

The Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing 2024-26 Catalog



HERITAGE VALLEY
HEALTH SYSTEM
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Dear Interested Applicant:

Thank you for considering Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing, 20 month diploma program.

We are currently accepting applications for August 2024.



Our Affiliation

Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing is a part of Heritage Valley Health System. HVHS offers the nursing program numerous inpatient, outpatient, and community clinical settings for student experiences without commuting into the city!

Our Partnership with PennWest California (formerly California University of Pennsylvania) offers the Heritage Valley Health System nursing student:

- The freedom of online courses to complete up to 30 required credits of general education and science courses.
- The ability for our busy students to prioritize their day and complete their classes in the comfort of their own home.
- Complete access to the California University of Pennsylvania online student library and all its resources

Our Statistics

(2019 Data)

100% NCLEX Pass Rate
100% Job Placement
83% Retention

(2020 Data)

95% NCLEX Pass Rate
100% Job Placement
82% Retention

(2021 Data)

100% NCLEX Pass Rate
100% Job Placement
79% Retention

(2022 Data)

74% NCLEX Pass Rate
100% Job Placement
81% Retention

(2023 Data)

94% NCLEX Pass Rate
100% Job Placement
Retention TBD

Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing is ACEN Accredited.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)

3343 Peachtree Road, Suite 850

Atlanta, GA 30326

404-975-5000

www.acenursing.org

Contact us at **412-777-6204** or visit us at

www.heritagevalley.org/residencies-schools/hvhs-school-of-nursing/ for more details.

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Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing Academic Curriculum Calendar

Class of 2026 (August 2024 – May 2026)

School days are 8-4 (Clinical 7-3) Monday through Friday with occasional evening responsibilities.

Schedule subject to change.

FIRST YEAR

Fall I

(16 weeks)

Aug. 19, 2024 - Dec. 14, 2024

Affiliating College:

TBA: Aug. 2024 - Dec. 2024*

Fundamentals of Nursing

Fundamentals 10 cr
(7 theory / 3 clinical)

Anatomy and Physiology I & II * 8 cr
(16 weeks)

Credit(s) Completed 18 cr

FALL BREAK - 1 week

Spring I

(16 weeks)

Jan. 6, 2025 - May 2, 2025

Affiliating College:

TBA Jan. 2025 - May 2025*

Nursing I

Medical-Surgical Nursing I 6 cr
(4 theory / 2 clinical)

Mental Health I 3 cr
(2 theory / 1 clinical)

Developing Family I 3 cr
(2 theory / 1 clinical)

Intro to Psychology* 3 cr
(8 or 16 weeks)

Credit(s) Completed 15 cr

SPRING BREAK - 1 week

Summer

(10 weeks)

May 19, 2025 - Aug. 2, 2025

Affiliating College:

TBA Jun. 2025 - Aug. 2025*

Nursing II

Medical-Surgical II 6 cr
(4 theory / 2 clinical)

Microbiology ** 4 cr
(8 weeks)

Sociology * 3 cr
(10 weeks)

English I * 3 cr
(10 weeks)

Credit(s) Completed 16 cr

JULY 4th BREAK - 1 week

SECOND YEAR

Fall II

(16 weeks)

Aug. 18, 2025 - Dec. 13, 2025

Affiliating College:

TBA: Aug. 2025 - Dec. 2025*

Nursing III

Medical-Surgical III 6 cr
(4 theory / 2 clinical)

Mental Health II 3 cr
(2 theory / 1 clinical)

Developing Family II 3 cr
(2 theory / 1 clinical)

Nutrition * 3 cr
(8 weeks)

English II ** 3 cr
(16 weeks)

Credit(s) Completed 18 cr

FALL BREAK - 1 week

Spring II - Term II

(16 weeks)

Jan. 12, 2026 - May 9, 2026

Affiliating College:

TBA: Jan. 2026 - Mar. 2026*

Nursing Leadership 10 cr
(and Preceptorship)
(4 theory / 6 clinical)

Ethics * 3 cr
(8 weeks)

Credit(s) Completed 13 cr

SPRING BREAK - 1 week

Total Nursing Credits 50 cr

GRADUATION

(Graduation will occur after all requirements of the program have been met)
TBD May 2026

PLEASE NOTE:

- One (1) Nursing Clinical Credit is equivalent to (45) clock hours
- One (1) Nursing Theory credit is equivalent to (15) clock hours
- Credits used to calculate QPA
- Add/Drop class policy is the end of each first week/per term, without penalty
- * **Affiliate college schedule and courses**
- ** **Microbiology with lab has not been a verified course as of this printing.**

The Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing is committed to fulfill all necessary educational requirements for the pre-licensure program as documented in the Student Guidebook. The school is prepared to respond to any interruption to in-person didactic/theory presentation by transitioning to live distance - learning with no change in course theory/credit hours. Any interruption in clinical education will be replaced with distance simulation, and virtual activities as approved. The School of Nursing is committed to provide any additional mandated requirements to fulfill the approved educational program as documented in the Student Guidebook should any disruption to the established face-to-face program be encountered.



Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing Courses

FUNDAMENTALS OF NURSING

Fundamentals
(7 theory/ 3 clinical) 10 credits

NURSING I

Medical-Surgical I
(4 theory/ 2 clinical) 6 credits

Mental Health I
(2 theory/ 1 clinical) 3 credits

Developing Family I
(2 theory/ 1 clinical) 3 credits

NURSING II

Medical-Surgical II
(4 theory/ 2 clinical) 6 credits

NURSING III

Medical-Surgical III
(4 theory/ 2 clinical) 6 credits

Mental Health II
(2 theory/ 1 clinical) 3 credits

Developing Family II
(2 theory/ 1 clinical) 3 credits

NURSING LEADERSHIP

Leadership (and Preceptorship) 10 credits
(4 theory/ 6 clinical)

PennWest California Courses

formerly California University of Pennsylvania

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I

3 credits

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB I

1 credit

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY II

3 credits

ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY LAB II

1 credit

** MICROBIOLOGY

3 credits

** MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY

1 credit

* English Comp

3 credits

English Comp II

3 credits

GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY

3 credits

PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

3 credits

NURSING ETHICS

3 credits

Nursing Nutrition

3 credits

** Microbiology w/ Lab has not been a verified course as of this printing.



Nursing Course Descriptions

FUNDAMENTALS

Fundamentals is the first course in the program. This course begins with an introduction to the theoretical framework of nursing and the process of critical thinking and clinical judgement. The roles of the nurse as communicator, educator, advocate, caregiver, and decision maker in various settings are discussed. The course builds weekly introducing body systems and concepts as the student begins to apply the nursing process through Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring, and to develop clinical judgement during clinical activities. Physical assessment of the client and the difference between normal and abnormal assessment data are taught through the Nursing Process and applied to develop clinical judgement. The understanding of laboratory values, implementation of patient education, and medication administration are presented at the end of the course. The application of critical thinking in theory to clinical judgement in practice occurs in the skills lab, through simulations, and during direct clinical experiences on inpatient hospital units.

NURSING I

Nursing I builds upon the fundamentals learned in the first course. This course progresses the student through the medical –surgical concepts of nursing and an integration of that knowledge in an introduction to mental health and developing family (obstetric and pediatric) nursing. The student will rotate through the three areas applying theory learned in the classroom and practiced in the simulation lab to direct clinical experiences in a variety of hospital and community settings. The first part of human response to illness and the health / illness continuum are discussed as it relates to nursing concepts and medical-surgical diagnosis. The application of the content are reinforced in the simulation lab and in direct clinical experiences in the acute care areas of the hospital. In Developing Family, the focus is the optimum health of the family from perinatal care through the care of the developing child from infancy to adolescence. Direct clinical is held within local hospitals and well care facilities in the community. In mental health nursing, the emphasis is on the nurse – client relationship and therapeutic communication. Clinical experiences focus on building a nurse patient relationship in a variety of inpatient and community environments and other simulated learning experiences.

NURSING II

Nursing II completes the medical –surgical concepts of human response to illness and the health illness continuum presented in Nursing I. Application of the content presented are reinforced in the simulation lab and in direct clinical experiences in acute care settings of the community hospitals.

NURSING III

Nursing III builds upon all prior knowledge learned. This course progresses the student from the human response to illness learned in Nursing I and Nursing II to employ critical thinking, and clinical judgement along with other advanced nursing skills in the care of the patient with complex and/or multi-system medical problems involving combined nursing concepts. Medical-Surgical Nursing focuses on the critical care patient with direct clinical experiences in local hospital critical care settings along with introducing the student to emergency care medicine. Developing Family focuses on the high-risk pregnancy and birth, and the child with complex, varied disorders. Direct clinical experiences are held in a variety of community hospitals and settings. Mental Health focuses on the acute and chronically ill mental health client and therapeutic modalities used in their care. Direct clinical sites are in local hospital inpatient units, a variety of observational activities within the community, and other simulated learning experiences.

LEADERSHIP

Nursing Leadership is the final course of the program, which emphasizes the principles and philosophies of leadership and management as they apply to the care of the client. Content focuses on learning which will bridge the gap between nursing education and nursing practice. Challenges facing the nurse in today's world are discussed including: health promotion, clinical practice, education, legal/ethical, labor and legislative issues. The transition from student to graduate professional nurse is facilitated as theoretical knowledge is integrated into clinical judgement in the clinical setting under the direction of a preceptor. The student uses critical thinking and clinical judgement to incorporate the nursing process when prioritizing holistic care for a group of clients in an extended experience in one assigned unit of the Heritage Valley Health System. The student will incorporate accountability and responsibility for clinical practice and for life-long learning. An emphasis on review and NCLEX preparation is presented during the second half of the course.

Pre-Entrance Requirements

HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED

Transcripts must show:

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of Social Studies
- 2 units of Math
 - 1 must be Algebra* with a "C" or greater
- 2 units of the following sciences with a "C" or greater:
 - Biology* with a lab
 - Chemistry* with a lab

* If missing, introductory courses may be taken at a local community college or equivalent

COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS

Credits with a 2.0 or greater may be considered transferable. **Anatomy & Physiology I and II (8 credits), Microbiology, and Nutrition** must be completed within five years of the class acceptance date from an accredited college/university.

SAT OR ACT EXAMS

Although not required for acceptance, students are encouraged to take and submit either SAT or ACT exams and scores with transcripts.

Pre-Entrance Examination

Test of Essential Academic Skills 150 questions / 3 hours

The Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) is a scholastic aptitude exam used in the selection process for admission into our nursing program. The goal is to predict candidates with the highest likelihood of academic success in our accelerated program.

TEST OF ESSENTIAL ACADEMIC SKILLS (TEAS)

The TEAS was developed to measure basic essential skills in the academic content area domains of Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English / Language usage. These entry level skills were deemed important for nursing program applicants by a panel of nursing program curriculum experts. The TEAS is a 150 item; four option; multiple-choice assessment, which allots 3 hours for completion..

To prepare in an organized and efficient manner, areas of concentration are as follows:

- **Reading (39 questions)**
This section covers key ideas and details, craft and structure, and integration of knowledge and ideas.
- **Mathematics (34 questions)**
This section covers numbers and algebra, measurement and data.
- **Science (44 questions)**
This section covers scientific reasoning, biology, chemistry, and human anatomy/physiology.
- **English/Language Use (33 questions)**
This section measures knowledge of language, conventions of standard english, and using language and vocabulary to express ideas in writing.

The TEAS is scored by the percentage answered correctly as an Adjusted Individual Score. A preferred minimum adjusted individual score of 65%, and a science score of 45 (as listed on the TEAS score sheet) is recommended for consideration. Scores of 60 - 64 will be considered for admission if seats are available. The TEAS score is just one assessment tool used to indicate an applicant's potential for success in the program; it is NOT the sole indicator for an admission decision.

- Each applicant is allowed two (2) attempts at the TEAS per academic year.
- To be considered for admission, the TEAS exam must be taken during the academic year prior to the admission date.

The TEAS Study Guide is available for purchase at www.atitesting.com/teas/study-manual.

Please contact the school for more information or to schedule an exam.

Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing Tuition and Expenses Class of 2026

Full Time Program (20 months)

Pre-Entrance Fees (Non-Refundable)

- Application Fee \$50.00
- ATI Exam Fee \$70.00
- Acceptance Fee \$100.00*

* Acceptance Fee purchases student's individual skills supply kit

Total Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing Tuition

- Approximately \$20,000* for Nursing ONLY courses
- Approximately \$370/credit* for affiliating college courses
- Tuition Includes:
 - Malpractice insurance
 - ATI course supplements, assessment exams and NCLEX review
 - Skills kits

* Technology Fee: \$700/semester

Tech fees are paid at the start of each semester and are nonrefundable.

- Technology Fee Includes:
 - Examssoft
 - Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI)
 - Student Laptops
 - Canvas LMS

Other related fees, such as books, uniforms, lab, registration, and graduation fees, along with other related school fee(s), as appropriate, are the sole responsibility of each student, regardless of scholarship eligibility. Transportation to and from clinical sites along with parking fee(s) are ALWAYS the sole responsibility of the student.

All terms and conditions, including pricing, are subject to change without prior notice.

* Subject to change



Tuition and Fees

Tuition for each term must be paid in full (or satisfactory payment arrangement developed) at the beginning of each of the 5 terms. Checks or money orders are made payable to the Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing. The check should be identified with the student's full name and paid directly to the Financial Aid Office, or sent to:

**Heritage Valley Health System
School of Nursing (Financial Aid)
25 Heckel Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136**

ADMISSION ACCEPTANCE FEE

Once accepted into the upcoming Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing class, the student will be required to pay a fee of \$100 to reserve a spot in the program. Once the semester begins and the student is registered, that \$100 will be used to pay for the student's Fundamentals assessment kit. If the student chooses not to enter the program, the fee is forfeited. Please call our Admissions Coordinator at 412-777-6204 with questions. Send your \$100 check to:

**Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing
W. Laird Davis Center of Learning
C/O Admissions Office
25 Heckel Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136**

FINANCIAL AID

The School of Nursing participates in federal and state financial aid programs. To be eligible for financial aid, students must be citizens of the United States or eligible non-citizens, enrolled in an eligible program leading to a degree or certificate, not be in default or owe a refund on federal financial aid previously received and meet satisfactory academic progress standards. Additional eligibility criteria are outlined in The Student Guide, A US Department of Education publication available from the Financial Aid Office. A student must reapply each year to determine continued eligibility for most programs.

APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

The School of Nursing will assist the student and his or her family in every way possible. The student must complete the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA). The form is available from our Financial Aid Office, high school counselors, most libraries, and the Internet (www.studentaid.gov). The student will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) as a result of the US Department of Education processing their FAFSA. The SAR is used to determine eligibility for financial aid for most federal and state programs. At the student's or parent's discretion, a separate loan application may be completed to borrow educational funds. A student should contact the Financial Aid Office for institutional aid programs requiring a separate application. Each student is encouraged to apply early to maximize his or her eligibility for financial aid.

DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID

The School of Nursing disburses aid on each full semester. Financial aid is directly credited to a student's account at the beginning of the each payment term. Funds will not be credited until all requested documents and information have been received and verified. First time borrowers cannot receive the first disbursement of a Direct Loan until 30 days have elapsed from the start of classes.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a recipient of federal financial aid, a student has certain rights and responsibilities. Knowing these rights and responsibilities puts the student in a better position to make decisions about educational goals and how to achieve them. These rights and responsibilities are outlined in the Student Guide at www.studentaid.ed.gov.





Types of Aid and Loan Options Available

HERITAGE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM FULL TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

The School of Nursing offers scholarships and federal and state grant programs to support the cost of rising tuition for our students. Eligibility is limited to US citizens or eligible non-citizens. The Full Tuition Scholarship includes a 3 year work commitment within Heritage Valley Health System and completion of 50 mandated volunteer hours while in attendance of the program. Scholarships are awarded per-term basis. A student with a desire to attend under this scholarship program should inform the school immediately; as scholarships are limited and awarded first come/first served.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

Gift assistance based upon need and awarded through the federal government. The grant amounts are adjusted annually by Congress. Students apply by completing the FAFSA. Students, if otherwise eligible may qualify for a Federal Pell Grant regardless of the number of credits for which they are enrolled.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE GRANT

Pennsylvania State Grants are also gift assistance, based upon financial need, awarded through the Commonwealth. The PA Grant is available to qualifying permanent residents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Award amounts are adjusted annually by the Commonwealth. Students apply by completing the FAFSA also.

To qualify for the PA Grant, the student must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credits). The State Grant deadlines are different for first-time applicants, renewal applicants and summer-term applicants.

- **First Time Applicants - August 1st**
- **Renewal Applicants - May 1st**

If you miss the State Grant deadline for the academic year, apply anyway. Late applicants (for terms other than summer) may qualify for awards if funding permits.

FEDERAL DIRECT LOANS

Direct Stafford Loans, from the William D. Ford Federal Loan (Direct Loan) Program, are low-interest loans for eligible students to help cover the cost of higher education. Eligible students borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education.

Federal Direct Loans include the following types:

Direct Subsidized Loans - Direct Subsidized Loans are for students with financial need. Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing will review the results of your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and determine the amount you can borrow. You are not charged with interest while enrolled at least half-time and during grace and /or deferment periods.

Direct Unsubsidized Loan - You are not required to demonstrate financial need to receive a Direct Unsubsidized Loan. The School of Nursing will determine the amount you can borrow. Interest accrues (accumulates) on an unsubsidized loan from the time it is first disbursed. You can pay the interest while you are in school and during grace, deferment or forbearance periods, or you can allow it to accrue and be capitalized (added to principal amount), if you choose. You can choose to not pay the interest - this will increase the total amount you have to repay because you will be charged interest on a higher principal amount.

DIRECT SUBSIDIZED AND UNSUBSIDIZED FEDERAL LOANS

Congress sets interest rates on Direct Loans from the U.S. Department of Education through legislation that ties the rate to financial markets. Your student loan servicer does NOT set your student loan interest rate and cannot change it.

For each loan type, the calculated interest rate may not exceed a maximum rate specified in the HEA. The maximum interest rates are 8.25% for Direct Subsidized Loans and Direct Unsubsidized Loans made to undergraduate students, 9.50% for Direct Unsubsidized Loans made to graduate and professional students, and 10.50% for Direct PLUS Loans made to parents of dependent undergraduate students or to graduate or professional students.

For Federal Direct Student Loans with a first disbursement date on or after July 1, 2023 and before July 1, 2024, the following rates are fixed for the life of the loan:

Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans for Undergraduate Students: 5.50%

Direct PLUS Loans for Parents of Undergraduate Students: 8.05%

PARENT PLUS LOAN

Parents of dependent students may apply for a Direct PLUS Loan to help pay for their child's educational expenses as long as certain eligibility requirements are met.

To be eligible for a Direct PLUS Loan for Parents:

- The parent borrower must be the student's biological or adoptive parent. In some cases, the student's stepparent may be eligible.
- The student must be a dependent student who is enrolled at least half-time.
- The parent borrower must not have an adverse credit history (a credit-check will be preformed). If the parent does not pass the credit-check, the parent may still receive a loan

if someone (grandparent and or/relative) agrees to endorse the loan. The endorser promises to repay the loan if the parent fails to do so. The parent may also receive a loan if he or she can demonstrate extenuating circumstances.

- The parent must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, must not be in default on any federal education loans or owe an overpayment on a federal educational grant. The borrower must meet other general eligibility requirements.

For a Direct PLUS Loan, the parent must complete a Direct PLUS Loan Application and Master Promissory Note (MPN). The MPN is a legal document in which the borrower promises to repay the loan and any accrued interest and fees to the Department of Education. It also explains the terms and conditions of the loan. The PLUS Loan/MPN application can be completed online at www.studentloans.gov. The annual limit on a PLUS Loan is equal to the student's cost of attendance minus any other financial aid the student receives.

LOAN COUNSELING

Entrance Counseling Instructions:

- Go to <https://studentaid.gov> and sign in using your FSA ID (<http://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.html>) from the Department of Education
- Select "Complete Entrance Counseling" under the counseling tab
- Select PA as the school state and choose our institution
- Take the Entrance Counseling
- Review your Borrower Rights and Responsibilities and submit
- Print the confirmation sheet for your records

Master Promissory Note (MPN Instructions)

The entire MPN process must be completed together in one session. The session should take approximately 30 minutes to complete:

- Got to <https://studentaid.gov> and sign in using your FSA ID (<http://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.html>) from the Department of Education
- Select "Sign Master Promissory Note"

- Select the type of undergraduate loan (Subsidized/ Unsubsidized)
- Provide personal information (citizenship, address, driver's license, telephone number, etc.)
- Select PA as the school state and choose our institution
- Provide reference information
- Review Terms and Conditions, electronically sign and submit the MPN
- Print a copy of your MPN for your records

REFUND POLICY

Students may withdraw from the nursing program at any time. Students are required to submit a letter of withdrawal from the program to the Director of the School of Nursing. The letter must state the reason for leaving, be signed, and dated. Students must make arrangements for a final conference with the Director.

Students may owe the School a balance after all refunds are made. Students must make arrangements with the Financial Aid Coordinator to ensure that all financial obligations are met.



TUITION REFUND

The percentage of tuition refunded will be calculated in accordance with the application refund schedules outlined below. The Federal Pro Rata policy is only applicable to students enrolled for the first time at the School of Nursing and only during the first semester. All other refunds are calculated in accordance with the federal refund policy. Although semesters may be combined for billing

purposes, refunds, are based on the tuition charged for each semester, whether a mini session or a full semester. The student will receive a full refund of tuition charged for a semester if he or she never attends. For example, a first year student is billed for the first fall semester, but withdraws after the first day, the student will receive a full refund for the fall semester.

Federal Pro Rata Policy	10-Wk Term Refund %	16-Wk Term Refund %
1st day of class	100%	100%
1st week	80%	90%
2nd week	70%	80%
3rd week	60%	80%
4th week	50%	70%
5th week	0%	60%
6th week	0%	60%
7th week	0%	50%
8th week	0%	0%
9th week	0%	0%

No refund beyond 7th week

Federal Refund Policy	All Terms Refund 50%
1st day of class	100%
After the 1st day of class through 10% of the term	90%
Withdrawal after the first 10% but not through 25% of term	50%
Withdrawal after the first 25% but not through 50% of term	25%
After 50% of the term	0%

ALL FEES ARE NONREFUNDABLE

Tuition refunds are calculated using the student's last day of attendance. The School will make refunds within 30 days of the student's official withdrawal date or in the case of unofficial withdrawal, the date the School determines the student is no longer enrolled. The date of determination for unofficial withdrawal is more than 15 calendar days after the student's last date of attendance.

Sample refund calculations are available in the Financial Aid Office.

Refunds are made in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loans
2. Subsidized Federal Direct Loans
3. Federal PLUS Loans
4. Federal Pell Grant
5. State Grant Programs (PHEAA, OIG)
6. Institutional Aid
7. Outside Agency Aid, and
8. Student

A student or parent, who believes an exception to the published refund policy is warranted, should submit a written appeal with documentation of any mitigating or unusual circumstances. The written appeal must be submitted within 45 calendar days of the last day of attendance. The appeal should be directed to the Financial Aid Officer at the School of Nursing.

REPAYMENT POLICY

A student who receives a cash refund from grant aid will have a repayment calculation performed upon complete withdrawal from the program. This calculation is used to determine if any of the aid paid to the student for indirect expenses must be repaid to the financial aid programs.

All non-institutional living expenses are prorated based on the number of weeks the student completes each term. A partial week is treated as equivalent to a full week. For students who begin attendance in the term, 100% of the books and supplies allowance is considered expended.

Repayments are made in the following order:

1. Federal Pell Grant
2. State Grant
3. Institutional Grant

Applicable college credits can be transferred into the nursing program prior to admission. Once admitted to the program, any required college course must be taken at the affiliating university within the curriculum of the nursing program.

For further information on Financial Aid policies, please visit heritagevalley.org/residencies-schools/hvhs-school-of-nursing/ under Tuition and Fees, or [click here](#).





Heritage Valley Health System, all of which are available for planned student clinical experiences, include but are not limited to, medical-surgical units, critical care suite, emergency department, post-anesthesia care unit, outpatient surgical service, maternal care, and geropsych. In addition, the School of Nursing also utilizes a variety of Heritage Valley Health System outpatient and community centers to provide students with the best possible clinical experiences. Clinical supervision is provided by qualified, masters prepared faculty members.

RESOURCE CENTER

The Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing Resource Center is a large computer lounge offering the student 24 hour access. This center houses twelve desktop computers with electronic access to an online library data base supplied through the affiliated university. Student access to Nursing Central - an electronic lab and pharmaceutical resources - is also available. Within the Resource Center is a small on-site library with printed copies of all required and recommended texts along with various nursing publications. This area is maintained by a faculty member and available for use by the student at all times.

STUDENT GUIDEBOOK

A link to a complete copy of the Student Guidebook is available on the Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing website.



Student Services and Facilities

COUNSELING PROGRAM

Each student is assigned an academic advisor to assist the student in reaching their academic goals. In addition, the program incorporates study sessions and specific reviews of content in its "Student Success Program," a program designed for those identified as "at risk." Appropriate professional referrals will be made available for problems beyond the scope of the facility.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Elected student representatives, along with faculty and the Director of the School of Nursing, make up the membership of the Curriculum Committee. The Committee provides students with a direct avenue to present and address student concerns in addition to contributing to the ongoing evaluation of, and resulting changes to the curriculum.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

The School of Nursing is equipped with classrooms, a skills lab, conference rooms, a simulation lab, a Resource Center, faculty/staff offices, a student lounge, a serenity room, and an auditorium. The clinical areas of Heritage Valley Health System and

Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing Philosophy and Mission

The philosophy of the Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing reflects the beliefs of the faculty and supports the mission of Heritage Valley Health System. The faculty recognizes the advantage of ties between nursing education and an institution that provides a variety of health care services. The faculty of the Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing accepts the responsibility for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the total program in response to the individual needs of the students, the community, and current nursing practice. We believe the role of our faculty is to provide educational experiences and guidance, to smooth the progress of the learning process, and to foster the development of each student as a person and a nurse. Our faculty's beliefs and values are as follows:

HUMAN BEINGS

Human beings are multidimensional, bio-psychosocial-cultural-intellectual-spiritual beings in constant interaction with their internal self and external environment. Humans are viewed as valued holistic persons, to be respected, nurtured and understood with the right to make informed choices regarding their health. Humans are unique and integrated open systems that interact, interrelate, and are interdependent with the environment. Throughout their lifespan, humans strive to achieve optimal well being through an interactive process between the internal and external environment utilizing adaptation. Adaptation is a dynamic response to stressors that impact the humans' physiological, psychosocial, developmental, cultural, and spiritual dimensions relative to their environment.

ENVIRONMENT

Environment is composed of two components; the internal and external systems. The internal environmental system includes physiological, psychosocial, developmental, cultural and spiritual dimensions. The external environmental system consists of groups of humans united by common

familial, geographic, socioeconomic, political, spiritual, cultural, and physical characteristics. The environment is diverse and ever changing; constantly influencing and responding to dynamic forces. These surrounding conditions alter health and/or well being and require adaptive responses. One focus of nursing is to optimize the environment in diverse health care settings to assist patients in meeting their individualized basic needs.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Community is viewed as a system of people living a relationship which can be based upon geographic location, cultural ties, and/or bonds of special interest. Community is a focal point of concern for the nurse and is the context in which the recipient and nurse interact. The community has a responsibility to participate in the planning and implementation of health services affecting life and well-being. We, the faculty, contribute to the quality of life of our community by serving as a resource for group endeavors, providing educational opportunities, and preparing nurse graduates to meet their healthcare needs. We believe nurses cultivate a spirit of community, teamwork, and partnership by collaborating with and empowering others. The nurse's knowledge of cultural concepts can serve to improve the health of the community. Culture is innately related to how individuals, families, and groups within the community perceive issues of health and wellness, and guide healthcare decision-making. The first step in understanding the health care needs of patients is to understand personal culturally-based values, beliefs, attitudes, and practices.

HEALTH

Health is a holistic, dynamic and evolving process characterized by adaptive responses to internal and external environments. It is an integrated, synthesized balance among the internal environmental dimensions of the human being, resulting in optimal use of resources to minimize health alterations. Adaptation is the process by which one attempts to maintain the balance. The degree of balance between the person and the stressors of the internal and external environments determines the person's level of health.

Health exists on a continuum in which adjustments are made to maintain the relative constant called homeostasis. Wellness is a state of health in which basic needs are being met and homeostasis is maintained. Health at any given point in time is observed on the health-illness continuum represented by optimal well-being at one end and death at the other. Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention measures for health related issues are essential for optimal functioning of an individual across the life span. An optimal state of holistic health is reached when human beings identify and cope with their environmental stressors allowing them to reach their goals to achieve a higher level of wellness and self-defined quality of life.

NURSING

Nursing is a professionally practiced discipline which combines the art of caring and the science of nursing based on current research findings. We believe caring to be a creative and dynamic process as best described by **Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring**.

"Jean Watson's philosophy and science of caring addresses how nurses express care to their patients. Caring is central to nursing practice, and promotes health better than a simple medical cure. She believes that a holistic approach to health care is central to the practice of caring in nursing.

According to Watson, caring, which is manifested in nursing, has existed in every society. However, a caring attitude is not transmitted from generation to generation. Instead, it's transmitted by the culture of the nursing profession as a unique way of coping with its environment."

The science of nursing is the body of knowledge developed from nursing theory and research, as well as, knowledge integrated from other disciplines and behavioral sciences. It is the goal of nursing to provide holistic, dynamic, compassionate, and integrated care through use of the nursing process. The process includes therapeutic interventions, communication, clinical judgment and critical thinking. The professional nurse uses leadership and management skills to collaborate with other health

team members, individuals, families, groups and communities to promote autonomy in establishing and maintaining an optimal state of wellness, recovery from illness, or a peaceful death. As a profession, nursing is committed to assisting patient systems via clinical judgment in the promotion, maintenance, restoration, and/or rehabilitation of the patient on the health-wellness continuum.



TEACHING-LEARNING

Teaching, as a special form of communication, is a transaction involving both learner and teacher where the teacher acts as a facilitator, a role model, and a resource person in an environment that fosters learning. It is a system of diverse planned activities including various modes, methods, and technologies arranged to bring about learning. Teaching incorporates the knowledge, skill, experience, and expertise of the teacher. It assists the learner to acquire, develop, organize, and structure knowledge and promotes desirable attitudes, habits and skills. Teaching also fosters a spirit of inquiry, a sense of discovery and the desire to pursue self-directed, life-long learning for professional and personal growth. Teaching may be conducted in formal arenas such as the classroom and clinical laboratory as well as informal settings such as clinics, client homes, or the community.

Learning is a dynamic, interactive, continuous, self-directed, life-long process characterized by the acquisition of knowledge, self-awareness and self-discovery. Learning is facilitated by the breadth and depth of ones' critical thinking, and by cognitive, affective and psychomotor skills, all of which change the behavior of the learner. The learner's behavioral change results from the interaction of the individual with his/her environment. Each human being has a unique learning style. Learning is an individualized, holistic process which occurs best when learner rights are respected and when the learner accepts and assumes responsibility to be self-directed and to make decisions involving his or her own growth to attain professional and/or personal goals. Learning proceeds from simple to complex, and is enhanced by the correlation of theoretical concepts with clinical experiences over a period of time. Essential to learning is the person's internal motivation to learn and the ability to act on knowledge once acquired. The learner's individual interests, attitudes, beliefs, values, and needs affect the process of learning.

NURSING EDUCATION

We believe that nursing education is a multi-dimensional, collaborative process through which critical thinking is developed as knowledge is accrued and competencies are acquired. It is the responsibility of the nursing educator to provide tools to meet the unique needs of the student in an environment conducive to learning and to serve as a role model. Students are viewed as adult learners. In this context, learners engage in the educational process in a spirit of self-directedness by assuming responsibility for learning, thereby providing an impetus for life-long professional and/or personal growth. Nursing education encompasses the teaching-learning activities designed to prepare individuals to assist in the promotion, maintenance, restoration, and rehabilitation of individual clients, families, groups and the community. Within nursing education, the nursing process is utilized as a systematic method of decision-making, designed to facilitate critical thinking for the development and application of nursing interventions to meet client needs.

MISSION STATEMENT

Based on our Philosophy, we the faculty of the Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing, strive to develop and present an educational program to prepare graduates to practice competently and safely in entry level positions in a wide range of settings and to meet the needs of the community. We pursue to instill in our graduates a motivation to continue to develop professionally and personally by maintaining clinical competence, actively participating in professional organizations, and embracing the concept of lifelong learning. It is our mission to develop the student from novice to competent resulting in a nurse generalist proficient in the areas of holism, safety, critical thinking, communication and professionalism.



Academic Policies

STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY

- The student is responsible and accountable for individual active participation in the learning process.
- The student is required to prepare for each theoretical and clinical experience, to participate actively in each learning opportunity and to pursue academic goals through honest endeavor.
- The student is responsible and accountable for individual actions while administering nursing care to the client.
- The student is to perform nursing care commensurate with the level of nursing education and to adhere to the policies and procedures of the institution where their clinical experience is scheduled.
- It is the responsibility of the student to seek supervision from the nursing instructor for any nursing skill or treatment that the student does not feel competent to perform.

PREREQUISITES FOR ATTENDING CLASSES

Students will be certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) by the American Heart Association in orientation and must maintain active certification throughout their enrollment in the nursing program.

Students must satisfy all health requirements prior to beginning the program. No student may begin clinical unless their health record is complete.

Criminal, FBI clearance (fingerprinting), and child abuse clearance are required upon admission in order for students to be compliant with Act 33 & 34 of the Pennsylvania code.

EVALUATION

Student evaluation is based on theory and clinical performance, both are based on course outcomes. Evaluation is a continuous process involving both faculty and student. Upon completion of a term, each student will receive a final clinical evaluation by the instructor. The final theory grade and clinical

pass/fail grade is given to the student and recorded on his/her academic transcript. At the end of each term the student anonymously evaluates the clinical sites, the theory and clinical instructors, the theoretical experience, and the school environment.

GRADING SCALE - THEORY

Grade	Quality Points	Percentage
A	4	93-100
B	3	85-92
C	2	77-84
F	0	0-76

A student must achieve a "C" in all nursing courses to remain in the program. The affiliating college will provide 1 quality point for a "D" grade; however, a "C" grade must be achieved in all corequisites to graduate from the nursing program. A student who fails a nursing course (clinical or theoretical component) cannot progress to the next course and will be dismissed from the program. A student who withdraws during the first half of a term is assigned a "W" grade. The "W" grade does not negatively impact a student's QPA, however, the course must be completed to progress in the program.

GRADING SCALE - CLINICAL

To achieve a passing grade in clinical, the student must obtain a satisfactory score in each clinical outcome on the Clinical Performance Review. All clinical competencies must be satisfactorily performed and all other clinical activities completed to pass clinical.

GRADUATION

A student who has fulfilled the requirements of the nursing program will graduate and be eligible to receive the diploma and pin of the School. All financial obligations must be fulfilled prior to graduation. Attendance at graduation in the approved, required regalia is mandatory.

The graduating nurse may apply to take the state licensing examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN) providing all requirements for eligibility are met.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A leave of absence may be requested in writing and must be approved by the director of the School of Nursing. A student may take no more than 1 leave of absence in a twelve-month period; the leave may not be in excess of 2 weeks in duration and all content missed must be made up.

Students are permitted a 3-day funeral leave for a death in the immediate family. Immediate family includes; parent, parent-in-law, spouse, child, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, sibling, or legal guardian. If a close relative dies, the student is permitted a 1-day funeral leave. Close relatives include; grandparent, aunt, uncle, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, niece, or nephew.

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM

A student may withdraw from the nursing program at any time. The student is required to submit a dated letter to the director of the School of Nursing, stating official withdrawal from the program, effective date, and the reason for withdrawal. The student must make arrangements for a final conference with the Director. A student who does not officially withdraw from the school and/or college during the add/drop period, or who fails to complete a course, will receive a grade of "F." All financial aid and/or scholarship obligations must be met before the student withdraws.

READMISSION

Students who withdraw for any reason or are academically dismissed are eligible to apply for re-admission pending the fulfillment of re-admission requirements. A student may re-enroll only once with the approval of the Admissions Committee. All eligible applicants for readmission to the first semester are placed back into the pool of applicants and must meet the criteria level set for the new class. Due to the sequential nature of the program, re-enrollment will typically be ten to twelve months after the dismissal or withdrawal.

DISMISSAL FROM THE NURSING PROGRAM

A student will be dismissed from the School of Nursing for any of the following violations:

- Any criminal act
- Any violation of the Nurse Practice Act
- Violation of a School or Hospital policy
- Any purposeful act which endangers the safety and well-being of the client
- Noncompliance with the School's policy regarding substance abuse
- Failure of the theoretical or clinical component of a nursing course
- Failure of a college course (final grade "D" or "F")
- Failure of medication administration competency exam per policy
- Violation of the Code of Ethics
- Violation of professional standards including academic integrity policy
- Any violation of HIPAA, including, but not limited to unauthorized computer access of patient information
- Violations addressed per the misconduct policy
- Violation of the social media policy
- Theft

HOLIDAYS

Students are exempt from class and clinical experience on:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas Day

Exemption from class and clinical experience will be given individual consideration by the director for other cultural and ethnic practices.

HVHS SON: A 120+ Year History



Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing accepted its first student in 1901 under the name of McKees Rocks General Hospital. For 120 years, the School of Nursing has grown and advanced with the Hospital toward a mutual goal of excellence in health care and nursing education. The School of Nursing has maintained programs of affiliation with other hospitals prominent in their respective fields to provide students with opportunities for experience in all areas of nursing care.

Since 1901, our School of Nursing has evolved from a 3 year program, to a 20 month accelerated program. This provides an opportunity for students to achieve a quality nursing education in the least amount of time.

In 2018, Ohio Valley Hospital School of Nursing partnered with California University of Pennsylvania,

a leading University in the area, to offer the general education and science courses required for Nursing Programs. Cal U personnel work closely with the school faculty to align the courses with the present nursing program, offering all courses online for independent and flexible learning at a time and location of the student's choice.

In 2019, the official affiliation of Ohio Valley Hospital with Heritage Valley Health System began. This collaboration offers the nursing program an increased variety of inpatient clinical and community experiences at the Sewickley and Beaver campuses of the Health System, expanding and improving learning experiences within the clinical curriculum. On July 1, 2020, the affiliation with Heritage Valley Health System was completed and the School of Nursing became Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing.

Directions to Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing

Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing is within easy driving distance of most of Pittsburgh's main areas. Located on Heckel Road in Kennedy Township near Route 60, the School is just minutes from the Crafton/Moon Run exit of I-79.

Heritage Valley Kennedy
25 Heckel Road
McKees Rocks, PA 15136-1694

Hospital: 412-777-6161
School of Nursing: 412-777-6204

FROM I-79

Take I-79 to the Crafton/Moon Run exit if traveling North, it is exit 60A (formerly exit 16); if traveling South, it is exit 60A (formerly exit 16B) Bear right down the hill to merge onto Route 60 South. Immediately get into the left lane. At the stop light turn left onto Lorish-McKees Rocks Road. Drive 2 miles, going straight through the stop light at Kennedy Center, and then turn left at the stop sign onto Heckel Road.

FROM ROUTE 65 (OHIO RIVER BOULEVARD)

Take Ohio River Boulevard to I-79 and follow above directions, or, go across the McKees Rocks Bridge and make a right onto Route 51. At the first light, veer left and go up the hill. Stay on McCoy Road approximately 3 miles until reaching the stop light at the T intersection of McCoy and Pine Hollow Roads. Turn left, then take the first right onto Heckel Road.

FROM DOWNTOWN PITTSBURGH

Go through the Fort Pitt Tunnels and take the Parkway West (279) to I-79 North toward Erie. Follow I-79 directions above, or, before entering the Fort Pitt tunnels, take the exit onto 51 North. Follow signs for McKees Rocks and 51N along the river. You will take a sharp left turn before a small metal bridge and drive through downtown McKees Rocks. After driving under a railroad trestle, go through two stop lights. Take a right after the third stop light then take the first left up the hill. At the top of the hill, take a right turn at the stop sign onto Heckel Road. The first right will bring you into Ohio Valley Hospital's main entrance. From Route 60 & The Greater Pittsburgh International Airport

Take the Parkway to the Moon Run exit and go on Route 60 South toward Crafton. Drive about 4 miles along Route 60/Steubenville Pike and at the stop light, turn left onto Lorish-McKees Rocks Road. Drive 2 miles, going straight through the stop light at Kennedy Center, and then turn left at the stop sign onto Heckel Road.



Heritage Valley Health System School of Nursing is excited to continue the history of our community hospital school of nursing as we move forward embracing the opportunities presented by the ever changing face of health care to educate the nurses of the future.



HERITAGE VALLEY
HEALTH SYSTEM

SCHOOL OF NURSING

412-777-6204

25 Heckel Road
Kennedy Township, PA 15136

HeritageValley.org

