



**NURSING
AT LA ROCHE**



**DEPARTMENT OF
NURSING**



Dear Nursing Program Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in La Roche College! As nursing continues to be a strong career option, we're sure you are making the right choice for your future. Looking at La Roche is the right choice, too, because we have one of the most comprehensive programs available for nursing students. We also have one of the longest-running nursing programs in the Pittsburgh area and, as such, we are well-qualified to help you reach your career goals.

We recognize that everyone has different challenges as they obtain their degree, so we've made flexibility a key to our programs. From an associate degree to a master's degree, the ease of obtaining education is within everyone's reach here at La Roche. We make it a point to help our students find classes that fit into their lifestyle.

One outstanding feature of our nursing programs is the strong online component of our BSN and MSN programs. We find that nurses are ideal candidates for online education because they can pursue their studies at times that fit into their work schedules, leaving them time to enjoy a home life, too! We look forward to helping you find the right balance of education for your own life.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Director of Nursing

welcome!
[your name can be here]



NURSING AT LA ROCHE

Nurses know that they're in a profession that affords many great opportunities. Are there challenges? Absolutely. But the benefits of being a nurse are numerous, and nursing will continue to be a good career choice for men and women well into the future.

La Roche College's Department of Nursing prepares you to practice as a professional nurse in various settings – in the hospital, in home health, within public health organizations and within education. To help you achieve your educational goals, La Roche offers several programs:

- ASN Degree Program (including transition for the LPN-to-RN)
- Online RN-BSN Program (RN-MSN Option)
- Online MSN Program (Specialization in Nursing Administration or Nursing Education)
- Certificate Programs (School Nurse and Forensic Nurse)

At La Roche, we understand that everyone has different educational and career goals. It's our responsibility to help you determine your best educational option. This begins with our Nursing Outreach Coordinator (an RN), who is qualified to assist you as you evaluate your options. Once you are admitted to one of our nursing programs, you will be assigned to a faculty member who will be your academic adviser.

FACULTY AT LA ROCHE

Highly trained and experienced faculty offer innovative instruction and hands-on learning shaped to fit your specific needs, whether you're entering the nursing field for the first time or you are already established as a professional. The nursing faculty at La Roche College believes that education is an active, vital process in which you are encouraged to develop patterns of critical thinking and the ability to make discriminatory judgments. This intellectual framework promotes a teaching-learning process in which knowledge, skills and attitudes are shared in an environment of inquiry and positive growth.



MEET OUR FACULTY:

Kathleen A. Sullivan, Ph.D., RN
*Chair, Division of Education
& Nursing Professor*

Stephanie Illig, MSN, RN
Assistant Professor

Pamela Chapman, MSN, CCRN
Assistant Professor

Terri L. Liberto, Ph.D., RN
Assistant Professor

Linda Robertson, Ph.D., RN
Associate Professor

Linda Stumpf, Ph.D., RN, NHA
*Co-Department Chair, Nursing
Assistant Professor*



ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (ASN) DEGREE

About the Program

The Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) Program at La Roche College provides a pathway for students who want to become registered nurses. The Department of Nursing faculty members have developed a curriculum that will give you the theoretical and practical knowledge you'll need to work in a variety of health care settings.

The purpose and philosophy of the ASN Program are consistent with the mission of the college and philosophy and goals of the nursing division. Nursing is a profession that constantly changes to meet the needs of the public. We strive to ensure that you are prepared to sit for the NLCEX-RN and to perform as entry-level nurse generalists in a variety of settings. Plus, we are providing you with the knowledge base you'll need to continue professional growth.

As a graduate of the ASN Program at La Roche, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate skills and techniques required for safe, competent nursing practice.
- Recognize the importance of continuing professional growth and lifelong learning.
- Function with the ANA scope and standards of practice, Code of Ethics, legal and regulatory requirements.
- Employ appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication and documentation when collaborating with clients, families, groups and health care team members.
- Utilize the nursing process to promote and restore health, prevent illness and care for the dying for individuals across the lifespan and in a variety of settings.
- Manage care for multiple clients using principles of prioritization and delegation.

If you want to continue your education, you may transition into La Roche's RN-to-BSN Program and can obtain a bachelor's of science in nursing at La Roche.



The ASN program at La Roche provides you with the foundation you need to become a registered nurse. This foundation is built on knowledge and clinical skills that will provide you with the basics for successful entry into your nursing career.

Accreditation:

- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commissions, Inc. (NLNAC)
- Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing

Upon completion of the ASN program, you will be able to work in a variety of settings and will be able to take the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

Admission Requirements - Candidate must have:

- Achieved the required score on the pre-admission Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
- Achieved a grade of "B" or better in a high school chemistry course (within the past 10 years) or a grade of "C" or better in college chemistry course or ABC Chemistry
- Earned a combined SAT score of 1,000 or higher or a minimum ACT score of 23.
- Earned a GPA of 3.0 or better

Of note:

- A minimum of 69 credits is required for graduation, the last 30 of which must be earned at La Roche College.
- Students must achieve a minimum of a "C" grade in each nursing and science course.

To learn more about the ASN Program please contact the La Roche College Nursing Outreach Coordinator at 412-536-1262.



LPN-TO-RN TRANSITION

At La Roche, our commitment to nursing education is guided by our purpose in helping each student reach his or her goals. We created a special LPN-to-RN transition course to encourage LPNs to advance to the role of registered nurse. We believe this group of health care professionals has the potential for rapid growth in their careers, and they'll gain the edge by furthering their education. This course allows LPNs to enter the La Roche Associate's Degree Program at the beginning of the third semester of our five-semester program. Upon completion of the three-credit, 45-hour transition course and related courses, the LPN will join the second-year ASN curriculum.

Every spring, we will admit LPNs into the ASN program with nine nursing credits earned toward their degree. These students are saving the cost of their first two semesters and joining the class as second-year students, all of whom are working toward their associate's degree. It's a win-win for everyone involved. They will earn an associate's degree and be eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).



The LPN-to-RN transition option at La Roche College recognizes the experience a licensed practical nurse brings to nursing education and will help the LPN in the pursuit of an associate's degree in nursing. With the need for nurses so great, the associate degree option provides qualified nurses to help meet this current and future need.

LPN-to-RN students must follow all policies of the ASN Program.

Admission Requirements - Candidate must have:

- Graduated from an NLNAC-approved practical nurse program
- Practiced as an LPN for at least one year
- Achieved the required score on the pre-admission Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)
- Achieved a grade of "B" or better in a high school chemistry course (within the past 10 years) or a grade of "C" or better in college chemistry course or ABC Chemistry
- Completed college Anatomy and Physiology I and II with a minimum grade of a "C"
- Completed college Microbiology with a minimum grade of a "C"
- Plans to enroll in Principles of Pharmacology in spring semester

To learn more about the LPN-to-RN transition course please contact the La Roche College Nursing Outreach Coordinator at 412-536-1262.



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN) DEGREE PROGRAM WITH RN-TO-MSN OPTION

About the Program

La Roche College gives you the opportunity to complete a professional degree with many different options to complete that degree. Once you've earned your Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree or a diploma in nursing and have been working in the nursing field as a registered nurse, you may want to continue your education.

Your options are:

- 18-month Accelerated Online Program - In just three semesters, you can complete the required courses for a BSN. This program can be tailored to fit your lifestyle, and your adviser will help you develop an educational plan.
- RN-to-MSN Online Program - By waiving six nursing elective credit hours, you can earn both degrees (BSN and MSN) in only six semesters. (See program description that follows.)

At La Roche, we operate on a system of rolling admissions, so you can join our BSN programs at any time. Investing in your future through advanced education is an advantage for you and your employer. Experience, coupled with education, will enrich your nursing practice and increase your job opportunities.

THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

The BSN Program at La Roche College is designed to offer registered nurses – graduates from diploma and associate degree programs – the opportunity to complete a professional degree that focuses on a scholarly approach to the discipline of nursing. This is an 18-month online program that provides a foundation for graduate education in nursing.

Accreditation:

- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commissions, Inc. (NLNAC)

Admission Requirements – Candidates must submit:

- Current nursing license
- Application
- \$50 application fee
- All official transcripts
- Two letters of reference
- Professional Information Sheet

Admission for International Candidates

In addition to meeting all requirements for full status, foreign students must:

- Present acceptable TOEFL score of at least 600.
- Present CGFNS certificate before entry.
- Have one or two years of nursing experience in a U.S. health care system (previously or concurrently with BSN Program).



Of note:

- A minimum of 120 credits is required for graduation, the last 30 of which must be earned at La Roche College.
- Students must achieve a minimum of a “C” grade in each nursing course.
- International students are required to come to campus at least once each semester.

Many graduates of the La Roche BSN Program elect to pursue graduate work at the college. Specific entrance requirements, admission procedures, course descriptions, etc., for graduate study are available from the La Roche College Office of Graduate Studies & Adult Education.

RN-TO-MSN PROGRAM

If you are currently a registered nurse who has already been working in the nursing profession and are looking for a way to advance your career, La Roche College has a unique program for you. Our RN-to-MSN Program is designed for busy nurses who wish to obtain their master's degree in nursing but are struggling to find the time to do so.

There are some great advantages to La Roche's RN-to-MSN program. One major advantage, especially for people with busy lifestyles: **The RN-to-MSN program is entirely online.** This gives you the flexibility you need to complete your course work within your own schedule.

Another advantage is that in the RN-to-MSN program, credits required in the BSN Program are decreased, which facilitates the transition to your MSN. Nurses currently enrolled in our BSN Program may take two graduate level courses at undergraduate tuition rates and reduce their BSN program curriculum by two courses.

Admission Requirements – Candidates must submit:

- Current nursing license
- QPA of 3.0 or above
- Application
- \$50 application fee
- All official transcripts
- Current resume or CV
- Essay of professional and academic goals
- Two letters of reference



You may choose from two areas of specialization in which to receive your MSN degree: Nursing Administration (36 credits required) or Nursing Education (34 credits required). You may learn more about these programs through the Nursing Outreach Coordinator or additional printed materials in this packet.

To learn more about the BSN Program or RN-to-MSN Program, please contact the La Roche College Nursing Outreach Coordinator at 412-536-1262.



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN) DEGREE PROGRAM

About the Program

La Roche College's master of science in nursing builds on the knowledge that you've already learned in the bachelor's program. The graduate courses continue to develop you into a scholarly critical thinker and leader. Best of all, the courses are offered in an online format, providing an added measure of convenience for busy working nurses.

La Roche offers two specialty areas in which you can earn your master's: nursing administration and nursing education.

Nursing Administration

Offered in a 36-credit online format, La Roche's graduate program in nursing administration prepares you for a leadership position in a variety of settings. The program provides you the opportunity to develop the specialized leadership skills required to be a successful nurse administrator, now and in the future.

Nursing Education

Offered in a 34-credit online format, La Roche's graduate program in nursing education prepares you for educational positions in health care, health-related and academic settings. The program provides you the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills essential to the role of nurse educator.



Accreditation:

- National League for Nursing Accrediting Commissions, Inc. (NLNAC)

Admission Requirements – Candidates must submit:

- Current nursing license
- BSN from accredited program
- QPA of 3.0 or above
- Application
- \$50 application fee
- All official transcripts
- Current resume or CV
- Essay of professional and academic goals
- Two letters of reference
- 1 to 2 years of nursing management experience
- A personal interview

Admission for International Candidates

In addition to meeting all requirements for full status, foreign students must:

- Present acceptable TOEFL score of at least 600.
- Present CGFNS certificate before entry.
- Have one or two years of nursing experience in a U.S. health care system (previously or concurrently with BSN Program).

Of Note:

- Graduate students must achieve a minimum of a “B” in each nursing course.
- International students are required to come to campus at least once per semester.

To learn more about the Master of Science in Nursing Program, please contact the La Roche College Nursing Outreach Coordinator at 412-536-1262.



SCHOOL NURSE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

If you are a professional nurse who wants to expand your career into the school systems, you should consider La Roche College's School Nurse Certificate Program. Offered by the Department of Nursing and the Center for Teacher Education, this program is designed for registered nurses who have earned their BSN and students who are currently in La Roche's BSN Degree Completion program and have completed all required nursing courses.

The School Nurse Certificate program is well-established and continues to be popular with nurses who already have a BSN. This certificate requires two courses: Foundations of Education and Field Experience, and Child Health for the School Nurse, which includes a 100-hour practicum.

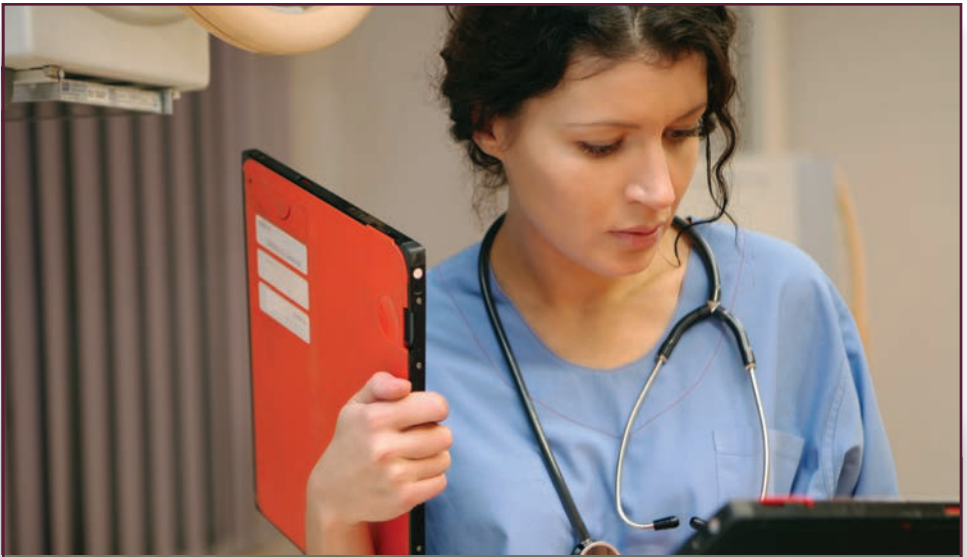
Admission Requirements – Candidates must submit:

- Current Pennsylvania nursing license
- QPA of 3.0 or above in BSN Program
- All official transcripts
- CPR certification
- Professional liability insurance
- Completed health form (including Hepatitis B immunization)
- Criminal background and child abuse clearances (Act 33 and 34)
- A minimum of one or two years' nursing experience; pediatrics, maternal-child or trauma/ER nursing preferred

Of Note:

- Students must complete at the college level 3 credits of English Composition, 3 credits of English Literature and 6 math credits to be eligible for certification by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

To learn more about the School Nurse Certificate program, please contact the La Roche College Nursing Outreach Coordinator at 412-536-1262.



FORENSIC NURSE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Forensic nurses practice in various settings – hospitals, ER and trauma units, community clinics, law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities. They utilize their nursing skills and apply them to criminal investigations and/or the identification and treatment of crime victims.

This program is offered through the Department of Nursing and the Department of Justice, Law and Security. We now offer this program as a package in an accelerated format, and it can be completed in one semester. Nurses take Criminology 101 their first eight weeks, Foundations of Forensic Nursing online for the second eight weeks, and a simultaneous 15-week course, Crime Scene Processing. Earning this certificate in one semester makes it quite attractive to nurses.

Admission Requirements – Candidates must submit:

- Current Pennsylvania nursing license
- QPA of 3.0 or above
- All official transcripts
- CPR certification
- Professional liability insurance
- Completed health form (including Hepatitis B immunization)
- Criminal background and child abuse clearances (Act 33 and 34)

To learn more about the Forensic Nurse Certificate Program, please contact the La Roche College Nursing Outreach Coordinator at 412-536-1262.



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Tuition/Fees Payment Options

La Roche College is committed to assisting students in formulating a complete financial plan for the payment of their educational expenses.

As a La Roche College student, you have several options available to you when it comes to paying for your education. Payment arrangements for student account balances in excess of financial aid awards must be made in advance using one of the following methods:

- Cash or check
- Financial aid
- Tuition Management Systems (TMS) Payment Plan
- Credit card via TMS
- Tuition reimbursement
- Third-party billing

Contact

For detailed information please contact Student Accounts at 412-536-1030 or Financial Aid at 412-536-1125 or finaid@laroche.edu