



## Vocational Nursing- Harlingen

Website Link- <https://www.tstc.edu/programs/nursing/>

TSTC also offers a certification in **Vocational Nursing**. Upon completion of this **HYBRID** program and passing the National Council Licensure Examination, you will be classified as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). In the Vocational Nursing program, students participate in an innovative hands-on training environment that helps develop their caregiving skills. Instruction consists of classroom, simulation learning labs, interactive online sessions, virtual clinicals, and on-site health care clinicals. Whichever you choose, a nursing career is rewarding and awaiting you.

## Vocational Nursing- Harlingen

TSTC Admission Requirements

[https://www.tstc.edu/program-requirements/nursing/?\\_ga=2.98877406.1330801141.1638455264-1403123379.1638455264](https://www.tstc.edu/program-requirements/nursing/?_ga=2.98877406.1330801141.1638455264-1403123379.1638455264)

Application Process-

### 1<sup>st</sup> Step in becoming a Vocational Nursing Student

1. Apply for general acceptance to Texas State Technical College Harlingen by submission of Admission Application.
2. Request an official sealed copy of your high school transcript or your GED diploma to the Admissions and Records Office. If you received your GED in Texas and need an official diploma, call the Texas Education Agency (TEA) at 512-463-9292 to obtain one.
3. Submit an official college transcript from all previously attended colleges to the New Student Admissions Office. The college transcript(s) must be an official transcript – imprinted with the college’s seal and delivered in a sealed envelope.
4. Complete financial aid application. (We recommend that you apply at least four months prior to registration.) If you are applying for federal financial aid, complete the “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” (FAFSA) for the Pell Grant and other financial aid and submit it to the federal processor. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information on other grants, scholarships, student loans or sponsoring agencies such as

WIA or DARS. Veterans wanting to use their VA benefits should contact their local VA Certification Officer on campus. The “Free Application for Federal Student Aid” can be found at [FAFSA](#).

5. In the Fall 2013 semester, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment established new college readiness standards for incoming students. The TSI Assessment is designed to help determine if students are ready for college-level coursework in the general areas of reading, writing and math. If the student does not meet testing requirements, the assessment will also help with student placement in courses that will aid in the preparation of student skills for college-level classes. Before enrolling in classes at TSTC, Applicants are required to submit the following:

- Scores from at least one Texas Success Initiative (TSIA/TSIA2) assessment (valid for 5 years).
- Evidence of TSIA/TSIA2 completion from another Texas college or university.
- Proof of exemption from the TSIA/TSIA2.

Applicants failing to achieve minimum passing scores on any or all of the TSI Assessment 2.0

(TSIA2) sections may be eligible to enroll in a remediation course or courses. Successful completion of course(s) fulfills the TSI requirement.

A Pre-Assessment Activity (PAA) must be completed prior to taking the initial TSIA2 unless already completed. The PAA provides practice test questions. The activity can be found and completed online at:

<https://practice.accuplacer.org/login>.

Once you have completed the Pre-Assessment Activity, you are ready to schedule an appointment to take the TSIA2. For on campus testing, please select a location near you at [tstc.edu/testing](http://tstc.edu/testing). For virtual or online testing, please register at [tstc.edu/Testing-Harlingen](http://tstc.edu/Testing-Harlingen).

Contact: Your Enrollment coach

The fee for the TSIA2 is \$24 for both sections (Math & ELAR) or \$12 per section. Please note that for virtual or online testing there is an additional proctoring fee of \$25 paid to Examity.

6. Contact your Student Enrollment coach advisor Erica Garcia and Sergio Canales
  1. Erica Garcia 956-364-4522 [erica.garcia@tstc.edu](mailto:erica.garcia@tstc.edu)
  2. Sergio Canales 956-364-4990 [sergio.canales@tstc.edu](mailto:sergio.canales@tstc.edu)

7. Complete your three pre-requisite courses prior to applying to the program:
  1. BIOL 2401-Anatomy and Physiology I  
or BIOL 2301/ BIOL 2101
  2. BIOL 2402-Anatomy and Physiology II  
or BIOL 2302/ BIOL 2102
  3. HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology
8. *Pre-requisite courses Anatomy and Physiology I & II, must be within 5 years*
9. Must pass all academic (A&P I& II) courses with a “C” or better prior to starting nursing courses; Medical Terminology requires a passing grade of B or better. No “Ds” are accepted for credit in the VN program of study courses.
10. Attend a Vocational Nursing Information Session
11. Applicants to the VN Program must take the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Version 7 Entrance Exam, consisting of four sections; reading, math, science and English. Information about the TEAS Study Guide Version 7.0 can be found at
  1. [http://www.atitesting.com/ati\\_store/product.aspx?zpid=1175](http://www.atitesting.com/ati_store/product.aspx?zpid=1175) .
  2. The composite score will be used within the selection criteria with additional points for GPA and any previous achievements related to nursing education.
12. The TEAS Exam must be taken through the Testing Center at TSTC on campus or online within one year of current application deadline date.

## **ATI TEAS Entrance Exam (On Campus)**

The ATI TEAS exam is used as part of the admission process by the LVN program. The ATI TEAS measures basic skills in the academic areas of reading, mathematics, science and English and language usage. The time limit for the exam is approximately four hours. **There will be only two attempts allowed per application period.**

### **How to Schedule Your Exam**

- Sign in at [tstc.edu/Testing-Hqn](http://tstc.edu/Testing-Hqn). (New users will be assessed an annual one-time non-refundable \$5 scheduling fee.)
- Choose a group: **ATI TEAS (On Campus)**
- Choose an exam:
  - ATI TEAS - Nursing (1st Attempt)
  - ATI TEAS - Nursing (2nd Attempt)
- Choose a date and time
- Complete the required information
- Click add to cart Complete the credit card fields and click Purchase Exams
- Click Complete Registration (a confirmation email will be sent)

### **What to bring on test day?**

- Bring a current (non-expired) government-issued photo ID
- Bring a credit/debit card to pay the test fee online (\$68 plus tax)
- Create a profile with ATI before your test date at [atitesting.com](http://atitesting.com). Bring your ATI student login credentials.

## Study Resources

- <http://atitesting.com/teas>
- <http://tstc.libguides.com/teas>

For more information, please contact the Testing Center at (956) 364-4310 / (956) 364-4308 or [testing@tstc.edu](mailto:testing@tstc.edu). To request testing accommodations, please contact the Access and Learning Accommodations Office at [adarequest@tstc.edu](mailto:adarequest@tstc.edu).

## **ATI TEAS Entrance Exam (Virtual)**

The ATI TEAS exam is used as part of the admission process by the LVN program. The ATI TEAS measures basic skills in the academic areas of reading, mathematics, science and English and language usage. The time limit for the exam is approximately four hours. **There will be only two attempts allowed per application period.**

### **Steps before scheduling your exam**

- Sign in at [tstc.edu/Testing-Hgn](http://tstc.edu/Testing-Hgn) (**New users will be assessed an annual one-time non-refundable \$5 scheduling fee.**)
- Choose a group: **ATI TEAS (Virtual)**
- Choose an exam:
  - ATI TEAS - Nursing (1st Attempt)
  - ATI TEAS - Nursing (2nd Attempt)
- Choose a date and time
- Complete the required information
- Click add to cart Complete the credit card fields and click Purchase Exams
- Click Complete Registration (a confirmation email will be sent)
- **You will receive an email 24 hours prior to your appointment. Email will provide payment instructions.**

### **Testing Fees & Requirements**

- Present a current (non-expired) government-issued photo ID
- A credit/debit card to pay the test fee online (\$68 plus tax) and Proctorio fee of \$5 plus tax
- Laptop/desktop, internet connection, webcam, microphone, install Google Chrome. [Student Orientation Video](#).

### **Study Resources**

- <http://atitesting.com/teas>
- <http://tstc.libguides.com/teas>

13.

For additional information, please contact the Testing Center at (956) 364-4310 or (956) 364-4308 or [testing@tstc.edu](mailto:testing@tstc.edu). To request testing accommodations, please contact the Access and Learning Accommodations Office at [adarequest@tstc.edu](mailto:adarequest@tstc.edu).

Benchmarks for ATI TEAS ® version 7 sections:  
Reading 50  
Math 50  
Science 40  
English Language 50

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Step in becoming a Vocational Nursing Student

### TSTC Vocational Nursing Program Application Requirements

Complete all items as described in step one

14. You must be prepared to upload all documents one at a time
15. Print out the Vocational Nursing program Application Packet
  1. <https://www.tstc.edu/program-requirements/nursing/>
16. Complete application information and obtain all documents as described in the application to be ready to submit online.
  1. ***\*\*Applicants must submit a complete application packet prior to deadline via online submission on or before the application filing deadline. Incomplete packets will not be considered in the selection process. \*\****
17. Submit VN Application via the Online portal link: VN Program Application Submission before the application deadline as announced per semester (NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED).
  1. <https://www.tstc.edu/program-requirements/nursing/>
18. **Applicants will be evaluated on an admission rating scale consisting of TEAS score, GPA, and Prerequisite courses points and other credit as described on your application. The rankings will be submitted to the Admissions Committee for consideration as a component of the total admission criteria.**
19. Limited numbers of students are accepted to this program. The admission rating scale and application packet criteria will be used to determine acceptance. All candidates will be notified via email regarding admission status.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Step in becoming a Vocational Nursing Student

You have completed step one and two

20. You have received an email with a response to your Vocational Nursing application- There are three outcomes- accepted, alternate or denial.
21. Students receiving a denial outcome are encouraged to apply for the next intake and to reach out to the Program Director Heather Saucedo, RN to review packet and guidance to reapply. 956-364-4762 [hmsauceda@tstc.edu](mailto:hmsauceda@tstc.edu)
22. Students receiving an outcome that they are alternates. Students on the alternate list may be admitted if space becomes available and encouraged to complete all step as directed via email.
23. Students receiving an outcome of Accepted into the Vocational Nursing program. Follow all instructions as directed in email regarding Letter of Intent, Orientation, and pending documents.
24. Eligible applicants will be notified of the date to attend both **MANDATORY ORIENTATIONS**. Those applicants not attending or arriving late to the orientation will automatically be dropped from consideration.
25. Students receiving an accepted outcome are subject to the next steps- Review all
26. Criminal background checks are required for students involved directly with clients in clinical facilities and by the Texas Board of Nursing for licensure. To pass the nursing courses involved in this program, you must complete clinical rotations at these sites. If you refuse or for any reason cannot complete this background check, or as a result of the information gathered in this check, you will be refused access to a clinical facility, thereby ineligible for clinical participation; you will be dismissed from the program due to inability to meet clinical objectives. Information on the procedure for obtaining a CBC and fingerprinting will be given to the accepted students. This information will be sent from the Board of Nursing via email. You must use a valid email address that you have access to. This will be used to submit your information to the Texas Board of Nursing.
27. **DO NOT COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAM.**
28. The selected applicants will be admitted pending proof of physical and mental health on a physical examination taken and completed by the beginning of the program. Immunizations required by TSTC and Clinical facilities **must be current** and the Hepatitis B series must be completed by the beginning of the program.
29. **Clinical Vaccination Requirements-** CMS Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination Rule- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), HHS have revised the requirements that establish COVID-19 vaccination requirements for staff and caregivers at the included Medicare- and Medicaid- certified providers and suppliers. This mandate, which has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States will impact the majority of our Clinical Sites available to our students for experiential learning.

Therefore, our students will be directly impacted by the rule and will be required by those clinical partners certified to receive Medicare- and Medicaid- reimbursements to be vaccinated as all of their staff will also be required to meet this expectation. Each entity will apply allowed exemptions to this requirement as they see fit. Additionally, sites not

receiving Medicare- and Medicaid- may choose to mandate vaccinations in an effort to maintain continuity in Health Care and protect patients and caregivers.

Exemptions will not be determined by TSTC, each clinical site will establish their policy and expectation as relates to exemptions as well as approval or denial, and we will ensure the process is followed and documented in the students record.

TSTC will meet the requirement of ensuring all students at attendance at clinical meet the requirements to attend clinical as determined by each site in compliance with their entities internal policies and CMS as it applies.

TSTC as an entity does not fall under the requirement of CMS and will only work to ensure students enrolled in programs with off campus clinical requirements for experiential learning are compliant with all expectations. If a program does not have an alternative option for completion of clinical requirements and experiential learning the student will not be eligible for acceptance into the program.

30. 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 during your first mandatory orientation with further directions. Vocational 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
  1. [https://www.bon.texas.gov/forms\\_declaratory\\_order.asp.html](https://www.bon.texas.gov/forms_declaratory_order.asp.html)
31. Employment at many healthcare facilities and agencies require mandatory drug screening. Vocational Nursing students will be required to undergo a **random drug screen** prior to beginning clinical experiences and at any point during the program at the discretion of the Program Director and/or Instructor. Failure to take or pass this drug test will result in inability to complete required clinical rotations.

### *Upon being accepted into the program Non-Progression Policies*

#### STANDARDS OF PROGRESSION

The Vocational Nursing program is a progressive learning program with each class built on knowledge from previous classes; therefore, it is necessary for the student to pass each class before moving on to the next level. In order to progress in the vocational nursing program, a student must make an average of 79.5 percent or higher in each nursing course with the exception of A&P I and II where a grade of 70 or higher is acceptable. HPRS 1206 requires a grade of B or higher. To be accepted into the Vocational Nursing program, A&P I and II courses must have been taken within 5 years of the start of the program.

At the end of semesters two, three, and four, students are required to take an NCLEX-PN simulation exam created in the LWW online resource. Students must meet a minimum mastery

level in semesters two and three in order to progress to the next semester. Only one attempt will be administered in semester two and three. Mastery levels for each semester are progressive with the goal of every student achieving a minimum proficiency level of 8 before graduation. This level reflects a high probability of success on the NCLEX-PN. Students failing to achieve the minimum mastery level in semesters two and three will be dismissed from the program and will have to reapply for the next cohort. Students not achieving a mastery level of 8 at the end of semester four will not receive an Affidavit of Graduation until they have reached a Level 8. The benchmark for Level II is a minimum mastery level 2. Level III minimum mastery level is 5, and Level IV minimum mastery level is 8. Assignments in each course during Levels II, III, and IV are designed to give students the tools and experience to confidently meet the mastery levels and pass the NCLEX-PN on their first attempt.

### **Non-Progression Policy-Grading**

Non-Progression Policy-Grading – Students scoring less than 79.5% (B) as a final course average on Nursing courses will not progress to the next level or graduate the program. Should a student fail a course, student will be required to reapply and repeat the program in FULL. If students fail more than one course with less than an 79.5%, they will be dismissed from the program. Readmission to the TSTC VN program will not be allowed in this case.

### **Non-Progression Policy-Attendance and Absences.**

### **Vocational Nursing Program**

#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

The VN Program is an accelerated Level 2 certificate fast-track program. More than four (4) missed school days per semester can result in dismissal from the program. School days include class, simulation lab, clinical rotations, community events, workshops, external training, seminars, and orientations. Absences are limited as follows: 2 classroom days, 2 clinical days. Students not present at the scheduled start and end time of each school day will be counted as absent for the entire day. Determination to allow a student to continue in the VN program after allowed hours has been exceeded is contingent upon the facts surrounding the absences and student performance in class and/or clinical to date. The faculty and/or program director will review any extenuating circumstances for clinical absences on an individual basis.

#### **Clinical**

Absences: A doctor's excuse is required to get a makeup assignment which will be graded and then 15 points deducted. Below is the maximum allowed clinical hours without a medical excuse. Only 2 missed clinical days allowed per semester.

Tardy: Any arrival 30 minutes past scheduled time will count as a full day absence. Student will not be allowed to remain in the clinical area.

Example: Clinical Time 6:45 a.m. Tardy 6:45 to 7:15 a.m. Absent if arrival is after 7:15, 3 tardies make up one absent day. No makeup work will be allowed with an absence related to tardies.

### **Classroom**

Absences: No more than 2 calendar days per semester.

Repeatedly leaving the classroom will not be tolerated and may result in an absence.

You must email your designated instructor if you are going to be absent.

Tardy: Any arrival to class 30 minutes past the scheduled class time will be counted as 1 full day's absence. The student may be allowed to remain in class for that day. No half-day absences are allowed. 3 Tardies = 1 absence

If a student is absent from clinical, the student must contact the designated instructor via email. In order to receive a makeup assignment, the student must provide the instructor with a doctor's excuse (for self or child) or other form of documentation of absence (ex: picture of flood waters, car accident, flat tire with receipt for tire, etc.) upon return to class. The assignment will be graded and a 15-point deduction will be given. Makeup assignments will not be given for failure to plan ahead (ex: no child care, waking up late).