

**Memorandum of Understanding Between
Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing
and Reynolds Community College**

The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing (VCU SON) and Reynolds Community College (REYNOLDS) recognize the need to facilitate completion of the baccalaureate degree among graduates of associate degree programs. This agreement provides an accelerated and streamlined baccalaureate of sciences degree (BS) completion pathway at VCU SON for students enrolled in REYNOLDS through a collaborative concurrent enrollment plan. The goals for this agreement are to 1) reduce time to complete BS degree, 2) increase number of BS graduates, and 3) increase the pool of BS-prepared nurses available for employment by area hospitals. Specifically, participants will be able to begin the RN-BS program while continuing to prepare for the NCLEX exam.

The overarching intent of this collaboration is for REYNOLDS students to 1) receive early advisement regarding VCU SON BS program completion requirements; 2) complete required prerequisite course work at REYNOLDS; 3) co-enroll in the VCU SON RN-BS program and complete 6 credits of RN-BS courses during the last year of enrollment at REYNOLDS; and 4) continue RN-BS courses at the SON following graduation from REYNOLDS in a dedicated cohort at VCU. VCU may appoint qualified faculty from REYNOLDS to teach RN-BS program courses to REYNOLDS students as adjunct VCU SON faculty under applicable VCU affiliate faculty policies.

Section I: Eligibility

To be guaranteed admission to the VCU SON under this collaboration, REYNOLDS students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 41 credit hours of VCU SON RN-BS prerequisite and general education courses (see Table 1) prior to the beginning of the fall semester of the final year in the REYNOLDS program.
2. Earn a minimum cumulative college-level grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale;
3. Earn a minimum grade of "B" in all the required REYNOLDS nursing classes in their first year of nursing courses at REYNOLDS;
4. Earn a minimum grade of "C" in the required prerequisite and general education courses noted below.
5. Apply to the VCU School of Nursing by the posted application deadline (see: <https://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/rn-to-bs/>).

Table 1. Prerequisite Courses for RN-BS Curriculum

Prerequisite or general education**	Number of credits	REYNOLDS course	VCU equivalent
English Composition	6	ENG 111-112	UNIV 111, 112, 200
Anatomy & Physiology	8	BIO 141-142	BIOL 205 + PHIS/Z 206
Statistics	3	MTH 155 or MTH 245	STAT 208 or STAT 210
Introductory Psychology	3	PSY 200	PSYC 101
Developmental Psychology	3	PSY 230	PSC 304
General Sociology	3	SOC 200	SOCY 101
Laboratory Science	8	Select from BIO 101, BIO 102, CHM 101, CHM 111, PHY 101, PHY 201	*VCU equivalent
Microbiology	4	BIO 150	BIOL/Z 209
Nutrition	3	HLT 230	BIOL 217
Philosophy	3	Select from PHI	*VCU equivalent
General education electives	9	Select from ENG, HIS, CST, POL, MUS, ART, PHI, REL, foreign language	*VCU equivalent
Total	53		

*VCU equivalents of REYNOLDS courses can be found at

<https://transfer.vcu.edu/prospective/equivalency/>

**Must earn a grade of C or higher

Section II: Academic Terms of Co-Enrollment

1. Upon receipt by VCU of completed application materials demonstrating eligibility, REYNOLDS students are guaranteed admission to VCU SON RN-BS program for the fall term of the student's last year of enrollment in REYNOLDS's nursing program.
2. Students will be co-enrolled in REYNOLDS and VCU SON for the fall and spring terms of the student's last year of enrollment in the REYNOLDS nursing program. Students will complete the following VCU RN-BS courses:
 - a. Fall term: NURS 301 Informatics (3 credits, online)
 - b. Spring term: NURS 307 Foundations of Professional Nursing I (3 credits, online)
3. REYNOLDS students will be charged VCU tuition and fees for these two courses.

Section III: Academic Terms of Continuing Enrollment

1. Students must earn a minimum grade of "B" in all the remaining REYNOLDS nursing classes taken during their final year at REYNOLDS.
2. Students must maintain a minimum cumulative college-level grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale at REYNOLDS.
3. Any remaining prerequisite or general education courses required for the RN-BS program and taken at REYNOLDS must be completed with a grade of "C" or better.

4. An earned grade less than a "C"/satisfactory may be repeated once. If the repeated course or another course is failed with a grade less than a "C"/satisfactory, the student may not proceed in the nursing major and is dismissed from the VCU SON.
5. Student must satisfy all REYNOLDS continuous enrollment policies.
6. Upon completion of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree, students will be required to pass the NCLEX examination and obtain a VA nursing license no later than the beginning of the fall semester of their continuing enrollment at VCU. Failure to obtain VA nursing licensure by the designated timeline will result in disenrollment from the VCU SON program. Students will be eligible for readmission to the RN-BS program once the license has been obtained and verified by the dedicated RN to BS advisor for VCU SON.
7. If the degree completion date at REYNOLDS is delayed, interrupted or discontinued, the student may not be able to continue in the VCU RN-BS program and/or subject to readmit policies for the RN-BS nursing program.
8. The VCU RN-BS curriculum requires 32 credits in the nursing degree to be earned at VCU; thirty (30) of the last 45 credits must be earned at VCU.
9. All outstanding prerequisite coursework must be satisfied prior to enrolling in the NURS 488 course.

Table 2: Required RN-BS Courses and Sequence

VCU Courses	Credits	Term offered to cohort
NURS 308 Foundation of Professional Nursing II	3	Summer 1
NURS 309 Population Health	3	Summer 1
NURS 403 Evidence-based Practice in Health Care	3	Fall 1
NURS 409 Population Health: Application to Nursing Practice	2	Fall 1
NURS 408 Ethics, law and Public Policy: Application to Nursing Practice	3	Spring 1
NURS 462 Advanced Pathophysiological Concepts: Application to Patient Care	3	Spring 1
NURS 406 Interprofessional Collaborative Practice	2	Summer 2
NURS 477 Leadership and Management Health Care	4	Summer 2
NURS 488 Clinical and Management Decision-making	3	Fall 2

Note: All RN-BS courses offered online

Section IV: Transfer of Credits

1. After successful completion of NURS 308 at VCU, VCU will award students up to 39 proficiency credits from their AAS degree (based on an assessment of their prior learning and clinical work experience).
2. Under applicable academic policy, VCU will award qualifying credit for college courses applicable to the AAS degree taken through dual enrolment arrangements with high schools as regular proficiency credits.
3. Course credit awarded through Advanced Placement, Cambridge, CLEP, DANTES, International Baccalaureate, and Armed Services experience will be accepted according to stated policies for acceptance of credit, which can be found in the VCU Undergraduate Bulletin for the year the REYNOLDS student enters VCU. To seek credit from VCU, students must submit the necessary transcripts or documentation of this additional coursework to VCU no later than the conclusion of their first semester of co-enrollment at VCU.

Section V: Responsibilities

Reynolds Community College agrees to do the following:

1. Notify students of the collaboration opportunity with VCU under this agreement.
2. Provide academic advising services to assist REYNOLDS students in selecting required courses for admission to the RN-BS program. Further, REYNOLDS will prepare faculty advisors and counselors to provide appropriate and accurate advising services related to students' plans to apply to VCU.
3. Notify the Chief Transfer Officer at VCU (<https://www.schev.edu/index/agency-info/advisory-committees/virginia's-chief-transfer-officers>) when situations arise warranting REYNOLDS and VCU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.

There are no intended third party beneficiaries to this agreement. REYNOLDS agrees to inform prospective and participating students that they are responsible for the following:

1. Understanding the requirements for the BS in Nursing at VCU.
2. Meeting with VCU academic advisors to discuss transferability of courses and advice for a successful transition from REYNOLDS to VCU.
3. Following the VCU application processes and deadlines (<https://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/rn-to-bs/>) and providing official transcripts from any other institutions attended and documentation for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, CLEP, military credit, or other advanced standing credit applied toward completion of the transfer-oriented associate degree.

VCU agrees to do the following:

1. Disseminate accurate information to prospective students regarding the general conditions of this collaborative agreement.
2. Provide academic advising services through the VCU Transfer Center and School of Nursing to REYNOLDS students during the term prior to transfer to assist these students in making a smooth transition from the community college to VCU. VCU advisors will assist students in registering for appropriate courses.
3. Notify the Chief Transfer Officer (<https://www.schev.edu/index/agency-info/advisory-committees/virginia's-chief-transfer-officers>) at REYNOLDS when situations arise that warrant REYNOLDS and VCU faculty interaction to address advising or curricular issues.
4. If sufficient enrollment (a minimum of 15 students) and faculty capacity (as determined by VCU) is met, students will be offered placement in a special section of course work with their REYNOLDS cohort. The cohort will proceed through the VCU RN-BS curriculum 6 credits each semester, summer, fall, spring continuously until graduation (see Table 2). Students must successfully complete all courses in the designated sequence to remain in this cohort. If there is insufficient enrollment for a REYNOLDS cohort, or if a student has to repeat a course, students may be placed in regular, non-cohort course sections.
5. Provide tracking data on performance of REYNOLDS students at VCU, including credits presented and accepted in transfer, VCU courses attempted and completed, cumulative GPA, major, graduation date from VCU, and comparisons with native students. The specific data elements and the timing of the report will be determined by Institutional Research staff from REYNOLDS and VCU.

Section V: Review of the Agreement

1. Reynolds will designate officials who will be responsible for all aspects of this agreement and VCU will designate individuals responsible for all aspects of this agreement at VCU.
 - a. Representing VCU will be the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and VCU Health System Chief Executive Officer and the Dean of the School of Nursing and the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, or designees.
 - b. Representing REYNOLDS will be the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Dean of the School of Health Professions, and the Coordinator of the Nursing Programs.
2. Both parties will communicate the conditions of the agreement to their respective clientele (external and internal constituents). VCU and the REYNOLDS will review the agreement at a minimum of every three years and make adjustments or amendments as deemed appropriate to maintain the integrity of each institution as well as for the improvement of the transfer process and student articulation. Such changes will not adversely affect students already enrolled and covered under the provisions of the existing agreement.
3. This agreement shall be effective upon execution by both parties and shall remain in effect for an initial period of three (3) years. This agreement may be renewed for set terms of one to three years thereafter upon written agreement of the parties. Either party may terminate this agreement upon 60 days written notice to the other party. Any student(s) co-enrolled at VCU at the time of notice of termination shall be given the opportunity to complete the RN-BS degree in alignment with degree-completion requirement

Approval granted by:



Dr. Paula Pando, President

Reynolds Community College



Date

DocuSigned by:



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Dr. Michael Rao, President

Virginia Commonwealth University

3/7/2022

Date

VCU Reviewers:

<div>DocuSigned by: <i>Jean Giddens</i> 4D2EAA5ED21942...</div> <div>Jean Giddens, Dean, School of Nursing</div>	<div>12/17/2021</div> <div>Date</div>
<div>DocuSigned by: <i>Arthur Kellermann</i> B5522A244AEA404...</div> <div>Arthur Kellermann, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences</div>	<div>12/20/2021</div> <div>Date</div>
<div>DocuSigned by: <i>Tomikia LeGrande</i> 4693F6D752DC463...</div> <div>Tomikia LeGrande, Vice President for Strategy, Enrollment Management and Student Success</div>	<div>1/3/2022</div> <div>Date</div>
<div>DocuSigned by: <i>Deborah Noble-Triplett</i> 020331007083449</div> <div>Deborah Noble-Triplett, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs</div>	<div>1/9/2022</div> <div>Date</div>
<div>DocuSigned by: <i>Fotis Sotiropoulos</i> BEAF1FE5E7144BB</div> <div>Fotis Sotiropoulos, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs</div>	<div>1/9/2022</div> <div>Date</div>

