



Welcome to Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences. We hope this letter reaches you well and your excitement is building for the adventure that is to come! Below is a list of requirements that must be completed prior to beginning your first year of classes. For any questions about these requirements, please contact:

Andrew Griesbaum, Student Services Officer
217-228-5520 Ext. 6990, griesbauma@brcn.edu

Student Services Requirements

Before attending nursing or health sciences classes for the first semester, you are required to submit/upload copies of the following items to our document management site CastleBranch. You will first need to create an account with CastleBranch. Please go to <https://www.brcn.edu/parents-current-students/student-services-requirements> and select the link for the program you will be starting. Please remember your account credentials as you will need to access the site often. Also, if your document contains more than one of the required immunizations, that document will need to be uploaded for each corresponding required immunization.

Please have the following requirements met NO LATER THAN:

Second Degree and MLT Students – May 15
Fall Semester – August start date – August 1
Spring Semester – January start date – January 1

- **BRCN Registration forms** – these are located in your CastleBranch portal.
- **MMR series** – 2 immunizations or lab/physician certified evidence of immunity (titer).
- **Hepatitis B series** – This is a three-step series with the second injection coming one month after the first, and the third coming 5 months after the second injection. There are a total of three injections. Lab or physician certified evidence of immunity (titer) also accepted – waiver available.
- **Mantoux TB skin test** – If this is your first TB test you are required to get a two-step TB test, or a QuantiFERON-TB Gold blood test. The two-step is as follows: Initial test is administered and then read 48 hours later; 2nd test is administered one to two weeks later and then read 48-72 hours later. After the initial two-step test, or blood test, you are required to have a one-step test, or blood test done annually. You may also submit physician certified evidence of immunity (titer). *TB skin tests are available from most Public Health clinics, or your primary care physician.*
- **Tetanus (Td/Tdap)** within the last 10 years, or lab/physician certified evidence of immunity (titer) – waiver available.
- **Varicella** (Chicken Pox Vaccine) – 2 immunizations, or lab/physician certified evidence of immunity (titer). – waiver available
- **COVID-19 Vaccination** - The Covid-19 vaccination, or an approved Medical, or Religious exemption request is required. If the Medical, or Religious exemption request is approved you will be required to submit to a weekly Covid-19 test.
- **Influenza (Flu)** – One immunization seasonally.

If you choose to waiver out of receiving any immunizations, understand that you may be asked to leave clinical due to outbreaks or for patient safety. You will also be responsible for the time lost. Be aware when scheduling immunizations that there could be a wait between injections if you are having more than one immunization done. Contact your local health department, or primary care physician if you have any questions about multiple immunizations.

- **CPR** – The CPR certificate must be [American Heart Association, BLS Provider](#) . To sign up for a class offered by Blessing Health System contact Nursing Professional Development at ext. 4860, or the Student Services Officer at BRCN at ext. 6990. The class can be complete from a training site of your choosing, but please ensure the class is the American Heart Association, BLS for Healthcare Provider

course. Cost of the course is \$32.00. If you'd like to purchase the course book for \$16.00 that is optional. (Nursing, Respiratory, & Radiology only)

- **Malpractice Insurance** – Please refer to your program specific checklist as the Malpractice Insurance needed varies by program.
- **Drug Screen** – Every student must submit a drug screen ***no more than 30 days prior to the start of the sophomore year, but must be completed by the end of the first week of classes.*** This must be done through Blessing Physician Services (Office of Sports and Occupational Medicine), Suite 101, 927 Broadway, Quincy IL. To schedule an appointment call (217) 223-8400 ext. 7950. Walk-In's are welcome.
- **Criminal Background Check** – Every student is required to do a background check ***no more than 60 days prior to the start of the sophomore year, but must be completed by the end of the first week of classes.*** The background check will be initiated when you set up your CastleBranch account.

Student Criminal Background Check Policy Statement

All Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences students are required to undergo a criminal background check prior to beginning clinical at the sophomore level. The Illinois State Law authorizing this check is the "Health Care Worker Background Check Act." The law was enacted for the protection of the frail and disabled citizens of the State of Illinois. The academic programs of Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences require clinical experiences that may include the treatment of children, developmentally disabled, or vulnerable adults. The criminal background check includes self-disclosure of your criminal history and investigation of your criminal history by the Illinois State Highway Patrol and/or in the state in which the student has permanent residence. If a student is from Missouri they need both an Illinois and a Missouri background check. If they are from Illinois only, just the Illinois background check is required. The student has a right to – a) obtain a copy of the criminal record report, b) challenge the accuracy and completeness, and c) request a waiver. The student may be withdrawn from clinical courses or may be dismissed from the program, if the Criminal History Record Check shows a conviction of any of the criminal offenses listed in the BRCN Program Catalog. Go to www.brcn.edu and click on "Program Catalog" to view.

Dress Code

All students are required to comply with the following dress code during pre-clinical, lab, and/or clinical experiences unless otherwise stated in a course syllabus.

Wear only clean, pressed, well fitting (not tight) BRCN uniforms.

- Shoes that are soft soled and skid resistant. Shoes must be clean with a closed top and toe. Shoes must be professional in appearance. No canvas or cloth shoes are to be worn. Shoelaces and socks are to be clean and in good repair.
- Wear a mid-thigh to knee length BRCN white lab coat that buttons down the front. (Lab coat is optional).
- Maintain a clean, well-groomed physical appearance. Hair must be secured and off of the collar.
- Semi-professional dress with a lab coat and identification is required for pre-clinical preparations unless otherwise stated in course syllabus. No sandals, open toe shoes, jeans, or sweat suits are allowed at any time.
- Jewelry is discouraged for infection control requirements; however, 2 sets per ear of small, post earrings, one chain, one wedding or personal ring is allowed. No bracelets allowed on wrists. Ankle bracelets must be covered and worn under socks or hose.
- Artificial nails are not allowed. All body piercing or tattoos deemed offensive in nature must be covered.

- Strong perfume, Cologne, and after-shave are discouraged in the clinical areas due to patient sensitivity.

*Additional details of personal hygiene and dress code can be found in the Student Handbook on the college website.

Business Casual Dress Code

- The Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing & Health Sciences polo shirt and khaki slacks or skirt are worn when representing the College. Examples of events that represent the College are professional service activities, recruitment events, and some clinical experiences in the community or at community agencies.

Required clothing items to purchase - Estimated Cost \$125

- Blessing (Royal) Blue Scrubs with BRCN logo
- BRCN (Royal Blue) Polo Shirt **(Nursing only)**

Scrubs may be purchased from our online store at designitapparel.com/collections/blessing-rieman-college-of-nursing-health-sciences.

Scrubs may also be purchased at the store of your choice and can be taken to Expressions by Christine, 711 Maine Street, Quincy, IL 62301, 217-223-2750, for embroidery of the BRCN logo.

*Gently Used Scrubs may be available at the Blessing-Rieman Caring Cupboard.

Required Supplies (Nursing and Respiratory Care only)

- Water resistant watch with a second hand (smart watches are not allowed)
- Stethoscope
- Pen light
- Blood pressure cuff-adult

Estimated supplies cost- \$120

A limited supply of Blood Pressure Cuffs (\$18) and Stethoscopes (\$26) are available for purchase in the Student Service office.

Books

The book list can be found on the website. The drop-down box under “Parents & Current Students” gives you an option to choose “Book list”. The book lists can be purchased through the website on that page or you can get the ISBN number from the booklist and purchase the books from a place of your choosing.

- Quincy University students will get their books from QU.
- Culver Stockton College students will get books for classes held on the CSC campus from the CSC bookstore. Books for nursing courses here at BRCN come from <https://www.brcn.edu/parents-current-students/book-list>.

***All the information above can be accessed on our website by going to www.brcn.edu and hovering over Parents & Current Students (near the top of the page), then selecting Student Service Requirements.**