

Accelerated Option Pre-Interview Guide

This guide was developed to help you prepare for your interview with faculty. One and sometimes two Research College of Nursing professors will interview all students. The purpose of the interview is to provide students an opportunity to meet a professor, ask questions about the program, as well as be evaluated by the professor in regard to admission criteria.

Please read the FAQ/Interview Guide below, make a copy, and bring it to your faculty interview. There is a place on the form for you to write in your Interview date, time, location, and faculty interviewer. At the end of the guide is a place to write additional questions you have. We hope this guide will prove helpful in facilitating the interview process for both you and your interviewer.

Interview date _____
Interview time _____
Location _____
Faculty interviewer _____
Recruiter's phone number _____

FAQ's

1. How long is the program?

The program runs from August of one year to August of the next. The year will consist of three semesters called "trimesters".

2. When do classes meet?

Classes meet Monday through Thursday from 8AM to 5PM. However, clinical days begin earlier at approximately 6:30AM. While the majority of clinical experiences are scheduled during the day, some may be scheduled during the evening and/or weekends.

3. Will I have class on Fridays or weekends?

Friday is not usually a scheduled class day, except for occasional college events (one per semester) and potentially clinical experience in some specialty areas. If clinical is held on a Friday, every attempt will be made to provide another day free during the week. On-line course activities may be scheduled on a Friday. Fridays may also be used for make-up of missed exams, clinical time, etc. Classes are not scheduled on week-ends. However, you should plan time for online learning activities and/or studying during the week-end. As indicated above, on occasion clinical experiences may be scheduled on a week-end.

4. Can I work during the program?

Due to the accelerated pace of the program, students are discouraged from working so that they have adequate time to complete requirements successfully in this rigorous nursing program. If it will be necessary for you to work during the program, work as little as possible and definitely not more than 20-24 hours per week. **Try to avoid working during the first trimester** as students report this is academically the toughest semester and it takes time to adjust to the pace of the program, develop peer relationships, etc.

5. Can I stay active in outside activities during the program?

You need to “simplify” your life as much as possible during the AO Program. This means you need to “go on leave” from extracurricular activities for one year and focus solely on the program. You will find it very “time intensive” and outside activities that take time away from studying are discouraged.

6. Does this mean I won’t have time for my family?

You need to warn your family that the AO Program is very time intensive and you will be studying a lot. However, students are encouraged to schedule time with their families during the weekend as a way to de-stress and take their minds off school for a bit. Mondays tend to be heavy academic days with lecture and exams so anticipate that some week-end time is necessary to prepare for class the following week.

7. What should I do about childcare?

You will need a reliable childcare provider. You will also need a backup provider and sick care provider for when your child is sick. The pace of the program makes it very difficult to make up missed clinical days so students are expected to attend class and clinical unless they themselves are too sick to attend.

8. Will I have breaks during the program?

You will have breaks during the major holidays (Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July). There is a three day Fall break, a two week Christmas break, and one week spring break in accordance with the Rockhurst University schedule.

9. Will I need a home computer during the program?

While RCON hosts a fully equipped computer lab, AO students will need to have a fast, reliable, home computer with internet access. Due to the amount of coursework students have online, students report having a home computer is a necessity. Many students bring their laptop computers to class to take class notes, access Blackboard, email, etc.

10. What computer skills will I need to possess?

There is information on the college website that outlines the recommended computer hard/software requirements and skills. Basically, you need to know how to navigate the Internet and send documents via e-mail, use Word and PowerPoint, as well as be able to keyboard at a comfortable speed. Rockhurst University provides technical support in relation to Blackboard which is the platform that supports the nursing courses. All of your course exams will be taken on computers in the college computer labs so try to establish a friendly relationship with computers before you begin the program.

11. What are the AO letters that students receive?

You will receive two letters during the year prior to entering the program. The letters will include information about program requirements and times for the two information sessions (see #12). It is imperative that you maintain current contact information with the college. Information about preparing for the program is critical so you can be ready to begin the program in August. For example, clinical requirements must be completed for students to begin clinical coursework!

12. Will I be able to meet some of the students before the program begins?

The college will host two Information Sessions (one in late Fall and one in late spring) to begin preparation for starting the AO program. Information about the program and specific requirements will be disseminated during these meetings. Students who are currently in the program are invited to answer incoming student questions and provide their perspective of the AO experience. It is highly recommended that incoming students attend these sessions to keep abreast of requirements for the program and any changes that may occur. You are welcome to bring a significant other to these sessions as it can often help them understand the nature of an accelerated program.

13. I may be interested in graduate school. Do you have a graduate program?

RCN has a graduate program that includes the Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, and Executive Nurse Practice tracks. Additional tracks include the Clinical Nurse Leader and RN to MSN. Students interested in pursuing graduate work can discuss this with the AO Program Director or Dr. Lynn Warmbrodt, Director of the Graduate Program.

14. Will I need extra money during the program?

You will need approximately \$3500 (or more) for books, fees, and incidentals. Nursing textbooks tend to be fairly expensive and there are costs associated with clinical requirements (i.e., immunizations, background checks, CPR). In addition, there are fees associated with the program. A financial cushion is very helpful to be able to avoid having to work during the program.

15. Is there anything I should be doing now to prepare for the program?

My best suggestion at this time is to do your best in the courses you are taking and simplify your life as much as possible. If your computer or computer skills need some work, now is the time to do it. When the program begins, we hit the ground running and do not stop until Christmas break so, it is best to anticipate any problems you might have and resolve them now. Remember it is 'only 12 months' but it is 'fast and furious' during this time. The more you can prepare yourself, family, and friends for this experience, the greater the odds are that you will be successful!

I hope this Pre-Interview Guide has been helpful. I look forward to meeting you at the information sessions and when the program begins in August. Please e-mail or call me if you have any questions about the program.

Sharon

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Questions:

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