



Registered Nursing

Registered nurses (RN) are healthcare professionals who provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. They play a significant role in hospitals, private practices, clinics, and in the lives of their patients. They make up the biggest healthcare occupation in the United States and have a diverse range of responsibilities, such as:

- Patient care
- Treatment planning
- Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS)
- Clinical experience
- Acute care
- Case management

In addition to their medical skills, nurses must also have a blend of active listening, critical thinking, social perceptiveness, and decision-making skills.

What should be my major - Nursing schools have no preference regarding which major you choose as long as you do well and complete the prerequisite course requirements. Texas A&M does not have a pre-nursing major, so choose one that interests you and allows you to be successful while in school.

How to become an RN – There are three pathways to becoming a registered nurse.

1. Diploma of Nursing – offered through a hospital-based nursing program.
2. ADN (Associate's Degree in Nursing) – These are offered through community colleges and are the quickest and most popular path to becoming an RN. The RN-ADN is a two-year program and upon passing the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination), students are ready to enter the job market by applying to entry-level nursing positions. However, an RN without a bachelor's degree might not qualify for nursing positions that require additional education.
3. BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) - These nurses have completed a bachelor's degree and have additional training in management, leadership, and administrative roles. An RN-BSN may qualify you for nursing jobs such as a unit or departmental coordinator, nurse educators, and management positions.
There are two ways to receive a BSN, a traditional or an accelerated program.

Earning your BSN - There are three ways to earn a BSN.

1. Traditional BSN: This program is for traditional degree-seeking undergraduate students who want to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This normally takes 2 years. You can do this either by:
 - Completing only the A&M core and pre-nursing prereqs courses, and then transfer into a nursing program to receive your BSN degree, or
 - Completing your A&M undergraduate degree, and then enter a nursing program to receive your BSN degree. With this option, you will have 2 degrees, the one from A&M and your BSN.
2. Accelerated BSN: This is a fast-track program for students who already have a bachelor's degree, but who are not already RNs. These programs typically take 12-16 months to complete.
3. RN-BSN: This program is for current RNs with an associate's degree (ADN) who wish to obtain a bachelor's degree.

Applying to nursing school - While each school has their own specific way for students to apply to their program, these are common to most of them.

- Completion of prereqs before first day of classes
- Minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, 3.0-3.5+ to be competitive
- Minimum 3.0 math/science GPA, 3.5+ to be competitive
- HESI test score, 75 in each section & an 82 cumulative score, 90+ cumulative to be competitive
- TEAS test score, 65 minimum, 80+ to be competitive
- Apply through NursingCas (most programs)

Some programs may also require:

- Personal essays
- List of Activities

HESI vs TEAS - These are formal standardized nursing entrance exams. Some programs require the HESI, while others require the TEAS. Both tests include the following subjects: anatomy and physiology, biology, chemistry, English grammar, reading comprehension, and mathematics.

Institutions may limit how many times you can reattempt to take these exams per application period, so check with the programs you are interested in for more details.

HESI (Health Education Systems, Inc.) covers three academic areas, English Language, Math, and Science. Programs will specify which of these subtests are required, so check with them before testing.

TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) covers four academic areas—Reading, Math, Science, and English & Language. Unlike the HESI, you will need to take every section of the TEAS.

NursingCAS - This centralized application service allows applicants to apply to multiple nursing programs through submitting one application. They will also have up-to-date admission requirements and deadlines for each school in their service. Click [here](#) to find out if your school participates in NursingCAS.

Common Prerequisite Courses – Check with each nursing program for specific course requirements. *Indicates a common pre-nursing prereq course.

| Course | TX Common Course Number | TAMU Course Number | Semester Hours |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| *A&P I & II | BIOL 2401 & 2402 | BIOL 319 & 320 | 8 |
| *CHEM I | CHEM 1405 or 1411 | CHEM 119 | 4 |
| *CHEM II | CHEM 1407 or 1412 | CHEM 120 | 4 |
| ENGL I & II | ENGL 1301 & 1302 | ENGL 103 & 104 | 6 |
| GOVT | GOVT 2305 & 2306 | POLS 206 & 207 | 6 |
| HIST | HIST 1301 & 1302 | HIST 105 & 106 | 6 |
| MATH (College Algebra) | MATH 1314 | MATH 102 (or higher) | 3 |
| *MICRO (Intro) | BIOL 2420 or 2421 | BIOL 206 | 4 |
| *NUTR | BIOL 1322 | NFSC 202 | 3 |
| *PHIL (Intro) | PHIL 1301 or 2306 | PHIL 111 or 251 | 3 |
| *PSYC (Intro) | PSYC 2301 | PSYC 107 | 3 |
| *PSYC (Lifespan) | PSYC 2314 | ----- | 3 |
| *SOC (Intro) | SOCI 1305 | SOCI 205 | 3 |
| *STAT | MATH 1342 | STAT 201 | 3 |
| Visual/Perf Arts | TX Core Approved | TX Core Approved | 3 |

Please note: **All prerequisites and information** are subject to change at any time without notice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to remain up-to-date on all requirements.

Texas Accelerated (Second Degree) BSN Programs

| | ¹ Baylor | ² Concordia | MSU Texas | ³ Texas A&M | ⁴ Texas A&M @CC | TCU | TTUHSC @El Paso | ⁵ TTUHSC @Lubbock | UH@SL | ⁶ UTA | UT @Tyler | ⁷ UTHSC @SA |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Classes begin | May | January, May, and August | May | January | May | August | August and January | January | January | January and August | January, May, and August | May |
| Time to complete | 12 mo | 16 mo | 15 mo | 15 mo | 16 mo | 16 mo | 16 mo | 12 mo | 12 mo | 15 mo | 16 mo | 15 mo |
| Admission Exam | HESI | TEAS | HESI | HESI | HESI | HESI | HESI | TEAS | HESI | TEAS | TEAS | TEAS |
| The accelerated program requires a bachelor's degree, completion of their schools core curriculum, and their programs pre-nursing prerequisite courses. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nursing Prereqs | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anatomy & Physiology I/II | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| CHEM I | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Microbiology | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓* | ✓ |
| NUTR | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Pathophysiology | | | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| PSYC (Intro) | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ ⁴ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| PSYC (Lifespan) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Intro to SOCI | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ ⁴ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| STAT | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

¹Baylor also requires an American, British, or World literature course, two bible-based courses (will accept a world religion course for one of these), and a course in World History, Western Civilization, survey course in American History, or History of the American Woman.

²Concordia also requires 3 hours of Medical Spanish for Healthcare Professionals.

³Texas A&M also requires Intro to BIOL and an ethics course.

⁴Texas A&M @CC will accept either Intro to SOCI or Intro to PSYC, and they encourages a medical terminology course.

⁵Texas Tech Lubbock also requires [Intro to Nursing](#) and [COMM in Nursing](#).

⁶UTA is an online only program. They also require 3 hours of Tech Writing and 3 hours of either an American, British, or World literature. They also require these pre-nursing courses, [Intro to Professional and Clinical Concepts in Nursing](#), [Pharmacology in Nursing Practice](#), and [Pathophysiologic Processes](#). The pre-nursing courses must be taken at UTA unless pre-approved by UTA's College of Nursing.

⁷UTHSC @SA also requires CHEM II and a ethics course.

*UT Tyler will accept Microbiology or Bacteriology.

Students are responsible to check with each program for changes in curriculum requirements.

Texas Registered Nursing programs:

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Angelo State University</u> (T) – San Angelo | <u>Texas Christian University*</u> (H) – Ft. Worth |
| <u>Arizona College</u> (H) - Dallas | <u>Texas Lutheran University</u> (T) - Sequin |
| <u>Baylor University*</u> (H) - Dallas | <u>Texas State University</u> (T) – Round Rock |
| <u>Chamberlain College of Nursing</u> (H) – multiple locations | <u>Texas Tech University HSC</u> (H) - El Paso |
| <u>Concordia University Texas*</u> (T) - Austin | <u>Texas Tech University HSC</u> (T) – Abilene, Lubbock, and Odessa |
| <u>East Texas Baptist University</u> (T) - Marshall | <u>Texas Woman’s University</u> (T) – Denton, Katy |
| <u>Galen College of Nursing</u> (E) – San Antonio | <u>University of Houston*</u> (H) – Sugar Land |
| <u>Hallmark University</u> (T) – San Antonio | <u>University of Mary Hardin-Baylor</u> (T) - Belton |
| <u>Houston Baptist University</u> (H) - Houston | <u>University of St. Thomas</u> (H) - Houston |
| <u>Howard Payne University</u> (H) - Brownwood | <u>University of Texas*</u> (T) - Arlington |
| <u>Lamar University</u> (H) - Beaumont | <u>University of Texas</u> (N/A) - Austin |
| <u>Letourneau University</u> (H) - Longview | <u>University of Texas</u> (alternate MSN entry) (G) - Austin |
| <u>Midwestern State University*</u> (H) – Wichita Falls | <u>University of Texas</u> (T) – El Paso |
| <u>National American University</u> (T) - Austin | <u>University of Texas*</u> (T) - Tyler |
| <u>Patty Hanks Shelton</u> (H) - Abilene | <u>UTHSC</u> (H) - Houston |
| <u>Prairie View A&M University</u> (H) - Houston | <u>UTHSC</u> (T) – San Antonio |
| <u>Sam Houston State University</u> (T) - Huntsville | <u>UTMB</u> (T) - Galveston |
| <u>Schreiner University</u> (T) - Kerrville | <u>University of Texas of the Permian Basin</u> (T) - Odessa |
| <u>South University</u> (T) – Round Rock | <u>University of Texas- Rio Grande Valley</u> (H) - Edinberg |
| <u>Southwestern Adventist University</u> (T) - Keene | <u>University of the Incarnate Word</u> (T) – San Antonio |
| <u>Stephen F. Austin State University</u> (T) - Nacogdoches | <u>Wayland Baptist University</u> (T) – San Antonio |
| <u>Tarleton State University</u> (T) – Stephenville | <u>West Coast University</u> (E) - Dallas |
| <u>Texas A&M HSC*</u> (H) – College Station and Round Rock | <u>West Texas A&M University</u> (H) - Canyon |
| <u>Texas A&M International University</u> (H) - Laredo | <u>Western Governors University</u> (T) – BCS and multiple other locations |
| <u>Texas A&M University</u> (H) – Commerce | <u>Western Tech</u> (T) – El Paso |
| <u>Texas A&M University*</u> (H) - Corpus Christi | |
| <u>Texas A&M University</u> (T) - Texarkana | |

Required Admission Test: H = Hesi; T = Teas; E = Either; G = GRE; *Accelerated Programs offered

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