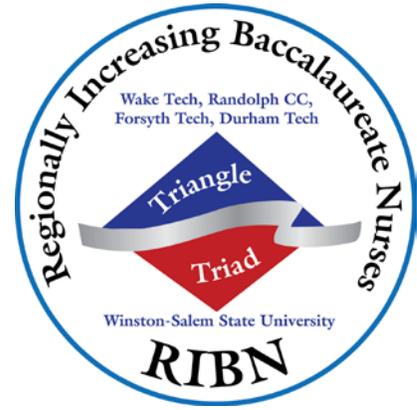


Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN)



RIBN is a four-year educational pathway that includes all coursework required to complete an associate (ADN) and a baccalaureate (BSN) degree in nursing. Students are dually enrolled at Forsyth Tech and Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) for the first three years of study while completing general education and associate degree nursing classes. Following successful completion of the third year of study, students are awarded an ADN degree and are eligible to take the RN licensing exam (NCLEX). After passing the NCLEX students continue at WSSU to complete a final three semesters of nursing coursework to earn their BSN degree.

A BSN provides nurses with a number of advantages. Many RN positions in hospitals and other health care settings now require a BSN degree for employment or advancement. A BSN also positions students to continue their education at the graduate level in nursing or in other related fields such as health care administration or public health.

Who Should Apply?

RIBN is ideal for those students who:

- Have recently graduated high school *or* have few or no college credits
- Desire a seamless associate to baccalaureate nursing education
- Prefer to complete most of their coursework at a local community college
- Are looking for an affordable option to a university nursing program

As most tuition is paid at community college rates, RIBN provides students with an affordable way to earn a BSN degree. In addition, students have the option of working part-time as an RN after completing their third year of study and passing the NCLEX exam.

Course of Study

The four-year RIBN curriculum includes eleven semesters of study with Forsyth Tech serving as the “home” school for the first three years (eight semesters). First year classes at Forsyth Tech include Anatomy and Physiology, English, Psychology, Math, and a choice of several electives. During the second and third years (fourth through eighth semesters), students complete associate

degree nursing classes and are awarded an ADN degree following successful completion of all coursework.

While completing their first three years at Forsyth Tech, RIBN students also take one online class each semester at WSSU. This coursework includes classes in history, fine arts, literature, and other subject areas to meet baccalaureate degree general education requirements. The final year at WSSU is devoted to baccalaureate nursing classes focusing on leadership, community and public health, nursing research, and gerontology. Students graduate with a BSN from WSSU following successful completion of all classes.

Click here for a more detailed RIBN curriculum.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants must meet minimum admission requirements as determined by Forsyth Tech and WSSU to be eligible to apply to RIBN. Meeting minimum requirements does not, however, guarantee admission to RIBN as eligible applicants are ranked and selected based on specific academic criteria.

Minimum admission requirements for RIBN are:

1. Acceptance as a freshman or transfer student at WSSU. Applicants to WSSU must meet a number of requirements to be considered for admission. For information on these requirements please visit the WSSU website at: [WSSU Admission Requirements](#)
2. A SAT or ACT equivalence score of a minimum of 500 in Critical Reading or Writing and 500 in Math (minimum placement testing scores will also be accepted)
3. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.6 from high school or for any college course work.
4. A **Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS V)*** adjusted individual score that is equal to or greater than 60%.

Please note that Forsyth Technical Community College and WSSU also have traditional two-year and four-year nursing programs respectively. Each of these programs has an application process that is specific to that program and independent of the application process for RIBN. If you wish to apply to either the ADN program at Forsyth Tech or to the BSN program at WSSU, please refer to the application instructions and admissions requirements as described on their websites for each of these options.

How to Apply for Fall 2015 RIBN

The RIBN admissions process consists of several steps. Please read each step carefully and contact the RIBN Advisor with any questions.

Step 1 (must be completed by February 6, 2015)

Complete a RIBN application. The RIBN Advisor will accept applications for Fall 2015 from Monday, September 15, 2014 through Friday, February 6, 2015.

Click here to view and print a RIBN application.

We encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible to ensure that you have time to complete the remaining steps. Proceed to Step 2 *only* after the RIBN Advisor has contacted you to discuss your application.

Step 2 (must be completed by February 27, 2015)

1. Submit an application to WSSU, along with copies of SAT/ACT scores and official transcripts from high school and all colleges attended. A \$50.00 application fee is required. The RIBN Advisor will provide additional instructions to you regarding submission of your WSSU application.
2. Complete and return a Forsyth Tech application to the RIBN Advisor, along with copies of your ACT/SAT tests and official transcripts from high school and all colleges attended. The RIBN Advisor will provide you with this application. If admitted to RIBN a final official transcript must also be submitted once you have graduated from high school or completed any spring semester college courses in which you are currently enrolled.
3. Complete placement testing if needed. The RIBN Advisor will determine if placement testing is required after review of your SAT/ACT scores.

Step 3 (must be completed by March 13, 2015)

1. Take the **TEAS***. You will be given information on how to prepare for and schedule your test after the RIBN Advisor has confirmed that your GPA and test scores (SAT/ACT/placement tests) meet RIBN minimum eligibility requirements.
2. Send a copy of your acceptance letter from WSSU to the RIBN Advisor. If you have not received a response to your application from WSSU by March 13, 2015, you must submit proof that your WSSU application was submitted by February 27, 2015.

Click here for a Checklist to assist you with the admissions process.

TEAS V (Test of Essential Academic Skills)*

The TEAS assesses how well a student is academically prepared for learning nursing-related content. Forsyth Tech will accept TEAS scores (Version 5 only) if taken at another school within the past two years. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a copy of these scores to the RIBN Advisor. Listed below are several available resources that may help you in being successful on the TEAS.

- Study manuals are available for review in the following locations at Forsyth Tech: Main Campus library (Ardmore building), Stokes County Office (Danbury), Grady Swisher Center (Kernersville), and Mazie Woodruff Center (Carver Road, Winston Salem). The manuals cannot be

checked out.

- TEAS preparation materials may be purchased through the following website: [ATI Testing - TEAS Preparation](#).
- ACA 085-Improving Study Skills, an eight-week online course offered by Forsyth Tech, may be completed wherever Internet access is available. Additional credit is not given to RIBN applicants who have completed the one credit hour course during the selection process.

The TEAS coordinator will contact RIBN applicants to schedule testing following referral from the RIBN advisor. It is highly recommended that applicants pay the \$45.00 test fee prior to the day of testing, as the proctor cannot accept any form of payment. Test fees can be paid at the cashier's office on the second floor of the Allman Center on the main campus. Upon arrival for testing, applicants will be asked to present a payment receipt and a photo ID.

Applicants are allowed three attempts to meet the minimum required Adjusted Individual Score. If unsuccessful on the second attempt, applicants must wait eight weeks before testing a third and final time. A one year waiting period is required before resuming the TEAS testing process after a third unsuccessful attempt.

Selection of Applicants

Admission to RIBN is highly competitive. All applicants who have satisfied the minimum admission requirements to be considered for RIBN are ranked numerically based on GPA and TEAS V scores. Applicants with the highest ranked scores will be accepted. In the event of a tie, the applicant with the higher Adjusted Individual Science Score on the TEAS V Exam will be selected.

Additional Requirements for RIBN Students

Once admitted, students must meet the following requirements to maintain their enrollment in RIBN:

1. Before beginning ADN classes in the fifth semester (fall semester of the second year) students **must**:
 - Provide documentation that they have successfully completed a NC approved Certified Nurse Aide 1 Program that includes theory, lab, and clinical components
 - Provide documentation that they are currently credentialed as a Nurse Aide 1 (NA1) with the NC DHSR Nurse Aide Registry
 - Provide documentation that they have completed an American Heart Association Health Care Provider class and are currently certified in CPR
 - Pass a criminal background check/drug screen (as required by clinical facilities) and other health-related requirements of the Associate in Applied Science in Nursing program at Forsyth Tech

Students are encouraged to complete a CNA I course either before beginning their first year of study or during the fall semester of their first year.

2. Students must achieve a grade of “C” or better in all required courses to continue in RIBN. Students receiving a W or WP may continue *only* if the course can be repeated within a timeframe that allows for completion of all ADN nursing and general education classes prior to the ninth semester. If the course in question is a prerequisite to a subsequent course in the RIBN curriculum, this course must be successfully repeated before continuing to the higher-level course. Not all courses are offered each semester.
3. RIBN students must maintain dual enrollment at Forsyth Tech and WSSU by completing at least one WSSU course during two semesters (Fall, Spring, or Summer) of each year for the first three years of study.
4. RIBN students must pass the NCLEX between their third and fourth years of study to progress to fourth year nursing classes at WSSU and complete their BSN degree.

In addition, RIBN students are expected to abide by all Forsyth Tech and WSSU student policies and guidelines. Students who fail to abide by these policies and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from RIBN.

Readmission Guidelines

Students receiving a grade of “D”, “F”, or “WF” in any of their first semester courses may apply for readmission to RIBN for the following fall. These students will be ranked with all other eligible applicants for the following class year and selected accordingly. Students who receive a grade of “D”, “F”, or “WF” in any general education course taken during the second through eighth semesters will be considered for readmission to RIBN based on space availability, Forsyth and WSSU academic policies, and other factors affecting the student’s ability to successfully complete coursework within the designated timeframe. Students receiving a grade of “D”, “F”, or “WF” in any ADN nursing course will be considered for readmission based on both RIBN and ADN program policies.

The maximum number of RIBN readmissions is one per student. Students applying for readmission must meet all RIBN admission requirements for first time applicants. Students applying for readmission as a fourth through eighth semester RIBN student must also complete all ADN program readmission requirements.

Financial Aid

Students interested in applying for financial aid should begin the process as soon

as possible by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at FAFSA.ed.gov. Financial Aid staff are also available at Forsyth Tech to help students with the application process and to answer questions about financial aid and scholarships that may be available. In addition, RIBN students that meet eligibility requirements can apply for Forgivable Education Loans for Service (FELS) for all four years of study. Please visit CFNC.org/FELS for additional information on FELS.

Questions?

Please contact the RIBN Advisor at the telephone number or email address listed below with any additional questions or to schedule an appointment to further explore RIBN as an option for your nursing education.



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