

Blue Ridge Community & Technical College
Traditional & Accelerated ASN Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Most information about the Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) Program can be found on our website: www.blueridgectc.edu/nursing.

If you are a new or prospective nursing student at Blue Ridge CTC, please review the following links before scrolling to the questions below:

[I WANT TO BE A NURSE, WHY AM I A MEDICAL ASSISTING STUDENT?](#)

[HOW DO I FIND MY ACADEMIC PLAN?](#)

[WHAT COURSES DO I TAKE TO APPLY TO THE NURSING PROGRAM?](#)

[HOW DO I FIND & REGISTER FOR MY CLASSES?](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about both the **Traditional ASN** and **Accelerated ASN** options are included below; you may use the links to jump down to the question. If you have further questions after reviewing the document, please reach out to nursing@blueridgectc.edu.

[What is the Traditional ASN Program?](#)

[What is the Accelerated ASN Program?](#)

[How is the Accelerated ASN different from the Traditional ASN Program?](#)

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[This is a lot of information. Can someone help me make a personalized plan?](#)

What is the Traditional ASN Program?

The Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree is a 60-credit program that spans 5 semesters, designed to prepare the graduate to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and to enter a career as a beginning practitioner of nursing. The Traditional ASN is our original ASN option, offered in face-to-face format over the Fall and Spring semesters.

What is the Accelerated ASN Program?

The Accelerated ASN Program is an intensive, hands-on program option for more rapid preparation toward the ASN degree. While it still encompasses 60 credits and spans 5 semesters (like the Traditional ASN), the Accelerated ASN is offered in hybrid format over the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters.

How is the Accelerated ASN different from the Traditional ASN Program?

There are a few key differences in the Accelerated ASN Program:

- Summer nursing courses are offered in the Accelerated ASN.
- Admission is limited to Summer entry and may not be offered every Summer.
- Courses are delivered in hybrid format, offering a mix of face-to-face and online instruction.
- Because this is a time-intensive program, [admission requirements](#) and decision criteria are different for the Accelerated ASN than for our Traditional ASN.

What makes the Accelerated ASN Program faster than the Traditional ASN?

The sequence of courses for our Accelerated ASN is the same as our traditional ASN program, except that we offer Summer nursing courses in the Accelerated ASN. We do not offer Summer nursing courses in our traditional ASN, so this shortens the time to degree completion for the Accelerated ASN.

How long does it take to complete the Accelerated ASN Program?

- It can take as little as 15-19 months but depends largely on completed prerequisite coursework and/or placement into prerequisite courses.
- Once you have completed ALL prerequisite coursework/requirements and have been officially accepted into the program, nursing coursework for the Accelerated ASN can be completed over four semesters, including summer terms (i.e. in sequence from **Summer, Fall, Spring, Summer**).

How long does it take to complete the Traditional ASN Program?

- It can take as little as 21-28 months but depends largely on completed prerequisite coursework and/or placement into prerequisite courses.
- Once you have completed ALL prerequisite coursework/requirements and have been officially accepted into the program, nursing coursework for the Traditional ASN can be completed over four semesters as well but does not include summer terms:
 - Fall Admission: **Fall, Spring, Fall, Spring**
 - Spring Admission: **Spring, Fall, Spring, Fall**

What are the admission requirements for the ASN Program?

Admission requirements can be found on our website: <http://www.blueridgectc.edu/ApplyToNursing>.

How do I apply to the ASN Program?

Steps for how to apply can be found on our website: <http://www.blueridgectc.edu/ApplyToNursing>.

What is the curriculum for the ASN Program?

Both the Accelerated ASN Program and Traditional ASN Program follow the same course sequence. More information on the curriculum and courses required can be found by accessing the ASN degree information located in the college Catalog. To access the Catalog entry for the ASN Program:

1. Visit <https://www.blueridgectc.edu/audience/current-student/catalogs/>.
2. Click on the link directly under Current Catalog.
3. Select “Academic Programs” from the available options on the left-hand side.
4. Select “Nursing A.S.N.” from the list of degree options.

Why does my DegreeWorks look different than the suggested course progression that is listed in the Catalog for the ASN Program?

To apply to the ASN Program, you must be enrolled as a student at Blue Ridge CTC. This requires that you enter a pre-nursing major (like Medical Assisting – Nursing Foundations) and enroll in your prerequisite coursework if not already completed successfully (see “pre-admit semester”).

If you have further questions about the Medical Assisting major, please review the following link:
[**I WANT TO BE A NURSE, WHY AM I A MEDICAL ASSISTING STUDENT?**](#)

What happens if I can’t handle the pace of the Accelerated ASN Program once admitted?

If you withdraw from any course along the Accelerated ASN track, you will automatically be diverted to our Traditional ASN track but will be subject to progression implications outlined in our ASN Program Student Handbook. While it is our goal that you are successful, it is a challenging program.

This is a lot of information. Can someone help me make a personalized plan?

Yes! If you are not yet a BRCTC student, [admissions counselors are available](#) to help you get started, after which your advisor can provide a customized plan. If you are already a BRCTC student, please meet with your advisor. General questions about the ASN Program (including application questions) can be forwarded to nursing@blueridgectc.edu.