

Accelerated Option Pre-Interview Guide

This guide was developed to help you prepare for your faculty interview. One and sometimes two Research College of Nursing professors will interview all students. The purpose of the interview is to provide students an opportunity to meet a professor, ask questions about the program, as well as be evaluated by the professor in regard to admission criteria.

Please read the Interview Guide below, make a copy, and bring it to your faculty interview. There is a place on the form for you to write in your Interview date, time, location, and faculty interviewer. At the end of the guide is a place to write additional questions you have. We hope this guide will prove helpful in facilitating the interview process for both you and your interviewer.

Interview date _____
Interview time _____
Interviewer _____
Location _____
Interviewer's phone number _____

FAQ's

1. How long is the program?

The program runs from August of one year to August of the next. The year will consist of three semesters called "trimesters".

2. When do classes meet?

Classes meet Monday through Thursday from 8AM to 5PM, **however**, clinical days begin earlier at approximately 6:30AM. While the majority of clinical experiences are scheduled during the day, some may be scheduled during the evening.

3. Will I have class on Fridays or weekends?

Friday is not usually a scheduled class day, except for occasional college events (one per semester) and some specialty clinicals. If clinical is held on a Friday, every attempt will be made to provide another day free during the week. The AO program had adopted this schedule to allow students time to complete online activities as well as required service hours.

4. Can I work during the program?

Due to the accelerated pace of the program, students are encouraged not to work so that they have adequate time to complete requirements successfully in this rigorous nursing program. If it will be necessary for you to work during the program, work as little as possible and definitely not more than 20-24 hours per week. Try to avoid working during the first trimester as students report this is academically the toughest semester

and it takes time to adjust to the pace of the program, develop peer relationships, etc.

5. Can I stay active in outside activities during the program?

You need to “simplify” your life as much as possible during the AO Program. This means you need to “go on leave” from extracurricular activities for one year and focus solely on the program. You will find it very “time intensive” and outside activities that take time away from studying are discouraged.

6. Does this mean I won't have time for my family?

You need to warn your family that the AO Program is very time intensive and you will be studying a lot. However, students are encouraged to schedule time with their families during the weekend as a way to de-stress and take their minds off studying a bit. Mondays tend to be heavy academic days with lecture and exams so anticipate that Sundays will be spent preparing for class on Monday.

7. What should I do about childcare?

You will need a reliable childcare provider. You will also need a backup provider and sick care provider for when your child is sick. The pace of the program makes it very difficult to make up missed clinical days so students are expected to attend class and clinical unless they themselves are too sick to attend.

8. Will I have breaks during the program?

You will have breaks during the major holidays (Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July). You will also have a week long spring break at the same time Rockhurst University does.

9. Will I need a home computer during the program?

While RCON hosts a fully equipped computer lab, AO students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to have a fast, reliable, home computer that has Internet access via cable or DSL modem. Due to the amount of coursework students have online, students report having a home computer is a necessity. Current students also report that many clinical-related programs are available for PDA's (palm pilots) and have found them helpful and time efficient.

10. What computer skills will I need to possess?

You will receive a document in the Spring AO letter that outlines the recommended computer hard/software requirements and skills. Basically, you need to know how to navigate the Internet and send documents via e-mail, use Word and Powerpoint, as well as be able to keyboard at a comfortable speed. RCN and Rockhurst University provide technical

support in relation to WebCT which is the platform that supports the nursing courses.

11. What is the "Spring AO letter"?

You will receive three letters during the year prior to entering the program. The fall letter will identify things you will need for the program that you might ask for Christmas such as a computer, uniform, book, and equipment. The spring letter will list things you need to complete prior to entering the program such as immunizations, CPR, computer requirements, etc. The summer letter will reinforce all of the above and provide additional, last minute information.

12. Will I be able to meet some of the students before the program begins?

The college will host three luncheons (one in the fall, spring, and summer) to begin acquainting students with each other as well as faculty. Additional information about the program will also be disseminated during these luncheons. Students that are currently in the program are always invited to answer incoming student questions and provide their perspective of their experience.

13. I may be interested in graduate school. Do you have a graduate program?

RCN has a graduate program that currently has three tracks (Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, and Executive Nurse). Students in the AO program who maintain a 3.0 GPA are allowed to substitute two undergraduate courses for graduate level courses. This makes it possible for students to graduate with six hours of graduate credit. If you are interested in possible substituting Graduate Research for undergraduate research, please be sure you come into the program with a general statistics course as this is a prerequisite for Graduate Research.

14. Is there anything I should be doing now to prepare for the program?

My best suggestion at this time is to do your best in the courses you are taking, get all of them out of the way before August, and simplify your life as much as possible. If your computer or computer skills need some work, now is the time to do it. When the program begins, we hit the ground running and do not stop until Christmas so anticipate any problems you might have and resolve them at this time.

I hope this Pre-Interview Guide has been helpful. Please write any additional questions you may have in the space provided below. I look forward to meeting you at a luncheon and when the program begins in August. Please e-mail or call me if you have any questions about the program.

Karin K Roberts PhD, RN
Professor

Director Accelerated Option Program

Questions:

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