

February 5, 2018

Dear Parent,

Did you know your high school student could be on a pathway to a high-demand nursing career as early as their sophomore year? High school students who are driven and whose families are willing to invest in dual credit and evening/summer courses at Texarkana College have the opportunity to earn the prerequisites they need to enter nursing school the fall after their high school graduation.

At Texarkana College, we're proud of our Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Vocational Nursing (VN) programs. Our ADN was the first one in Texas, established in 1959. Graduates of the ADN program become registered nurses (RN). Our graduates' pass rate for the NCLEX-RN (the licensing examination for registered nurses) was 93% in 2017, which exceeds the state average of 90% and the national average of 87%. The NCLEX-PN (licensing exam for vocational nurses) pass rate for our VN graduates in 2017 was 100%, also exceeding the state average of 86% and the national average of 84%. When students choose to attend one of our nursing programs, they're setting themselves up for success.

Nursing is a high-demand field. Average pay for RNs in our area is \$58,000 per year, and VNs in our area typically earn an average of \$37,000 per year. The many medical facilities in our area have a constant need for both vocational and registered nurses. An education to become a nurse is a great pathway to a solid career in a growing industry.

Enclosed, you will find an invitation to attend an information session on February 15 where you can learn about how your child can start preparing for nursing school right now. Our nursing students typically take several semesters of prerequisite courses before they are eligible to apply for the program. If they start right now, high school students can get those prerequisites out of the way and prepare to enter either nursing program straight out of high school.

If your child is interested in a career in the healthcare industry, I hope you'll join us for the information session on February 15. If you can't make it, please call me at (903) 823-3142 or email me at Courtney.Shoalmire@texarkanacollege.edu to schedule a time for us to meet. My team and I will look at dual credit course offerings at your child's school and create a customized plan that will prepare your high school student to start the ADN program school the fall after they graduate.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have about our program. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,



Courtney Shoalmire, MNSc, RN
Dean of Health Sciences
Director of Nursing
TC ADN Class of 1996