

# Associate Degree Nursing Program

## Associate of Applied Science in Nursing

The Associate Degree Nursing program at Texarkana College began in 1959, with the first class graduating in 1962. The program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) is responsible for the evaluation and accreditation of nursing education schools/programs.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing  
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Atlanta, GA 39326  
404-975-5000 –website: [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)

The curriculum prepares graduates to assume beginning staff positions under supervision as providers of care, coordinators of care, and members of a profession. On completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) to become licensed as Registered Nurses. Employment may be sought in a variety of health care settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient clinics, ambulatory care centers, home health and hospice, schools and other community settings.

There are two educational tracks in the Associate Degree Nursing Program: the basic (for unlicensed students) and the transition (for licensed vocational/practical nurses). Students who wish to transfer from another institution are managed on an individual basis and must contact the Division Dean or the Associate Degree Program Coordinator.

## **Legal Limitations for Licensure**

The Texas Board of Nursing may refuse to admit a candidate to the licensing examination and refuse to issue a license to any applicant who has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or who has been hospitalized or treated for mental illness and/or chemical dependency.

## **Note for All Applicants:**

The faculty of the Health Sciences Division reserve the right to alter the curriculum and admission policies whenever change is deemed necessary. Notification to all enrolled students and those who have completed the application process will constitute means to effectuate policy changes.

## Philosophy and Outcomes of the Associate Degree Nursing Program

### Texarkana College

The faculty believes that associate degree nursing education should be an integral part of a community college. We therefore accept the democratic philosophy and objectives of Texarkana

College as it fulfills its mission to meet the diverse educational needs of the community. In keeping with the goals of the college, the associate degree nursing program prepares a graduate for immediate employment, provides courses that may be acceptable for transfer to other colleges should graduates seek a higher degree and provides programs for development and/or expansion of skills.

We believe that humans are holistic beings who are unique and complex with biological, psychological, sociological and communication needs that vary throughout life. The faculty believes that health, defined as the process of well-being, is the right of every individual. Health services should be available to each through the cooperative efforts of a wide range of professions and disciplines, commonly called the interdisciplinary health team. The inherent dignity of the individual gives one the right to actively participate with the health team in decisions which affect one's state of health.

Nursing works independently as well as collaboratively with other health disciplines to provide individualistic and cost effective care with clients of all ages. The faculty believes that nursing includes the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of the ill, disabled, and dying people. Advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, and education are also key nursing roles. (Adapted from the International Council of Nurses, 2003). Furthermore, the faculty believes that nursing should constantly encourage client independence.

The knowledge base and practice of the nursing profession include promotion of health, management and monitoring of health and management of common, uncommon, complex and rehabilitative problems with predictable and unpredictable outcomes. The knowledge base and practice of the associate degree nurse is directed toward use of the nursing process to provide or coordinate direct nursing care for a limited number of clients with common, complex, or rehabilitative problems in structured acute and long-term health care settings. Such clients are identified as individuals or family/significant others.

Acute and long-term healthcare settings, for which the graduate is prepared to enter, include geographical or situational environments where the policies, procedures, and protocols are established to support critical thinking decisions, and there is available consultation. The associate degree nurse functions in accordance with the differentiated essential competencies of graduates of Texas nursing programs in the role of member of the profession, provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate, and member of the healthcare team. Upon graduation, the associate degree nurse is prepared for a beginning staff position under supervision in various healthcare settings.

The faculty believes that individuals learn in a variety of ways and come into the learning situation in different stages of development; therefore, learning is believed to be:

1. Composed of cognitive, affective and psychomotor components.
2. An additive process, progressing from simple to complex.
3. Demonstrated by a change in behavior.

4. Enhanced by a multi-sensory approach.
5. Individualistic, according to life experiences and personal characteristics.

As the effort and energy put into learning is under personal control, learning is ultimately the responsibility of the student. The faculty shares the responsibility to the extent that they are accountable for curricular planning and for the creation of the learning environment. Throughout the learning process, the faculty will encourage development of a nursing conscience based upon professional, moral, ethical and legal standards.

The faculty further believes that as needs of society change, so do learning needs of the professionals who serve it. Continuing education after graduation is an inherent part of one's professional obligation. In coordination with existing college continuing education services and with community groups, the nursing faculty responds to learning needs by identifying, planning, and otherwise insuring implementation of continuing education opportunities for health care personnel.

## PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (PSLO)

### and General Education Core Competencies

The following program objectives are the outcomes, which shape the curriculum and are the criteria for measurement of its success. This reflects the Differentiated Essential Competencies of graduates of Texas nursing programs as a member of the profession, provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate and member of the healthcare team. The graduate will:

1. **Utilize critical thinking skills** to provide patient-centered nursing care using evidence-based outcomes and the nursing process to accommodate society/cultural differences and communicate the same to other members of the healthcare team.
2. **Demonstrate a personal responsibility** to respect a patient's right to participate in decisions affecting their health by promoting patient-centered care and ensuring confidentiality.
3. **Employ therapeutic communication skills** to act as a patient safety advocate by establishing compassionate, caring and therapeutic relationships in a physically and psychologically safe environment.
4. Accepts and makes assignments and delegates tasks to other members of the healthcare team **using empirical and quantitative skills** that take into consideration patient safety, organizational policies, and scope of practice and demonstrated abilities.
5. Demonstrate professional **and social responsibility** as an associate degree nurse by assuming responsibility and accountability for quality of nursing care, maintaining continued competence, adhering to ethical and legal standards and promoting a positive image of professional nursing.
6. Serve as an advocate for continuity of care **through teamwork** and promote quality and access to healthcare for the patient and family.

\*Competent is defined as the ability to do; proficient is defined as the ability to do well; and mastery is defined as the ability to do brilliantly at every occasion.

# Associate Degree Nursing Program

## *Admission Requirements*

### **Basic Admission Procedure**

Candidates for the nursing program are expected to be proficient in communication skills, math, science, computer, and learning skills, as well as have physical and mental abilities to practice nursing. To be considered for admission, the candidate must complete the procedures listed below. (Incomplete files are not considered).

Steps for Admission to be completed by the program application deadline (posted to the TC website).

1. Complete an "Application for Admission" to Texarkana College listing Nursing as your major.
2. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) or above on all college-level work.
3. A grade of C or above is required in academic support and nursing courses.
4. TSI met (see advisement staff).
5. A "New Applicant Counseling Interview" form (dated after the first Monday in January). Call the Health Sciences Division Office to schedule an appointment (903-823-3401).
6. An "overall" score of 60 or greater on the TEAS is required for admission to the program. The TEAS score must be within 2 years of the program application date. **A maximum of three TEAS attempts within a 12-month period is allowed.** TEAS exam scores taken at proctored testing sites other than Texarkana College may be submitted. A minimum of **15 days is required** between testing attempts to allow for remediation of content. Students may go on-line to pay for and schedule the TEAS test at [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com).
7. The student must achieve a score of "proficient" level or greater on the reading portion of the TEAS to be considered for admission.
8. Attend a mandatory information session. Register online or with the Enrollment Specialist (903) 823-3351.
9. An official high school transcript, GED score, or transcripts from all colleges attended. High school seniors must submit a current transcript with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) by the program application deadline.
10. A current physical examination on the "Nursing Physical Examination" form, negative drug screen and satisfactory Texas Board of Nursing background check. NOTE: The physical includes proof of childhood immunizations, including a completed Hepatitis B vaccine series (which takes a minimum of 6 months to complete), a meningitis vaccine (unless age 22 or above), as required by Texas law, and a TB skin test or negative chest x-ray. This is required after notification in writing of "Conditional Acceptance" into the nursing program. The applicant must bring proof of having at least begun the Hepatitis B series when completing their interview.
11. American Heart Association Basic Life Support Healthcare Provider course (AHA/BLS/HCP), Must be current throughout enrollment in the program. The course must be completed prior to enrollment in RNSG 1413 (Basic Students) and RNSG 1327 (Transition Students). Students are encouraged to take the course after May for the year of acceptance or after the "Conditional Acceptance" is received to ensure the course is current throughout enrollment. Contact the Business and Community Education Office regarding registration for the course.

### **Additional Information**

1. If all required documentation (TB test/CPR/drug screen/fingerprinting) is not submitted by the deadline, the student will be **removed from the “Conditional Acceptance” list and will have to reapply to the program.** The “Conditional Acceptance” spot will be forfeited.
2. If a Declaratory Order is required by the Board of Nursing (BON) for a prior offense on the criminal background check, the applicant will be given until **July 1<sup>st</sup> to obtain clearance from the BON, otherwise the “Conditional Acceptance” to the program will be revoked.**
3. If low grades earned early in the applicant’s college career are making the GPA less competitive, the student is encouraged to see Second Chance Policy in the TC Catalog/Handbook.
4. Turn in the Admission Checklist to the Enrollment Advisor with an original signature and date.

### **Process for Selection of Students**

#### **1. Points System:**

- a. Students applying to the Associate Degree Nursing Program will be ranked according to the “Points System Admission Process” (Appendix A). Students will be accepted until all available spots are filled. Students not accepted will be placed on an alternate list. Alternate list applicants may be admitted if another student’s “Conditional Acceptance” is forfeited or revoked, provided they have met the other application requirements.

#### **2. Notification of Selected Applicants**

- a. Selected applicants will be sent notification of their “Conditional Acceptance” pending receipt of the required documentation to the Health Sciences Enrollment Advisor.
- b. Applicants who were not selected initially will be placed on an alternate list.
  - i. In the event of cancellations or forfeitures, eligible applicants from the alternate list will be notified.
  - ii. The alternate list will be maintained until the current class begins the semester.
  - iii. Applicants who are not selected for admission and those that decline a position must re-apply to the program to be considered for admission.
  - iv. Any questions regarding the status of an application should be directed to the Health Sciences Enrollment Advisor.

## **Re-Entry Admission Procedure**

A student who withdraws from the program, for whatever reason, will be required to fulfill all admission requirements before the request to re-enter will be considered. Associate Degree Nursing students must re-enter within 2 years to retain credit for nursing courses. A student who fails a course in the major or who withdraws while failing will be permitted one additional opportunity to enroll in the program. Testing may be required as part of the re-entry process. Recommendations such as pre-entrance preparatory study, auditing courses, and assessment of reading skills, etc. may be part of the re-entry process.

The Admissions Committee will determine the status for admission upon successful completion of any recommendation and meeting testing requirements. Re-entry into the Basic or Transition cohort will be dependent on performance during prior enrollment, re-entry points tool ranking, Admission committee review and space availability in the cohort/program. The student is expected to re-enter and pass the course, which was failed (as well as co-requisite courses for that semester) before taking the next course unless the Admissions Committee makes exceptions. The student accepted for re-entry will be under the current policy and procedures of the Health Science program at the time of re-admission. Students who have exited the program before completion and are interested in returning are recommended to seek employment in a health agency during the interim period.

## **Re-Entry Procedure**

Candidates for readmission to the nursing program, in advance of return, are expected to manage those circumstances that prevented previous success. As such, the applicants for readmission must, by the midterm date of the semester prior to the one the student wishes to enter:

1. Complete all the requirements for basic admission.
2. Complete the guidance interview form for re-entry to the Health Sciences Division.
3. Have a conference with the Health Sciences Division Dean or designee regarding goals and plans.

The student accepted for re-entry will be expected to follow current policy and procedures of the Health Sciences program at the time of re-admission. Any student dismissed from the program as a result of clinical failure related to safety or ethical issues, is not eligible for re-entry into the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

Students who are unsuccessful in the ADN basic program will be able to apply for the ADN transition program after successful completion of a Vocational Nursing program and one year of employment as a VN. If unsuccessful in a transition course, a student is not eligible for readmission into the Transition program. The student is eligible for application to the ADN Basic Program.

Students applying for re-entry to the Associate Degree Program will be required to complete testing and remediation requirements to be considered for re-entry into the program.

Students applying for re-entry to 1st semester may have individualized success plans required for re-admission. The individualized plan may include, but is not limited to, mandatory exam reviews with

faculty, regardless of the exam grade earned, to identify strategies to improve the student's understanding of course concepts required for successful completion of the semester.

Students applying for 2nd semester re-entry will be required to take a Fundamentals of Nursing final exam and score a minimum of 75% to be considered for re-entry. Students achieving the passing score on the exam may also have an individualized success plan, instituted with the course faculty, to reinforce course concepts and improve their understanding of course material required for successful completion of the semester.

Students applying for re-entry to 3rd semester will be required to take the ATI Fundamentals exam (given in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the program). Students scoring the minimum requirement of Proficiency Level 1 will complete remediation as outlined in the ATI Mastery Policy. Students scoring a Proficiency Level 2 or above are not required to complete remediation. Remediation must be submitted by the due date to be considered for re-entry.

Students applying for re-entry to the 4th semester will be required to take the ATI Medical Surgical exam (given in the 3rd semester of the program). Students scoring the minimum requirement of Proficiency Level 1 will complete remediation as outlined in the ATI Mastery Policy. Students scoring a Proficiency Level 2 or above are not required to complete remediation. Remediation must be submitted by the due date to be considered for re-entry.

Re-entry to the program, at any point, is subject to space availability and the use of the Reentry Points Tool to achieve an objective point value used to rank students based on academic performance and testing scores.

### **Transfer Procedure**

Transfer candidates should submit paperwork for transfer no later than the midterm date of the Fall or Spring semester prior to entry.

Paperwork for transfer includes:

1. All Basic Admission Requirements (pg. 1), including the TEAS Assessment (passing results of the TEAS taken within two years of application may be accepted).
2. A "New Applicant Counseling Interview" completed with the Dean or designated faculty member of the Health Sciences Division.
3. An official transcript and nursing course syllabi, or outlines with earned grades.
4. Written permission and the address of the previous school of nursing for Texarkana College to obtain a letter of reference. (Late applications may result in delay of transfer process).

**NOTE: Credit will not be granted for nursing courses taken more than 2 years prior to application. Some remedial work may be required prior to admission as a transfer student.**

## **Transition Candidates**

**Students who have been unsuccessful in the Basic ADN will be able to apply for the ADN Transition program after successful completion of a VN program and one year of employment as a vocational nurse. If unsuccessful in a transition course, a student is not eligible for readmission into the Transition program. The student is eligible for application to the ADN Basic Program.** Degree Requirements: A minimum of 60 semester hours of credit with a 2.0 GPA, A grade of "C" or above in academic support and nursing courses, and a passing score on a comprehensive exit exam. Students must see policy in Health Sciences Student Handbook for details.

**Candidates must be a licensed vocational nurse with one year of employment as a vocational nurse.**

### Paperwork for transition includes:

The following items should be on file with Health Sciences Enrollment Advisor by the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in September:

1. All Basic Admission Criteria (pg. 1) must be met.
2. An official transcript from the Vocational Nursing program.
3. A copy of the LVN/LPN license. Recent graduates of Vocational Nursing programs who have not taken the Licensure Exam must show the license before they register for the Transition Courses.



**Associate Degree Nursing Point System Admission Process**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_ Student Email \_\_\_\_\_

**A. GPA ON ALL COLLEGE LEVEL WORK**

RANGE		POINTS
3.75 --- 4.0	25	
3.5 --- 3.74	24	
3.25 --- 3.49	23	
3.0 --- 3.24	22	
2.76 --- 2.99	21	
2.51 --- 2.75	20	
2.5	19	
No history of W's, D's or F's within last 5yrs	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>		

**B. TEAS V PROCTORED ASSESSMENT:**

Applicants who have met the proficient test scores will be further evaluated on the point system criteria.

TEAS V Categories	Proficient	Advanced	Exemplary	POINTS
OVERALL	60-79% = 5pts	80-91% = 10pts	92-100% = 15pts	
Reading	69-79% = 5pts	80-91% = 10pts	92-100% = 15pts	
*Science (not required)	>= 58% = 5pts			
*If a student scores at or above the proficient level, a total of 5pts will be given.				<b>TOTAL</b>

**C. NON-NURSING COURSES:**

ID	COURSE NAME	SEMESTER YEAR COMPLETED	A	B	C	POINTS
2301	A & P I		10	7	4	
2302	A & P II		10	7	4	
2320	Microbiology		10	7	4	
2301	General Psychology		10	7	4	
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**D. POST SECONDARY CERTIFICATE (must be verified) or DEGREE**

CERTIFICATE RECEIVED	INSTITUTION	YEAR	POINTS
CNA or EMT			1
LVN or Paramedic			2
Associate Degree			3
Bachelor's Degree			4
Master's Degree			5

**E. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

Completed Application Process	POINTS
Application Complete & Copy of ALL Required Immunizations	Max point = 1
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	

\*Specific scores will be determined annually by the nursing program based on the national norm and program attrition data.

- Points will be awarded for applicants who meet the minimum score requirements for the TEAS V for Overall score and Reading.
- If 2 or more students have the identical point count total, the science score will be the deciding factor. If further validation is needed, Math scores will be utilized.
- Applicants who do not meet the ADN required cut score will be further evaluated for licensed vocational nurse program.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

5/1/2021

# RE-ENTRY: Associate Degree Nursing Point System Admission Process

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

## A. GPA ON ALL COLLEGE LEVEL WORK

RANGE		POINTS
3.75 --- 4.0	25	
3.5 --- 3.74	24	
3.25 --- 3.49	23	
3.0 --- 3.24	22	
2.76 --- 2.99	21	
2.51 --- 2.75	20	
2.5	19	
<b>TOTAL</b>		

## B. GPA ON ALL NURSING (RNSG) COLLEGE LEVEL WORK

RANGE		POINTS
3.75 --- 4.0	25	
3.5 --- 3.74	24	
3.25 --- 3.49	23	
3.0 --- 3.24	22	
2.76 --- 2.99	21	
2.51 --- 2.75	20	
2.5	19	
<b>TOTAL</b>		

## C. EXAM SCORING: Scoring is according to standardized proficiency levels.

ATI Proctored Exam Score	Minimum score of Level One required for re-entry	Level Two		Level 3	POINTS
Written 100 item Exam Score	Minimum grade 75% required for re-entry	75-80%	81-89%	90-100%	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester re-entry (Paper Fundamentals 100 item exam)	0	2	3	4	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester re-entry (ATI Fundamentals proctored exam)	0	2		4	
4 <sup>th</sup> Semester re-entry (ATI Adult Medical-Surgical proctored exam)	0	2		4	
<b>TOTAL</b>					

## D. COMMITTEE REVIEW OF RE-ENTRY APPLICATION, STUDENT FILE & RNSG COURSE WORK.

		POINTS
Admit with no conditions	5	
*Admit with conditions	3	
Not recommended for re-entry	0	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>		

\* For re-entry into the associate degree nursing program, the committee requests that the student comply with each recommendation highlighted or written below:

review all unit exams	utilize all available nursing media	reduce work hours
child care management	dependable transportation	plan structured study times
set priorities	practice NCLEX style questions weekly	prepare finances
OTHER:		