

Hickory Collaborative RIBN

(Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses)

Admission Requirements – FALL 2025

Lenoir-Rhyne University and Gaston College



Admission Information

Thank you for your interest in the Hickory Collaborative RIBN program. Students admitted to Hickory RIBN must meet dual admission requirements set forth collaboratively by Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU) and Gaston College. Please read this information thoroughly.

About RIBN

The Hickory RIBN program is a four-year nursing option that will dually admit and enroll students to both LRU and Gaston. This program provides a seamless associate to baccalaureate nursing education for top academic students. The first three years of study will be at Gaston's campus along with one course per semester at LRU. Upon successful completion of the first three years, students will take their fourth year at LRU provided they pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX- RN).

RIBN Transfer Option

RIBN also offers a three year transfer option for students with 26 or more transferable college credits. If you have 26 or more transferable college credits from an accredited college/university and are interested in RIBN, please see Part Two of this document (page 4).

Early College, Middle College, and High School students with 26+ CCP Credit

Early College, Middle College, and high school students who have already taken many of the required sciences will be handled on a case by case basis. Please contact Kaitlyn Harwell at 828-328-7292 or kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu to discuss your options. *Entering the RIBN program with too many credit hours can impact financial aid.*

Other Programs

Please note that Gaston College and Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU) also have traditional two-year and four-year nursing education tracks. Each of those options has a separate admissions process from the RIBN nursing option. If you wish to apply for either of those traditional tracks, you must complete the individual admissions process for Gaston or LRU track, and meet the admissions criteria for that specific nursing track.

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PART 1: MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (MAR)

TRADITIONAL RIBN STUDENTS (High School seniors and those with 0-26 transferable hours of college credit)

Completion of RIBN Application for LRU

Create an account at <https://apply.lr.edu/apply/?sr=3eb45b0c-8be5-45ff-9f02-80aac410ed20> and complete the **First-Year Undergraduate application. A Rising Leaders application, first time undergraduate application, undergraduate transfer application, or an application submitted to LRU through CFNC will NOT be considered as RIBN applications. Students must go through the website above, create an account, and complete the application.** (Note: The applicant does not have to pay the application fee to apply. Only students admitted and planning to enroll will pay the \$35 application fee.)

Completion of a Gaston College Application

After January 30th, 2025, submit a free online general Application to Gaston College indicating “Associate of Arts” as your program of study: <https://www.gaston.edu/apply-online/taking-next-step/?preview=true>

Submission of Official High School Transcript

Official high school transcript should be sent either electronically or by postal to **Lenoir-Rhyne University** (see page 6 for mailing address). Students **do not** have to submit an official high school transcript to Gaston College during the application phase. *If admitted*, a **final** transcript will need to be submitted prior to beginning the program that reflects additional coursework completed and the official graduation date. The final transcript will need to be sent to **BOTH** LRU and Gaston College. *Students taking college coursework will also need to have official college transcripts sent to both LRU and Gaston College upon completion of Spring 2025 courses.*

Minimum Unweighted Grade Point Average of 3.0

- To be eligible to apply for admission to Hickory RIBN directly from high school OR before completion of at least 26 hours of transferable program college credit, a student must have an **unweighted cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale** in high school courses.
- To be eligible to apply for admission to Hickory RIBN after completion of at least 26 hours of transferable program college credit after graduating high school, please see Part 2 (page 6) of this document

Completion of Minimum Course Requirements

Students must have earned a high school diploma or its equivalent and satisfy the following minimum course requirements: four units of English, two units of a language other than English, one unit of American History, three units of mathematics, one unit of a laboratory science (other than Chemistry), and one unit of Chemistry.

Test OPTIONAL Official SAT or ACT scores (*See below)

Students must submit *either* **official SAT OR ACT** scores to Lenoir-Rhyne University. Students may request these scores be sent by visiting the CollegeBoard (SAT) or ACTStudent website. Scores are valid for five years from the test date. A student only has to submit the SAT **or** ACT, but if a student chooses to submit both, the highest scores will be taken from each subject (Gaston College does NOT require SAT/ACT scores). ***While there are no minimum scores required, preference will be given to applicants with the following scores:**

ACT

Section	Score
<i>Math</i>	22
<i>English</i>	18
<i>or Reading</i>	22

SAT

Section	Score
<i>Math</i>	530
<i>Reading and Writing</i>	480

Submission of Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Score of at least 65.

To be considered for admission, a student must achieve a minimum of 65 on the TEAS. Students can take the test at either Gaston College or LRU. **ATI TEAS version 6.0 is the only accepted version.**

- In order to register for the TEAS at Gaston College, visit <https://www.gaston.edu/testing/teas-associate-degree-and-practical-nursing/>
- If a student takes the test at a testing location other than Gaston College or LRU, they must pay to have their scores sent from ATI to Gaston College.

Note: Students should **ONLY** take the TEAS test if they meet **ALL** other criteria for admission. The student will be responsible for all costs associated with the TEAS. The cost is determined by individual institutions. TEAS retakes must be at least 60 days apart.

Students receive test scores at the end of the TEAS testing session. Students can either print or download their score report for free by logging into their ATI account. **If not taken at LRU, score reports should be sent to Kaitlyn Harwell via email at kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu or postal: Kaitlyn Harwell, LR Box 7292, Hickory, NC 28603.**

Submission of Student Disclosure/FERPA Form

FERPA affords students (or their parents in the case of students who are legal minors) certain rights with respect to their education records. Students may choose to complete and submit this form allowing the release of their education records to the third parties specified by the student. This form will allow Gaston College and LRU the option to transfer related files regarding the student. **This form should be sent to Kaitlyn Harwell via email at kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu or postal: Kaitlyn Harwell, LR Box 7292, Hickory, NC 28603. See Appendix A for a copy of this form.**

Deadline to apply and have all supplemental items submitted: March 1st, 2025

Questions? Contact Kaitlyn Harwell at 828-328-7292 or kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu.

RANKING/SELECTION PROCESS (For Traditional Applicants)

After meeting all minimum admission requirements set forth above, applicants will receive points and be ranked numerically based on the following criteria:

- GPA (*weighted as 50% of the score*)
- TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Exam score (*weighted as 50% of the score*)

Only students with completed applications and supplemental items will receive decision letters. Notification will be sent by postal mail. **If a student is accepted into the Hickory Collaborative RIBN and intends to enroll, a \$35 application fee and a \$50 enrollment deposit will be due to LRU. Any additional fees are determined by Gaston College and are subject to change.**

ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Students accepted into the traditional four-year RIBN program must meet the following requirements prior to starting nursing courses (year two):

1. **Maintain 2.0 Cumulative GPA During Year 1 of RIBN:** Students must maintain a 2.0 Cumulative GPA at Gaston College during their first year in the program. Students' transcripts will be evaluated at the end of the Spring 2026 term to ensure they meet the 2.0 GPA to start nursing Fall 2026. Note: Courses below C do not transfer.
2. **Certified Nurse Aid I (CNA):** Applicants may apply without having CNA certification. However, applicants, once accepted, must provide to the Gaston College Department of Nursing proof of a North Carolina Certified Nurse Aide 1 certification before beginning NUR 111 in the fall of 2025 and be currently listed on the North Carolina Nurse Aide 1 Registry with no substantiated finding of resident abuse, resident neglect or misappropriation of resident property in a Nursing Facility. The North Carolina Certified Nurse Aide 1 Training Program must include theory, lab, and clinical components. If an applicant has taken the Certified Nurse Aide 1 Program in a state other than North Carolina, this will be considered on an individual basis.
3. **CPR Certified:** Applicants may apply to the program without having current CPR certification. However, once accepted to the program, must provide proof of current Healthcare Provider CPR (American Heart Association Basic Life Support) certification before beginning NUR 111 in the fall of 2026.

Questions? Contact Kaitlyn Harwell at 828-328-7292 or kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu.

PART 2: MINIMUM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (MAR)

TRANSFER RIBN STUDENTS (Students with 26 or more transferable hours of college credit)

RIBN's transfer option is a three year track for students with 26 or more transferable program college credits. With this option, students will be dually enrolled their first two years. During these first two years, classes will be taken on GASTON's campus along with one course per semester online at LRU. Upon successful completion of the first two years, students will take their third year online at LRU provided they pass the NCLEX. Admission requirements and deadlines differ from those of traditional four year RIBN students

Acceptance in Gaston's Associate Degree Nursing program

In order to be considered for acceptance as a RIBN transfer, students must **first** be accepted in Gaston College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program as outlined on their website:

http://catalog.gaston.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=22&poid=3175&returnto=961. **Students should not apply to RIBN until AFTER they have been accepted and have confirmed their spot in Gaston College's ADN program.**

Submit email of Interest to Student Success Advocate

Students who have been accepted in Gaston College's ADN program and are interested in RIBN should email Kaitlyn Harwell, RIBN Student Success Advocate (SSA) at kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu. At this time, the SSA will evaluate the student's transcript to show the student his/her unique three year schedule so the student can determine if the RIBN route is the best option for him/her. *See Appendix B for traditional four year plan. Transfer plans will vary because they are completing the program in three years.*

Minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0

To be eligible to apply for admission to Hickory RIBN after completion of at least 26 hours of college credit (*not including developmental or remedial coursework*), the cumulative GPA of college courses that count towards the BSN must be at least 3.0.

Completion of RIBN Application for LRU

Create an account at: <https://apply.lr.edu/apply/?sr=3eb45b0c-8be5-45ff-9f02-80aac410ed20>

Select RIBN as your Academic Interest (*Note: The applicant does not have to pay the application fee to apply. Only students admitted and planning to enroll will pay the \$35 application fee.*)

Submission of Official College Transcript(s)

Official transcripts from ALL colleges and universities attended (including Gaston College) should be sent to the Lenoir-Rhyne University (see page 7 for address).

Submission of Student Disclosure/FERPA Form

FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. Students may choose to complete and submit this form and allow Gaston College and LRU the option to transfer related files regarding the student.

This form should be sent to Kaitlyn Harwell via email at kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu or postal: Kaitlyn Harwell, LR Box 7292, Hickory, NC 28603. See Appendix A for a copy of this form.

RANKING/SELECTION PROCESS (For Transfer Applicants)

After meeting all minimum admission requirements set forth above, applicants will receive points and be ranked numerically based on the following criteria:

- Program GPA (*weighted as 50% of the score*)
- TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Exam score (*weighted as 50% of the score*)

Only students with completed applications and supplemental items will receive decision letters. Notification will be sent by postal mail. **If a student is accepted into the Hickory Collaborative RIBN and intends to enroll, a \$35 application fee and a \$50 enrollment deposit will be due to LRU. Any additional fees are determined by Gaston College and are subject to change.**

No Deadline, Rolling Admission for Transfers for fall start date.

Questions? Contact Kaitlyn Harwell at 828-328-7292 or kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu.

PART 3: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS

North Carolina Residency

Preference is given to North Carolina residents. Applicants who (1) have lived outside NC during all of the 12 months immediately preceding the start of the fall semester or (2) are claimed as a dependent by a parent/guardian who is not a NC resident are generally not considered to be NC residents. Applicants will complete the North Carolina Residency Determination Application at www.ncresidency.org or in the CFNC application for admission. Residency status will be determined by the North Carolina residency determination service.

United States Citizens

Students who are not citizens of the United States pay out of state tuition in accordance with the State Board of Community Colleges (1D SBCCC 400.2 (b)). In addition, federal law prohibits states from granting professional licenses to undocumented immigrants.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening

Prior to starting nursing, students will be given directions on completing a Background check/ Drug Screening. Carefully read the information below regarding background checks, drug testing, and the result of a negative background check.

- Clinical facilities will require students to undergo criminal background checks and drug testing.
- The student will be required to pay fees associated with these screenings.
- Clinical facilities may refuse access to clinical experiences based on the criminal background checks and/or drug testing.
- If any clinical facility refuses to allow a student access to a clinical experience, **the student will be unable to continue in the program.**

Class Schedule/ Length of the RIBN Program

The traditional four year RIBN program is eleven semesters over the course of four years. See Appendix B for the 2024 curriculum guide. The transfer track allows students to complete the program in eight semesters over the course of three years. Schedules will vary for each transfer student depending on previous coursework taken.

Program Costs

See Appendix C for a current cost breakdown of the program. Cost will vary for transfers and high school students who come in with previous college credit (dually enrolled while in high school/ middle and early college/ Advanced Placement credit).

Financial Aid

While dually enrolled at LRU and Gaston College, students will apply for financial aid at Gaston College. All applicants are encouraged to apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.ed.gov). For information about financial aid, contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (828) 922-6227. *Students are not eligible for financial aid at LRU until their last year in the program.*

Paying for Courses at LRU

Because students are not eligible for financial aid at LRU while dually enrolled, LRU tuition must be paid out of pocket. Students have the option of going on a monthly payment plan at LRU or applying for a private alternative loan (ex: Sallie Mae, Wells Fargo Student Loans). Gaston College does not participate in the federal loan program, so students are not eligible for Federal Student Loans while dually enrolled. Students MAY apply for a federal loan their last year in the RIBN program when they apply for financial aid through LRU.

Technology Needs

Coursework requires ready access to a reliable computer with Word, PowerPoint, Excel and internet access. Students are assigned a Gaston College email address. It is the responsibility of the student to open his/her email account and read it frequently as the College provides crucial program information through this email account.

Readmission Policy

The following readmission policy applies to students who receive an unsuccessful grade in the nursing program, or who voluntarily withdraw from the program. Unsuccessful grades are defined as "C", "D", "F", or "U".

- If a student receives an unsuccessful grade in the RIBN program, s/he may not proceed to any subsequent course which has the course in question as a prerequisite. S/he must repeat the course in question before proceeding to the next higher course in the program.
- Most RIBN courses are offered only once annually.
- Since a new class of students is admitted to each program annually and because of the competitive nature of the program in question, it will be necessary for students who have received an unsuccessful grade in a major course during their first semester to reapply for readmission to the program for the following fall.
- Readmission of students who have progressed beyond the first semester, but who have been unsuccessful in a subsequent semester, is dependent upon space availability in the class, demonstration of proficiency in a variety of clinical procedures, and other issues pertinent to reentering students. You will be required to meet with the Nursing Directors/Department Head/Chair for specific readmission guidelines.

Contacts

Lenoir-Rhyne RIBN Student Success Advocate

Kaitlyn Harwell
828-328-7213
kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu

LRU Address (Transcripts)

Office of Academic Records
LRU 7227
Hickory, NC 28603

Gaston Address (Transcripts)

Attn: Admissions and Records
201 Hwy 321 S.
Dallas, NC 28034

RIBN Mailing Address (SDF and TEAS scores)

Kaitlyn Harwell
LRU 7292
Hickory, NC 28603

Appendix A



(Applicant)

Student Name _____ Date of Birth. ____/____/____

STUDENT DISCLOSURE FORM: HICKORY COLLABORATIVE – RIBN

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) affords students (or their parents in the case of students who are legal minors) certain rights with respect to their education records. Students may choose to complete and submit this form allowing the release of their education records to the third parties specified by the student. Students may release any or all of their records and may use separate forms to distinguish specific releases to individuals. For more information about FERPA, visit the U.S. Department of Education’s website at

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>.

I voluntarily authorize and give permission for (circle one: CCC&TI, CVCC, Gaston, Mitchell, WPCC, Wilkes) Community College to release the selected information as part of my application for the Hickory Collaborative RIBN (Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses) Program. I understand that Lenoir Rhyne University may require additional information as part of the full application process for Hickory Collaborative RIBN.

Check Box	Name	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Records	ALL records listed below.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Academic Records	Includes courses taken, grades received, GPA, academic progress, honors, transfer credit awarded and degree(s) awarded.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Admissions	Includes dates of application, programs selected, documents received, documents pending, dates of admission, admission status and conditions of admission.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Registration	Includes current enrollment, dates of enrollment activity, enrollment status, residency status, semesters attended and mailing address information.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scores	Includes dates and scores of SAT/ACT and TEAS exam(s).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cancel Previous Release	Cancels any previous request.

I understand that I have the right not to consent to the release of my education records and the right to revoke this consent at any time by notifying (circle one: CCC&TI, CVCC, Gaston, Mitchell, WPCC, Wilkes) Community College in writing.

I certify that all information given in this application is complete and accurate.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date ____/____/____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if minor) _____ Date ____/____/____

Return form to kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu or Kaitlyn Harwell, LR Box 7292, Hickory, NC 28603

Appendix B

Hickory RIBN Collaborative: Lenoir-Rhyne University & Gaston College

Fall 2024 Entry

Year 1 – Classes at Gaston and LRU

Location	Fall Semester (17 hours)	Spring Semester (17 hours)	Summer Semester (7 hours)
Gaston	BIO 168 (A & P & Lab) [4]	BIO 169 (A & P & Lab) [4]	BIO 275 (Microbiology) [4]
Gaston	CHM 131 & 131A (Chemistry) [4]	CIS 110 (Computers) [3]	ENG 112 (Writing in the Discipline) [3]
Gaston	PSY 150 (Intro Psychology) [3]	MAT 152 (Statistics) [4]	N/A
Gaston	ENG 111 (Writing & Inquiry) [3]	PSY 241 (Developmental Psych..) [3]	N/A
LRU	FYE 100* (First Year Experience) [3]	SOC 100 (Sociology) [3]	N/A

Year 2 – Classes at Gaston and LRU

Location	Fall Semester (14 hours)	Spring Semester (13 hours)	Summer Semester (14 hours)
Gaston	NUR 111 (Intro to Health Conce..) [8]	NUR 112 (Health-Illness Concepts) [5]	NUR 114 (Holistic Health Concepts) [5]
Gaston	Fine Art (MUS 110 or ART 111) [3]	NUR 211 (Healthcare Concepts) [5]	Elective [3]
Gaston	N/A	N/A	Elective [3]
LRU	HES 287 (Personal Health) [3]	HES 288 (Nutrition) [3]	Humanities [3]

Year 3 – Classes at Gaston and LRU

Location	Fall Semester (10 hours)	Spring Semester (16 hours)	Summer
Gaston	NUR 113 (Family Health Co...) [5]	NUR 213 (Complex Health Concepts) [10]	Take and pass NCLEX
Gaston	NUR 212 (Health Systems C...) [5]	COM 231 (Public Speaking) [3]	
LRU	None	Foreign Language 1 [3]	

Year 4 – All Classes at LRU

Location	Fall Semester (12 hours)	Spring Semester (10 hours)
LRU	NUR 400 (Health Assess of Ind...) [3]	NUR 435 (Concepts of Evidence...) [3]
LRU	NUR 420 (Transition to Profession...) [3]	NUR 460 (Concepts of Leadership in...) [4]
LRU	NUR 455G (Health Promotion with...) [3]	NUR 470G (Trends in Nursing...) [3]
LRU	REL 100 {3}	N/A

All LRU courses will be offered online.

- * There are no courses equivalent to FYE 100 at the community college. Therefore, these courses will not count toward total course load.
- > To remain dually enrolled, non-NUR designated courses from the final year can be taken earlier if needed but will not count toward total course load.

Appendix C

Estimated Cost Breakdown (based on 2024-2025 Rates)

Gaston Tuition= \$76/credit hour (subject to change without notice by NC Legislative)

LRU Online Tuition Rate= \$400/credit hour (subject to change)

Year 1

Semester	Gaston Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	14 (\$76)=\$1064	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2264
<i>Spring</i>	14 (\$76)=\$1064	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2264

Year 2

Semester	Gaston Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	12 (\$76)=\$912	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2112
<i>Spring</i>	10 (\$76)=\$760	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$1960
<i>Summer</i>	8(\$76)=\$608	\$0	\$608

Year 3

Semester	Gaston Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	13 (\$76)=\$988	\$0	\$988
<i>Spring</i>	15 (\$76)= \$1140	2 (\$400)=\$800	\$1940

Year 4

Semester	Gaston Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	\$0	12 (\$400)=\$4800	\$4800
<i>Spring</i>	\$0	10 (\$400)=\$4000	\$4000

Total Tuition Cost: \$20,946

The above does not include activity fee, campus access fee, LR semester fee, or technology fee.

Other estimated fees students can expect include:

CNA Course (if not already certified)= \$200-\$300

National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)= \$350-\$500

Books= \$2000+

Scrubs/ Stethoscope/ Other Required Nursing Material= \$200