

ITT Nursing Program – PCC Teach-out FAQs

Why is PCC proposing to administer a “teach-out plan” for the ITT AAS in Nursing?

The HECC (Higher Education Coordinating Commission) has asked for PCC’s help in providing an option for the **nearly 300 students** who were enrolled in ITT’s Breckenridge School of Nursing AAS program in Portland to complete their degree.

These students, through no fault of their own, were left stranded by ITT’s abrupt closure in early September. They have a limited time during which they must choose whether to apply to the US Department of Education for loan forgiveness for the educational debt they have already incurred attending ITT, or find a program into which they can transfer to complete their degree. Many of these students are veterans using GI Bill benefits to pay for their education; all have invested a significant amount of time and money in starting a degree they now cannot finish. PCC is committed to seeing if we can, within the parameters of our academic policies, provide an option for those students who wish to complete their degrees.

What exactly is administering a “teach-out plan”?

Administering a teach-out plan is a mechanism by which an accredited institution (such as PCC) develops an academic plan that allows students from a program or institution that has closed (such as the ITT Nursing AAS) to complete their degree.

If PCC develops a teach-out plan and it is approved, it means that we would offer the ITT courses necessary to allow the ITT nursing students to complete their degrees, earning credit from PCC and ultimately a PCC AAS degree. The students would not be part of PCC’s approved OCNE nursing program, but would remain in a separate cohort, completing the ITT curriculum. The degree would also have a separate title to distinguish it from our OCNE nursing program. PCC would hire qualified instructors to teach the needed courses; the current plan is that nursing instruction would take place in the former ITT space in NE Portland; students enrolling in the teach-out option would complete their remaining general education and foundational requirements by enrolling in regular PCC courses.

Students would have a defined period within which they could enroll in and complete these PCC courses in order to finish their degree; the degree would be granted by PCC. Only students who were in the ITT nursing program at the time that the institution closed would be permitted to enroll in the teach-out program at PCC. At the end of the teach-out period, the PCC courses and degree created in order to allow the former ITT students to complete their nursing program would be inactivated.

Would PCC’s academic oversight process be followed?

Yes. The new courses and the new degree (tentatively titled “AAS in Nursing-Breckinridge”) that would need to be offered in order to create an effective teach-out plan must be approved through PCC’s regular oversight process, including review and approval by the Curriculum Committee, Degrees and Certificates Committee, Educational Advisory Council, and PCC’s academic and administrative leadership.

The plan would also need to be approved by the regular state oversight process (CCWD and HECC), the Oregon State Board of Nursing, our accrediting body (NWCCU), and the U.S. Department of Education.

How do we know the content of the ITT nursing program which we will be teaching out meets PCC’s standards for academic quality? Wasn’t ITT an unaccredited institution?

ITT was not regionally accredited. However, PCC’s normal transfer credit standards (<http://www.pcc.edu/resources/student-records/transfer.html>) allow transfer of coursework from non-regionally accredited institutions, based on the evaluation of the coursework by the appropriate PCC department.

The ITT nursing program in particular was approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN), which maintains a high standard for evaluation and approval of nursing education programs in the state.

In developing the proposed teach-out program, PCC’s nursing program was consulted. While the curriculum of the ITT program differs significantly from the PCC nursing program (as do many others in the state), based on OSBN’s approval of ITT’s program, PCC’s nursing administration supports PCC administering an ITT curricular teach-out program for the ITT students.

The relevant PCC SACs (Biology, Communication Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Mathematics, and Sociology) have reviewed the non-nursing coursework that was part of the ITT nursing program and recommended approval of specific equivalencies to PCC programs. If the teach-out program is approved, ITT students who enroll in the teach-out program will be granted transfer credit for those courses they completed at ITT and that have been evaluated and approved by PCC; they will enroll in PCC courses in order to complete the teach-out plan degree. The AAS degree offered through the teach-out plan would meet all of the PCC and state requirements for a degree.