

**1. What makes the WNC RIBN nursing educational model different than traditional two or four year nursing pathways?** This dual enrollment nursing option will provide a seamless transition from an associate degree to a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The students will be dually enrolled at their local community college and Western Carolina University (WCU). Students begin completing course requirements for a baccalaureate degree as soon as they enter the program. Students will have the opportunity to pay mostly Community College tuition rates through the RIBN model.

**2. I already have a degree (AA, AS, BA, BS). Is RIBN a good fit for me?** There is now an opportunity for students to enter RIBN at year two and finish in three years. Students need to meet with the RIBN advisor to figure out the best option for completion.

**3. What scholarship monies are available for WNC RIBN students?** Students can apply for the "Forgivable Education Loans for Service." Information for that program can be found here: <http://www.cfnc.org>. Also, students can apply for foundation scholarships at their local community college. The application period is typically early in the year for the following fall. Students also need to check with their employers to see if there are any tuition reimbursement options.

**4. If I have taken the ACT before, do I have to re-take it to apply?** If you have taken the ACT before and the score meets entry requirements to WCU, you do not have to retake it. There is no expiration on the ACT score.

**5. What if I am missing some of the minimum course requirements for entry to Western Carolina University?** If you did not complete some of the required high school courses, you may take courses at the college level to satisfy these course requirements to be eligible to apply. Please meet with the RIBN adviser to clarify requirements for entrance to your local community college and Western Carolina University.

**6. What if my GPA is not over a 3.0?** If your GPA from high school is under a 3.0 (unweighted), you will then complete 20 hours of college level work. The RIBN adviser will then use the college GPA for scoring. If your college GPA is under a 3.0, you can look at these three options: retake the class (at the same institution) for a better grade, take enough credits at the "A" level to get the GPA over a 3.0, or look into an academic forgiveness policy. When you meet with the RIBN advisor, the best option for GPA repair will be explored.

**7. If I have completed college course work, will you still look at my high school GPA?** If you have completed at least 20 credit hours of college coursework (100 level or higher), the RIBN adviser will only consider your cumulative college GPA.

**8. Can I apply to other nursing options as well as RIBN?** Yes. Because nursing programs in the region are competitive for entry, we encourage you to apply to as many options for which you are eligible and interested.

**9. How do I get started?** The next step would be to meet with the RIBN Adviser. Please call to schedule an appointment: 828-694-1841 or email the RIBN advisor; Susan Greco ([s\\_greco@blueridge.edu](mailto:s_greco@blueridge.edu)) for more information. The RIBN adviser is at Blue Ridge Community College (Health Sciences Building; 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. Hendersonville) on Tuesday and Wednesday.