

N E W S   R E L E A S E

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Calhoun Nursing Programs See 36% Increase in Applications for 2009-2010 Class

The Nursing program at Calhoun Community College continues to meet the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals in the local community.

Officials with the program today announced that applications for the 2009-2010 class are up more than 36% over last year's applicant pool. According to Bret McGill, dean of the Health Division at Calhoun, the program changed the application process for this year, moving the application deadline up by several weeks to April 1st, which will allow applicants to receive acceptance letters earlier and to prepare sooner for the upcoming semester. "It is truly a testament to the quality of our program that even though we shortened the application period, we still experienced a significant increase in student applications," said McGill.

The comparison of 2008 to 2009 applications by program is below:

2009: ADN/RN:	544	2008: 449
2009: PN (Practical Nursing):	211	2008: 161
2009 PTE (Part-Time Evening):	277	2008: 145

Beginning this fall, the college will now admit two classes of Associate degree nursing students – one in August and one in January, a first for Calhoun. According to McGill, a total of 200 students will be admitted for the August class -- 120 associate's degree (ADN)/RN students and 80 licensed practical nursing (LPN) students. One hundred additional ADN students will be admitted in January 2010.

"The two time a year admission will allow us to graduate a class at different times during the year so hospitals will have nurses to hire year round instead of a large number one time a year," McGill added.

"This new admissions process will also help to reduce our student to instructor ratio allowing for better student engagement and more time for interaction in our simulation labs," said McGill

"We are extremely excited and pleased at this significant increase in applications for all of our nursing programs. We feel that this is clear evidence of the quality of our programs and our graduates," McGill stated.

For more information about the Nursing programs at Calhoun Community College, call 256/306-2804 or visit the Calhoun website at [www.calhoun.edu](http://www.calhoun.edu).

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