Dear Prospective Nursing Student:

This packet was designed to provide you with information about the Health Science programs, the profession of nursing, and the Nursing Program at Brookdale Community College. It includes the nursing admission process and the curriculum requirements for the Nursing Program.

Before considering admission to the program, we suggest you take time to investigate the profession. Visiting the College Library or searching the Internet may help you to better understand the job requirements and the program.

Any questions regarding admission to the Brookdale Community College Nursing Program should be addressed to healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu. Questions about prerequisites and courses should be directed to a counselor (Student Development Specialist), at 732.224.2555. If you have specific questions about the field of nursing, please contact the Director of Nursing, Mary Ehret.

Good luck with your decision.

Sincerely,

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HEALTH SCIENCE PROGRAMS

The Health Science programs at Brookdale Community College include the Health Information Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Nursing, Radiologic Technology, and Respiratory Care programs. There is also access to Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs through a cooperative agreement with Rutgers School of Health Related Professions.

Each of the Brookdale Health Science programs as well as the Dental Hygiene Program leads to an Associate in Applied Science degree and is designed for immediate employment upon graduation. However, many students choose to continue in a bachelor’s degree program. Some of the schools where Brookdale graduates have enrolled include New Jersey City University, Rutgers University, Monmouth University, Georgian Court College, Johns Hopkins University, and Seton Hall University. The Dental Assisting Program leads to a certificate.

So that students are prepared at an entry level in their field of choice, college laboratory and clinical laboratory experiences are integrated into each of the health science programs. Students have the opportunity to practice skills in the college laboratory and then apply these skills to patient care in a hospital setting.

Students enrolling in these programs must meet specific admission requirements in addition to applying to the College. Health clearance from a physician or an advanced practice nurse is required before the student can participate in clinical laboratory experiences.

Disclaimer—The content and requirements of this admission packet may be altered at any time at the discretion of the College. This packet was checked for accuracy at the time of printing but should not be considered a contract between the College and the student.
REGISTERED NURSES

Nature of the Work

Registered nurses care for the sick and help people stay well. They are typically concerned with the “whole person,” providing for the physical, mental, and emotional needs of their patients. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families, and communities. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress; administer medications; instruct patients and families in proper care; and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. They also help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health.

Hospital nurses form the largest group of nurses. Most are staff nurses who provide bedside nursing care and carry out medical regimens. They may also supervise licensed practical nurses and aides. Hospital nurses usually are assigned to one area such as surgery, maternity, pediatrics, emergency room, intensive care, or treatment of cancer patients.

Home health nurses provide services to patients at home. After assessing patients’ home environments, they care for and instruct patients and their families. Home health nurses care for a broad range of patients, such as those recovering from illnesses and accidents, cancer and childbirth. They must be able to work independently and may supervise home health aides.

Community health nurses work in government and private agencies and clinics, schools, retirement communities, and other community settings. They focus on populations, working with individuals, groups, and families to improve the overall health of communities. Community health nurses instruct individuals, families, and other groups in health education, disease prevention, nutrition, and child care. They also arrange for immunizations, blood pressure testing, and other health screenings.

Nursing home nurses manage nursing care for residents with conditions ranging from a fracture to Alzheimer’s disease. Although they spend some of their time on administrative and supervisory tasks, registered nurses also assess residents’ medical conditions, develop treatment plans, and supervise licensed practical nurses and nurses aides.

Nurses can advance to management positions. Increasingly, these positions require a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Opportunities to pursue a baccalaureate degree in nursing are available through the Communiversity.

With a master’s degree in nursing, registered nurses may obtain certification as advanced practice nurses, enabling them to provide primary health care and diagnose and treat common illnesses and injuries. Advanced practice nurses can also prescribe medications and devices.
Job Outlook

Employment of registered nurses is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations. Faster-than-average growth will be driven by technological advances in patient care, which permit a greater number of medical problems to be treated, and increasing emphasis on primary care. In addition, the number of older people, who are much more likely than younger people to need medical care, is projected to grow very rapidly.

Earnings

In Monmouth County a full-time registered nurse can expect to start at around $25 per hour.
LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH SCIENCE GRADUATES

Graduates of the Health Science programs who wish to apply for a license to practice must answer questions on the licensing application related to criminal history. These questions can be accessed on the respective discipline Web site under the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs.

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS

Clinical agencies mandate criminal history background checks for all students engaged in patient care, and each student must undergo a criminal history background check, which requires a valid Social Security number. These checks are conducted by an external vendor, and the information is sent to the College and to clinical agencies. Agency personnel will evaluate the information they receive and, in their sole discretion, make the final determination as to each student’s ability to continue to engage in patient care in their agency. If a student is denied clinical placement by any clinical agency due to criminal history information, that student will be dismissed from the program.
NURSING PROGRAM ADMISSION PROCESS

Introduction
The objective of the admission process is to admit qualified applicants to the Nursing Program. A rolling admission process is used for this program; that is, completed applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis, and qualified applicants who have completed the entire admission process are admitted until each class reaches capacity. When there are more applicants than seats for each class, a waiting list is kept in the Science & Health Science Division office.* It is the responsibility of each applicant to verify his/her status on the waiting list with the Health Science Associate and to notify registration and the Science & Health Science office if there is any change in address.

Requirements for admission to the Nursing Program include:
1. Graduation from high school or a GED.
2. Completion of the Brookdale application.
3. Completion of the Nursing Program application.
4. Completion of all Basic Skills courses as determined by the College Basic Skills Placement Test.
5. Completion of high school biology and chemistry or the equivalent college courses.
6. Achievement of passing scores on the Health Science entrance examination.
7. Attendance at an Information Session.
8. Completion of a Nurse’s Aide course.

Two (2) copies of high school/college transcripts are required. An official copy is to be sent directly to the Admissions Office. The other copy should be brought with the student for the meeting with the counselor (Student Development Specialist). All communication with the Admissions Office should be addressed to:

Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts
Office of Admissions
Brookdale Community College
765 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu

*There may be a waiting list for the Nursing Program. Please check with Beth Stryker at 732.224.2330 or Lynn Hodgetts at 732.224.2275 for more information.
Application Process

1. Complete the College application.

2. **Complete the Nursing Program application.** The Nursing Program application should be returned to the Admissions Office as quickly as possible. The date that this application is received in the Admissions Office will determine in part (see #9 below) your placement on the waiting list. Tech Prep high school students may submit this application during their junior year if they are enrolled in chemistry and if the Health Science entrance examination has been scheduled.

3. **Take the Basic Skills Placement Test.** When you file a College application, you will automatically be scheduled for the Basic Skills Placement Test. This test is used to determine readiness for college-level courses. It includes English, mathematics, reading, and algebra. Students who do not pass a section(s) of the test must take the appropriate developmental course(s).

   If a student has completed at least 24 college level credits including English composition and a mathematics course higher than elementary Algebra with a grade of “C” or better from an accredited college, this test may be waived. In order to obtain a waiver, contact the Admissions Office. For high school students, the Basic Skills Placement Test may be taken in the senior year.

4. **Meet with Counseling and Advising.** Students will be given information about meeting with a counselor (Student Development Specialist) after taking the Basic Skills Placement Test. Within one week, it is the student’s responsibility to make an appointment with a counselor (Student Development Specialist) to have the Basic Skills Placement Test results interpreted and to select appropriate courses. Tech Prep high school students should schedule a meeting with their Brookdale counselor (Student Development Specialist) before November of their senior year.

5. **Complete high school biology and chemistry or equivalent college courses.**

6. **Take the Health Science entrance examination for nursing students.** When all Basic Skills courses and high school biology and chemistry, or equivalent college courses, are complete and grades posted to your transcript, contact Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts at healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu to get a pass for the Health Science entrance examination. All the above steps must be completed before the Health Science entrance examination can be taken.

   Students not achieving the cut-off score (75 percent English Language Composite score and 75 percent Math score) on the Health Science entrance examination for nursing students should contact their counselor (Student Development Specialist) as soon as possible. Students may only take this exam twice in a twelve month period: however, it is recommended that any courses which could improve test results be completed prior to re-testing.

   Tech Prep high school students may take the Basic Skills Placement Test after the Health Science entrance examination has been scheduled.

7. **Attend an Information Session.** Once you have successfully completed the above steps you will be scheduled for an Information Session. Attendance at the Information Session is a mandatory step in the admission process. The purposes of the session are to provide the students with more specific information about the program and to provide an opportunity for students to raise questions and share concerns. During the Information Session, students will complete a questionnaire which will be used by the Science & Health Science Division office. High school students may attend the Information Session during their senior year.

8. **Read the Criminal History Background Check Information on Page 6.** Criminal history clearance is required to begin the program.
9. **Be placed on the waiting list.** After you have attended the Information Session your name will be placed on the waiting list. Placement on the waiting list will be prioritized by information session and then by the date the Nursing Program application is received in the Admissions Office.

10. **Complete a nurse's aide course with a passing grade** The following courses are accepted: Certified Nurse Aide, Certified Home Health Aide, Patient Care Assistant or Patient Care Technician. Licensure is not required. All other certifications require approval by the Department Chair of Nursing.

**Admission Into the Nursing Program**

1. **Receive an acceptance letter and an Intent to Enroll form.** Students will be notified by mail of acceptance to the Nursing Program. At that time the student will receive an Intent to Enroll form.

2. **Return the Intent to Enroll form.** If a student does not return the Intent to Enroll form, he/she will be dropped from the list and must reapply for admission. The Intent to Enroll form **must** be returned to the Science & Health Science Office within the time specified on the form. **No student’s admission is processed until the Intent to Enroll Form with the starting date identified has been received in the Science & Health Science Division office.**

3. **Provide proof of successful completion of a nurse’s aide course.** Certified Nurse’s Aide, Certified Home Health Aide, Patient Care Assistant, or Patient Care Technician are acceptable. Licensure is not required. As soon as the course is completed, proof of completion must be submitted to the Science & Health Science Division office.

4. **Register.** No student may register for NURS 160 (Introduction to Human Needs) without a registration pass and approval from a counselor (Student Development Specialist).

**Deferrals**

1. Students may defer admission to the Nursing Program one semester without losing their place on the waiting list. If a student requests a second deferment, the student’s name will be placed at the end of the waiting list.

2. Students who drop their course less than 30 days prior to the first day of class will be placed at the end of the waiting list.

3. Students who defer admission more than 30 days prior to the first day of class will maintain their place on the waiting list if it is their first or second deferment.

**Transfer of General Education Courses**

There is no time limit on the transferability of general education courses. Transfer courses must come from an accredited institution.

**STARS Admission**

Five seats per semester are held for NJ STARS students who have met the admission requirements. Students who refuse an offer of admission will have one additional opportunity for admission before they are placed at the end of the waiting list.

**Tech Prep Admission**

Three seats per semester are held for Tech Prep students who have met the admission requirements and who have graduated from high school within the past three years. High school students who are in the Monmouth County Tech Prep Program may submit an application during their junior or senior year if biology has been successfully completed, the student is currently enrolled in chemistry, and the Health Science entrance examination has been scheduled. The Basic Skills Placement Test is taken during the second term of the senior year. Students who refuse an offer of admission will be placed at the end of the waiting list. High
school graduates may, however, advance through the standard rolling admissions process at any time.

"
PHILOSOPHY

Nursing is a caring profession that combines art and science to meet human needs. Caring is an inherent element of nursing, based on a humanistic value system; sensitivity to one’s self and others; promotion of communication and collaboration; and the provision for individualized nursing interventions. Nurses plan, implement, and evaluate interventions based on the assessment and analysis of human needs. Critical thinking is used as a framework for the skillful use of the nursing process, for self-reflection of clinical reasoning, and to meet client needs in the roles of provider of care, manager of care, and member of the discipline.

The faculty believes that people are diverse, holistic beings consisting of physiological, psychological, sociocultural, developmental, and spiritual dimensions. Each person has needs, which if satisfied will promote health. Individuals interact with the environment, internal and external, to determine a response pattern consistent with their values, beliefs, and goals and that help them meet their needs. Wellness is the process that leads to health through satisfaction of needs. Illness may result when needs are not met.

Associate degree graduates care for clients in a variety of settings within a number of collaborative relationships. The client can be an individual, a member of a family or a group. Using therapeutic communication techniques, nurses interact with clients, families and health care providers in a manner that promotes effective interactions.

Associate degree practice encompasses the coordination and management of care for the individual as well as for groups of clients. Nursing is uniquely qualified to assist the client to meet diverse needs across the lifespan incorporating the input of other health care providers. Graduates function within a legal-ethical framework that provides direction for practice.

The faculty believe learning is a contextual lifelong process that fosters sensitivity to the unique and diverse nature of individuals, acquisition of skills to access information, and changes in values and behaviors. The faculty support critical thinking as the organizing framework for learning. A competency-based curriculum provides the structure for Program Learning Outcomes, Course Learning Outcomes, and Unit Learning Outcomes that focus students on the application of concepts and the achievement of performance competencies required for practice.

The teacher/learner relationship is based on the recognition of the intrinsic value of each person and mutual respect. This relationship promotes a collaborative learning environment which can be enhanced through the use of technology. Faculty create an interactive learning environment through instructional approaches that encourage reflective learning. Assessment tools are used that target higher order thinking and evaluate achievement of outcomes.

Learners are recognized as autonomous individuals who make independent decisions about their needs. As role models of critical thinking, faculty shape an educational environment, which empowers students to become independent learners, to accept responsibility for lifelong learning and to develop professional behaviors. As expert learners, faculty facilitate educational opportunities that meet individual student needs and professional standards. Students should be challenged by and satisfied with the nursing program.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Practice holistic patient centered nursing care using human needs as a framework.
2. Use critical thinking and self-reflection to guide clinical decision making in the implementation of the nursing process.
3. Communicate and collaborate effectively with clients, groups, and members of the health care team incorporating the use of current technology.
4. Coordinate and manage care for diverse individuals and groups in various care environments.
5. Demonstrate a commitment to the profession of nursing and demonstrate legal and ethical accountability for safe professional practice.

6. Synthesize knowledge from nursing and other disciplines to promote health through evidence-based practice.

Program Outcomes

1. Graduate students whose nursing interventions assist the client towards the satisfaction of human needs as measured by a score at or above the cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

2. Graduate students whose nursing practice includes self-evaluation of their clinical competency in relation to the elements of critical thinking, as measured by a score at or above the cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

3. Graduate students who are capable of effective written, verbal, and nonverbal communication with clients, groups, and members of the health team, maximizing client outcomes as measured by a score at or above the cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

4. Graduate students who demonstrate competence in coordinating and managing care for diverse individuals and groups in various care settings as measured by a score at or above the cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

5. Graduate students who demonstrate a commitment to professional development in areas related to participation in continuing education, membership in professional organizations, and participation in research or scholarly activities as evidenced by 80% of the graduates responding yes to a professional development activity on the graduate survey.

6. Graduate students who perceive that their nursing practice reflects the program competencies as measured by a cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

7. Graduate students who indicate satisfaction with their theoretical preparation as measured by a cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

8. Graduate students who indicate satisfaction with their clinical preparation as measured by a cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

9. Graduate students who indicate satisfaction with their preparation for NCLEX as measured by a cut score of 3 on the graduate survey.

10. Graduate classes that achieve a 70% job placement rate.

11. Graduate classes that achieve a 60% completion rate.

12. Graduate classes that achieve a licensure pass rate at or above the national mean.

13. Maintain accreditation from the New Jersey State Board of Nursing.

14. Maintain accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) (formerly the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission).

Program Purposes

1. To prepare graduates possessing entry-level knowledge and skills for administering nursing care to diverse individuals and groups.

2. To provide students with a program of learning that fulfills the requirements of an Associate Degree in Nursing.

3. To help provide for the health care needs of the community by graduating individuals eligible for the licensure examination.

4. To provide a broad-based humanistic experience for the purpose of effecting self-actualization and ongoing personal development as a health care participant and a member of the community.
NURSING PROGRAM ADMISSION CHECKLIST

☐ 1. Complete a Brookdale application.

☐ 2. Carefully review the Nursing Program Admission Packet at http://brookdalecc.edu/pages/244.asp

☐ 3. Complete a Nursing Program application. Return the application to the Admissions office. All communication with the Admissions office should be addressed to:

   Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts
   Office of Admissions
   Brookdale Community College
   765 Newman Springs Road
   Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

☐ 4. Take the Basic Skills Placement Test (may be waived if student has completed 24 college credits including college-level math and English composition with a grade of “C” or better from another college).

☐ 5. Have a college transcript sent to Admissions if you are transferring courses. Transcripts must be official and students wishing to have previous credits evaluated toward Brookdale degrees are responsible for having transcripts sent to the Admissions office and informing their counselor (Student Development Specialist) that they would like their transcripts evaluated. Transcripts will not be evaluated until the student has successfully completed one semester at Brookdale.

☐ 6. Make an appointment with Counseling and Advising located in the second floor of the Car Building. Questions about prerequisites and general education courses should be directed to your counselor (Student Development Specialist). Call 732-224-2555 to make an appointment.

☐ 7. Complete all Basic Skills courses as determined by the College Basic Skills Placement Test.

☐ 8. Complete high school biology and chemistry or the equivalent college courses.

☐ 9. Take the Health Science entrance examination. When all Basic Skills courses and high school biology and chemistry, or equivalent college courses, are complete and grades posted to your transcript, contact Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts at healthscienceadmissions@brookdalecc.edu to get a pass for the Health Science entrance examination. It is the student’s responsibility to contact the Admissions office when all Basic Skills courses and high school biology and chemistry, or equivalent college courses, are successfully completed. The cut-off score for the Health Science entrance examination for nursing students is 75 percent English Language Composite and 75 percent Math score.

☐ 10. Attend an Information Session. Once you have successfully completed the above steps you will be scheduled for an Information Session by the Admissions office. Attendance at the Information Session is a mandatory step in the admission process. A student’s name will not be placed on the waiting list until he or she attends an Information Session.
11. Complete a nurse’s aide course with a passing grade prior to admission. The following courses are accepted: Certified Nurse Aide, Certified Home Health Aide, Patient Care Assistant or Patient Care Technician. Licensure is not required. All other certifications require approval by the Department Chair of Nursing.

Disclaimer—The content and requirements of this checklist may be altered at any time at the discretion of the College. This checklist was checked for accuracy at the time of printing but should not be considered a contract between the College and the student.
Brookdale Community College  
NURSING PROGRAM  
APPLICATION  

If you have not applied for admission to the College, complete a College application before filling out this form.

Complete all questions below. All applicants must be matriculated students.

LAST NAME  MAIDEN NAME OR OTHER  FIRST NAME  STUDENT ID NUMBER

STREET ADDRESS

CITY  STATE  ZIP  EMAIL ADDRESS

Please answer the following:

1. Are you a new student at Brookdale? □ yes □ no
2. Have you completed high school?
3. Are you a NJ Stars student? □ yes □ no
4. Do you have an equivalency certificate (GED)? □ yes □ no
5. Have you taken the Basic Skills Test? □ yes □ no
6. If not, when are you scheduled to take it? ________________________________________________________
7. Please list any other colleges attended __________________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________________________________________________

8. If you have 24 credits with a grade of “C” or above, were you given a Basic Skills Test Waiver? □ yes □ no

The admission requirements for the Nursing Program include:

- Completion of a Brookdale application
- Completion of a Nursing Program application.
- Return application to:
  Beth Stryker or Lynn Hodgetts  
  Office of Admissions  
  Brookdale Community College  
  765 Newman Springs Road  
  Lincroft, New Jersey 07738

- Completion of all Basic Skills courses as determined by the College Basic Skills Placement Test (Accuplacer).
- Completion of high school biology and chemistry or the equivalent college courses.
- Achievement of passing scores on a Health Science entrance examination.
- Attendance at an Information Session.
- Completion of a nurse’s aide course.

Completion of this form does not guarantee admission into the Nursing Program.

I hereby certify that I have read each page of the Nursing Admission Packet, that I am fully familiar with the contents of this document, and that I fully understand and have agreed to its terms and provisions.

I hereby understand that the submission of this application does not result in my name being placed on the waiting list. I must successfully pass the Health Science entrance examination and attend an Information Session to be placed on the waiting list.

Signature ____________________________________________________________  Date __________________________