

ARE YOU READY FOR NURSING SCHOOL?





Nursing school is a rigorous and rewarding journey that requires a significant commitment of time, energy, and resources. It is designed to prepare you to think critically, make safe clinical decisions, and provide high-quality patient care. While it is challenging, understanding expectations ahead of time can help you be successful. Use the following questions to assess your readiness for the demands of nursing school.



FINANCIAL READINESS



- Have you applied for financial aid, scholarships, or other funding opportunities?
- Is it necessary for you to work while enrolled in the program?
- If working, can you reduce your hours or maintain a flexible schedule?
- Does your employer understand the time commitment and scheduling demands of nursing school?
- Have you considered additional costs such as uniforms, transportation to clinical sites, testing platforms, and supplies?



TIME COMMITTMENT & STUDY EXPECTATIONS

- Nursing school requires a substantial time commitment both inside and outside of class.
- Students should expect to spend 2–3 hours studying for every hour in class, which may total 30–40+ hours per week outside of scheduled class, lab, and clinical time.
- Studying involves more than memorization. You will be expected to:
 - Read and review course materials
 - Complete NCLEX-style practice questions
 - Apply knowledge to patient scenarios
 - Participate in remediation and review activities

Nursing education is comprehensive because patient safety depends on your ability to apply knowledge in real-world situations.

CLINICAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPECTATIONS



- Clinical experiences may begin early in the program and often require:
 - Early morning start times
 - Preparation prior to each clinical day
 - Professional communication and behavior
- You will be expected to take responsibility for patient care under supervision and demonstrate accountability, integrity, and professionalism at all times.



Nursing students must be comfortable using technology for learning and testing.

- Learning management systems (e.g., Canvas)
- Online testing platforms and NCLEX-style exam software
- Digital textbooks and course resources

TECHNOLOGY READINESS

Reliable internet access and a functioning device are essential for success.

SUPPORT SYSTEM & PERSONAL RESILIENCE

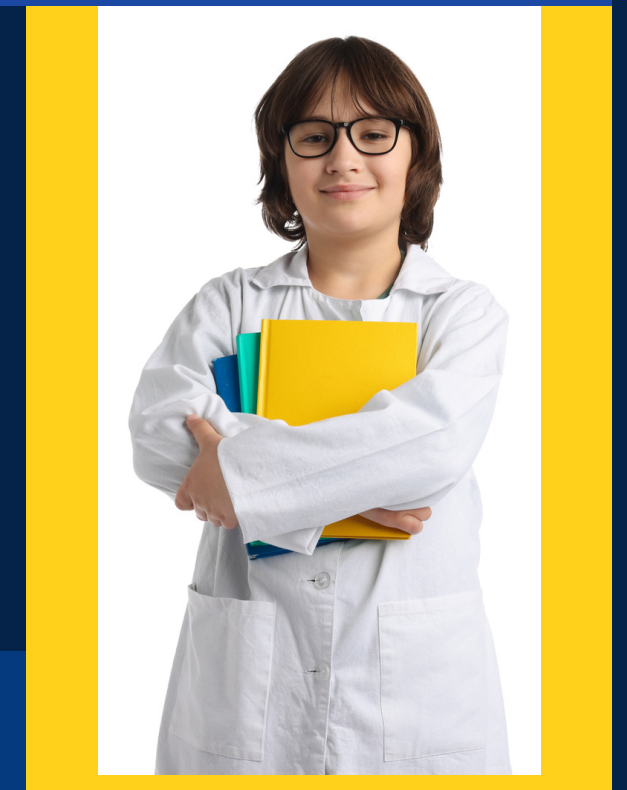


Do you have a reliable support system to help you manage responsibilities outside of school?

If you have children or other obligations, is there a plan in place for support during busy or unexpected times?

Are you prepared to manage stress, receive constructive feedback, and remain resilient during challenging periods?

ACADEMIC READINESS & CLINICAL JUDGMENT



Nursing exams are not based on memorization alone. You will be expected to:

- **Analyze patient situations**
- **Prioritize care**
- **Make clinical judgments**

Ask yourself:

- Am I able to apply knowledge to new and unfamiliar scenarios?
- Am I willing to adjust my study strategies if needed?
- Can I think critically by asking “why” and “what is the priority?”



PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY & MINDSET

- **Are you self-disciplined and able to complete tasks without constant reminders?**
- **Do you take responsibility for your learning and performance?**
- **Are you open to feedback and committed to continuous improvement?**
- **Are you prepared to make nursing school a priority in your life?**

FINAL THOUGHTS



Nursing school is demanding, but it is also one of the most meaningful and rewarding paths you can choose. If you can confidently answer “yes” to most of these questions, you are well-positioned to succeed.

Stanly Community College wishes you the very best as you begin this challenging and rewarding journey toward becoming a nurse!