board of Nursing requires a criminal background check on all applicants, and the LSBN itself (*not SLCC*) will determine whether or not a student may enroll in the program.

29. I have **previously taken courses at another college/university**; can I transfer them to be considered for the RN Program at SLCC? On a course-by-course and individual-by-individual basis, the Deans of SLCC will determine which courses are acceptable for transfer. Please complete Transcript Evaluation Request and follow process.

30. Where can I go to get my transcript from another college/university evaluated? What forms will I need to get my transcript evaluated? Who will I need to speak with in order to ask questions about transcript evaluations? First, contact the Program Coordinator, Ms. Judith Pearson, who will review your unofficial transcript. (See telephone and email information below.) Complete a transcript evaluation form in the Registrar’s office.

31. How can I improve my chances for being accepted into the RN Program? Scores on the admission test weigh heavily in the rubric used to score applicants. It would behoove an applicant to review well for the announced test. Cumulative GPA and the GPA on pre-requisites also weigh heavily in the rubric used to score applicants. To improve chances for admission, an applicant should attain the highest grades possible in pre-requisite courses, and score as highly as possible in all portions of the admission test.

32. What websites/social media sites should I access to continue to get updates on the SLCC RN Program? Consult the SLCC website’s [http://www.solacc.edu/](http://www.solacc.edu/)

33. How do I contact the **SLCC RN Faculty members** for any additional information **not already addressed** in this forum? Email questions to **RN@solacc.edu**