Is a criminal background check required?
Yes. A national-level criminal background check is required in the year prior to the start of the first clinical semester. Admission to the nursing program will not be denied on the basis of criminal background, but students with a criminal history of any kind are strongly advised to speak to the state Board of Nursing director to determine whether they will be able to obtain a license after completing the program.

Does CNA training count toward a nursing degree?
CNA training is highly recommended for all students beginning the pre-nursing track. This is a great opportunity to find out whether nursing is for you. The 9-credit CNA course does not count toward the nursing degree. However, proof of certification and experience working as a CNA counts as one point toward admission to the nursing program and gives you valuable insight into what nursing is all about.

What courses must I take before entering the Nome nursing program?
The nursing program has three pre-requisite courses (required before you can be admitted to the nursing program) and ten required non-nursing courses. Details appear on the back of this brochure. Students are strongly encouraged to complete ALL non-nursing courses before applying to the nursing program.

How long will it take to finish non-nursing courses so I can start the two-year nursing program?
It depends on the individual student and how many courses you can handle each semester. Your Northwest Campus advisor can help you plan a realistic course load. Completing one course each semester and summer, it could take a student over five years to complete the courses. A full-time student might be able to complete the non-nursing courses in a little over one year.

Do LPNs have to complete all 70 AAS credits?
Licensed practical nurses are eligible to enter non-nursing courses in a little over one year. They do not have to complete all 70 AAS credits. They must take all the required nursing courses (required before you can be admitted to the Nome nursing program) and ten required non-nursing courses.

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How long will it take to complete the Nome-based UAA nursing program?
Once admitted to the nursing program, you must be a full-time student. Your cohort will take the 37 nursing credits over a period of two calendar years (January to December).

How much travel is involved in the nursing courses?
The first semester in Nome, there is no travel. The following three semesters each require one three-week trip to Anchorage or Fairbanks for clinical requirements.

How do I apply to the Nome-based UAA nursing program?
1. Apply to UAA as a pre-nursing major. This admission will be good for five years. Apply no later than May 1 of the year before you hope to be ranked for admission.
2. Apply to the UAA School of Nursing Associate of Applied Science Degree Program. Apply no later than July 1 for admission to the program the following January. This application includes several forms and three letters of reference. This part of the application is good for three years.
3. Take the Nurse Entrance Test, in Nome.

Tell me more about the Nurse Entrance Test (NET).
You might want to put off taking the NET until you have completed your math and English courses. Scoring well on the NET can give you up to 9.9 ranking points (of the 26 total possible points) for admission to the UAA nursing program. The only parts of the test UAA uses for ranking are math and reading comprehension. Be sure you know how to work with fractions, decimals and percentages, and how to convert these back and forth. You should also know basic algebra. If your skills in these areas are weak, talk to your advisor. Study guides and practice tests are available.

What if I apply to the Nome-based nursing program but am not selected?
You could:
• Apply for the next round of Nome-based nursing courses, starting two years later.
• Apply to UAA’s Kotzebue program, which will be starting in alternate years.
• Apply to the Anchorage program or any UAA outreach program around the state.

How many outreach sites does the UAA nursing program have?
Nome will be the twelfth site, joining Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Kodiak, Homer, Kenai, Mat Su, Bethel, Kotzebue, Valdez, and Fairbanks.

What will the two years of nursing courses cost?
For the 2008-09 academic year, nursing program costs (tuition, fees, books, required immunizations, uniforms, etc.) are $2,100 to $3,000 per semester. The first semester is the most expensive because of costs of getting immunizations, clinical supplies (such as uniforms and stethoscopes), etc. In addition, there will be expenses for travel to Anchorage and Fairbanks for clinical work.

How can I pay for all these courses?
The Health Consortium is working to see that scholarships and other funds to help cover pre-nursing and nursing program costs would be available to any interested student from the Bering Strait region. Your NWC advisor will help you create a financial aid plan.

Will I be able to work during my two years in the nursing program?
The nursing program is very time and energy intensive. UAA recommends that you limit your working hours to less than 16 per week. You might need grants or other funds to cover costs of living during these two years of school.

Will I need a computer to take courses?
Yes. You will need a computer with Internet access for most courses. Familiarity with basic computer applications is required. Northwest Campus has learning centers with computers in Savoonga, Shishmaref, St. Michael and Unalakleet. Computers can also be accessed at NWC in Nome. If you do not live in one of these communities and do not have a computer, please let your advisor know.

What is the job outlook for registered nurses?
Excellent! In Alaska and nationwide, the nursing shortage is expected to continue. Your skills will be in demand!
Interested in a nursing career?

GET YOUR NURSING DEGREE IN NOME!

Looking for a great career that pays well, offers lots of variety, and allows you to help people?

Nursing might be for you!

The Bering Strait Region Health Consortium is working with the University of Alaska Anchorage to bring UAA’s nursing program to Nome. Students will be able to earn a nursing degree without having to move away from our region.

Here’s some information to get you started on the road to your new career in nursing!

What are the steps to becoming a registered nurse?

1. Graduate from a school of nursing (associate, bachelor’s or diploma)
2. Pass the NCLEX-RN (the National Council Licensuring Examination to become an RN)
3. Obtain a state license

Which nursing program do we have in Nome?

Nome will have an outreach program of the University of Alaska Anchorage Associate of Applied Science Degree Program in nursing.

Where will I take classes?

From home, in Nome and, for brief periods, in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

Pre-Nursing Track

You can take the required pre-and non-nursing courses from your home, by distance. Students should complete these before applying to the nursing program.

2-Year Nursing Program

Once you have completed the pre-nursing track and are admitted to the Nome-based nursing program, students must live in Nome for two calendar years (January to December—four semesters plus two summer sessions). Nome-based nursing students will join UAA nursing students from around the state via videoconference for courses taught from Anchorage by UAA nursing instructors. A clinical nursing instructor based at Norton Sound Health Corporation will teach students the hands-on, clinical portions of their courses, often using facilities at the hospital in Nome. For two or three weeks some semesters, students will travel to Anchorage or Fairbanks for broader clinical experience.

How many students will be admitted to the two-year Nome nursing program, and how often?

We will admit no more than four nursing students at a time, every other year, starting in 2011.

Is housing available for students admitted to the two-year nursing program in Nome?

Each student will be evaluated for housing needs. The Health Consortium will work to ensure that housing is available for nursing students.

Is it difficult to get into the nursing program?

A ranking process is used to select students. To earn a good ranking score, you must:

• First complete all or most of the required non-nursing courses (see “Degree Requirements” on back page)
• Do well on the Nurse Entrance Test
• Maintain the best possible GPA

The ranking process also grants one point for experience in a health-related field through employment in a certified status, and one point for currently licensed LPNs.

What kind of grades are expected?

Applicants must earn a grade of C or higher in all required courses and a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

PRE-NURSING TRACK COURSES

- High school algebra or DEVM 060, or math placement test showing ability to take higher level math
- High school biology with lab, or BIOL 100X or higher
- High school chemistry with lab, or CHEM 100X or higher

The following non-nursing college courses are part of the nursing associate degree. Complete these before applying to the nursing program, to boost your ranking points:

General Education Requirements (GER)

Communication Skills:

- ENGL 111X Written Communication 3
- ENGL 211X or 213X Written Communication 3
- COMM 131x or COMM 141X Oral Communication 3

Social Science elective:

- PSY 101 Intro to Psychology (prereq for PSY 240) 3

Other GER:

- DEVM 105 Intermediate Algebra (recommended) 3
- Total GER credits: 15

Major Program Requirements at UAF

- BIOL 111X Human Anatomy & Physiology I 4
- BIOL 112X Human Anatomy & Physiology II 4
- BIOL 240 Microbiology 4
- PSY 240 Life Span Developmental Psychology 3
- HLTH 203 Science of Nutrition 3

Total major credits: 18

2-YEAR NURSING PROGRAM COURSES

Acceptance into the UAA School of Nursing is required before enrollment in the first nursing course. Courses are delivered from UAA with clinical experiences/lab primarily in Nome.

NURS 120/L  Nursing Fundamentals/Lab 7
NURS 125/L Adult Nursing I/Lab 7
NURS 180  Nursing Pharmacology 3
NURS 220/L Perinatal Nursing/Lab 4
NURS 221 Advanced Parenteral Therapy Lab 1
NURS 222/L Pediatric Nursing/Lab 4
NURS 225/L Adult Nursing II/Lab 6
NURS 250/L Psychiatric Nursing/Lab 4
NURS 255 The Staff Nurse 1

Total nursing credits: 37

Norton Sound Health Corporation has many job openings for nurses. You could work on the inpatient unit, outpatient clinic or long-term care center.