

## D. 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 based 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

#### Application Periods

January 1<sup>st</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup> for August start date

July 1<sup>st</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup> for January start date

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

1. Complete a Texarkana College application online.
2. Any student on suspension or probation must be cleared through the TC Admissions Office.
3. Meet with the Enrollment Specialist. Appointments are required. Call 903-823-3351 to set up an appointment.
4. **TSI:** All applicants must meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative. A copy of scores must be submitted with application.
5. An **official high school transcript or GED scores** and transcripts from all colleges attended must be on file in Enrollment Services. High school seniors must submit a 7-semester transcript with a completed transcript to be on file before you can register for nursing classes.
6. Overall GPA and Nursing GPA of 2.0 or higher.
7. Complete an online application to the nursing program.
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. 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 username and password! You will need them for logging in when you take the TEAS exam and throughout the nursing program. **The exam must be taken in-person with a proctor, either at a college/university or at a PSI Testing Center.** Exam scores from online remote proctoring will NOT be accepted.
9. Completion of BIOL 2301/2101 and BIOL 2302/2102 with a grade of “C” or higher must be attained prior to enrolling in VN courses.
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 Enrollment Specialist 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. 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 vaccination requirements are not met, the student will be withdrawn from the program.
13. Return this checklist to the Enrollment 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. Conditional acceptance, denial, or placement on the alternate list will be mailed to all candidates.
4. 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.
5. Applicants are ranked according to the criteria on the Vocational Nursing Points System for Admission Ranking tool.
6. The number of students admitted is based on clinical space availability and the number of faculty members.
7. Students are responsible for keeping their files updated, including mailing address, email address, and phone number.

I am aware that completion of my file does not constitute admission to the Nursing Program. I am aware that it is my responsibility to complete the appropriate admissions requirements by the stated deadlines. In addition, I am aware that Texarkana College Health Sciences Division requires pre-admission drug screening and a criminal background check through the Texas State Board of Nursing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Enrollment Specialist Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Re-admission Policy - Vocational Nursing**

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. Vocational Nursing must re-apply within 12 months. Associate Degree Nursing students must re-enter within 2 years to retain credit for nursing courses. 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. Specific program re-entry information can be found in the "Program Information" sections (ADN 5.0/VN 6.0) of the handbook.

The Admissions Committee will determine the status for admission only upon successful completion of any recommendation and meeting testing requirements. Re-enrollment in any of the major classes will be dependent upon space availability. The student is expected to re-enter and pass the course which was failed before taking the next course unless exceptions are made by the Admissions Committee. The student accepted for re-entry will be under the current policy and procedures of the Health Sciences 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.

Admission procedures are outlined in the Texarkana College Catalog. Candidates for re-admission to the vocational nursing program must complete the re-admission process. Re-admission into the program will be considered on an individual basis, on space availability basis, and faculty recommendation. Students must apply for re-entry within 12 months after leaving the program. The re-entering student must complete courses in the order decided upon by the Admissions Committee. Some courses may need to be repeated. If the request for readmission is greater than one year, the student will be required to re-enter as a beginning student. The student accepted for re-admission will be under the current policies, procedures, and curriculum of the vocational nursing program. If an applicant is offered re-entry but does not enroll, they will be required to re-apply for future consideration.

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

## *Re-admission Procedure*

1. Complete the Health Sciences Application for re-entry form.
2. Have a personal guidance interview with a member of the Health Science staff. An appointment is necessary. Inform the staff member that you have been enrolled in the vocational nursing program previously.
3. Have a conference with a member of the VN faculty if required by the Admissions Committee.
4. Complete re-entry testing, if required.
5. Complete all other requirements set forth by the Admissions Committee.
6. Have a physical exam, negative drug screen, and satisfactory criminal background check. 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.

I am aware that completion of my file does not constitute admission to the Nursing Program. I am aware that it is my responsibility to complete the appropriate admissions requirements by the stated deadlines. In addition, I am aware that Texarkana College Health Sciences Division requires pre-admission drug screening and criminal background check through the Texas State Board of Nursing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Enrollment Management Specialist Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Revised: 08/2018

**Vocational Nursing Points System for Admission Ranking**

Admission is based on ranking and space availability. Students who are not admitted are responsible for re-applying during the next application period. **Points Possible = 100.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Fall: \_\_\_\_\_ Spring: \_\_\_\_\_ OVERALL GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

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

GPA Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

TEAS OVERALL SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_

Performance Category	Score Range	Points
Exemplary	≥ 90.7	20
Advanced	78.0 – 90.8	15
Proficient	58.7 – 77.9	10
Basic	50.0 – 58.6	5

TEAS Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

**PREREQUISITE COURSES POINTS**

Circle the points for the grade earned in each course. If the student is enrolled in a course or has not taken a course at the time of application, they earn zero points for the course.

Course	Sem/Year Completed	A Points	B Points	C Points	Not Complete
A&P I (BIOL 2301)		15	10	5	0
A&P II (BIOL) 2302		15	10	5	0

Prerequisite Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

**POST-SECONDARY CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE**

Credential	College	Year	Points
Master's Degree			12
Bachelor's Degree			10
Associate's Degree			8
Paramedic			6
Medication Aide			4
CNA			2

Certificate/Degree Points Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Information Reviewed	Points
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 Points: \_\_\_\_\_

TSI met? \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: \_\_\_\_\_