



Dear RN Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in the Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS) Registered Nursing program. Our program is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The traditional RN program admits new students each fall semester. Students complete the four-semester sequence over two years. The RN Bridge program admits a new cohort each spring semester, with students completing a three-semester program in one year.

The following forms and/or information must be completed and submitted by April 1st for the traditional program and September 1st for the RN Bridge program, with your application, in order to be considered for the program beginning in August.

[College Admission \(online\)](#)

https://northark.my.site.com/apply/TX_SiteLogin?startURL=%2Fapply%2FTargetX_Portal_PB

All College Transcripts

High School Transcript or GED Scores

MMR or Positive Rubella Titer for Antibodies (required by the college for complete admission)

[RN Program Application \(online\)](#)

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NorthArkansasCollege1/HealthProfessionsAdmissionApplication>

RN Bridge students must submit a [work verification form](#)

If you have any questions concerning the application process, please call Carla Jacobs, RN Program Director at (870)391-3535, email – cjacobs@northark.edu.

Carla Jacobs MSN, RN

Dean of Health Professions

UA NORTHARK REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The curriculum in Nursing is a full-time program, requiring a full-time commitment from its students. The faculty of the Department of Nursing strongly discourages its students from full-time employment. Students with financial difficulties should discuss alternatives to employment with the Financial Aid Office. The student's schedule requires a flexible lifestyle as clinical experience is held at area facilities during assigned hours which may be days, evenings, or weekends. Because of this, transportation, childcare, and any employment should be considered prior to entry into the nursing program. Some classes may require more than the scheduled time (i.e. individual practice time in the nursing lab) for an individual student to meet the learning objectives. Students should plan schedules to be able to meet these learning expectations.

Traditional RN Program RN Bridge Program

Be accepted as a student in the college (see admission procedures in UA Northark Catalog or the UA Northark web site) North Arkansas College Online Application	Be accepted as a student in the college (see admission procedures in UA Northark Catalog or the UA Northark web site) North Arkansas College Online Application
Complete the nursing application for the coming year before April 1. RN Program Application	Complete the nursing application for the coming year before September 1. RN Bridge Program Application
Must have an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher	Must have an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher
Have an official high school transcript or GED scores on file in the admissions office.	Have an official high school transcript or GED scores on file in the admissions office.
Have official transcripts of all colleges/universities attended sent to UA Northark.	Have official transcripts of all colleges/universities attended sent to UA Northark. RN bridge students must also have a PN or paramedic school transcript.
N/A	For RN Bridge Program, students: a) LPN's must present verification of current unencumbered licensure as an LPN and maintain a valid active LPN license during the program. b) Paramedics must hold current certification from the Arkansas Department of Health as an Arkansas Paramedic and be currently registered as a paramedic with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians and maintain during the program. c) Work experience verified to include 1000 hours over the last 24 months. The work requirement may be waived if the applicant has graduated from a PN or paramedic program in the previous year before application. The applicant must obtain a letter of recommendation from their Program Director.

Have a minimum grade of "C" in each prerequisite course to Nursing 1107 and in each course completed that is in the Nursing Program Degree Plan.	Have a minimum grade of "C" in each prerequisite course to Nursing 2158 and in each course completed that is in the Nursing Program Degree Plan.
Anatomy & Physiology courses must have been completed within the last five years.	Anatomy & Physiology courses must have been completed within the last five years. The RN Director may waive the time frame of 5 years for the science courses if the applicant can demonstrate he/she has been practicing in an acute care setting within the last 3 years.
Have submitted: Two MMRs or a positive rubella titer for antibodies Immunizations required for clinical must be on file by orientation to the program. (see responsibilities upon acceptance) The only exception is for medical reasons.	Have submitted: Two MMRs or positive titers for measles, mumps and rubella antibodies Immunizations required for clinical must be on file by orientation to the program. (see responsibilities upon acceptance). The only exception is for medical reasons.
Students who have been dismissed from another health professions program are required to submit a letter of good standing from that program.	Students who have been dismissed from another health professions program are required to submit a letter of good standing from that program.

ACCEPTANCE PROCESS:

Admission to the nursing program is highly competitive. Only official transcripts submitted by the due date are evaluated. Acceptance into the program is based on data, and grades in the following:

A. Minimum of overall 2.5 GPA (This includes all transcripts and is necessary for the application to be considered.) If GPA below 2.5, the director may consider GPA in Core RN Program Courses over last five years.

B. Points for completing General Education Courses:

- Mathematics for Career & Technology
Or
higher Math (3 credit hrs.)
- English Composition I
- Introduction to Information Technology
- General Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- English Composition II
- UA Northark First Year Experience

A = 40

B = 20

C = 10

C. Points for completing Science Courses:

- Anatomy & Physiology I
- Anatomy & Physiology II
- Microbiology

A = 50 60 if course taken at UA Northark

B = 30 40 if course taken at UA Northark

C = 10 20 if course taken at UA Northark

D. Points for Boone County Residents = 5

All applicants will be ranked numerically and placed into available openings according to their rank.

****Applicants who have taken or enrolled in a science course more than two times and have not earned a grade of C or better will be advised to consider application to other programs. Withdrawals are counted as an enrollment. A five-year time limit applies to the sciences. The RN Director may review applicant's grades for special admission consideration.

Meeting all criteria and submitting an application does not guarantee admission into the nursing program. The number of students admitted will vary according to resources available prior to registration.

Students must meet all admission requirements and resubmit a new application for admission to the nursing office to be considered for enrollment in the next class. The student will be subject to any revised standards and requirements in effect at the time of re-application or re-entry.

Students who are notified that they are on the alternate list but are not accepted must re-apply if they seek enrollment into nursing courses the next year. Alternate status does not mean that the student will be ranked higher for the next application period. Students must meet all admission requirements and resubmit a new application for admission to the nursing office to be considered for enrollment in the next class. The student will be subject to any revised standards and requirements in effect at the time of re-application. Alternate students should seek the advice from a counselor or the director of the nursing program regarding improving their chances of acceptance.

Students who withdraw from Nursing 1107 or Nursing 2158 for any reason must again meet eligibility requirements and reapply for admission.

Falsification of any information in the application process may result in dismissal from the program.

***Non-English-speaking students shall meet the same admission criteria as other students and pass an English proficiency exam.**

COMPUTER REQUIREMENTS

No ipads, Chromebooks or Mac computers.

All examinations will be administered via ATI or ExamSoft's Exemplify software using the student's personal laptop computer. Chromebooks, iPads, Mac, Android, Linux or tablet operating systems are not compatible for testing purposes. These devices are not recommended for exam use and should not be relied upon for nursing program testing. Students are expected to take each exam on a supported computer with functioning camera and microphone. Students must ensure adequate system requirements to use ExamSoft and ATI prior to the start of the nursing courses.

Click here for ExamSoft's system requirements. Any questions regarding software should be directed to ExamSoft help resource: (866) 429-8889 (available 24/7).

<https://examsoft.com/resources/exemplify-minimum-system-requirements>

Click here for ATI's system requirements. Any questions regarding ATI software should be directed to ATI help resource; (800) 667-7531.

<https://atitesting.com/technical-requirements>

RESPONSIBILITIES UPON ACCEPTANCE

Once offered a position in the nursing program, the student is responsible for:

- A. returning completed RN Health Statement, and Technical Standards as acceptance, see appendix
- B. Failure to meet the Health & Technical Standards or provide immunizations will result in forfeiture of admission.
- B. ensuring immunizations are current for the duration of the program. Students who are not in compliance with these requirements, will be unable to meet clinical requirements and will be dropped from any nursing course. The following must be submitted before orientation:
 - **Hepatitis B** -- Evidence of a series of three Hepatitis B vaccines or series of two doses of the HEPATISAV-B version, or titer proving immunity, Hepatitis B Surface antibody. Two of the 3 injections must be completed prior to the first day of clinical.
 - **Tdap** – The Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) immunization is needed every 10 years to remain protected.
 - **MMR** - Two MMRs or positive titers for measles, mumps and rubella antibodies.
 - **TB** – Two negative TB tests within the year prior to starting the program. A QuantiFERON-TB Gold or T-SPOT (interferon-gamma release assay) may be provided in place of the skin test. If a negative TB testing cannot be provided, a certification of health or a physician's statement verifying the student is disease-free must be submitted. Individuals with positive test results must provide evidence of a negative chest x-ray and a physician's statement confirming that the individual is free of the active disease.
 - **Varicella** – verification of 2 injections must be provided or laboratory result verifying immunity, Varicella Zoster IgG antibody.
 - **Influenza** vaccination – is required for all clinical sites. Traditional RN students will receive after starting the program. RN Bridge students must submit proof before orientation.
 - **Covid vaccination** – UA Northark does not require students to receive or report their COVID-19 vaccination. Students who are assigned to clinical facilities must comply with the established COVID-19 clinical procedures and guidelines for their assigned facility and, for those that require COVID-19 vaccinations, students must submit vaccine documentation. Please note that refusal to comply with all the vaccination requirements may limit site placement and could impede progression through your program of study. Waivers are allowed at most facilities.
 - **CPR** -- provide current documentation of certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) "HeartCode Basic Life Support" from the American Heart Association. Students must maintain certification throughout the program. If the current certification expires prior graduation, then a new certification is required before the start of the program.
- C. agreeing to complete a 10 Panel UA Drug Screen. The drug screen may be administered at any time, without warning to the student. A student taking any prescription drug that will or may show up in a drug screen must be able to produce a valid drug prescription in their name, filled within the last 6 months. If the screen comes back positive or if the student refuses a drug screen, the student forfeits their place in the program. Students unable to void after 3 hours will be considered a refusal and will be dismissed from the program.
- D. agreeing to a criminal background check prior to clinical experience. The Nursing and Health Professions students are required to undergo Criminal Background Checks prior to participating in any clinical experiences. Details for background checks will be given during orientation. Screening includes searches of: County court records, FACIS 1 (OIG, GSA, & other federal sources). ID Trace Pro (current/previous addresses, SSN valid/deceased, aliases, high risk fraud alert), National Criminal Database. National Sex Offender Public Registry.
- E. If for any reason (Criminal Background, previous employment, etc.) a clinical site will not allow the student to attend clinical, then the student will not be able to fulfill the clinical requirements the program and will be dismissed from the program.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Students should be aware that all persons seeking initial licensure as a nurse are required to undergo a federal and state criminal background check which requires fingerprinting. The practice of Nursing is regulated by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing, which has the mission to protect the public and act as a public advocate. The Board outlines the conditions in which a newly graduated RN student may apply for an Arkansas license. Even though students may complete a program of study in an RN degree program, this is not a guarantee that the student will be allowed to test or receive a license. All persons seeking initial licensure as a nurse in Arkansas are required to undergo a federal and Arkansas criminal background check. If an applicant has pleaded guilty, nolo contendere to, or been found guilty of any offense listed in ACA §17-3-102, he/she is not eligible for Arkansas licensure. ACA §17-3-102 provides an opportunity to request a waiver of eligibility criteria related to a criminal background in certain circumstances.

If you need additional information, contact the RN Program Director. If the student is seeking licensure in another state besides Arkansas, the student should contact the State Board of Nursing in which the student is applying for licensure.

If the student has plead guilty or been convicted of a crime, the student must notify the Director of Nursing at the time of application. This is necessary even if the student's criminal record has been expunged.

			17-87-312 Criminal background checks
(a)	(1)		Each first-time applicant for a license issued by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing shall apply to the Identification Bureau of the Department of Arkansas State Police for a state and national criminal background check, to be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
	(2)		At the time a person applies to an Arkansas nursing educational program, the program shall notify the applicant in writing of the provisions and requirements of this section.
(b)			The check shall conform to the applicable federal standards and shall include the taking of fingerprints.
(c)			The applicant shall sign a release of information to the board and shall be responsible to the Division of Arkansas State Police for the payment of any fee associated with the criminal background check.
(d)			Upon completion of the criminal background check, the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police shall forward to the board all releasable information obtained concerning the applicant.
(e)			For purposes of this section, the board shall follow the licensing restrictions based on criminal records under § 17-3-102.
(f)	(1)		The board may issue a nonrenewable temporary permit for licensure to a first-time applicant pending the results of the criminal background check.
	(2)		The permit shall be valid for no more than six (6) months.
(g)	(1)		Any information received by the board from the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police under this section shall not be available for examination except by:
		(A)	The affected applicant for licensure or his or her authorized representative; or
		(B)	The person whose license is subject to revocation or his or her authorized representative.
	(2)		No record, file, or document shall be removed from the custody of the Division of Arkansas State Police.
(h)			Any information made available to the affected applicant for licensure or the person whose license is subject to revocation shall be information pertaining to that person only.
(i)			Rights of privilege and confidentiality established in this section shall not extend to any document created for purposes other than this background check.
(j)			The board shall adopt the necessary rules to fully implement the provisions of this section
(k)	(1)		The board may participate at the state and federal level in programs that provide notification of an arrest subsequent to an initial background check that is conducted through available governmental systems.
	(2)		The board may submit an applicant's fingerprints to the federal Next Generation Identification system.

	(3)		The fingerprints may be searched by future submissions to the Next Generation Identification system, including latent fingerprint searches
	(4)		An applicant enrolled in the Next Generation Identification system is not required to re-fingerprint when a subsequent request for a state or federal criminal history background check is required if:
		(A)	A legible set of the applicant's fingerprints is obtained when the applicant enrolls in the Next Generation Identification system; and
		(B)	The applicant is subject to the Rap Back service of the Next Generation Identification system.
(I)			The Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation may maintain fingerprints in the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System.
			17-3-102. Licensing restrictions based on criminal records. 6/1/2026
(a)			An individual is not eligible to receive or hold a license issued by a licensing entity if that individual has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or been found guilty of any of the following offenses by any court in the State of Arkansas or of any similar offense by a court in another state or of any similar offense by a federal court, unless the conviction was lawfully sealed under the Comprehensive Criminal Record Sealing Act of 2013, § 16-90-1401 et seq., or otherwise previously sealed, pardoned or expunged under prior law:
	(1)		Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
	(2)		Murder in the first degree and second degree as prohibited in §§ 5-10-102 and 5-10-103;
	(3)		Manslaughter as prohibited in § 5-10-104;
	(4)		Negligent homicide as prohibited in § 5-10-105;
	(5)		Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
	(6)		False imprisonment in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-11-103;
	(7)		Permanent detention or restraint as prohibited in § 5-11-106;
	(8)		Robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-102;
	(9)		Aggravated robbery as prohibited in § 5-12-103;
	(10)		Battery in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-201;
	(11)		Aggravated assault as prohibited in § 5-13-204;
	(12)		Introduction of controlled substance into the body of another person as prohibited in § 5-13-210;
	(13)		Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility as prohibited in § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
	(14)		Terroristic threatening in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-13-301;
	(15)		Rape as prohibited in §§ 5-14-103;
	(16)		Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110, if the offense is a felony;
	(17)		Sexual extortion as prohibited in, § 5-14-113;
	(18)		Sexual assault in the first degree, second degree, third degree, and fourth degree as prohibited in §§ 5-14-124 – 5-14-127;
	(19)		Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
	(20)		Offenses against the family as prohibited in §§ 5-26-303 -- 5-26-306;
	(21)		Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
	(22)		Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205
	(23)		Permitting the abuse of a minor as prohibited in § 5-27-221
	(24)		Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 - 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;
	(25)		Possession or use of child sexual abuse material as prohibited in § 5-27-603
	(26)		Computer exploitation of a child in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-605;
	(27)		Felony adult abuse as prohibited in § 5-28-103;
	(28)		Theft of property as prohibited in § 5-36-103;
	(29)		Theft by receiving as prohibited in § 5-36-106;
	(30)		Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301;

	(31)		Burglary as prohibited in § 5-39-201;
	(32)		Felony violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, §§ 5-64-101 et seq., as prohibited in the former § 5-64-401, and §§ 5-64-419 -- 5-64-442;
	(33)		Promotion of prostitution in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-70-104;
	(34)		Stalking as prohibited in § 5-71-229;
	(35)		Criminal attempt, criminal complicity, criminal solicitation, or criminal conspiracy as prohibited in §§ 5-3-201, 5-3-202, 5-3-301, and 5-3-401, to commit any of the offenses listed in this subsection; and
	(36)		All other crimes referenced in this title.
(b)	(1)		If an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) or subsection (e) of this section, a licensing entity may waive disqualification or revocation of a license based on the conviction if a request for a waiver is made by:
		(A)	An affected applicant for a license; or
		(B)	The individual holding a license subject to revocation.
	(2)		A basis upon which a waiver may be granted includes without limitation:
		(A)	The age at which the crime was committed;
		(B)	The circumstances surrounding the offense;
		(C)	The length of time since the offense was committed;
		(D)	Subsequent work history: since the offense was committed;
		(E)	Employment references since the offense was committed;
		(F)	Character references since the offense was committed;
		(G)	Relevance of the offense to the occupational license; and
		(H)	Other evidence demonstrating that licensure of the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of the public.
	(3)		The waiver requirements of this section are not required for a renewal of a license if an individual has been convicted of a crime listed in subsection (a) of this section and has either:
		(A)	Completed the waiver requirements of this section at his or her initial licensure
		(B)	Been licensed in this state before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section; or
		(C)	Attended a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license before the enactment of subsection (a) of this section and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.
(c)			If an individual has a valid criminal conviction for an offense that could disqualify the individual from receiving a license, the disqualification shall not be considered for more than five (5) years from the date of conviction or incarceration or on which probation ends, whichever date is the latest, if the individual:
		(A)	Was not convicted for committing a violent or sexual offense; and
		(B)	Has not been convicted of any other offense during the five-year disqualification period.
(d)			A licensing entity shall not, as a basis upon which a license may be granted or denied:
	(1)		Use vague or generic terms, including without limitation the phrase "moral turpitude" and "good character"; or
	(2)		Consider arrests without a subsequent conviction.
(e)			Due to the serious nature of the offenses, the following shall result in permanent disqualification for licensure, regardless of the date of conviction or the date on which probation or incarceration ends unless a waiver is granted under subsection (b) of this section:
	(1)		Capital murder as prohibited in § 5-10-101;
	(2)		Murder in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-10-102 and murder in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-10-103;
	(3)		Kidnapping as prohibited in § 5-11-102;
	(4)		Aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer or an employee of a correctional facility, § 5-13-211, if a Class Y felony;
	(5)		Rape as prohibited in § 5-14-103;
	(6)		Sexual extortion as prohibited in, § 5-14-113;

	(7)		Sexual assault in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-14-124 and sexual assault in the second degree as prohibited in § 5-14-125;
	(8)		Incest as prohibited in § 5-26-202;
	(9)		Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-201;
	(10)		Endangering the welfare of a minor in the first degree as prohibited in § 5-27-205;
	(11)		Adult abuse that constitutes a felony as prohibited in § 5-28-103; and
	(12)		Arson as prohibited in § 5-38-301.
	(13)		Engaging children in sexually explicit conduct for use in visual or print media, transportation of minors for prohibited sexual conduct, pandering or possessing visual or print media depicting sexually explicit conduct involving a child, or use of a child or consent to use of a child in a sexual performance by producing, directing or promoting a sexual performance by a child as prohibited in §§ 5-27-303 - 5-27-305, 5-27-402, and 5-27-403;
(f)			This chapter does not preclude a licensing entity from taking emergency action against a licensee as authorized under § 25-15-211 for the sake of public health, safety, or welfare
(g)			The disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (a) of this section and the disqualification for an offense listed in subsection (e) of this section do not apply to:
	(1)		An individual who holds a valid license on July 24, 2019;
	(2)		An individual who holds a valid license on or before July 24, 2019, but failed to renew his or her license for any reason; or
	(3)		An individual who was a student on or before July 24, 2019, in a professional or occupational school, program, or training in pursuit of an occupational license and would have been qualified to hold an occupational license on or before July 24, 2019.
(h)			This section does not apply to licensure or certification:
	(1)		Of professions not governed by this title;
	(2)		Of polygraph examiners and voice stress analysis examiners under § 17-39-101 et seq.;
	(3)		Of private investigators and private security agencies under the Private Security Agency, Private Investigator, and School Security Licensing and Credentialing Act, § 17-40-101 et seq.; or
	(4)		Of body artists under § 17-26-601 et seq.
	(5)		Of cosmetologists licensed under Title 17, Chapter 26, Subchapter 3.

PROGRESSION

To progress in the nursing program, a student must meet and agree to the following guidelines:

- A. The nursing curriculum requires that the nursing courses be taken in sequences with the expectation of building on prior learning.
- B. Maintain an overall grade point average of 2.0
- C. Achieve a grade of "C" or above in the theory component of all Nursing courses.
Grading System
100-90.5 = A
90-83.5 = B
83-78.5 = C
78-69.5 = D
Below 69.4 = F
- D. Perform safely and ethically in all nursing course work.
- E. The assignment grade will be applied only after the student has attained a score of 79% or higher on all examinations. If a student's average on unit exams and the final exam is below 79%, they will not advance in the program and the homework grade will not be added. If the total exam average is greater than 79%, the assignment grade may lower the final course grade to below 79%, resulting in failure of the course.
- F. Achieve a "satisfactory" in the clinical component of all courses titled Nursing that have corresponding hospital or laboratory experiences. If student is unsuccessful in clinical, the theory grade (if higher than a "D") is automatically lowered to a grade of "D". Students cannot progress in the program.
- G. Earn a grade of "C" or above in each course required in the nursing curriculum. Graduation from the nursing program requires a minimum grade of "C" or better in all courses required in the nursing curriculum.
- H. Satisfactorily complete all academic prerequisites listed in the degree plan.
- I. Must have mental and physical health sufficient to maintain expected program activities. Students with changes in their health after admission, must present a health release from their physician to continue in their clinical nursing course. (examples: pregnancy, surgery, hypertension, etc.)
- J. May re-enter the program one time by compliance with the readmission criteria.
- K. Must complete the entire program within (5) five years after admission to the nursing program. If the program is not completed within five years; students may be asked to repeat some nursing and science courses.
- L. All nursing courses must be dropped if a student is unsuccessful (below 79%) in any nursing course during the semester.
- M. Understand that nursing courses cannot be audited.
- N. Math Exams in the Registered Nursing Program: Due to the potential for safety errors when administering medication, the RN Program has established the following math exam competency policy.

Traditional RN Program

Students will be given a math exam during NURS1107 Fundamentals of Nursing and during NURS 2128 Medical Surgical Nursing III. The content covered on the exam will be equitable to the math concepts that will have been covered up to that point in the course(s). The student must pass the math exam with a 90% or greater score. The student may take the exam 3 times. A different exam will be given each time but will cover the same content. If the student does not pass the math exam on the 3rd attempt with a 90% or greater, then they will be dismissed from the program. The faculty will provide formal remediation.

RN Bridge Program

Students will be given a math exam during NURS2158 Nursing Process I and during NURS 2178 Nursing Process III. The content covered on the exam will be equitable to the math concepts that will have been covered up to that point in the course(s). The student must pass the math exam with a 90% or greater score. The student may take the exam 3 times. A different exam will be given each time but will cover the same content. If the student does not pass the math exam on the 3rd attempt with a 90% or greater, then they will be dismissed from the program. The faculty will provide formal remediation.

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND DISMISSAL

To complete each nursing course students must fulfill both academic and professional requirements. Professional standards are demonstrated by students when they consistently meet standards described in the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act, the American Nurses' Association Code of Ethics, and the National Student Nurse Association Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct. Professional standards also apply to classroom behavior and any instance when the student represents the nursing program of UA Northark. Students who fail to meet course, department or college policies may be placed on an improvement plan.

Students will be informed of behaviors/performances inconsistent with program expectations as well as professional nursing standards and will be placed on an improvement plan as follows.

- A. Verbal Improvement Plan: Students exhibiting minor, correctable, isolated unprofessional behavior will be given a verbal improvement plan that is to be documented. Documentation will include constructive feedback for modifying behavior(s) to meet professional standards. This does not require a student's signature. This form will be placed in the student's file. The faculty initiating the behavior improvement warning will inform the course coordinator. The student is expected to modify the behavior accordingly. If the behavior is not modified or if new unprofessional behaviors arise, a signed written improvement form will be initiated.
- B. Written Improvement Plan: Students exhibiting repeated or multiple minors, correctable unsatisfactory professional and/or personal behaviors, and/or academic performance issues, require written notification. The behavior(s) will be documented on the Improvement Form. The faculty initiating the improvement form will review the identified academic/professional problem. The student will document their plan of action to correct the issue, and both will sign and date written notification. The form will be placed in the student's file and a copy given to them. The faculty initiating the behavior improvement plan will inform the course coordinator. The student is expected to modify the behavior accordingly.

- C. If a student continues to demonstrate the unsatisfactory professional and/or personal behaviors, and/or academic performance issues, the student may be dismissed.

D. Dismissal

A student will be dismissed from the Registered Nursing Program for the following:

1. have earned a "D" or "F" in any nursing course
2. have earned a "D" or "F" in two required non-nursing courses.
3. excessive absences or tardiness as stated as stated in the attendance policy
4. breeched confidentiality of the patient, the family, or the agency
5. Participates in one or more of the following:
 - a. misrepresentation or falsification of yourself or another student, as well as patient and/or agency records
 - b. sexual harassment
 - c. engages in sexual relations with a patient when a generally recognized professional relationship exists
 - d. act or threat of intimidation, harassment, or physical aggression
 - e. illegal possession, sale, or distribution of prescription or illicit drugs.
 - f. Illegal possession of weapons
 - g. unauthorized possession of examinations
 - h. plagiarism
 - i. theft
 - j. academic cheating, dishonesty, or misconduct
 - k. failure to exhibit acceptable professional behavior or any other activity which is incompatible with professional behavior as indicated in the Code of Ethics for Nurses (Appendix A).
 - l. failure to exhibit safe clinical practice according to the National Student Nurse Association Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct
 - m. activities which are determined to be dishonest, inconsistent with professional responsibility and accountability, and/or may be detrimental to the protection, safety, and welfare of patient and the public or in any situation when representing the Registered Nursing Program of UA Northark.
 - n. no call – no show. See Attendance Policy
6. Positive drug screen without a valid prescription.
7. Refusal to submit to a drug screen

E. Petition for Exception

Students who have been dismissed for program policy violations may file a petition for exception. Petition for exception is made to the Director of Nursing. During the petition process, students may continue to attend class and/or clinical at the discretion of the director. After thorough review by the director and faculty the petition is voted on by all full-time faculty. The student may be dismissed or allowed to return to the program with strategies or assignments to improve performance. Students readmitted following a petition for exception will be placed on departmental probation. The terms of departmental probation will be defined by faculty and related to the specific incident. If a student has been dismissed from the program, they may be ineligible for readmission depending on the circumstances of the dismissal.

F. [Academic Grievance](#)

The Registered Nursing Program works with the students in finding fair and just solutions to problems, including any student grievance, appeal, question, misunderstanding, or discrimination. Students may file a grievance according to the UA Northark grievance policy that follows:

1. If a student has a complaint about an academic issue, he or she will go to the instructor to file a complaint.
2. If the instructor is unable to resolve the issue, the student will go to the chair or program director of the department (RN Program Director).
3. If the chair or program director is unable to resolve the issue, the chair will inform the student they have the right to start a grievance process, beginning with the completion of a Report on the Pioneer Portal. Upon completing basic information on the form and pressing Submit, the form will go to the Dean's Administrative Assistant, who will then forward it to the dean, informing the student to make an appointment with the dean to discuss the matter further.
4. Should the student be unable to resolve the grievance with the dean, he/she may then within five class days of speaking with the dean, request the grievance go to the Academic Grievance Committee facilitated by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
5. The decision of the Academic Grievance Committee will be communicated to the student within five days. The decision of the Committee is final.

G. Non-Academic Grievance

Any student who believes an injustice or a violation of state, federal, or college policies, laws, or regulations have occurred should try to resolve the problem through informal consultation with the individuals indicated below, in order, before filing a formal grievance.

- Individual or staff member involved
- Appropriate supervisor of the staff member involved
- Appropriate Dean of the staff member involved

If the student has been unable to resolve the issue, the student may file a formal grievance within five business days by completing a Report on the Pioneer Portal located on the website homepage. This completed form is submitted to the appropriate department head for a final attempt at a resolution. If no resolution can be obtained, the issue is presented to the Institutional Standards and Appeals Committee. The Institutional Standards and Appeals Committee, whose decision is final, will notify the student within five business days of their decision. [Policy: Non-Academic Grievance](#)

READMISSION

Re-admission to the nursing program is not automatic and all initial admission criteria applies.

- A. Students can be readmitted to the program providing:
 1. reentry allows for completion within 5 years from start
 2. the student must repeat all co-requisite nursing courses of the semester they withdrew from to ensure preparation for taking the NCLEX-RN exam.
 3. there is available space in the next class.
 4. student submits a letter of desire to the RN Director in writing (paper or e-mail) at least 3 months prior to the semester being re-applied
 5. student passes the re-entry exam with 79% or higher
 6. student performs clinical skills test applicable to the content. After planned practice in the simulation lab, the student must pass the skills test on the first try.
 7. must have a 2.5 overall grade point average.
 8. the student is accountable for changes in the degree requirements at the time of readmission.
 9. the student must meet all academic, professional, and health requirements in effect at the time of readmission.
- B. Students who have been dismissed for academic integrity or behavior problems are required to take UA Northark FYE Course before being readmitted.

- C. Students unable to return within 5-year completion OR students who did not successfully complete the first semester, will need to re-apply, go through the selection process, and take the entire nursing curriculum. The applicants who have previously been admitted to the RN program and failed will be placed on the alternate list for the RN and RN Bridge programs (NURS 1107 & NURS 2158).
- D. Students are allowed one (1) readmission into the program. This applies whether the student withdrew previously in good standing, not in good standing, or not successfully completing a semester.
- E. If a student receives an unacceptable grade (D or below) in a nursing course or withdraws without completing the course work, that student may reapply to the program for the acceptable point of re-entry or reapply to NURS 1107 Fundamentals of Nursing or NURS 2158 Nursing Process. Example – if the student is enrolled in Medical Surgical Nursing I and is unsuccessful then they may re-apply to the course one time or re-apply to the program again.

GRADUATION

The Associate Degree in Nursing is awarded to students who:

- A. earn 66 credits (Traditional RN Class) or 63 credits (RN Bridge Class) with a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or above.
- B. earn a "C" or above in all courses required in the nursing curriculum.
- C. fulfill all nursing program course requirements.
- D. file an application for graduation form with the Registrar's Office within the specified time limits.

The Health Profession Graduation and Pinning Ceremony celebrates the RN graduate's accomplishment and welcomes the new graduate to the profession. This time-honored tradition marks the transition from student nurse to graduate nurse and is, typically, an emotional event to share with family and friends. The ceremony is combined with other allied health professions.

- Date, Place & Time: Designated by college and is published with the academic calendar.
- Dress: cap and gown provided by the college.
- Graduates march into the ceremony led by faculty members.
- Pinning: each member of the graduating class selects a program faculty member or a special registered nurse to place the pin on his/her uniform. Only an RN may pin the student.
- The class recites the Nightingale Pledge as a professional statement of the nurse's mission and values. The Gideons, Int. will provide a "Nursing Testament".
- Graduates are presented and guests invited to a reception in the Bradley Student Center.

TRANSFER

A transfer student is defined as one who has successfully completed one or more nursing courses at another college with at least a letter grade of C. Applicants who have not been successful in another nursing program are not eligible for transfer into upper-level nursing courses. They may apply for admission to NURS 1107 or NURS 2158. Transfer students must pass the entrance exam with a 79% or higher; and skill test commensurate with the level of entry that they are applying to. After planned practice in the simulation lab the student must pass the skills test on the first try. Transfer students must meet all the admission criteria and will be considered on an individual basis by the director of nursing after review of transcripts. Placement is based on available space. A letter of reference must be received from the Director of the Nursing program in which an applicant has been attending. The reference form will be sent directly to the RN Program Director. This applies to any health profession program that a student has attended in the past. If the applicant does not receive a positive reference from the previous nursing or health profession program, then they will not be considered for a position in the UA Northark RN Program. Each applicant's status will be reviewed by the RN Program Director and advised for possible entry or transfer into the program.

CLINICAL FACILITIES

The nursing student is required to spend a predetermined number of hours in the clinical setting. Clinical rotations may include skills labs on campus, various area hospitals, simulation in the campus Health Education Simulation Center, physician's offices, mental health agencies, public schools, nursing homes, community health settings, etc.

The student, upon admission to the program, must be available to attend any of the nursing course's scheduled clinical days and/or clinical sites. This may include evening shift or weekend experiences. Transportation to these facilities is the student's responsibility and student must have access to a safe, reliable motor vehicle during their clinical studies. Travel arrangements, living accommodations, meals, and similar expenses that are associated with clinical assignments are the responsibility of the individual student.

Current acute care clinical facilities include:

Baxter Regional Medical Center.....	Mountain Home, Arkansas
North Arkansas Regional Medical Center.....	Harrison, Arkansas
Cox Medical Center Branson.....	Branson, Missouri
Mercy Hospital Berryville.....	Berryville, Arkansas
Washington Regional Medical Center.....	Fayetteville, Arkansas

Due to unforeseen circumstances, it is at times necessary for students to change to another clinical site other than the one which was originally scheduled. The RN Program reserves the right to schedule clinical experiences as they become available in area hospitals or other area facilities. The RN Program will communicate with students as early as possible regarding clinical changes.

REGISTERED NURSING PROGRAM TECHNICAL STANDARDS FORM

The provision of safe patient care necessitates the student's ability to respond to multiple sensory and environmental cues. It is essential that the student be able to read, understand, and apply the information in nursing textbooks, and clinical records. It is essential that the student be able to effectively communicate with patients, families, and peers. The student must be able to tolerate stressful and physically taxing workloads. The student may be exposed to communicable or infectious disease, hazardous materials, and injury from performance of assigned duties.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
|
Communication | ☐ Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and word usage with patients, families, and co-workers.

☐ Perform mathematical calculation for medication preparation and administration.

☐ Demonstrate basic computer/information technology skills.

☐ Must be able to demonstrate the ability to complete assignments within an allotted timeframe. |
|
Vision | ☐ Perform close and distance visual activities involving objects, people, and Paperwork, as well as discriminate depth and color perception. |
|
Hearing | ☐ Respond and react immediately to auditory instruction, request, and/or monitor equipment; perform auditory auscultation without auditory impediment. |
|
Motor Skills | ☐ Lift and transfer patients up to 6 inches from a stooped position, then push or pull the weight up to 3 feet.

☐ Lift and transfer patients from a stooped to an upright position to accomplish bed-to-chair and chair-to-bed transfers.

☐ Work in a standing position and walk frequently.

☐ Apply up to 10 pounds of pressure to bleeding sites, or in performing CPR. |
|
Psychological Skills | ☐ Perform up to twelve-hours in a clinical/laboratory setting.

☐ Be able to tolerate various odors.

☐ Discriminate between sharp/dull and hot/cold when using hands.

☐ Must be able to use critical thinking skills to interpret and evaluate patient data.

☐ Make safe decisions under stressful situations.

☐ Perform effectively and professionally in a stressful environment/situation.

☐ Work well with others. |

North Arkansas College of the University of Arkansas

2025 Annual State of the RN Program

The RN Program at North Arkansas College provides this annual State of the Program flyer each year as a means of communicating with and soliciting feedback from our communities of interest. Contact information for questions or input is below.

The RN Nursing department offers a program leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.). The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) through Spring 2029. Approval of the program with Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) is through 2031.

GRADUATE SUCCESS ON THE LICENSING EXAM:

Our goal is for our graduates to achieve a first-time NLCEX-RN pass rate of at least 80%. Pass rates were lower for students who began the program during covid and remote instruction but have improved statistically. All students who did not pass the NCLEX on their first attempt completed the full 150 questions, suggesting they were close to the passing standard. Each of these students subsequently passed on their second attempt. No consistent patterns were identified in the content areas where these students scored below the passing standard.

	2023		2024		2025	
	NAC %	National %	NAC %	National %	NAC %	National %
Traditional	94%	88%	94%	91%	94%	97%
Bridge	100%		86%		100%	

STUDENT RETENTION OR COMPLETION RATE:

Our goal is to achieve a 60% program completion rate, meaning that 60% of the students who begin the program will graduate on time. Data analysis continues to show steady retention. Faculty are strongly committed to student success, providing ongoing coaching and mentorship throughout the program. Faculty are considering an increase in our target completion rate.

	2023	2024	2025
Traditional	67%	75%	85%
Bridge	83%	92%	83%

GRADUATES OBTAINING A JOB:

Our goal is that 93% of graduates responding to the Post-Graduate Survey, six months after graduation report employment as a Registered Nurse. The local RN job market remains strong, with most graduates securing employment prior to graduation. Historically, NAC graduates are highly sought after due to their demonstrated performance and readiness to succeed as new professionals in the field. Data was lower for the 2024 & 2025 RN Bridge cohort. Faculty will continue to monitor. Potentially reword the employment question for clarification.

	2023	2024	2025
Traditional	93%	100%	93%
Bridge	100%	82%	82%

END OF PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME	% Of Students Meeting Standard		
	2023	2024	2025
Utilize therapeutic communication and serve as patient advocate to promote patient centered care.	80%	83%	90%
Apply principles of critical reasoning using collaboration and teamwork to promote safe quality care.	76%	75%	78%
Seek out learning opportunities using technology to integrate best current evidence with clinical expertise for the delivery of optimal health care.	84%	83%	85%
Demonstrate professional behavior that reflects accountability, responsibility, and ethical nursing practice.	87%	89%	93%
Faculty analyze student learning outcomes yearly. Achievement has been consistent over the past several years. The program uses a variety of tools to measure student success including standardized testing, simulation, clinical evaluation tools, a preceptor assignment, and group assignments. Faculty regularly review end-of-program data and make targeted adjustments to teaching strategies and course content to further support student learning and improve outcomes. Improvement was seen in student learning outcome one following the addition of a medical-surgical chapter that had not been taught previously.			

For more information please contact:
 Carla Jacobs, MSN, RN
 Executive Director of Health Professions
 Phone 870-391-3535
cjacobs@northark.edu

**UA Northark
RN Bridge
Estimated Program Cost Analysis 2026**

Prerequisites & General Education Requirements

Fall Semester

Tuition (16 hours)	
Boone County Residents	\$1984.00
Out-of-County Residents	\$2240.00
Contiguous County Residents	\$2736.00
(Barry, Ozark, Stone, & Taney in Missouri)	
Out-of-State Residents	\$3472.00
Science Lab Fee	\$ 32.00
<i>(\$8.00 Per Credit Hour)</i>	
Online Course Fee	\$ 320.00
<i>(\$20.00 Per Online or Hybrid/Blended Online Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Mandatory Student Fees	\$ 656.00
<i>(activity fee, student services fee, safety & parking fee, technology fee, & student government fee per credit hour)</i>	
Books	\$ 564.00

Spring Semester

Tuition (16 hours)	
Boone County Residents	\$1984.00
Out-of-County Residents	\$2240.00
Contiguous County Residents	\$2736.00
(Barry, Ozark, Stone, & Taney in Missouri)	
Out-of-State Residents	\$3472.00
Health Professions Program Fee	\$ 656.00
<i>(\$38.00 per Program/Health Professions Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Registered Nursing Program Fee	\$ 600.00
<i>(\$40.00 per Course Credit Hour for Registered Nursing Courses)</i>	
Online Course Fee	\$ 160.00
<i>(\$20.00 Per Online or Hybrid/Blended Online Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Science Lab Fee	\$ 32.00
<i>(\$8.00 Per Credit Hour)</i>	
Mandatory Student Fees	\$ 748.00
<i>(activity fee, student services fee, safety & parking fee, technology fee, & Student government fee per credit hour)</i>	
Books	\$ 428.00
Immunizations	\$ 300.00
CPR Certifications	\$ 55.00
Uniform/Name Tag	\$ 150.00
Stethoscope	\$ 50.00
Bandage Scissors	\$ 5.00
Watch with Sweeping Second Hand	\$ 25.00

Summer Semester

Tuition (7 hours)	
Boone County Residents	\$ 868.00
Out-of-County Residents	\$ 980.00
Contiguous County Residents	\$1197.00
(Barry, Ozark, Stone, & Taney in Missouri)	
Out-of-State Residents	\$1519.00
Health Professions Program Fee	\$ 266.00
<i>(\$38.00 per Program/Health Professions Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Registered Nursing Program Fee	\$ 280.00
<i>(\$40.00 per Course Credit Hour for Registered Nursing Courses)</i>	
Online Course Fee	\$ 140.00
<i>(\$20.00 Per Online or Hybrid/Blended Online Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Mandatory Student Fees	\$ 287.00
<i>(activity fee, student services fee, safety & parking fee, technology fee, & student government fee per credit hour)</i>	

Fall Semester

Tuition (18 hours)	
Boone County Residents	\$2232.00
Out-of-County Residents	\$2520.00
Contiguous County Residents	\$3078.00
(Barry, Ozark, Stone, & Taney in Missouri)	
Out-of-State Residents	\$3906.00
Health Professions Program Fee	\$ 418.00
<i>(\$38.00 per Program/Health Professions Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Registered Nursing Program Fee	\$ 440.00
<i>(\$40.00 per Course Credit Hour for Registered Nursing Courses)</i>	
Online Course Fee	\$ 40.00
<i>(\$20.00 Per Online or Hybrid/Blended Online Course Credit Hour)</i>	
Science Lab Fee	\$ 32.00
<i>(\$8.00 Per Credit Hour)</i>	
Mandatory Student Fees	\$ 738.00
<i>(activity fee, student services fee, safety & parking fee, technology fee, & Student government fee per credit hour)</i>	
Books	\$150.00
Program Pin (optional).....	\$50.00
NCLEX Licensure Exam	\$200.00
State Licensure Application	\$135.00
Pre-License Background Check	\$ 63.00

Totals

Boone County Residents	\$15,088.00
Out-of-County Residents	\$16,000.00
Contiguous County Residents	\$17,767.00
(Barry, Ozark, Stone, & Taney in Missouri)	
Out-of-State Residents	\$20,389.00