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MARK A. HEINRICH, PH.D.
Chancellor

MEMORANDUM #2016-WFD-008

DATE: February 12, 2016
TO: Presidents, Alabama Community College System
FROM: Mark Heinrich, Chancellor 
RE: Nursing Admission and Curriculum Changes

I have approved the following changes to the admission criteria and curriculum for the ACCS Practical and Associate Degree Nursing Programs:

The Concept Based Curriculum should be implemented by Fall Semester 2016 for those programs that do not have an Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) visit during 2016. For those programs that are having an ACEN visit during 2016, your implementation of the new curriculum and admission criteria must be done no later than Fall Semester 2017. Nursing curriculum updates are located on the ACCS website under Workforce/Career Technical Education/Health Programs.

Admission criteria for the seamless PN to RN curriculum includes the requirement of an ACT composite score of 18. Additional criteria are included in the attachment to this memorandum.

The current admission criteria will continue to be used for those programs that are stand-alone practical nursing programs. This includes an ATI-TEAS score instead of the ACT. Additional information related to this criteria is attached to this memorandum.

I am also issuing waivers to all colleges for Psychology 200 and Biology 103 for those students entering either PN or RN programs.

Each nursing program must implement a conference at the beginning of a student admission to include study skills, test taking skills, note taking skills, and organizational skills. Each student will be required to complete this one-day conference and will not be charged a fee but, instead, this should be part of their over-all orientation to your program.

Thank you for your recent input on this issue and for continuing to offer excellent instruction for our nursing students.

lc/gs

Attachment

c: Deans of Students
Instructional Officers
Nursing Deans and Directors

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR NURSING PROGRAMS

- **Those programs that are LPN admission only and NOT FOLLOWING THE SEAMLESS PN TO RN CURRICULUM may use the following admission standards as currently being used for admission. They are:**
 - TEAS Score (Test of Essential Academic Skills. Score must be less than 2 years old)
 - A minimum of 2.5 GPA on the last 24 hours of college courses completed. **-OR-**
 - A minimum of 2.5 high school GPA on students without prior college courses.
 - Unconditional Admission to the college
 - Receipt of completed application before published deadline
 - Eligibility for ENG 101, BIO 201, and MTH 116
 - Meet the essential functions for nursing.
 - Additional points (Maximum of 11) may be awarded as determined by the individual college policy and procedure.

- **Those programs following the seamless PN-RN curriculum admission criteria are:**
 - Unconditional admission to the college
 - Receipt of completed application for admission to nursing program before published deadline.
 - A minimum of **18 ACT** composite score National or Residual
 - A minimum of **2.5 GPA** for nursing required academic core courses.
 - A minimum of **2.5 GPA** cumulative high school GPA for students without prior college courses (GED will be used if applicable)
 - Meet the essential functions for nursing
 - Eligible for ENG 101, BIO 201 and MTH 100

- **Information for Admission/Selection Committee for Calculation of Points for Students Meeting Minimum Admission Standards for the Seamless Curriculum**
 - ACT score. Possible of 36 points with no time limit on when the test was taken.
 - Points from Nursing required college courses (i.e. ENG 101, MTH 100 or higher, BIO 201 and BIO 202)
 - Points for grades are as follow: A= 3 points, B = 2 points, and C = 1 point
 - Additional 10 points may be awarded as determined by the individual college policy and procedure.