

## Nursing Practicum Fee Proposal

RCC is a member of the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE,) and offers a competency-based curriculum jointly developed by nursing faculties from the eleven-community college and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) consortium partners. The core competencies address the need for nurses to be skilled in clinical judgment and critical thinking; evidence-based practice; relationship-centered care; interdisciplinary collaboration; assisting individuals and families in self-care practices for promotion of health and management of chronic and acute illness; end-of-life care; and teaching, delegation, leadership and supervision of caregivers.

The nursing program is a three-year program; 1 year of pre-requisite/preparatory course work of 45 credits, and 2 years of nursing courses. Applicants admitted to the RCC Nursing program are co-admitted to the OHSU Nursing programs, and once students complete their Associate Degree in Nursing program at RCC, the OCNE curriculum provides entry to OHSU's Nursing program. Continued full-time study for four (4) more terms lead to a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

RCC's program is a highly competitive, limited-entry program. In 2019/20 this program received 165 student applications for admittance, with 160 applicants qualifying for the program. The program has a maximum capacity of 32 students annually.

The average salary is [\\$73,30 per year according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics](#).

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 7 percent from 2019 to 2029, faster than the average for all occupations. Growth will occur for a number of reasons, including an increased emphasis on preventive care; an increasing rate of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and obesity; and demand for healthcare services from the baby boomer population, as this group leads longer and more active lives.

In response to the increased need for nurses, the college is recommending 16 additional students are accepted into the program annually. This increase will require approval from the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) and additional funding to support the infrastructure.

To ensure the expansion runs smoothly, the team is addressing the following key components; expansion costs, timing, space needs, faculty recruiting and onboarding, student success, clinical utilization, and simulation utilization. The team anticipates the 16 additional spots may be filled as early as spring 2022, with a new cohort.

In response to the influx of additional student, three additional faculty positions will be added over two years. In the first year of the expansion, two faculty positions will be added. In the second year of the expansion one additional faculty position will be added. The estimated cost of these additional faculty is as follows:

	Total Costs
Year One	\$239,746
Year Two	\$359,619

In order to offset the additional costs, the College is proposing additional program-specific fees of \$1,600 a term for a total \$9,600. These fees will be in addition to standard tuition and fees charged to students and begin with the cohort admitted after fall 2021.

Although the fee is slightly higher than the average fee charged at other Oregon community colleges, RCC's students are eligible to seamlessly continue to the senior-level nursing curriculum and receive a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from Oregon Health & Science University. They can join a campus cohort in Portland, Oregon, or an online learning community from anywhere in the state, to continue to grow the depth and breadth of their nursing knowledge and skills.

<b>Community College</b>	<b>Per Term Cost</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>2 year program</b>
Blue Mountain *	960	2,880	5,760
Central Oregon	450	1,350	2,700
Chemeketa	1,100	3,300	6,600
Columbia Gorge*	1,087	3,261	6,522
Lane*	3,000	9,000	18,000
Linn-Benton	1,254	3,762	7,524
Mt. Hood*	844	2,532	5,064
Oregon Coast	1,604	4,812	9,624
Southwestern Oregon*	1,066	3,198	6,396
Tillamook Bay (via Oregon Coast )	1,604	4,812	9,624
Treasure Valley*	1,400	4,200	8,400
Umpqua*	1,175	3,522	7,044
Average Cost	\$ 1,295	\$ 3,886	\$ 7,772

\* Represents OCNE partner

Due to the high demand for nurses, nursing students have numerous opportunities to help fund their education in addition to financial aid (Pell, SEOG, OOG, OPG, FWS, and student loans). Opportunities include loans, loan forgiveness programs (federal and state), scholarships, and grants specifically for nurses. In addition, many hospitals and employers offer a tuition reimbursement program for nurses.