Thank you for your interest in WNC RIBN. Students admitted to WNC RIBN must meet dual admission requirements set forth collaboratively by Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) and Western Carolina University (WCU). Please read this information thoroughly. Admission to WNC RIBN is competitive and reading this criterion thoroughly will help you understand the process.

Please note that BRCC has a two year nursing program and WCU has a traditional four year nursing education track. Each of those options has a separate admission process from the WNC RIBN dual admission nursing option. If you wish to apply for either of those traditional tracks, you must complete the individual admissions process for BRCC and/or WCU.

THE APPLICATION PERIOD
BRCC and WCU are collaborating on a dual admission process. BRCC RIBN will begin accepting applications August 11, 2014 for the RIBN class that begins fall semester 2015. The deadline to apply for fall admission is January 20, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

We want to ensure you have the best possible chance of being selected by completing all processes and submitting all necessary application documents completely, correctly and by the deadline. Should you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact the WNC RIBN Adviser, Carol Douglas, (828) 694-1841, c_douglas11@blueridge.edu, 223 Sink Building, BRCC, 180 West College Drive, Flat Rock, NC 28731.

50% Tuition Surcharge/WCU Classes
The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina shall impose a 50% tuition surcharge on students who take more than 140 degree credit hours to complete a baccalaureate degree. Please visit the WCU website (wcu.edu) to read further on the surcharge. If you have completed prior credits, the surcharge could impact your tuition and fees with WCU.
HIGH SCHOOL COURSES REQUIRED*
To be considered for admission, you must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent and satisfy the following UNC minimum course requirements:

- Four units of English
- Two units of social studies (one in U.S. history)
- Four units of mathematics (algebra I, algebra II, geometry, and some advanced unit of mathematics beyond algebra II)
- Three units of science (Life science, physical science, and a laboratory course; **biology and chemistry required**)
- Two units of a language other than English

*Chemistry, biology and math courses must have an average of “C” or better. If a student has not had biology, chemistry and/or an advanced level of math, then BIO 090, CHM 092, and/or MAT 143, taken at BRCC with a “C” or better will satisfy this requirement. **RIBN students must complete the high school chemistry requirement before starting the RIBN program.**

If student received a high school equivalency diploma, then a standard score of 450 or above on the Natural Science Test will count as one unit of biology. A standard score of 450 or above on the Mathematics Test will count as one unit of math. There is no equivalent for the chemistry on the high school equivalency diploma exam (BRCC nursing policy).

**BRCC Nursing minimum standards**
Acceptable scores from the SAT are 500 each for the reading, English and mathematics exam. Acceptable scores from the ACT are minimum scores of 18 on English, 22 on reading, and 22 on mathematics. These scores must be three years old or less.

If you have not met these minimum scores, you must schedule a pre-enrollment placement test at BRCC. Please call 828-694-1800 for scheduling information. You must have a satisfactory score on the test or complete any required prerequisite courses with a passing grade before starting the program.

**BRCC Placement Test Waiver Policy**
Students may waive the placement testing requirements under the following conditions:

1. Documentation of acceptable SAT or ACT scores: To be enrolled directly into first-level curriculum English or Math courses, a student must have a minimum score of 500 on the applicable (Writing and Critical Reading or Mathematics) sections of the SAT, or minimum of 18 on ACT English and 21 on ACT Reading, or minimum of 22 on ACT Mathematics. SAT and ACT examinations must have been taken within the preceding three years.

2. Results of placement tests taken at another institution within the preceding three years and that meet the BRCC cutoff scores will waive placement testing. Other assessments that can be used to determine college readiness are ASSET, Compass, PLAN, and PSAT. Scores required for college readiness for all assessments may be obtained in the Student Services division.
3. Transfer credit (grade C or better) received from a regionally accredited institution for first-level curriculum English, and/or Math will be accepted in lieu of placement testing. Developmental level courses may be considered for transfer credit if taken at a North Carolina Community College. The student must submit an official transcript to receive transfer credit and to officially waive the need for placement testing.

PRE ADMISSION TEST SCORES
You must submit your SAT scores to the BRCC Registrar’s Office (which must include the three components of critical reading, math and writing) if under the age of 24. If you are 24 years of age or older, only the SAT reading score is required. The RIBN adviser will clarify the testing scores required by WCU and BRCC for entry to RIBN. To be considered for admission to WNC RIBN, the SAT score in critical reading must meet the minimum score requirement of 500 or higher and be three years old or less during the application period. The SAT reading score is used in the points (see page 4).

- If you decide to submit SAT scores less than 500 in the SAT writing and/or math sections, you will need to take the placement exam for required college math and English courses.
- The SAT may be repeated; however, only the first two scores achieved after graduation from high-school (post-secondary education) will be considered. The higher of the two scores will be accepted.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

- To be eligible to apply for admission to WNC RIBN directly from high school OR before completion of at least 20 hours of college, a student must have an unweighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in high school courses.
- To be eligible to apply for admission to WNC RIBN after completion of a least 20 hours of college credit, a student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all college courses (includes courses taken at BRCC). The GPA will be computed from all colleges attended. These 20 hours will not include developmental courses (below 100 level).

HOW TO APPLY
1. Complete a free, online application to BRCC. Please visit www.blueridge.edu for an online application to BRCC. Please be aware, this is not an application to WNC RIBN or any other allied health program.
2. Submit ALL official college transcripts to the RIBN adviser by January 20, 2015, 4:00 p.m. If you are still in high school, I will need the final high school transcript after grades are posted from the 2014 fall term.
3. Submit an online RIBN application. Please locate the BRCC website (www.blueridge.edu) and type “RIBN” in the search box. You will see a link to the application on the right. This is a preliminary application. A final application must be processed with the RIBN adviser during the application cycle (August 11, 2014-January 20, 2015).
4. During the application cycle, please call or email for an appointment to process the final application.
5. Take the Test of Essential Academic Skills exam (TEAS) published by Assessment Technologies Institute (atitesting.com). You will be given instructions on signing up for
the TEAS and TEAS testing dates after meeting with the RIBN adviser. Only one set of
scores will be accepted during the application cycle.

6. Take the SAT. You may or may not have to take all three sections of the SAT. When you
meet with the RIBN adviser, a determination will be made at that time if all three sections or
just the reading test. Note: WCU has a testing center and offers the SAT reading test for
nursing students only. Please visit http://www.wcu.edu/academics/edoutreach/conted/testing-center/ for more
information.

TEST OF ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC SKILLS (TEAS)
TEAS is an assessment product of Academic Testing, Inc. (ATI). WNC RIBN uses applicant
performances on the TEAS V, in addition to SAT scores and GPA, to rank applicants into the
program. The student will be responsible for all cost associated with the TEAS test and any cost
associated with TEAS study guides or TEAS practice tests. The minimum score is set at 70 for
BRCC RIBN. Your cumulative scores on the test will be entered into the RIBN competitive points
system.

REGISTRATION FOR TEAS VERSION V ADMINISTRATION
The TEAS V will be administered on BRCC’s Henderson County Campus for Fall 2015 admission. If
you meet all of the dual admission requirements for WNC RIBN by 4:00 p.m., January 20, 2015,
you will be given written permission by the WNC RIBN Advisor to schedule a time to take the TEAS
V exam.

General information about the TEAS V

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAS VERSION V® Categories</th>
<th>Description/Test Items/ Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>• Paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension and inferences/conclusions (48 items, 58 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>• Whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions, decimals, algebraic equations, percentages, and ratio/proportion (34 items, 51 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>• Science reasoning, science knowledge, biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, basic physical principles, and general science (54 items, 66 minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Language Usage</td>
<td>• Punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, contextual words, and spelling (34 items, 34 minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPORTANT APPLICATION INFORMATION

To be eligible for Fall 2015 admission, ALL competitive applicants will be required to take the TEAS Version V exam. (Test of Essential Academic Skills) in addition to meeting the minimum required SAT scores and the cumulative un-weighted GPA must be 3.0 or higher. The TEAS exam fee must be paid for by the student at the cashier’s window on the BRCC campus, Sink Building, prior to the scheduled exam day. A **minimum score of 70 must be attained**. **TEAS scores from other versions of the TEAS exam will not be accepted.**

**Payment of the TEAS V must be by cash or check.**

DAY OF THE EXAM

- You must arrive on time at the appropriate location. Late arrivals will not be admitted.
- You must have a signed copy of the TEAS test ticket from the BRCC RIBN advisor to be admitted to the test.
- Photo ID is required for admission to the exam. Driver’s license is preferred.
- Use of calculators or other devices is not permitted. Proctors may require that you place personal items on the floor or in a designated area in the exam room.
- If you do not have an established username and password, you must establish an account and create a username and password prior to the test session.
- You will need your **username and password** to log in on the website in order to start on your exam.

About the TEAS V

ATI provides information regarding the TEAS at [http://www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com). You are encouraged to review this information.

Official scores must be submitted to BRCC Admissions Office if the TEAS V was taken elsewhere by January 20, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Applicants with disabilities should contact Maggie Faulkner, Coordinator of Disabilities Services/Counselor at (828) 694 - 1813, at least three weeks prior to testing to receive special accommodations for the TEAS exam.

HOW THE POINT SYSTEM WORKS

Admission to the program is highly competitive. After meeting all general and WNC RIBN program admission requirements for WCU and BRCC, all WNC RIBN applicants will be ranked numerically based on the following criteria:

- Cumulative GPA, **minimum unweighted 3.0 required** (unweighted high school GPA, if under 20 credit hours of college level work, **cumulative GPA** if over 20 college level credit hours, as reported by the respective institutions(s)), as reported by the respective institution(s), **weighted as 25% of the score.**
- SAT critical reading (three years old or less during the application period) – minimum 500 score required, **weighted as 25% of the score.**
- TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Exam Composite Scores, **weighted as 50% of the score,** which must be a 70 or higher. Only one set of scores will be accepted during the application cycle.
All documentation, transcripts and test scores for eligibility and points must be submitted to the BRCC Registrar's office by the January 20, 2015, 4:00 p.m. deadline. Students wishing to apply to WNC RIBN do not need to apply separately to WCU as part of the WNC RIBN application process. If a student is accepted into the WNC RIBN and intends to enroll in the fall 2015 class, the WNC BRCC RIBN Advisor will gather all appropriate materials, application and fees to submit to WCU as appropriate.

STUDENT PREPARATION AND TESTING RESOURCES AVAILABLE
Websites available:
http://sat.collegeboard.com/home
www.onlinecollegeprep.com
www.purplemath.com
www.atitesting.com/global/students/teas.aspx
www.testprepreview.com/teas_practice.html
WNC RIBN CURRICULUM CONTINUATION CRITERA for students accepted into and enrolled in WNC RIBN

Students currently enrolled in WNC RIBN are required to:

- Maintain a minimum grade of “C” in all courses.
- Pass first year courses, as defined in the curriculum, before starting year two.
- Complete all year two and three year courses, as defined in the curriculum, before proceeding to year four.
- Pass the NCLEX (state board exam) before proceeding to year four.
- Maintain a 2.25 cumulative GPA to remain in the program.

Thirty days prior to starting third semester courses, students must provide documentation of successful completion of a NC approved Certified Nurse Aide I Program which includes theory, lab, and clinical components. (A copy of a college transcript or a notarized course completion certificate will be acceptable documentation). Challenging the Nurse Aide I examination will not meet this requirement.

1. This documentation must be submitted to the Dean of Allied Health, BRCC.
2. Students must hold a documented, current unrestricted credential as a Nurse Aide I (NAI) from the North Carolina Nurse Aide Registry and the Division of Health Service Regulation. (A copy of current listing on the NC DHSR Nurse Aide Registry Website will be acceptable documentation, www.ncnar.org)
3. Students must provide documentation of successful completion of an American Heart Association – Healthcare Provider CPR certification course. This course must include hands on skill demonstration of one and two rescuer adult, child and infant CPR and use of an AED.
4. Students must submit a Student Medical Form verifying acceptable levels of immunizations, physical health, and mental health. Failure to complete every aspect of the form may delay entry into the program.
5. Students will complete the criminal background check and drug screening by the specified professional and independent vendor approved by the affiliated clinical sites. If any clinical facility refuses to allow the student to participate in clinical experiences in that clinical agency, the student may not be able to progress in the program of study.

WNC RIBN INFORMATION BEGINNING YEAR TWO, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
For the fall of 2016, Criminal background checks and a drug screening are required by clinical sites for students entering BRCC nursing program. These screenings will be conducted at the student’s expense by a professional and independent vendor. Failure to achieve acceptable standards for these screenings will result in the denial of clinical privileges. Successful completion of clinical requirements is required for program completion. The BRCC refund policy applies to students who are denied clinical privileges and must withdraw from their nursing classes as a result. Please see the refund policy on the BRCC website for clarification. For all WNC RIBN students, criminal
background checks will be required by WCU prior to entering year 4 baccalaureate nursing courses in the RIBN curriculum.

Applicants should be aware that the North Carolina State Board of Nursing requires criminal background checks including fingerprints for all applicants for licensure and may deny licensure to individuals convicted of a misdemeanor felony. The NC Board of Nursing does not become involved in reviewing the applicant’s conviction record until such time as application is made to take the national examination. The question asked on this application is whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a misdemeanor/felony. If the response is yes, a certified copy of the criminal record and a detailed written explanation must be submitted. Review of the record is made by the Board staff in accordance with guidelines established by the Board. The applicant may take the exam as scheduled; however, the license may or may not be issued upon passing the exam.

Applicants for BRCC Associate degree nursing program must demonstrate the ability to meet certain technical standards critical to the successful completion of the program. These standards include skills and abilities essential for such things as operation of equipment; evaluation and manipulation of patients; evaluation of microscopic components of color reactions; and communications with patients, families, and other medical personnel. For an explanation of specific physical and cognitive requirements for WNC RIBN, refer to the “Program recommendations for ADA Technical Standards” given to the student with the health form. For further clarification, contact the Dean, Allied Health Programs at (828)694-1825.

All documents that you submit with your application for WNC RIBN must be true, correct and complete. Falsification of documentation may result in denial of admission or dismissal after admission. Admission criteria are subject to change from year to year.

READMISSION POLICY
The following readmission policy applies to students who receive an unsuccessful grade, or who voluntarily withdraws from the program. Unsuccessful grades are defined as “D”, “F” or “W”.

1. **Year 1:** If a RIBN student fails classes or withdraws during year one of the program, that student must reapply for application for re-entry during the regular admissions cycle. The student seeking readmission to the first year is required to submit a new application packet to the RIBN Adviser. GPA will be calculated at the time of application for readmission. The decision to admit students applying for readmission to the first semester is based upon the applicants’ ranked admission score in the overall applicant pool.

2. **Years 2 through 4:** Students who have failed (earned a course grade less than C) for two or more nursing courses are not eligible for readmission to the RIBN track.
   a. Students applying for re-entry into years two, three or four are required to submit a request for re-entry to both the community college and also Western Carolina University. Application for re-entry to both the community college and Western Carolina University should be submitted in one packet for review and should be submitted to the RIBN Adviser. There is an abbreviated application form that can be obtained from Western Carolina University School of Nursing student services. Consult the community college nursing department for the specific readmission policy. For consideration for re-entry to WCU, a student should submit a written
request for readmission addressed to the chairperson of the WCU School of Nursing Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee. Approval for re-admission to years two, three or four is granted by the committee, acting as the program Admissions Committee. The written request for readmission should include an analysis of why the student did not progress as well as a plan for success, which addresses strategies for improvement, as applicable. The committee reserves the right to interview the student seeking readmission, as well as the right to require the student to comply with additional requirements or conditions as deemed appropriate. In addition, the committee must receive at least two letters of support from nursing faculty addressing the student’s previous performance and potential for successful completion of the nursing curriculum, if readmitted.

b. Re-entry is based on availability of a seat in the RIBN track.

3. If a student receives an unsuccessful grade in the program of study, you may not proceed to any subsequent course, which has the course in question as a prerequisite. You must repeat the course in question before proceeding to the next higher course in the program.
4. The nursing courses are offered only once annually.
5. Since a new class of nursing students is admitted annually and because of the competitive nature of the program, it will be necessary for the student who had received an unsuccessful grade in a major course during their first semester to reapply for readmission to the program for the following fall.
6. Readmission of students who have progressed beyond the third semester, but who have been unsuccessful in a subsequent semester is dependent upon space availability in the class, demonstration of proficiency in a variety of clinical procedures, and other issues pertinent to reentering students. You will be required to meet with the Dean, Allied Health Programs for specific readmission guidelines.

IMPORTANT FOR PLANNING TIME AND TRAVEL

Please Note: The class and clinical schedules for the nursing programs are rigorous. Specifically classes and labs will meet as early as 8am or as late as 5pm, while clinical may start as early as 6:30am or end as late as 9pm. All students will usually meet together as a group for class, but there will be different assigned clinical rotation groups.
Each eligible candidate to RIBN must designate having read, understood, and agreed to the following:

It is expected that a student in the nursing field must be able to perform certain activities to maintain the standards of safety for the client and student. If an accepted applicant feels that meeting the following standards is not possible or requires modifications/accommodations, the applicant must self-disclose his/her disability and request reasonable accommodations through the Disability Services Office and the Dean of Allied Health Programs at Blue Ridge Community College.

To enter into and to complete the nursing program, nursing students must be able to meet the emotional, cognitive, and physical requirements listed below:

**Emotional Requirements**
The nursing program is rigorous, both in academic study and in the acquisition and practice of clinical skills. You must have sufficient emotional stability to perform under stress and provide safe nursing care to clients in the clinical setting while being observed by instructors and other health care professionals.

**Cognitive Requirements**
You have sufficient cognitive ability to listen, speak, read, write reason and perform mathematical functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages, and fractions with or without a calculator) at a level that allows processing and understanding of materials and information presented either verbally or in written format.

**Physical Requirements**
Nursing students are required to travel to clinical facilities (i.e., outpatient, acute care settings, and skilled facilities) and to have the endurance to adapt to a physically demanding program. The following physical requirements are necessary for the nursing program:

**Strength**
Nursing students most possess sufficient strength to lift, move, and transfer most clients, to restrain and carry children, to move and carry equipment, and to perform CPR according to the American Heart Association guidelines. Students must possess strength to assist patients with physical limitations.

**Mobility**
Sufficient mobility to bend, stoop, bend down to the floor, combination of strength, dexterity, mobility and coordination to assist clients, ability to move around rapidly, and move in small, confined spaces.

**Fine Motor Movements**
Required to manipulate syringes and IV’s, to assist clients with feeding and hygiene needs, to write in charts and use computer keyboards, to perform sterile and other skilled procedures.
Speech
Nursing students must have the ability to speak clearly in order to communicate with staff, physicians, clients, and families, and to be understood on the telephone.

Communication
Nursing students must be able to communicate in English both verbally and in the written format so that students can communicate nursing actions, interpret client responses, interpret doctor’s orders, record patient responses to treatments, initiate health teaching, document observations, interactions, interventions, and nursing care. Document and understand nursing activities, interact with clients, families, staff, and faculty.

Vision
Students must possess sufficient to make physical assessment of client and to accurately and safely use and apply client equipment.

Hearing
Sufficient to accurately hear on the telephone, to be able to hear through a stethoscope to discriminate sounds, to hear cries for help, to hear alarms on equipment and emergency signals, and various overhead pages.

Touch
Nursing students must possess an ability to palpate both superficially and deeply to discriminate tactile sensations.

Caring for Clients with Infectious Diseases
Students must be willing to care for clients with infectious diseases, such as Hepatitis or HIV. Students will be taught standard precautions to avoid exposure to these pathogens. Responsibility for following standard precautions lies with the student.

Interpersonal abilities
Students must be able to interact with individuals, families and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds.

The examples given are representative of the required activities, but are not all inclusive.

If you are unable or unwilling to meet these essential requirements, please see an adviser to discuss the possibility of an alternate career plan.