

# ***Admission to the Graduate Program***

Admission to the graduate programs is based on the applicant's academic record, evidence of scholastic ability, and interest in the goals of the College. Admission will be offered to applicants who are, in the view of the College, best qualified.

## **Admission to the MSN Program**

Applications for the Nurse Practitioner tracks will be reviewed two times a year: April 1 and August 1.

A rolling admission process is used for the Nurse Educator and Nurse Executive tracks.

A composite of the requirements for admission is used in admission decisions. Application is made to the Director of Transfer and Graduate Recruitment, Research College of Nursing, 2525 E. Meyer Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64132-1199.

### **Admission Requirements\***

1. Submission of a completed application form with the required \$50.00 application fee.
2. Submission of official transcripts of all college course work, including evidence of completion of a B.S.N. degree from a regionally accredited college or university (including credit earned at Research College of Nursing/Rockhurst University).
3. Submission of a total of three (3) references, two of which must be from the employer and the third from either the employer or from the baccalaureate program.
4. All application materials for full admission must be received no later than two weeks before the semester begins. Students applying for "Unclassified Student" status may do so at any time.
5. After the transcripts, references and application have been reviewed, competitive candidates will be contact for a personal interview and/or pre-admission consultation.

*\*Beginning Fall 2011 Research College of Nursing will begin participating with Nursing CAS (Centralized Application Service) to offer students the opportunity to file one application and send it to participating nursing schools all over the county. Check with Research College of Nursing or visit the website to see when this opportunity will be available.*

### **Admission Eligibility**

#### **Regular Admission for B.S.N. graduates**

1. Possess a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a NLNAC or CCNE accredited nursing program with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher on a four-point scale.
2. Possess current licensure as a registered nurse (RN).

#### **Probationary Admission for B.S.N. Graduates with less than 3.0 Grade Point Average**

Applicants meeting all of the above eligibility requirements except a 3.0 cumulative grade point average may be granted Probationary Admission. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 in the first six hours of graduate credit is required for full admission.

### **Admission Process**

After the application, transcripts and references have been submitted and reviewed, the admission committee will invite some students in for an interview before making the final admission decisions.

Admissions decisions are made on a competitive basis and the applicant's complete profile will be considered. The profile includes previous academic work, nursing experience, professional references and a personal interview if requested by the faculty.

Each applicant will be notified in writing regarding the admission decision. Graduate students applicants will be accepted, accepted with probationary admission, or denied.

### **Probationary Admission**

All applicants to Research College of Nursing Graduate School are considered on an individual basis. For example, if a student has A GPA less than 3.0, but posses work experience or other qualities which would make him or her a good candidate for graduate work and the advanced practice role, admission may be considered with probationary status. Students admitted on probationary status must earn a grade of B or better for the first six semester hours of coursework completed after admission to remain in the program.

### **Provisional Admission for new B.S.N. graduates who are not licensed as a Registered Nurse\***

Provisional admission is a term reserved for applicants who hold a B.S.N. but who are not yet licensed as a registered nurse. Provisional admission is applicable only for the first semester of enrollment after completion of the B.S.N.. Individuals who are provisionally admitted may **not** enroll in any courses with clinical/practicum components.

Applicants who have earned a B.S.N. and are not yet licensed as a Registered Nurse may be provisionally admitted to the graduate program for one semester provided that they complete the application process stated above and:

1. Possess a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a NLNAC or CCNE accredited nursing program with a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 or higher on a four-point scale.
2. Complete the NCLEX-RN examination during the semester immediately following graduation from the B.S.N. program.

*\*Beginning Fall 2011 Research College of Nursing will begin participating with Nursing CAS (Centralized Application Service) to offer students the opportunity to file one application and send it to participating nursing schools all over the county. Check with Research College of Nursing or visit the website to see when this opportunity will be available.*

The student who successfully completes the NCLEX-RN examination will be fully admitted to the graduate program upon verification of RN licensure.

Individuals who do not demonstrate successful completion of the NCLEX-RN examination will be considered in an unclassified status and are not eligible for federal financial aid.

### **Individuals who are within six months of completing a B.S.N. degree are eligible to be admitted and enroll under a Conditional Admission if they:**

1. Complete the application process and meet the admission criteria.
2. Successfully complete their B.S.N. with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and pass the NCLEX licensure exam.
3. These stipulations must be met within one semester of graduation to maintain conditional admission status.

### **Unclassified Status**

A student may complete an application to enroll in courses in an unclassified status. This status is intended for students who are non-degree seeking or enrolling for a limited period until the admission process can be completed. Unclassified students are expected to meet all course prerequisites and will be enrolled on a space available basis as determined by the Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

Unclassified students are not guaranteed admission to the graduate program and credit earned as an unclassified student is not guaranteed to meet degree requirements.

- Current RCN students taking graduate courses while in a RCN undergraduate program may complete a maximum of nine (9) credit hours as an unclassified student.
- Students not currently enrolled in a RCN undergraduate program may take a maximum of three (3) credit hours as an unclassified student.

Unclassified students must be fully admitted into the graduate program before requesting that any transfer courses be accepted for degree credit.

### **Transfer Credit**

A maximum of nine (9) hours of graduate credit completed at another institution within the last five (5) years may be accepted as fulfilling the requirements of the Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator tracks. Only courses in which a grade of B or better was earned may be accepted for graduate credit.

Students in the Executive Nurse Practice track will transfer 12 designated credit hours from Rockhurst University. In addition, these students may be allowed to transfer an additional 3 hours of graduate level course work, not exceeding a total transfer of 15 credit hours. Only courses in which a grade of B or better was earned may be accepted for graduate credit.