

Program Requirements

This program is a hybrid program. Skills classes will be face-to-face in the skills and simulation labs. Clinical experiences may be face-to-face, online, virtual and in the simulation lab as determined by circumstances.

Our faculty will work with you to help you reach your full capacity providing some lectures, conferences and meetings. You will be expected to attend the conferences, classes, skills assignments and other necessary meetings, by ZOOM or Hangouts or in Face-to-Face Labs and Clinical. The faculty are available for conferences when necessary. If you are not passing, you will be given remediation assignments which you are expected to complete prior to progressing.

Information sessions are being held face-to-face. You may receive the materials and information needed for your application from Tanya Villarreal, tvillarreal@tstc.edu or Shirley Byrd, Shirley.byrd@tstc.edu. You must have an appointment to attend since we are restricted to number in attendance.

The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program will prepare students with the basic competencies to become safe practitioners in the healthcare field. Upon successful completion of the Associate of Applied Science major in Associate Degree Nursing, the graduate will be able to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a registered nurse and can work in hospitals, day-surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, home health care agencies, among other areas.

The LVN to RN Program is a highly selective program. The selection process is based on a Competitive Point System evaluation. Selection criteria are used to assess the applicant's score.

Step 1: REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO APPLYING TO THE LVN-RN PROGRAM

- Apply for general admission to TSTC in Harlingen. TSTC maintains an open admission policy. Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to all programs including nursing.
- Complete application for TSTC admission online.
- May require official copy of high school transcript, transfer transcripts from other colleges or evidence of "capability to do college-level work."
- Attend TSTC New Student Orientation and set up email OR as Directed by TSTC Admissions Office.
- Apply for Financial Aid if applicable

Step 2: COMPLETE PRE-PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- The LVN to RN Transition Program is designed for individuals who hold an LVN License and seek to pursue the Registered Nurse Licensure.
- A current LVN License is required to apply and must be kept current.
- Complete ALL pre-requisites with a “C” or better.
- ALL SCIENCES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE PAST 10 (TEN) YEARS. Your prerequisite grades are used to calculate your GPA which is important and weighs heavily in the selection process. The higher your grade is on prerequisites, the more points you get on your Admission Score Sheet.
- The TSTC LVN to RN Transition Program for the 2022 Spring and Fall Program is a Hybrid Program.
- If some unavoidable circumstance were to occur, we will go back to the COVID precautionary controls. This means that part of the program is completely online, some skills are online and some hands-on in the Nursing Lab and the Clinical portion is virtual and face-to-face in the clinical site. If COVID-19 prevents completion of the hands-on clinical experiences as required by the Board of Nurses, we may have to extend the clinical portion into the next semester. You will graduate and be able to take state boards, but it may be delayed. This ALL depends on the availability of the clinical sites to take students. The Board of Nurses requires a portion of your education to be at the clinical site in order for us to complete educational requirements and sit for State Boards. You will be kept advised as the program progresses.
- Upon completion of the Associate of Applied Science in Associate Degree in Nursing, the graduate will be able to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Step 3: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS PROCESS

- Applicant must attend LVN-RN Information Session.
- Applicant must take the HESI LPN-ADN Entrance Exam and meet the required score of at least 850.
If you do not score 850, re-take the test to see if you can score higher on the next exam. You can take the Exam twice in a testing period. Submit the sheet that has the higher score.
- To prepare for this exam, please study the HESI Comprehensive NCLEX-LPN Examination Study Guide. Contact Registration Number: 956-364-4310 for HESI Online Testing Dates. Remember the higher the score you make, the better your chance of admission.
- Applicant must meet the required ADN cumulative GPA of 2.7. The GPA is figured using the seven required prerequisite courses (Labs are not counted) and divided by seven. So, the more A's and B's you have, the higher the score you will have.

- Complete all Health Requirements-Immunizations*. Must be current within the last 12 months. Health requirement, including immunizations, must be signed by you and recorded on the TSTC physical document.
- Once you are ready to apply to the program, contact Tanya Villarreal at tvillarreal@tstc.edu for an Application Packet. Complete and submit the Admission Application. Application Period dates change with each cohort. The application period for **Spring 2022 is September 22, 2021 through November 5, 2021 at 12 Noon.**
- Email Application Packet to Tanya Villarreal at tvillarreal@tstc.edu
 - On Subject line: LVN-RN Transition Program Application Packet
 - Please list the following in email:
 - Name
 - Id#
 - Phone number
 - Application pages: _____
 - Transcripts (number of transcripts submitted): ____
 - Letters of recommendation (number of letters submitted):_____
 - Certificate from Information Session :_____
 - Total number of pages scanned:_____
- Tanya Villarreal will send you a confirmation email upon receiving the application packet. If you do not receive a confirmation email within 2 days, please contact Ms. Villarreal at 956-364-4690.

STEP 4: ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATION STATUS

- Once the application and all supporting documents have been delivered and logged in by the application deadline, the application is considered accepted.
- It is our suggestion that you have someone, not TSTC staff, check the packet with you to make sure you have all the materials required. If you take the HESI more than once, make sure you have only the highest score listed and enclosed in your packet.

STEP 5: NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION STATUS

- Students with the highest points will be accepted into the program based upon the number of available spots in the cohort. Applicants with lower points will be denied.
- Alternates–Should any of the admitted applicants decline admission, an alternate will be offered admissions to the program. Alternates are selected from next highest scores in the cohort.

Criminal Background Checks

After acceptance into the program, PLEASE BE AWARE that the applicant must complete Fingerprint Clearance and L1 criminal history check for the Texas Board of Nursing and Drug Screens for the Clinical Sites. You will be notified by the Program Director or Instructor if you are clear or need clearance. Registered Nurse License Eligibility is determined through a DPS/FBI criminal history background check completed through the Texas Board of Nursing. Information relating to the criminal history and declaratory order (DO) process is available on the Texas Board of Nursing website http://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_eligibility.asp.

It is highly recommended to initiate the DO process at the time of your application if there is anything in your background that may show up as a criminal matter in the background check, even if adjudicated or expunged, and it happened many years ago. Once you have been accepted in the program and you accept the appointment, your name will be submitted to the Board of Nursing for clearance into the program. You will receive a Blue Card or letter of clearance which you must turn in to the Nursing Education Office.

Drug Screens

Drug Screening is arranged through the Nursing Department. The program does initial, random and for cause drug screening. Cost for drug screening will be the responsibility of the student. Additional Criminal Background Checks and Fees may accrue with hosting clinical sites. More information will be relayed to students at orientation.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The LVN to RN selection process is based on a Competitive Point System evaluation.

1. Selection criteria are used to assess the applicant's score. Points are given for the following selection criteria:
2. LVN-RN Program Prerequisite Courses Cumulative GPA
 2. HESI Exam Scores
 3. Additional Points as listed in the Application Packet/Scoresheet (Scores for A's and B's and previous special certifications)
- B. Once all admission criteria are met for entrance to the program, students with completed applications will be selected by scoring.
 1. Students with the highest points will be accepted into the program based upon the number of available spots in the co-hort.
 2. Decisions are ultimately made by the LVN-RN Department Admission Committee and confirmed by the Program Chair and may not be appealed.
 3. Students not admitted are free to reapply in the following application enrollment period.

1. Qualified applicants are ranked from highest to lowest points. Admission is solely based on this ranking. Applicants must officially accept admission to the program on or before the indicated date.
 - D. Alternates: Should any of the admitted applicants decline admission, an alternate will be offered admission to the program. The highest score will be considered for admission.
 - E. Once the selection is made, the admission documents are transferred into the student's active file.
2. Applicants not selected have three weeks to pick up their packets. After this period, packets will be shredded. The only documents filed by the program are the Score Sheets which are kept in file for two years (effective 1/2020).

Prerequisite courses must be completed prior to enrollment into the program. Subjects in progress must be approved by the program director and must be completed by the first day of class. One subject only is allowed. Student must submit a progress grade.

All sciences must be completed within the past 10 years.

BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I OR
 BIOL 2301 Anatomy & Physiology I AND BIOL 2101 Anatomy & Physiology I
 ENGL 1301 Composition I*
 PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development
 ACGM X3XX Humanities or Fine Arts Elective
 BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II OR
 BIOL 2302 Anatomy & Physiology II AND BIOL 2102 Anatomy & Physiology II
 PSYC 2301 General Psychology
 BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-Science Majors OR
 BIOL 2320 Microbiology for Non-Science Majors AND BIOL 2120 Microbiology for Non-Science Majors

Humanities-Fine Arts-Harlingen indicates classes available in Harlingen

ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation (Harlingen)
 ARTS 1303 Art History I
 ARTS 1304 Art History II (Harlingen)
 ARTS 1316 Drawing I
 ARTS 1313 Foundations of Art
 ARTS 2316 Painting I
 ENGL 2321 British Literature
 ENGL 2322 British Literature I (Harlingen)
 ENGL 2326 Scripture I (Harlingen)
 ENGL 2307 Creative Writing I
 ENGL 2331 World Literature (Harlingen)
 ENGL 2341 Forms of Literature
 HUMA 1301 Introduction to Humanities II
 HUMA 1302 Introduction to Humanities
 HUMA 2323 World Cultures
 MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation (Harlingen)

PHIL 1301 Intro to Philosophy
PHIL 1304 Introduction to World Religions (Harlingen)
PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics

Additional and Complete Information is contained within the LVN-RN Advisory Packet [LVN-RN Advisory Packet Spring 2022-Harlingen](#). Applicants should download and read the complete packet(s) and information in the Information Download section.