



**SouthCentralNC RIBN Collaborative
Student Handbook**

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All information provided in this handbook has been validated as of May 8, 2020. Any updates to the policies outlined in this document will be provided to enrolled RIBN students via their community college e-mail accounts. Students will be notified two weeks prior to any changes going into effect. The RIBN Program, UNCP Nursing Department, and the partnered community colleges are not responsible for misprinted or outdated information.

This handbook attempts to explain policies and procedures that relate to the RIBN Program. Each nursing program, university, and community college in the SouthCentralNC RIBN Collaborative will have various policies that may take precedence over the policies stated in this document. Students are responsible for knowing which policies are applicable to the student and the student is responsible for abiding by them.

Congratulations on being selected as a student in the Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses (RIBN) program! The SouthCentralNC collaborative is a partnership between Bladen, Richmond, Robeson, and Sandhills Community Colleges and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP). You have had to meet admission requirements at a partnering community college, UNCP, and the RIBN program. Admission to the RIBN program is competitive. Therefore, your selection sets you apart from other students on different pathways to becoming a registered nurse.

Yet, your trail toward earning your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree is just beginning. Since the RIBN program requires that you take courses toward both your associate and bachelor degree, your journey will not be easy. You will have to work hard and build upon knowledge from your high school education and pre-requisite courses in order to be successful. High academic standards will have to be met. This will take a strong commitment to your education and ultimately, the nursing profession.

This Student Handbook has been designed to answer your questions about the RIBN program and to provide you with information that impacts your role as a student. Please read this document carefully and refer back to it as needed to guide you along the pathway. I encourage you to stay in contact with Mr. Crouch, your Student Success Advocate; your designated advisor at the community college; and with me. We are here to support and guide you along your journey.

Sincerely,

James Wayne Crouch, Jr.
Student Success Advocate

Background Information

RIBN is a partnership between community or private colleges and universities that utilizes a four-year shared curriculum pathway for students to achieve a Bachelors of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN) at the beginning of their nursing careers.

Mission Statement

The mission of RIBN is to improve the health and health outcomes of North Carolinians by increasing the educational preparation and diversity of the nursing workforce.

Vision of RIBN

The RIBN pathway will be an educational option across all regions of North Carolina for students to achieve a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) at the beginning of their nursing careers.

Students in the RIBN Track

Students complete the first three years based at the community college. Prerequisite courses are taken the first year. During the first year, the student must apply to the nursing program at the community college. Once admitted into the nursing program, the student will then take nursing courses the second and third years. During this three year process, students will be taking prerequisite courses for both the associate and bachelor degree.

Students will receive their Associate Degree in Nursing at the end of the third year and must pass the NCLEX-RN to be eligible to progress into fourth year of the program.

Students will complete the fourth year at the university with particular emphasis on gerontological and community health nursing, use of evidenced-based nursing knowledge, and leadership development to complete the BSN degree.

During the 4th year, RIBN students have the option to work as a Registered Nurse while completing their BSN degree.

Enrollment Notes

To enroll in the RIBN Program, make sure you do the following:

- Your enrollment begins with the community college. Thus, you will not enroll at UNC-Pembroke until your last year in the program.
- Do **not** submit any enrollment deposit, orientation fee, housing deposit, immunizations, or any other information to UNC-Pembroke.
- Attend orientation at the community college and register for classes.
- Submit a copy of your final transcripts, if applicable, to the community college upon the end of the current semester.
- Make sure you have a plan of study from Mr. Crouch prior to the beginning of the fall semester.
- **To confirm your enrollment in RIBN, you must print out the last page of this handbook and submit a signed copy to Mr. Crouch via e-mail.** You may take a photo of the page with your phone and submit the photo.

Academic Standards for Progression

To remain in good academic standing, students in the RIBN program must:

- Maintain a minimum combined GPA of 2.8 throughout the 4 year program of study.
- Earn a C or higher in each college level course while enrolled in RIBN. *A grade of B or higher is required in science courses taken at Richmond CC.*
- Meet or exceed progression standards for students at the individual college, ADN program, and UNCP.
- Complete courses *during or prior* to the designated semester. Any exceptions must have documented approval from the student's advisor and the RIBN student success advocate.
- Meet the published requirements to enroll in 4th year courses at UNCP, including licensure to practice as an RN in North Carolina.
- Maintain 12 or more combined semester hours to be considered a full-time student. Students not enrolled for 12 or more combined semester hours will need documented approval from the student's advisor and the RIBN student success advocate.

Academic Requirements

GPA Calculation

The GPA of students will be calculated based on all college-level coursework taken at any institution of higher learning. The Student Success Advocate will review all grades received for the attempted coursework and calculate the GPA for each student. The GPA listed on transcripts at the partnered community colleges and any other schools does not take into account coursework from the other institutions and will not be taken into consideration by itself. A simple average of the two GPAs will not be accepted.

To calculate GPA, add the number of credits taken per semester, including those with a grade of F.

Then, divide the total number of quality points earned (as seen in the table below) by the total number of credits attempted. This final number is the GPA.

Quality points (QP) are calculated by multiplying the credit hour value of each course by the numerical value of the grade received: 4.0 to 0.7 for grades A through D-, and 0 for F. Incomplete (I), Pass (P), Audit (AU) and Withdrawal (W) will not be used to calculate GPAs. UNCP uses a plus and minus grading scale. The partner community colleges do not use the plus and minus scale.

Grade (QP)	2 Credit Hours	3 Credit Hours	4 Credit Hours
A (4.0)	8.0 QP	12.0 QP	16.0 QP
A- (3.7)	7.4 QP	11.1 QP	14.8 QP
B+ (3.3)	6.6 QP	9.9 QP	13.2 QP
B (3.0)	6.0 QP	9.0 QP	12.0 QP
B- (2.7)	5.4 QP	8.1 QP	10.8 QP
C+ (2.3)	4.6 QP	6.9 QP	9.2 QP
C (2.0)	4.0 QP	6.0 QP	8.0 QP
C- (1.7)	3.4 QP	5.1 QP	6.8 QP
D+ (1.3)	2.6 QP	3.9 QP	5.2 QP
D (1.0)	2 QP	3 QP	4 QP
D- (0.7)	1.4 QP	2.1 QP	2.8 QP
F (0.0)	0.0 QP	0.0 QP	0.0 QP

Academic Requirements

Sample GPA Calculation

The first GPA calculation will take place after the spring courses have ended in Year 1. If a student does not have the required 2.8 GPA before the beginning of the Summer Semester in Year 1, the student will be removed from the RIBN Program. After the Spring Semester of Year 1, GPA calculations will be completed at the end of each semester.

Course	Credit Hours		Grade (QP)		QP Earned
ACA 100	1	Multiplied by	A (4.0)	Equals =	4 QP
BIO 168	4	Multiplied by	A (4.0)	Equals =	16 QP
MAT 171	3	Multiplied by	B (3.0)	Equals =	9 QP
ENG 111	3	Multiplied by	B (3.0)	Equals =	9 QP
PSY 150	3	Multiplied by	C (2.0)	Equals =	6 QP
ART 2050 (University)	3	Multiplied by	B- (2.7)	Equals =	8.1 QP
TOTAL:	17				52.1

$$(52.1 \text{ Quality Points}) \div (17 \text{ Credits}) = 3.06 \text{ GPA}$$

Required Grades

Students enrolled in RIBN are required to earn a grade of C or higher in each course. A grade of C- (minus) or below is not accepted. If a grade of C- or lower is received by a student, the student's acceptance into RIBN will be withdrawn. Only UNCP uses the plus and minus grading scale. A grade of 'B' or higher is required in science courses taken at Richmond CC.

Voluntary Withdrawal

At any time, a student may choose to withdraw from the RIBN Program to pursue other endeavors. Students are asked to notify the RIBN Student Success Advocate if they choose to voluntarily withdraw.

Important Information

Continuation Without RIBN

There will be no re-admittance to the RIBN Program if a student is voluntarily or involuntarily removed. The nursing programs at the partner community colleges may have different requirements than those for RIBN. Students who no longer meet RIBN requirements may be eligible to continue their course of study at the community college or university level. There is no guarantee to continue toward the nursing program if RIBN requirements are not met; however, the student may schedule a meeting with the RIBN Advisor at the partner community college to discuss his or her options.

Financial Aid

Financial aid will vary by each community college. All RIBN Students should contact a Financial Aid Counselor at the partner community colleges.

E-mail Policy

Students are expected to check their e-mail accounts provided by the community college at least once a day. Forwarding one account to another may make it easier to receive e-mail messages.

Students are strongly encouraged to configure their cellular devices to receive e-mails. The community college's technical support office can assist in configuring the community college e-mail on a cellular device.

Most communications from your schools and professors will be done via e-mail messaging. Messages pertaining to RIBN will only be sent to the community college e-mail. To ensure the identity and integrity of all involved, personal e-mail addresses may not be used for communication.

Online Courses

Some of your courses are online and may use a course management system such as Canvas or Moodle. It is important that you become familiar with your online courses as soon as you are given access. A tutorial for the course management system may be available or even required before you can gain access to the course.

Tests, assignments, readings, and discussions may all take place virtually. If you have any technical difficulties with the online course, it is recommended that you contact the technical help desk for that institution. The contact information is provided in this handbook.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all tests, assignments, discussions, and other required materials are successfully submitted. It is not the instructor's responsibility to inform students if an assignment is missing.

Some online courses may require the student to take a proctored exam. Proctored exams will require students to take an exam in a secure location with a proctor who has been pre-approved. Students should read their syllabus to see if any proctored exams are required in their online course.

Dress Code

The dress code for each partner community college and the university may vary. It is up to the student to follow the dress code for their specific nursing program.

Ethical Code for Nurses

The RIBN Program follows the American Nurses Association Code for Nurses which reads as follows:

Preamble: The Code for Nurses is based on belief about the nature of individuals, nursing, health, and society. Recipients and providers of nursing services are viewed as individuals and groups who possess basic rights and responsibilities, and whose values and circumstances command respect at all times. Nursing encompasses the promotion and restoration of health, the prevention of illness, and the alleviation of suffering. The statements of the Code and their interpretation provide guidance for conduct and relationships in carrying out nursing responsibilities consistent with the ethical obligations of the profession and quality in nursing care.

1. The nurse, in all professional relationships, practices with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and uniqueness of every individual, unrestricted by considerations of social or economic status, personal attributes, or the nature of health problems.
2. The nurse's primary commitment is to the patient, whether an individual, family, group, or community.
3. The nurse promotes, advocates for, and strives to protect the health, safety, and rights of the patient.
4. The nurse is responsible and accountable for individual nursing practice and determines the appropriate delegation of tasks consistent with the nurse's obligation to provide optimum patient care.
5. The nurse owes the same duties to self as to others, including the responsibility to preserve integrity and safety, to maintain competence, and to continue personal and professional growth.
6. The nurse participates in establishing, maintaining, and improving healthcare environments and conditions of employment conducive to the provision of quality health care and consistent with the values of the profession through individual and collective action.
7. The nurse participates in the advancement of the profession through contributions to practice, education, administration, and knowledge development.
8. The nurse collaborates with other health professionals and the public in promoting community, national, and international efforts to meet health needs.
9. The profession of nursing, as represented by associations and their members, is responsible for articulating nursing values, for maintaining the integrity of the profession and its practice, and for shaping social policy.

American Nurses Association. (2001). *Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements*. Washington, DC.

Contact Information

Bladen Community College

For technical support, please call 910-879-5521

Michelle Norris, Department Chair, mnorris@bladencc.edu

Richmond Community College

For technical support, please call 910 – 410 – 1757

Janet Sims, Department Chair, Nursing, jmsims@richmondcc.edu

Robeson Community College

For technical support, please call 910 – 272 – 3566

Eva Meekins, Program Director, ADN, emeekins@robeson.edu

Sandhills Community College

For technical support, please call 910 – 695 – 3928.

Lynne Phifer, Department Chair, phiferl@sandhills.edu

University of North Carolina at Pembroke

For technical support, please call DoIT at 910 – 521 – 6260

James Crouch, Student Success Advocate for the RIBN Program, james.crouch@uncp.edu

Acknowledgement of Receipt and FERPA Release

Acknowledgment of Receipt and FERPA Release

I, the student, have received a copy of the SouthCentral NC Collaborative Student Handbook. I have had an opportunity to review and discuss its contents and I agree, as a student enrolled in the RIBN Program, to adhere to the policies and guidelines set forth. The policies and procedures are subject to change during my enrollment in the program and it is my responsibility to stay updated with these changes.

As a part of the RIBN Collaborative Agreement, grades are used to determine academic standing and progression within the RIBN Program. I, the student, give permission for the community college to release grades, currently enrolled courses, or copies of the Student Academic Evaluation to the RIBN Student Success Advocate at UNC-Pembroke, James Crouch. I understand that I have a right to inspect any written records released. I understand that until a revocation of this consent is made, this consent will remain in effect for the duration of my participation in the RIBN Program.

I understand that I have the right not to consent to the release of my education records and I have the right to revoke this consent at any time by delivering a written revocation to the community college.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: ____/____/____