

# Vocational Nursing Program

In cooperation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Board of Nursing, and affiliated agencies, Texarkana College offers a prescribed course in vocational nursing. The program was established in 1956. Graduates are eligible to apply to take the examination for state licensure, and upon passing the examination, are authorized to practice as licensed vocational nurses.

## Philosophy and Objectives of the Vocational Nursing Program

The philosophy of the Vocational Nursing (VN) program is consistent with the mission, vision, and institutional goals of Texarkana College in order to provide for the educational needs of a diverse community. It incorporates the legal, ethical, and educational standards of vocational nursing, and is sensitive to the diverse cultural and ethical backgrounds of the students and the community they serve.

The VN faculty believes that the teaching/learning process is an interactive process in which specific learning outcomes are achieved. The curriculum is composed of objectives in which cognitive, affective, and psychomotor components progress from simple to complex. Emphasis is placed on accountability and professionalism with a commitment to lifelong learning.

The VN faculty further believes that it is important to facilitate the learning process by guiding, encouraging, and inspiring students to problem solve and become confident in their nursing practices. The students must be proactive in this teaching/learning process by assuming the responsibility and accountability for their own learning.

The VN program prepares the graduate to be able to think critically, using the nursing process to make decisions and arrive at safe conclusions. The graduate is prepared to meet the differentiated essential competencies (DECs) set forth by the Texas Board of Nursing. The vocation nursing role represents the beginning level of the nursing practice continuum as a member of the profession, provider of patient-centered care, patient safety advocate, and member of the health care team.

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will have the ability to:

1. Utilize the nursing process to assist with identifying patients' physical and mental health status, their needs, and the preference of culturally, ethnically and socially diverse patients and their families base on interpretation of health related data.
2. Observe, report, and document pertinent nursing information including alterations in patient responses to therapeutic interventions.
3. Safely perform nursing and medical interventions according to the Vocational Nurse level of practice.
4. Implement teaching plans that are based upon accepted scientific principles in order to give direct care with skill and safety.
5. Provide compassionate care which maintains comfort and dignity.
6. Assign nursing care to others for whom the nurse is responsible based upon an analysis of patient and unit needs, continuing to supervise this assignment through its completion.
7. Use psychological principles to demonstrate effective interpersonal relationships with patients and others.
8. Communicate and collaborate with members of the interdisciplinary health care team in order to set goals and outcomes that will aid in reducing patient risks.
9. Practice within legal and ethical nursing standards.
10. Acknowledge the value of continuing education and participating in lifelong learning.

## Admission Requirements Checklist for VN Applicants

### General Admission Criteria Required of all Eligible Applicants

Applicants for the Vocational Nursing Program are expected to be proficient in communication, computer and learning skills, and to have the physical abilities necessary to practice nursing. Applicants are advised to check each item to ensure that they have met the criteria. All admission steps must be completed by September 1 for the January class and May 1 for the August class.

1. Register for a **Mandatory Information Session** with the Enrollment Management Specialist (EMS) at 903-823-3351.
2. A completed Apply Texas college application with Texarkana College listed as college of choice.
3. Any student on suspension or probation must be cleared through the TC Admissions Office.
4. Have a **personal guidance interview** with the EMS. Appointments are required. Call 903-823-3401 to set up an appointment.
5. **TSI**: All applicants must satisfy the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative. A copy of scores must be submitted with application.
6. An **official high school transcript or GED scores** and transcripts from all colleges attended. High school seniors must submit a 7-semester transcript with a completed transcript to be on file 2 weeks prior to registration.
7. Overall GPA and Nursing GPA of 2.0 or higher.
8. Take the TEAS entrance exam. You must have an overall minimum score of 50 to be eligible for entry. The TEAS must be within 2 years of the program application date. A maximum of three TEAS attempts within a 12 month period are 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. Students pay and register for the TEAS on-line at [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com). REMEMBER your user name and password! You will need them for logging in when you take the TEAS exam and throughout the nursing program.
9. Completion of BIOL 2301/2101 and BIOL 2302/2102 with a grade of "C" or higher must be attained prior to the first day of VN class.
10. Successful completion of **American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers**. This is available through the Texarkana College Business and Community Education Division. Card/Certificate must not expire prior to the expected date of graduation.
11. Prior to full acceptance into the program, students must: **pass a physical examination, have a negative drug screen and TB skin test, and receive a satisfactory criminal background check from the TX Board of Nursing**. These are not required until notification in writing of "Conditional Acceptance" into the nursing program has been received. Students who do not provide the EMS with proof of a satisfactory background check by the due date will forfeit their place to an applicant on the waiting list.
12. **Completed Immunizations**: Several are required. Please discuss with the EMS. The Hepatitis B vaccine series is required. **NOTE: It takes 4-6 months to complete the vaccine series**. Allow time for this prior to application. **The series must be completed prior to the first day of class**. If you have any questions, please contact the EMS. If vaccination requirements are not met, the student will be withdrawn from the program.
13. Return checklist to the Enrollment Management Specialist with an original signature and date.

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

1. You may ask the college Enrollment Services Office staff for a math review sheet.
2. BIOL: 2301/2101 and BIOL 2302/2102 may be transferred from another institution.
3. Experience in health care is recommended prior to admission (volunteer, nurse assistant, etc.).
4. **Notification** of conditional acceptance or denial will be mailed to all candidates. Any questions should be directed to the Enrollment Management Specialist.
5. There is no waiting list carried over from one admission cycle to the next. Students who do not get accepted into the class must re-apply for the next class.
6. Applicants are ranked according to the criteria on the Vocational Nursing Points System for Admission Ranking tool.
7. The number of students admitted is based on clinical space availability and the number of faculty members.
8. Students who are not admitted are responsible for re-applying for the next class.
9. Students are responsible for keeping their files updated, including mailing address, email address, and phone number.

### VOCATIONAL NURSING RE-ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Any student dismissed from the Vocational Nursing (VN) program due to professional and/or ethical violations is not eligible for re-entry into the VN program. In addition, any student who has had a clinical failure due to unsafe clinical practice is not eligible for re-entry into the VN program.

Candidates for re-admission to the nursing program must complete the re-admission procedures. Re-admission into the program will be considered on an individual basis and on a space availability basis. A student who leaves the program for any reason other than an ethical violation or clinical failure will be permitted **one** other opportunity to re-enroll. Students must apply for re-entry into the program within 12 months after leaving the program. The re-entering student must complete courses as prescribed by the nursing department. Some courses may need to be repeated. If the request for re-admission is greater than one year, the student will be required to re-enter as a beginning student. **NOTE:** The student accepted for re-admission will be under the current policy and procedures of the Health Sciences Division program at the time of re-admission. Candidates who re-apply, meet the criteria, and are accepted for readmission will be offered two opportunities to re-enter the program. If the candidate declines re-entry both times, they are removed from the list of applicants and will be required to apply as a new applicant into first semester.

#### **Steps for Re-admission**

1. Complete the Health Sciences Division Application for Re-entry form.
2. Have a **personal guidance interview** with the Enrollment Management Specialist (EMS).
3. Appointments are encouraged but not necessary. Inform the EMS that you have been enrolled in the Vocational Nursing Program previously.
4. Have a conference with the Dean or his/her designee.
5. The student will be required to have a **current** physical examination and negative drug screen. The student will also need a clear criminal background check through the Texas BON. These are not required until notification in writing of "Conditional Acceptance" into the nursing program has been received.

#### **VOCATIONAL NURSING TRANSFER APPLICANTS** (includes transfers from ADN programs)

Any student who is dismissed from a nursing program due to professional and/or ethical violations is not eligible for transfer into the VN program. In addition, any student who has had a clinical failure due to unsafe clinical practice is not eligible for transfer into the VN Program. Transfer students will be evaluated and placed in the Vocational Nursing Program on an individual basis, as space allows.

#### **Steps for Transfer Admission**

1. Complete the **First Admission** process. Admission scores from other programs or a college GPA may be accepted.
2. Have a **personal guidance interview** with the Enrollment Management Specialist.
3. Submit course syllabi of previous nursing classes.
4. Sign permission for obtaining a letter of reference from previous school of nursing.
5. Prior to acceptance, a **physical examination, negative drug screen and satisfactory criminal background check is required.** These are not required until notification in writing of "Conditional Acceptance" into the nursing program has been received.

**Vocational Nursing Points System for Admission Ranking**

Admission is based on space availability. Students who are not admitted are responsible for re-applying for the next class.

**Vocational Nursing Points System for Admission Ranking**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fall \_\_\_\_\_ Spring \_\_\_\_\_

**OVERALL GPA**

GPA RANGE	POINTS POSSIBLE
3.76 – 4.0	30
3.51 – 3.75	28
3.26 – 3.5	26
3.10 – 3.25	24
2.76 – 3.0	22
2.51 – 2.75	20
2.26 – 2.5	18
2.00 – 2.25	16

**POINTS EARNED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Overall GPA

**TEAS OVERALL SCORE**

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY	SCORE RANGE	POINTS POSSIBLE
Basic	50.0 – 58.6	5
Proficient	58.7 – 77.9	10
Advanced	78.0 – 90.6	15
Exemplary	≥90.7	20

\_\_\_\_\_  
TEAS Score

**PREREQUISITE COURSES**

COURSE	SEMESTER/YEAR COMPLETED	A	B	C
		PTS	PTS	PTS
BIOL 2301		15	10	5
BIOL 2302		15	10	5

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prerequisite Courses

**POST SECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE**

Must be verified and current licensure if applicable

CREDENTIAL EARNED	COLLEGE ATTENDED	YEAR AWARDED	POINTS POSSIBLE
CNA or EMT			2
Medication Aid			4
Paramedic			6
Associate Degree			8
Bachelor's Degree			10
Master's Degree			12

\_\_\_\_\_  
Certificate/Degree

**MISCELLANEOUS**

INFORMATION REVIEWED	POINTS POSSIBLE
No D or F within last 3 years	3
No W within last 3 years	3
Proof of all immunizations turned in by application due date	2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Miscellaneous

**TOTAL POINTS**

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 100

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