

Hickory Collaborative RIBN

(Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses)

Admission Requirements – FALL 2025

Lenoir-Rhyne University and Catawba Valley Community 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 Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC). 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 CVCC. This program provides a seamless associate to baccalaureate nursing education for top academic students. The first three years of study will be at CVCC'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). Note: Regardless of how many college credits earned while in high school, seniors in high school should apply as traditional students, NOT transfers.

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 Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC) 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 CVCC 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.)

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 CVCC during the application phase. *If admitted*, a final transcript will need to be submitted prior to beginning the program. The transcript must reflect any additional completed coursework, graduating cumulative weighted and unweighted GPA, actual date of graduation and counselor/ administrator signature. The final transcript will need to be sent to **BOTH** LRU and CVCC. *Students taking college coursework will also need to have official college transcripts sent to both LRU and CVCC upon completion of Spring 2024 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 equivalency* 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. *If a student has a GED or Adult High School Diploma, the student will be directed to take the RISE placement test in English and math.

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

Students can 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 (CVCC 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 63

To be considered for admission, a student must achieve a minimum of 63 on the TEAS. Students can take the test through ATI Testing Center or through a community college testing center. If a student takes the test at a testing location other than CVCC or LRU, they must pay to have their scores sent from ATI to CVCC.

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.

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 CVCC 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 100% 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 CVCC and are subject to change.**

ACCEPTED STUDENTS

Completion of a CVCC Application

Once students receive admission into RIBN, they can then submit a free online general Application for Admission to CVCC indicating Nursing as the program of study for the Fall 2025 entry term so they can be enrolled in CVCC courses: <http://www.cvcc.edu/Admissions/Apply-Now.cfm>

Immediately after submitting the CVCC Application, please:

Send one email to admissions@cvcc.edu that includes the following two things:

- A request to activate your application by email
- A cell phone picture of your NC Driver's License.

PRIOR TO MATRICULATING INTO NURSING

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

1. **Maintain 2.8 Cumulative GPA During Year 1 of RIBN:** Students must maintain a 2.8 Cumulative GPA at CVCC during their first year in the program. Students' transcripts will be evaluated at the end of the Spring 2024 term to ensure they meet the 2.8 GPA to start nursing Fall 2024. 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 CVCC Department of Nursing proof of a North Carolina Certified Nurse Aide 1 certification by July 20, 2026 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 by July 20, 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 CCVC'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 CVCC's Associate Degree Nursing program

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

http://www.cvcc.edu/health_public_services/health_services/nursing/index.cfm

Students should not apply to RIBN until AFTER they have been accepted in CVCC's ADN program.

Confirmation of Intention to Accept CVCC's offer of Admission

Students must confirm his/her intention to accept CVCC's offer of admission in the nursing program by reply email. Directions for how to confirm or decline the nursing seat will be outlined in the student's acceptance email as well as the deadline to accept/ decline. Failure to respond by the deadline results in forfeiting a student's seat in the program.

Submit email of Interest to Student Success Advocate

Students who have been accepted in CVCC'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 C 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 CVCC) should be sent to the Lenoir-Rhyne University (see page 8 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 CVCC and LRU the option to transfer related files regarding the student. Students will sign the form during their individual visit at CVCC.

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:

- 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 CCC&TI and are subject to change.**

No Deadline to Apply for Transfer Pathway

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. Applicants may only use CastleBranch, a background screening and compliance management company, for background check/drug screenings.

- 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 ten 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 CVCC, students will apply for financial aid at CVCC. 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 online, by email at financial_aid@cvcc.edu or by calling at 828-327-7000, ext. 4860. *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). CVCC 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 CVCC email address following their application activation email to

admissions@cvcc.edu. 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 "D", "F", "WP", "WF", or "AU".

- 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

CVCC Admissions

Admissions@cvcc.edu

CVCC Records Mailing Address (Transcripts)

CVCC Records

2550 US Highway 70 SE

Hickory, NC

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 & Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

Fall 2024 Entry

Year 1 – Classes at CVCC and LRU

Location	Fall Semester (17 hours)	Spring Semester (17 hours)	Summer Semester (7 hours)
CVCC	BIO 168 (A & P & Lab) [4]	BIO 169 (A & P 2 & Lab) [4]	BIO 275 (Microbiology) [4]
CVCC	CHM 131 & 131A (Chemistry) [4]	CIS 110 (Computers) [3]	ENG 112 (Writing in the Discipline) [3]
CVCC	PSY 150 (Intro Psychology) [3]	MAT 152 (Statistics) [4]	N/A
CVCC	ENG 111 (Writing & Inquiry) [3]	PSY 241 (Developmental Psychology) [3]	N/A
LRU	FYE 100* (First Year Experience) [3]	Foreign Language 1 [3]	N/A

Year 2 – Classes at CCVC and LRU

Location	Fall Semester (14 hours)	Spring Semester (13 hours)	Summer Semester (9 hours)
CVCC	NUR 111 (Intro to Health Conce..) [8]	NUR 112 (Health-Illness Concepts) [5]	Humanities (PHI, HUM, REL) [3]
CVCC	Fine Art (MUS 110 or ART 111) [3]	NUR 114 (Holistic Health Concepts) [5]	Elective [3]
CVCC	N/A	N/A	Elective [3]
LRU	SOC 100 (Sociology) [3]	HES 288 (Nutrition) [3]	N/A

Year 3 – Classes at CVCC and LRU

Location	Fall Semester (15 hours)	Spring Semester (16 hours)	Summer
CVCC	NUR 113 (Family Health Concepts) [5]	NUR 213 (Complex Health Conce..) [10]	Take and pass NCLEX
CVCC	NUR 211 (Healthcare Concepts) [5]	COM 231 (Public Speaking) [3]	
CVCC	NUR 212 (Health Systems Concepts) [5]		
LRU	N/A	REL 100 (The Christian Faith) [3]	

Year 4 – All Classes at LRU

Location	Fall Semester (9 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]

All LRU courses will be offered online.

* There are no courses equivalent to FYE 100, REL 100 at the community college. Therefore, these courses will not count toward total course load.

Appendix C

Estimated Cost Breakdown (based on 2024-2025 Rates)

CVCC Tuition: http://www.cvcc.edu/Services/Business_Office/tuition-fees.cfm (subject to change based on NC General Assembly)

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

Year 1

Semester	CVCC 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>	7 (\$76)=\$532	\$0	\$532

Year 2

Semester	CVCC Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	11 (\$76)=\$836	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2036
<i>Spring</i>	10 (\$76)=\$1064	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$1960
<i>Summer</i>	9 (\$76)=\$684	\$0	\$684

Year 3

Semester	CVCC Tuition	LR Tuition	Total Tuition Cost
<i>Fall</i>	15 (\$76)=\$1140	\$0	\$1140
<i>Spring</i>	13 (\$76)=\$988	3 (\$400)=\$1200	\$2188

Year 4

Semester	CVCC 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: \$20,668

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

Other estimated fees students can expect include:

LRU 050 Proficiency Test at LRU= \$25

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

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

Books= \$2000+

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