

## **LPN to ASN Program** ***“Frequently Asked Questions”***

### ***FAQ – What is the LPN to ASN Program?***

The LPN to ASN Program is a bridge program for Licensed Practical Nurses who want to become an RN (Registered Nurse). In this program, students will earn an ASN Degree (Associates of Science in Nursing), which will allow students to then sit for the NCLEX- RN exam for RN licensure.

### ***FAQ – Do I have to be an LPN to apply?***

Applicants must have already completed or be currently enrolled in a Practical Nursing program. If not already completed, students will need to be on-pace to complete their LPN program before starting the LPN to ASN program.

### ***FAQ – Do I have to be licensed before I can apply?***

Applicants are not required to be licensed to apply; however, they must be licensed before attending clinicals in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the program.

### ***FAQ – Do I need to have a Kentucky LPN license to apply?***

Applicants are not required to have a Kentucky LPN license to apply; however, they must have an unencumbered “multistate” license from a compact state (or state that participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact /NLC).

### ***FAQ – If I do not currently have a multistate license, does that mean I cannot apply?***

Applicants who do not currently hold a multistate license must obtain one before clinicals start. Therefore, students should start the multistate license application process before applying to the program to avoid wasting time or money on a program the student cannot successfully complete due to a licensing issue.

### ***FAQ – How long is the LPN to ASN Program?***

The program is a 3-semester program. If students are able to go straight through with no failures or issues that delay progression, then the program can be completed in 1 year. The program admits three times a year (Fall, Spring, and Summer) and runs year-round.

### ***FAQ - Is this program 100% online?***

The program is an online hybrid program that **requires students to be on campus here in Bowling Green, KY or nearby areas for in-person requirements**. The program was designed for students who live in Kentucky or Tennessee or live within a reasonable drive of Bowling Green, KY due to a minimum number of on-campus/in-person requirements. In-person requirements (skills check-off dates, clinical days, and practicum hours) **are completed in Bowling Green, Kentucky and Nashville, Tennessee area clinical facilities and cannot be done in any other state/location**.

In-person requirements include skills checkoffs in 1<sup>st</sup> semester, clinical days in 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, and practicum hours in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester.

- During the first semester, students are required to come to WKU’s Bowling Green, KY campus 4 days for individual skills check-off dates.

- During the second semester, students are required to attend ten scheduled clinical days. Clinical dates are one day a week for ten weeks and are usually on a Monday or Tuesday. Clinicals are completed at area healthcare facilities in Bowling Green, KY and in the Nashville, TN area.
- During the third and final semester, students are required to complete a 120-hour practicum experience during a 6-week period in an acute care facility. During practicum, students are assigned to work with a specific RN preceptor. As such, students are to work 10 twelve-hour shifts that the preceptor is scheduled to work. Students should work approximately two shifts per week in order to complete the 120 hours in the required 6-week time period. During the second semester, students will be asked for their input as to where they would like to complete their practicum. The program makes every attempt to place students closer to their home location but within a maximum of 3-4 hours from Bowling Green, KY. Other than location, other matters to consider when placing students include presence of clinical agency agreement and/or availability of preceptors. **Students are to never contact clinical facilities or agency personnel directly in search of a practicum placement.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The on-campus/in-person requirements are MANDATORY. Any missed on-campus/in-person dates are UNEXCUSED regardless of reason – missed/cancelled flights, blocked roads, work changes, etc. More than one unexcused absence **will result in the immediate failure of the clinical course**. Students are allowed only one nursing course failure in the program. A 2<sup>nd</sup> nursing course failure results in academic dismissal from the program. No exceptions to these policies will be made for commuting and/or out of state students.

***FAQ – Is there an entrance exam that is required to apply?***

The program requires the HESI Admission Assessment (also called the HESI A2). This exam is used in the admissions process, so applicants must take the exam by the application deadline date for the admission period for which they are applying. The HESI A2 exam must have been taken within 1 year of the application deadline date for the semester for which you are applying.

***FAQ – Can I take the TEAS Exam or the NAS Exam instead of the HESI exam?***

The entrance exam scores are used to compare and rank applicants for admission. Therefore, only one entrance exam, the HESI A2 exam, is used for admission.

***FAQ – Where do I take the required HESI A2 entrance exam?***

Applicants can take the HESI A2 exam wherever it is available. However, it is best to take it with WKU to ensure the applicant is taking the correct version of the exam and that the program can access exam results. If you register for the HESI exam through WKU, you will have the option to take the HESI **at home** using an online proctoring service or on campus at WKU's Distance Learning Testing Center. If you have recently taken the HESI A2 exam, you can reach out to the nursing office to ensure the version you took meets program requirements.

***FAQ – Is there a minimum score required for the HESI A2 exam?***

There is no minimum score required for our program – we will accept any score you obtain. However, **this score will be used to rank you against the other applicants for admission**, so the higher your score, the more likely you are to be selected for admission. Therefore, we **recommend** a minimum score of mid to upper 80s on the HESI Admission Assessment to be competitive against the other applicants.

**FAQ – How many times can I attempt the HESI A2 exam?**

Students can attempt the HESI only **once per admission period**. If the student is not selected for admission, the student may reapply to the nursing program and retake the HESI A2 in an attempt to achieve a higher exam score. The program will use the student's higher exam score taken within the one-year time requirement.

**FAQ – Is there a study guide for the HESI A2 exam?**

Yes, there are study guides available. The program recommends the *Evolve Reach Testing and Remediation Admission Assessment Exam Review, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition - ISBN: 9780323582261*. You can purchase this new or used online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or other bookstore locations.

**FAQ – Will I be charged out-of-state tuition if I don't live in Kentucky?**

WKU charges one tuition rate for all online courses regardless of where the student resides ([Tuition & Fees: Distance Learning](#)). This means students who live out of state do not have to pay the out-of-state tuition rate, they would pay the distance learning rate.

**FAQ – When is the next application period.**

The LPN to ASN Program admits three (3) times every year – in Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

The deadline to apply for **Fall** admission is **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. (Students will take a prerequisite nursing course (NUR 150 – LPN to RN Transitions) starting in early-July and the core nursing courses would start in mid-August that year.)

The deadline for **Spring** admission is **Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**. (Students will take a prerequisite nursing course (NUR 150 – LPN to RN Transitions) starting in late October and the core nursing courses would start in mid-January the following year.)

The deadline for **Summer** admission is **Feb 1<sup>st</sup>**. (Students will take a prerequisite nursing course (NUR 150 – LPN to RN Transitions) starting in April and the core nursing courses would start in mid-May that year.)

**FAQ – What are the prerequisite courses that are required to apply?**

The program **requires 3 prerequisite courses** that must be completed before you are eligible to start the first semester nursing courses–

- BIOL 131 – Anatomy & Physiology (requires a grade of “C” or better)
- PSY 220 - Developmental Psychology
- NUR 150 – LPN to RN Transition (requires a grade of “C” or better)

There are 4 additional general education courses that are required for the ASN degree and the program **strongly recommends** students complete these courses before starting as well. Those are:

- Microbiology (requires a grade of “C” or better)
- English Comp I
- College-level Math – you choose which math – General College Math, **or** College Algebra, **or** Statistics.
- Arts & Humanities (AH) elective – you choose which AH course - (think Art, Music, or Theater Appreciation. Other courses such as Intro to Philosophy, Intro to Religious Studies, etc. are also usually acceptable. Please reach out for a list of approved AH courses.) If taken an AH course at a school other than WKU, it is recommended that you

contact the nursing office prior to taking the course to ensure the course you have in mind will transfer to WKU as an approved AH course.

**FAQ – I took A&P I at my school, will I need to take A&P II for this program?**

WKU requires all transfer students to take two (2) semesters of college level Anatomy & Physiology to receive equivalent credit to BIOL 131 at WKU. This means students will need to take both A&P I and A&P II at another school.

**FAQ – I took an “Intro to Psychology” course or a “General Psychology” course at my school, is that the same as Developmental Psych?**

Intro to Psych and General Psych are not equivalent to the *Developmental Psychology* course required for the ASN Program. We specifically require *Developmental Psychology*, a course that covers the entire lifespan of development – from conception to death. The course is sometimes called Lifespan Psychology or Human Growth & Development.

**FAQ – I took some of the Gen Eds, but I have not completed all of them. Can I still apply?**

Yes, you can apply to the nursing program if you have not completed all of the required general education courses. The curriculum is designed so that students may take the general education courses along with the nursing courses. However, this would require the student to be a full-time student. Knowing LPNs are working full-time in addition to other family responsibilities, etc., it is recommended that students complete most if not all general education courses prior to starting the program. With admissions three times a year, it is often possible for a student to complete their last required general education courses during the application process and before the start of the nursing program.

**FAQ – Can I test or CLEP out of any nursing courses?**

Yes, students admitted into the LPN to ASN Program will have the opportunity to CLEP or test out of certain Nursing courses – those being:

- NUR 157 – Skills CLEP (in-person Skills demonstration). This particular CLEP is a limited option to the first 12 students to sign up after admission and once registration is announced. This option should only be for those LPNs who work in acute care and perform the required nursing skills daily.
- NUR 165 – Mental Health Nursing (HESI Specialty Nursing Exam). Once admitted, all students are given the opportunity to attempt this CLEP exam if they choose.
- NUR 215 – Maternal Newborn Nursing (HESI Specialty Nursing Exam). Once admitted, all students are given the opportunity to attempt this CLEP exam if they choose.

**FAQ – What are the steps to apply for the LPN to ASN Program?**

- The first step is to **email** copies of your **college transcripts showing your completed prerequisites/general education courses**. These transcripts can be **official or unofficial copies**. Transcripts are to be sent directly to the ASN Nursing office at [asnursing@wku.edu](mailto:asnursing@wku.edu). These transcripts are utilized to determine admission eligibility.
- You will also need to submit a **Nursing Program Application** (This is separate from the application to WKU, the university). The application can be found on our website. The nursing program application must be completed by the application deadline date.

- You will need to send a copy of your **LPN Program transcript** showing all completed PN course work and your graduation/completion date via email to [asnursing@wku.edu](mailto:asnursing@wku.edu). This can be unofficial or official and must be received by the application deadline date.
- You will need to schedule and take the **HESI Admission Assessment** (HESI A2 Exam) and email a copy of your score report to [asnursing@wku.edu](mailto:asnursing@wku.edu) by the application deadline date.