

Bryan College of Health Sciences

Medical Sciences Focus Program Handbook

The mission of the Medical Sciences Focus Program, in partnership with Bryan College of Health Sciences (BCHS), is to provide juniors and seniors at Lincoln Northwest with a unique and affordable pathway toward their future. Offering over 12 college credits and diverse learning opportunities, our program cultivates essential skills for success in health care and beyond, inspiring all students to excel in their chosen path.

Tuition Information

The tuition rate for courses in the focus program is currently \$150 per college credit hour. This is referred to as the “Falcon Rate” and represents a significant discount compared to the normal undergraduate tuition rate at BCHS. Below is a breakdown of the total yearly cost. **No payment is due at the time of application, acceptance, or enrollment in the focus program.**

Year 1 Total Cost = \$1,100

- Medical Terminology (1 credit hour) = \$150
- Ethics in Health Care (3 credit hours) = \$450
- Basic Nursing Assistant course (certification only, no college credit) = \$500 flat fee

Year 2 Total Cost = \$1,200

- Anatomy & Physiology I (4 credit hours) = \$600
- Anatomy & Physiology II (4 credit hours) = \$600

GRAND TOTAL = \$2,300 for 12 college credits!

Tuition statements will be available in the Bryan Student Portal for each enrolled student shortly after the start of each focus program course. **Tuition will always be due 4 weeks after the start date of any course, either semester-length or quarter-length.** Exact tuition due dates for each type of course can be found in red in the [Important Dates document](#) (updated yearly).

Families are responsible for the cost of tuition. Students may contact the BCHS Student Accounts coordinator, Alicia Arnold, at alicia.arnold@bryanhealth.org or 402-481-8752 to set up a payment plan if desired. Payment may be made online via the Bryan Student Portal, by credit card, or by check. **Financial assistance is available for students with financial need.** See the Tuition Assistance Options section below.

Tuition Assistance Options

To receive either of the assistance options below, students must complete the appropriate application **after the start of the semester of participation** and prior to the tuition due date for their particular course(s). Tuition due dates are listed in the [Important Dates document](#), which is updated yearly.

Option 1) ACE Scholarship – Any student who qualifies for the free or reduced meals program (or has another qualifying financial hardship as defined by the [ACE Coordinating Commission](#)) should apply for the ACE Scholarship. Recipients will receive **100% tuition coverage** for all BCHS Focus Program courses taken in that semester. **Students who do not submit an application prior to the application deadline will not be eligible to receive this scholarship and will be responsible for paying their tuition bill in full.** Students must reapply for the ACE scholarship each semester.

Option 2) Falcon Student Achievement Assistance – Any student who does not qualify for the ACE Scholarship but still has financial need can complete this application. Applicants will receive **50% tuition coverage** through the Medical Sciences Focus Program Scholarship funded by donors of the Bryan Foundation. Students with significant financial need, who do not qualify for the ACE Scholarship, may also be eligible for additional assistance through other funding sources. ***Students who do not submit an application prior to the focus program tuition due date will not be eligible to receive this assistance and will be responsible for paying their tuition bill in full.*** Students must reapply for this assistance each semester.

Students who choose to withdraw from a focus program course **after** the tuition due date will still be responsible for paying the cost of tuition for the dropped course(s). Scholarship funds may not be available to cover the cost of tuition for courses that are not completed, and students may be fully or partially responsible for the cost of any dropped program courses, regardless of their tuition assistance option.

Focus Program Course Information

All students will begin with the Year 1 courses, regardless of whether participating during the junior or senior year. Those joining as seniors will *only* complete Year 1 courses. Juniors who successfully complete all Year 1 courses will move on to the Year 2 courses in their senior year.

The embedded focus program pathway consists of four health-related dual credit courses, plus a senior capstone course, for a total of 12 college credits earned through Bryan College of Health Sciences. These classes are all scheduled within the student's regular school day at Lincoln Northwest. Focus program courses that are taken for college credit are recorded as weighted credit on the high school transcript. All focus program courses are awarded 5 credits within LPS, regardless of the number of college credit hours.

College credit earned as part of the focus program can be transferred to other post-secondary institutions. Students are encouraged to connect with college admissions representatives, or work with their high school counselor, to determine how these credits will transfer to the future college of their choice.

An overview of each course is provided below. Additional details related to policies and expectations will be communicated in the syllabus distributed to students at the start of each course and posted in Canvas. ***In general, late work will not be accepted in any focus program course and regular attendance is required.***

CORE PATHWAY - YEAR 1 COURSES

- **Basic Nursing Assistant (BNA/CNA) course** (state certification course, not for college credit)
 - Scheduled as a full block for two quarters.
 - ***Attendance is a state requirement to pass this course.***
 - Meets four days a week.
 - Contains both a lecture and a skills lab component.
 - Students who pass the state certification exam will be able to obtain employment as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) in a healthcare facility.
 - *Students who do not meet ALL state-mandated requirements below are not eligible to take the state exam, and will not earn a passing grade for the course.*

State-mandated requirements for passing the BNA course:

- 1) Must be present for a minimum of 77 total instructional hours (lecture + lab combined)
- 2) Must complete all unit exams and the NE Abuse Training module, and obtain a minimum of 196 out of 280 total points to pass
- 3) Must pass all skill checks

- **Ethics in Health Care** (3 college credit hours)
 - Typically scheduled as a full block for one quarter.
 - Meets four days a week (the 5th day is Medical Terminology).
 - Students are introduced to the fundamental principles of ethics, human values, and the ethical decision-making process.
 - Contemporary ethical issues will be explored for the application of ethical principles.
- **Medical Terminology** (1 college credit hour)
 - Scheduled in conjunction with either the Ethics in Health Care or BNA/CNA course.
 - **Coursework is completed almost entirely online, outside of the regular school day.**
 - In-person class meets one day a week for some review and taking the quizzes.
 - Course grade is dependent upon the weekly quiz scores.

CORE PATHWAY - YEAR 2 COURSES

- **Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II** (8 college credit hours total)
 - Scheduled as a full block all four quarters (Q1/Q2 = A&P I, Q3/Q4 = A&P II).
 - Meets four days a week (5th day is Senior Capstone).
 - Contains both a lecture and lab component.
 - **Students must earn a grade of C or better in A&P I to continue on to A&P II.**
- **Senior Capstone** (not for college credit)
 - Scheduled in conjunction with Anatomy & Physiology I and II
 - Meets one day a week.
 - Provides students with additional time to review complex content, use the Anatomage Table to enhance learning, and continue exploring health care careers with insights from guest health professionals.

Optional Courses

After successful completion of the Year 1 courses, students have the option to take up to two additional online classes through the [Bryan Early College Access Program \(BECAP\)](#) with tuition billed at the Falcon Rate (\$150/credit hr). Examples include Intro to Sociology, Intro to Psychology, Nutrition, Public Communications, and more. Interested students should work with the BCHS Focus Program Director to register for courses. **These optional courses are not pre-approved for LPS credit.** Any student planning to take one of these courses for LPS credit must obtain approval from their Northwest school counselor prior to registering for the course. Students are responsible for the cost of any additional courses. No Focus Program tuition assistance is available for optional courses, but these are still ACE-eligible courses.

Students may also choose to take the [Phlebotomy course](#) at BCHS during their focus program participation. This course is taught in person at BCHS and is scheduled outside of the regular school day. The Phlebotomy course is not ACE-eligible, but assistance may be available through the Bryan Foundation. Talk to the Focus Program Director to learn more.

Focus Program Withdrawal

Students may choose to withdraw from the focus program at their discretion. It is encouraged for a student to make this decision earlier rather than later, as tuition refunds are only available for a short time (see Tuition Information section). If a student withdraws while courses are in session, the BCHS withdrawal policy will determine how those courses are recorded on the college transcript (see the [Focus Program Withdrawal Process](#) for details). LPS Board Policy will continue to apply to courses recorded on the high school transcript.

If the decision to withdraw from the focus program is made, the student is responsible for completing the process to drop both the high school course(s) and college course(s) -- both the LNW focus program school counselor and the BCHS Focus Program Director must be notified.

If a student withdraws from a college course, tuition will be refunded based on the BCHS Tuition Refund Schedule shown below. Exact dates are listed in the [Important Dates document](#), which is updated yearly.

Withdraw by End of Week 1 of the course according to BCHS start date – 100% refund

Withdraw by End of Week 2 of the course according to BCHS start date – 75% refund

Withdraw by End of Week 3 or 4 of the course according to BCHS start date – 50% refund

Failure to follow these withdrawal procedures will result in a grade of “F” on the college transcript.

Additional Policies

Participation in the focus program also means you will be enrolled as a non-degree-seeking student at BCHS. Therefore, you must abide by all BCHS policies in addition to LPS policies. See the [BCHS Undergraduate Handbook](#), or speak with the BCHS Focus Program Director for more information.

