



Thinking About Becoming a Registered Nurse? RNEP Can Help!



What is RNEP?

The Rural Nursing Education Program (RNEP) is designed for individuals who live and work in rural communities and want to become Registered Nurses (RNs) while staying close to home. Students are nominated to RNEP by their local Critical Access Hospital (CAH) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) and earn an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) through RNEP's academic partner. The program is funded through a grant administered by the Washington State Department of Health.

Program Overview

Nursing school is demanding. Planning ahead for work, study, and personal responsibilities will be essential.

- **Program Duration:** RNEP is a three-year program. The first year covers nursing prerequisites, and years two and three are devoted to completing your Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) with our academic partner.
- **Online Coursework:** Most theory courses are online. Reliable internet and basic computer skills are required.
- **Clinical Practice:** Hands-on learning occurs at your local CAH/RHC; some required travel to regional simulation or lab sites.
- **Time Commitment (Weekly):**
10–15 hours – Coursework & assignments
8–12 hours – Clinical/skills practice
Extra – Group meetings & online discussions.
- **Support:** Each student is connected with the RNEP Student Support Specialist for guidance, academic planning, study skills, tutoring, and life balance strategies.

Student Commitment

RNEP is more than a program—it is a commitment to your community. As an RNEP student you will:

- Live and learn locally: You will remain in your rural community for most of your coursework and clinicals experiences.
- Partner with your facility: Receive mentoring and hands-on support from your local CAH or RHC.
- Commit to rural nursing: Work as an RN in a rural community upon graduation.



Keys to Success

What you will need to be successful:

- A strong commitment to learning & professional growth.
- Reliable email and online session attendance.
- Dependability and accountability in meeting deadlines & attending clinicals.
- Self-motivation & strong time management.
- Willingness to ask questions & seek support.



RNEP@doh.wa.gov

