

## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NURSING

### A UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2012

This Academic Planning Guide highlights major points only regarding admission and transfer. Students are advised to consult the RDC Calendar and the Alberta Transfer Guide for other necessary information. Some courses listed may have prerequisites; refer to [Course Descriptions](#). Access this guide online: [www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_advising](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising).

Admission to the Bachelor of Science Nursing (BSNR) program at Red Deer College will follow the policy for Admission of Students to Credit Programs which states that all offers of admission will be allocated on the basis of academic achievement. For more information, see *Frequently Asked Questions*.

Students accepted to BSNR at RDC, enter the University of Alberta Collaborative Baccalaureate Nursing Program with Red Deer College. They are RDC students for the first three years and apply for admission to UofA for the fourth year. Nursing students continue as UofA students on the RDC campus for year four.

The method of instruction in the Nursing program is Context Based Learning (CBL). Throughout the program students work in small groups with a tutor to explore a series of learning packages based on situations of relevance to nursing. Content from nursing, physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities is introduced and integrated. Nursing practice normally occurs in concentrated blocks of time in each term in a variety of settings including community and institutions throughout central Alberta.

### COURSES ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT IN BSc NURSING

COURSE TAKEN PRIOR TO BSc NURSING		COURSE EQUIVALENT IN BSc NURSING
PSYC 260	credit for	NURS 270 (year 1)
PSYC 261	credit for	NURS 271 (year 1)
SOCI 260	credit for	NURS 272 (year 1)
ENGL 219 <sup>4</sup>	credit for	3 credits ENGLISH (taken in spring intersession)
KNSS 200 <sup>1</sup>	credit for	NURS 215 (year 1)
PSIO 262 or PSIO 258/259 <sup>1,2</sup>	credit for	NURS 274 (year 2)
STAT 251	credit for	NURS 304 (year 3)
POLI 324 or any 3-credit Political Science course <sup>3</sup>	credit for	POLI (year 3)
One 3-credit Philosophy course <sup>3</sup>	credit for	PHIL (year 3)
6 credits in ELECTIVES <sup>4</sup> _____ (3) _____ (3)	credit for	6 credits ELECTIVES (taken in spring intersession)

#### NOTES:

- KNSS 200** and **PSIO 258/259**: Seats in these courses may be reserved for Kinesiology majors and therefore not accessible to students in programs other than Kinesiology. It is strongly recommended that KNSS 200 is successfully completed before taking PSIO 258 or PSIO 262.
- PSIO 262** is accepted for transfer in the collaborative RDC/ UofA BSNR program as part of the block transfer agreement. PSIO 262 does not transfer on an individual basis to other programs or faculties at UofA.

3. Any **POLI** or **PHIL** course that transfers to UofA for 3 credits will be accepted in the subject area.
4. **ELECTIVES** offer an opportunity to study areas of interest and expand your knowledge base. The courses you choose must transfer from RDC to UofA. Course transfer is determined by the [Alberta Transfer Guide](#). *It is the responsibility of each student to ensure courses taken as electives transfer for credit to UofA.* A minimum grade of C- must be earned in the English and elective courses.

**For your electives, choose 6 credits in transferable courses from the following subject areas:**

Anthropology (**ANTH**), Art (**ART**), Biochemistry (**BIOC**), Biology (**BIOL**), Business (**BUS**), Business Administration (**BADM**), Chemistry (**CHEM**), Classics (**CLAS**), Communications (**COMM**)<sup>1</sup>, **CMPT 201**, Dance (**KDNC**)<sup>2</sup>, Drama (**DRAM**), Economics (**ECON**), English (**ENGL**), Family Studies (**FAM**), French (**FREN**), Geography (**GEOG**), Genetics (**GENE**), History (**HIST**), Interdisciplinary Studies (**INTD**), Kinesiology (**KNSS**), Kinesiology Physical Activity (**KPAC**)<sup>2</sup>, Mathematics (**MATH**), Microbiology (**MICR**), Music (**MUSE, MUSI**)<sup>2</sup>, Philosophy (**PHIL**), Political Science (**POLI**), Psychology (**PSYC**), Sociology (**SOCI**), Spanish (**SPAN**), Zoology (**ZOOL**)

**NOTES:**

1. Do not take both COMM 271 and COMM 361; transfer credit is given for one only.
2. Some courses in these subject areas transfer for 1.5 credits. You may take two 1.5-credit courses to fulfill one 3-credit elective.

**ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS FOR THE BSc NURSING PROGRAM ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO:**

- Consult the RDC Calendar for admission and pre- or co-requisite information,
- check the Alberta Transfer Guide concerning credit transfer of elective courses to UofA, and
- meet with an Academic Advisor re any questions.

## HOW TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

[Academic Advisors](#)

Office of the Registrar  
Assessment and Articulation Services

- [RDC Website](#)
- [RDC Timetable](#)
- [Alberta Transfer Guide](#)
- [RDC Nursing Department](#)

Academic Advising Centre: Room 1102  
[advisors@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:advisors@rdc.ab.ca) 403-342-3400  
[http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic\\_advising](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/academic_advising)  
403-342-3400  
[rpl@rdc.ab.ca](mailto:rpl@rdc.ab.ca) 403-342-3400  
<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/rpl>  
<http://www.rdc.ab.ca>  
<http://www.rdc.ab.ca/timetable>  
<http://www.acat.gov.ab.ca>  
403-342-3138 or 403-342-3261

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Be aware that you are responsible for ensuring that your registration is complete and appropriate and that your course choices comply with the program to which you have been admitted at RDC and/or to the university to which you will transfer.

You are cautioned that any changes to your courses, your major or your transfer destination may adversely affect your transferable credit, admission requirements for future programs, or eligibility to graduate from RDC. Consult with an academic advisor if you have any questions.

The function of academic advisors is to provide students with information and resources that enable them to make informed decisions relevant to their education. These resources include the RDC Calendar, the Academic Planning Guide for your chosen program and destination university, the Alberta Transfer Guide and the calendar and contact information for your destination university. Academic advisors will assist you in interpreting information from these resources or refer you to your destination university if appropriate. Students in university transfer programs are strongly advised to refer to the calendar of the university to which they wish to transfer and should contact appropriate university departments as required.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## HOW DO I APPLY?

- Applications are accepted starting the first business day in October.
- Complete an *Application for Admission*. The application fee must be submitted with the application. An application may be completed at [Apply Now](#), submitted in-person, faxed to 403-357-3660, or mailed to Office of the Registrar, Box 5005, Red Deer, Alberta T4N 5H5.
- Current RDC students: submit a *Change of Program* form to the Office of the Registrar; no application fee required.
- Students who were waitlisted for admission to BSNR the previous year will receive a letter asking if they want their application considered for admission in the next intake. Students who respond to this letter will not require a new application or Change of Program form. No application fee is required. Note: if courses were taken at an institution other than RDC since the last application was submitted, official transcripts from that institution must be submitted by the student.

## WHEN WILL I HEAR ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

- The application for admission will be acknowledged within three to six weeks of the opening date. However, admission decisions will not be made until after March 1st with the Admissions Office notifying you by April concerning your admission status. Your patience is appreciated.

## WHAT ARE THE FALL 2013 ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR BSc NURSING?

- **High school applicants** must present a minimum average of 65% with no mark below 50% in the following subjects or equivalents: Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30, ELA 30-1, Math 30 (Pure) or Math 30-1 or Math 30-2, and one subject from Group A, B, or C (see [Admission Requirements](#)).
- **Mature applicants** (19 years of age or older and out of high school for at least one full year before the program starts) must present a minimum average of 65% with no mark below 50% in the following subjects or equivalents: Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30, ELA 30-1, and Math 30 (Pure) or Math 30-1 or Math 30-2. Mature applicants who have not taken any post-secondary credit courses must present one 30-level subject from Group A, B, or C (see [Admission Requirements](#)).
- **Successful applicants must satisfy the following requirements by September 1st of BSNR year one:** the schedule of immunization (forms provided by RDC); evidence of a valid Standard First Aid; and evidence of a valid CPR certificate at the Health Care Provider Level (you must recertify each year while in the Nursing program).
- **Advisory:** while not an admission requirement for BSNR, applicants are advised they will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check to some agencies where they will be placed for practicum experiences. The existence of a criminal record may prevent clinical placement, program completion, professional licensure and therefore may affect employment prospects. It is the decision of each agency or institution to accept or reject a student for placement or observation experience based on the results of a criminal record check. Prospective students who have a criminal record should discuss the matter with the Nursing Department Chair prior to applying for admission.

## HOW WILL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO BSNR BE PROCESSED?

- Applications will be processed according to [Admission of Students to Credit Programs Policy](#)
- Applicants will be placed in rank order by Conditional Admission Grade Point Average (GPA).

## WHAT IS CONDITIONAL ADMISSION GPA?

- Conditional admission to BSNR is based on two factors. One, that students have completed or are in the process of completing the BSNR high school admission requirements. Two, that students have a GPA with which to compete for admission; this is the Conditional Admission GPA. The conditional admission GPA is used to determine rank order for initial intake and on the waitlist. Admission is conditional until the Office of the Registrar is satisfied that all admission requirements have been met.

## HOW IS THE CONDITIONAL ADMISSION GPA CALCULATED?

- **The GPA calculation for Conditional Admission will be calculated according to one of the following:**
  - Applicant has attended high school and/or upgrading only: 25 high school credits will be used including the following subjects: Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30, ELA 30-1, Math 30 (Pure) or Math 30-1 or Math 30-2, and one 30-level subject from Group A, B, or C. If any of these 30-level courses are in progress at the time of application, the grade earned in the 20-level of the subject will be used.
  - Applicant has 18 or more post-secondary credits: 18 post-secondary credits will be used including *all* credits from the most recently completed term, plus the best grades from the next most recent term(s) until 18 credits are reached.

- Applicant has fewer than 18 post-secondary credits: The GPA will be calculated using all post-secondary credits plus the credits from the most recent completed semester from high school (or term of upgrading) using the best grade(s) from the following five subjects: Biology 30, Chemistry 30 or Science 30, ELA 30-1, Math 30 (Pure) or Math 30-1 or Math 30-2 to reach a minimum of 18 credits (i.e. 9 post-secondary credits plus 10 high school credits = 19 credits).

**NOTES:**

1. Mid-term grades are not available for full-year courses (i.e. PSIO 262, PSYC 312).
2. Courses that do not have grades that calculate in the institutional GPA will *not* be used. For example, *P* (pass) or *CR* (credit).
3. Applicants with post-secondary credit will have their post-secondary grades used in the GPA calculation before high school credits are used regardless of when the post-secondary credit was taken.
4. Post-secondary credit does not include any high school equivalents completed at a post-secondary institution (i.e. MATH 096 from RDC, MATHP 030 from Keyano College, etc.).
5. If an applicant has a 30-level upgrading course in progress at the time of application and has previously earned a grade in the 30-level of that course, the previous grade will be used in the GPA calculation.

**WHAT WAS THE CONDITIONAL ADMISSION GPA CUT-OFF FOR FALL 2011?**

- In Fall 11, the lowest conditional admission GPA was 2.88/4.00. The conditional admission GPA will vary between academic years depending on the competitiveness of the applications received. The above cannot be used as the standard.

**IF I RECEIVE CONDITIONAL ADMISSION WILL I AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE CLEAR ADMISSION?**

- Upon receipt of final official transcripts, the only consideration will be that minimum admission requirements for the program are met. If so, clear admission will be issued. If not, conditional admission will be rescinded.

**WHAT IS THE DOCUMENT DEADLINE?**

- All documentation required for conditional admission *must be received before March 1st*.
- If RDC receives your transcripts *on or after March 1<sup>st</sup>* your application will not be considered for the initial intake.
- Qualified applicants who do not meet the transcript deadline will be placed on the waitlist according to GPA. Your place on the waitlist will fluctuate as transcripts from other applicants are received and they are placed on the waitlist.
- Applicants with courses in progress may submit an unofficial transcript for the deadline. Those not currently in courses must submit official transcripts.

**WHAT IF I AM ON THE WAITLIST BUT DON'T GET INTO THE PROGRAM?**

- After the waitlist has ceased to exist for the fall term, applicants who were waitlisted but not admitted will be given the opportunity to declare if they wish to be considered for the next admission intake. Such applicants will again compete for admission to BSNR. An updated transcript, if applicable, will be required but no additional application fee will be assessed. See *What Else do I need to Know*.

**CAN I GET CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN AT A DIFFERENT POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTION?**

- Perhaps. Submit an application for Recognition of Prior Learning to Assessment and Articulation Services *well before the beginning of the fall term* to have previous courses assessed for possible credit ([www.rdc.ab.ca/rpl](http://www.rdc.ab.ca/rpl)).

**WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?**

- *All prospective BSNR students applying for a Government Student Loan* should contact Student Funding and Awards to discuss funding eligibility while an Open Studies student and once admitted to BSNR (call 403-342-3254).
- Applicants who apply and submit all documents *prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>* will have their GPA calculated using grades in courses completed prior to that date. The GPA will not be recalculated using winter or spring term grades. Only these applicants will be considered for conditional admission.
- Applicants who apply and submit all documents *on or after March 1<sup>st</sup>* will have their GPA calculated using grades in courses completed at that point. For example, an applicant applying after final grades are published for the winter term will have the winter grades included in the GPA calculation. Applicants who apply on or after March 1<sup>st</sup> will be considered for the waitlist only and will be placed in rank order on the waitlist.
- If, in the same academic year, an applicant changes his/her first choice of program from BSNR to any other program and then changes his/her first choice back to BSNR, their original conditional admission GPA will be used.
- If an applicant earns a new grade for a course due to a re-write or re-score (i.e. supplemental exam, diploma exam rewrite, etc.) the GPA will *not* be automatically recalculated. The applicant must notify the Registrar. All requests for a GPA recalculation must be submitted in a Letter of Appeal to the Registrar.