

AM I READY TO BEGIN CORE CLINICAL COURSES?

How do I know if I am truly ready to begin core clinical courses? We encourage you to carefully think about the following **prior** to submitting your petition form.

How much time will I need to devote to studying?

Many first semester students experience culture shock when they quickly realize the rigor and demands of the core courses. As a rule of thumb, it is recommended that students spend two hours outside of class for every credit they enroll in. For example, students enroll in ten (10) credits of nursing core courses in semester one (provided they have completed all general education/support courses). This would mean that students should spend at least twenty (20) hours outside of class preparing, practicing and completing homework. Take time to include in your weekly schedule the following:

Study time	Work hours	Exercise
Family/community commitments	Travel time	Fun

Should I work while in core clinical courses?

The more successful students work a limited amount of hours each week. The core clinical courses demand an extraordinary amount of time. Working a full-time job is extremely difficult to do while enrolled in the core courses. We suggest not working or working a small number of hours per week.

Have I completed all of the general education courses?

The more successful students have completed all or most of their general education courses **before** beginning core clinical courses. By completing all of these courses, you will have more time to concentrate on core clinical courses.

Have I included my family?

The more successful students have supportive immediate and extended families. Family members will soon learn that you will not be as readily available as in the past. These adjustments can be very difficult so we encourage students to have an honest dialogue with family members before submitting a petition form.

Is this the “right” time for me?

Beginning core clinical courses will require a great commitment on your part. Ask yourself “Is this the right time for me to begin the program, do I have reliable childcare, do I have reliable transportation, am I financially prepared, etc.?”

Is this the “right” career for me?

Students are encouraged to explore their career field fully. The Counseling and Career Center staff along with program coordinators will gladly assist you in the career exploration process. Students are encouraged to complete career assessments, enroll in the Introduction to Health Careers course, or talk with professionals in the field to determine a “good fit”.