Frequently Asked Questions about the AAS Nursing Program

The Red Rocks Community College Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Program receives several inquiries each month about the program. Below are some frequently asked questions and answers.

Prerequisites

Q: Can one of the four prerequisites be in progress when I apply to the nursing program?

A: Yes, one of the four prerequisites can be in progress when applying to the nursing program. However, all four prerequisites need to be completed before the nursing program begins. If you are accepted while a prerequisite is in progress, your acceptance will be conditional upon successfully completing the prerequisite and meeting any other requirements due before the program begins. Applicants who have completed all four perquisites may be ranked higher in the application process than applicants who have one prerequisite in progress.

Q: I took the perquisites a while ago when I was working towards another degree. Do I need to retake them?

A: For the cohort starting in **Spring 2027**, science courses need to be taken within the last 7 years. For the nursing program, there is no time limit on English composition, Sociology, or Psychology courses. However, Red Rocks Community College may have time limits. Please reach out to Advising for clarification on Red Rocks Community College's time limits for courses.

Q: Who should I speak to about what credits will transfer towards the nursing program?

A: First, apply to the nursing program through NursingCAS. If you are accepted, your next step will be to submit a free RRCC admissions application. The nursing program will forward your official transcripts from NursingCAS to Student Records. It can take Student

Records up to 30 business days to evaluate transcripts for transfer credit. They will then provide you with a list of credits that are being transferred. If you have any concerns about their evaluation for the nursing program, please email RRCCNursing@rrcc.edu.

Q: I am already a student at Red Rocks Community College and am thinking about applying to the nursing program. Who should I contact?

A: Please reach out to a Health Sciences Pathway Advisor. A list of Health Sciences Pathway Advisors can be found at the bottom of the Advising webpage.

Q: Can the prerequisite courses be taken online?

A: Yes

Application Window

Q: What is the application window for a fall start in the nursing program?

A: The application window for a fall start is March 15 – April 26.

Q: What is the application window for a spring start in the nursing program?

A: The application window for a spring start is August 13 – October 5.

Eligibility

Q: I failed a couple of courses in my nursing program at another college. I now have to wait a couple of years before I can return. Can I transfer to your program instead?

A: If you have attended any other nursing program(s), you must provide a letter of good standing from the program(s) with your application. If you do not have a letter of good standing from your prior nursing program, you will not be eligible for admission into the Red Rocks Community College Nursing Program. If you are eligible to apply for admission to the RRCC program, you will need to start the program from the beginning.

Recommendation Letters

Q: Do I need to submit recommendation letters?

A: We do not require a letter. However, we do require a recommendation. In NursingCAS, you will be asked for the name and email address of the person you are seeking a recommendation. They will be contacted by NursingCAS to complete a Likert scale about you in your profile.

Q: Who should I request a recommendation from?

A: We recommend asking individuals who know you well in an academic, clinical, or professional setting and can speak to your readiness for nursing school. Strong choices often include:

- **College professors or instructors**, especially in science or nursing-related courses
- **Clinical instructors or preceptors** (if you have clinical experience)
- **Supervisors or managers** from healthcare, caregiving, or customer service roles
- **Volunteer coordinators** or supervisors who have observed your reliability, compassion, and teamwork

When choosing recommenders, it's more important that they know you well than that they hold a prestigious title. We encourage you to ask people who can provide specific examples of your work ethic, communication skills, professionalism, and ability to succeed in a rigorous nursing program.

Please avoid requesting recommendations from family members or personal friends.

Ask your recommenders early and let them know that they will receive an email from NursingCAS with a link to complete a Likert scale on your behalf.

TEAS and HESI A2 Test

Q: Do I need to take the TEAS or HESI A2 test for my application to Red Rocks Community College Nursing Program?

A: Yes. Completion of either the TEAS test or HESI A2 test is required as a part of your application to the Red Rocks Community College Nursing Program.

Q: Do I need to take the TEAS test or HESI A2 at Red Rocks Community College?

A: No. You are welcome to take either test at a testing center or proctored online test at home.

Q: How do you sign up for the TEAS test?

A: To sign up for the ATI TEAS test, create an account on the ATI Testing website, select your preferred exam format (in-person or online), and choose a date and location. Ensure you have a government-issued ID. Please know that you can take the TEAS test at the Red Rocks Community College's Assessment Center. However, we **do not** require that the TEAS test is taken at Red Rocks Community College.

Q: How do you sign up for the HESI A2 test?

A: To sign up for the Elsevier HESI A2 test, create an account on the Elsevier Evolve Platform, select your preferred exam format (in-person or online), and choose a date and location. Ensure your Elsevier account name matches your government-issued ID. We **do not** require that the HESI A2 test is taken at Red Rocks Community College's Assessment Center.

Q: What TEAS or HESI A2 score do I need for my application to be considered?

A: We are looking for an overall score of 65% or higher on either test. We will also review your individual subject scores.

Q: Do you recommend a particular study guide for the TEAS test or HESI A2?

A: No, we do not have an opinion on that.

Q: What should I study to prepare for the HESI A2 or TEAS test?

A: A quick online search should give you an idea of what subject areas are included on either test.

Program Questions

Accreditation

Q: When will the AAS Nursing Program be accredited through the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)?

A: The Colorado State Board of Nursing has provided interim approval for the Red Rocks Community College Nursing Program. Interim approval is granted to new nursing programs for the purpose of admitting students and allowing graduates to take the licensing examination. Programs remain on interim approval until after the first class has graduated. (Red Rocks Community Colleges first AAS in Nursing cohort will graduate in May 2027.) Within one year after the first cohort of graduates, the program must request full nursing program approval. **Upon successful accreditation, graduates are retroactively granted the status of graduation from an accredited nursing program.**

Q: What happens if the AAS Nursing Program is not accredited?

A: Students will still be able to take the NCLEX-RN exam. However, the lack of national accreditation may limit students' future educational and career options. The Red Rocks Community Nursing Program faculty and staff, with full support of leadership, are actively working toward national nursing program accreditation.

Clinicals

Q: Do you have a dedicated list of nursing clinical sites?

A: We continue to develop new relationships and maintain existing partnerships with our clinical sites. However, contracts require periodic review and renewal, and student placements depend on each site's availability and capacity. As a result, clinical placements are dynamic and may vary from cohort to cohort.

Program Outcomes

Q: What is your program's passing rate for NCLEX-RN exam?

A: We won't begin to have that data until after the inaugural class graduates in May 2027.

Structure

Q: Does the AAS nursing program include summer semesters?

A: No, the program doesn't offer summer sessions. However, you are welcome to complete corequisites during the summer sessions that align with the program's deadlines.

Q: Are any of the nursing classes online, hybrid, in the evenings or on weekends?

A: Overall, the nursing program is a fulltime, in person program with the potential for weekend and night clinical experiences. However, there is one class that is hybrid.

Edited November 2026