Nursing School FAQs

Q: What should I major in?
A: Honestly, it doesn’t matter. You should major in whatever subject interests you. There is no general, pre-nursing major offered at Texas A&M. Majors like Allied Health and Nutrition are the most common for applicants because the prerequisite courses are included in your degree plan. A non-science major does not put you at a disadvantage. You will have to work with your academic advisor to incorporate some of the prerequisite classes into your schedule, but a non-science major can make you look unique. No one major looks more competitive than another major. Know that your GPA in the prerequisite and science courses is particularly important as that is what schools will use to compare between applicants of all majors.

Q: Can I take a course at a community college?
A: Yes, taking a class at community college is acceptable. Know that while the grade earned at a community college does not count on your TAMU transcript, the grade earned will be calculated into your GPA when you apply to nursing school. So any course you take at community college will count towards your GPA. Use this to your advantage and get A’s in any courses you take at community college to help raise your GPA. Know that you should never take a science class online as that reflects poorly on your transcript.

Q: Should I take the TEAS, HESI, or both?
A: Different schools require different tests. Research the different nursing schools you are interested in applying to and find out which test they require. Then make the decision as to whether you want to take the TEAS, HESI, or both.

Q: When should I take the TEAS or HESI?
A: The TEAS and HESI should be taken during the season you are applying.

Q: Should I accept AP credit?
A: Accepting AP credit can be beneficial. Talk to your academic advisor before accepting any AP credit. You want to make sure the credit you are accepting will not affect your degree. Note that once you accept AP credit, you cannot un-accept it so make sure you meet with your academic advisor and fully discuss this. Accepting AP credit will not detract from a nursing school application.

Q: What factors do nursing school application committees consider other than my GPA?
A: Other than GPA, test score is the next best indicator of your academic capabilities. Beyond the numbers, though, leadership and community service are important factors. A competitive application will include work history, leadership skills demonstrated through on and off campus involvement, community service and involvement, and academic achievements and awards. Your application should paint a picture of you as an individual, highlighting your professional, academic, and personal qualities.

Q: How do I get shadowing hours?
A: For nursing school, absolutely any medical experience can help strengthen your application. You can work or volunteer at a doctor’s office or clinic. Look into volunteer programs at local hospitals and clinics, either in College Station during the school year or in your hometown over summer breaks. You should look for exposure to the nursing field to make sure it is the career you want to pursue.
Q: Does the Texas A&M Health Science Center have a preference for Texas A&M undergraduates?
A: No. The Texas A&M Health Science Center does not show preference to Texas A&M undergraduates. However, like all professional schools, TAMHSC is always looking for intelligent, compassionate, and capable applicants. An undergraduate education at Texas A&M is a great foundation for a competitive application. TAMU's strong academic reputation and emphasis on selfless service provide great opportunities for you to excel as an applicant. Although there is no preference during the application process, each year the majority of students accepted into TAMHSC’s Nursing program are A&M students.