



Lenoir-Rhyne University
Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) Program

Admission Packet
2025-2026

Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) Program Admission Information 2025-2026

The Lenoir-Rhyne University RIBN program provides a four-year nursing degree option. Students are dually admitted and enrolled at LRU and a partner community college. This program provides a seamless pathway for associate to bachelor's degree in nursing for top academic students.

Current Community College Partner Institutions:

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute—Hudson, NC
Catawba Valley Community College—Hickory, NC
Gaston College—Dallas, NC
Mitchell Community College—Statesville, NC
Western Piedmont Community College—Morganton, NC
Wilkes Community College—Wilkesboro, NC

The RIBN Program is unique as students can begin working as an RN at the start of their fourth year. While the end result is a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), students follow a unique curriculum path that allows them to stair-step their degree. Students enrolled in the RIBN program will first earn an associate degree in nursing (ADN) and then finish with a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN).

Earning a bachelor's degree in nursing through the RIBN program is affordable and accessible. The first three years of the program will be hosted on the campus of the partner community college, while one class will be provided, each semester, online by LR. Upon successful completion of the first three years, students will finish their fourth year online with LR.

Admission Requirements

Acceptance to Lenoir-Rhyne University and one of the partnering community colleges

Option 1: Traditional RIBN Path (Students entering directly from high school or before completing 26 hours of college credit): Students must have an unweighted cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Option 2: Transfer RIBN Path (Students who have completed at least 26 college credit hours): Student's must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

All applicants must first apply to their community college of choice. Once accepted, they can apply to the LR RIBN Program using the specific RIBN application.

Application Process

Students must first apply to the community college and specify with an admission counselor that they are applying to the community college and are also applying to LR's RIBN Program. *For more details from each school, please contact one of the RIBN Student Success Advocates listed under Contact Information.*

After admission to a partner community college, students must complete LR's undergraduate RIBN application using this [link](#).

Students must submit official transcripts from all previously attended colleges to Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Application Deadline: March 1

Transfer RIBN Students are required to submit their Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) exam score.

Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute: 63*

Catawba Valley Community College: 63

Gaston College: 65

Mitchell Community College: 68

Western Piedmont Community College: 63

Wilkes Community College: 63

**For a Traditional CCC&TI RIBN path applicant, there is not a required TEAS test score to be initially accepted into the program. Upon acceptance, enrolled RIBN students at CCC&TI are required to take the TEAS exam the Spring of their first year.*

Program Cost

The current total estimated cost of attendance for the RIBN Program is \$20,820. The cost may vary based on community college expenses and when LR courses are taken during the program.

Estimated Cost Breakdown (based on 2024-2025 Rates)

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

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

All LRU courses will be offered online.

Year 1

Semester	Community College 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
<i>Summer</i>	10 (\$76)=\$760	\$0	\$760

Year 2

Semester	Community College Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	13 (\$76)=\$988	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2188
<i>Spring</i>	10 (\$76)=\$1064	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$1960
<i>Summer</i>	6 (\$76)=\$456	\$0	\$456

Year 3

Semester	Community College Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	13 (\$76)=\$988	\$0	\$988
<i>Spring</i>	15 (\$76)=\$1140	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2340

Year 4

Semester	Community College Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	\$0	9 (\$400)=\$3600	\$3600
<i>Spring</i>	\$0	10 (\$400)=\$4000	\$4000

Total Tuition Cost: \$20,820

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

Contacts

Maggie Murray (Director of Online and Non-Degree Admission)

828-328-7482 or maggie.murray@lr.edu

Kaitlyn Harwell (LRU RIBN Student Success Advocate)

828-328-7292 or kaitlyn.harwell2@lr.edu

RIBN Success Advocates

CCC&TI: Ruthie Price (rprice@cccti.edu)

CVCC: Kristen Bumgarner (kbumgarner@cvcc.edu)

Gaston College: Phonzie Childers (childers.phonzie@gaston.edu)

MCC: Beth Downing (bdowning@mitchell.edu)

WPCC: Chassidy Reynolds (creynolds@wpcc.edu)

WCC: Andrea Smith (adsmith365@wcc.edu)