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[New option for nursing education](#)

Jefferson College of Health Sciences is recruiting students for its latest nursing program that promises to have students ready for the workplace in just 16 months, instead of the traditional four years.

In January the school, which is owned by Carilion Clinic, earned approval from the Virginia Board of Nursing to begin recruiting students for its [Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing](#) program. The college's goal is to have 25 students ready to begin classes in the fall.

It's a very fast-paced curriculum, allowing the students to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in half the time of the traditional program.

To be accepted students must already have a bachelor's degree in another field, said Mark Lambert, the college's spokesman.

The program is intended to address a couple of trends in the nursing industry, including the shortages of nurses nationwide that is only expected to worsen.

"We know there is a need for more nurses across the country right now and that need will only increase as time goes on," said Dr. Ava Porter, director of the college's nursing program, in a news release. "The new ABSN track allows us to graduate more qualified and highly skilled nursing professionals in a reduced amount of time. But, it also provides an additional way for people who may not have previous nursing experience to enter the profession."

Lambert said that the school was responding to inquiries from potential students who were looking to change professions and were interested in nursing. He said the economy has played a role in defining the need for the accelerated program.

"We had a lot of people coming to us and saying I would like to get into health care, but I don't want to spend four years doing it," he said.

The new program also comes shortly after Jefferson College discontinued its associates degree in nursing program. That ended in May as the school sought to keep up with employer demands for nurses to have a bachelor's.



Posted at 02:09 by Sarah Jones | Category: [Carilion Clinic](#), [Health education](#) | 1 Comment

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