Vocational Nursing- West Texas

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

TSTC offers a certification in **Vocational Nursing in West Texas on the Sweetwater and Breckenridge campuses.** 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- West Texas

TSTC Admission Requirements
https://www.tstc.edu/program-requirements/nursing/?_ga=2.98877406.1330801141.1638455264-1403123379.1638455264

Application Process-

1st Step in becoming a Vocational Nursing Student

1. Apply for general acceptance to Texas State Technical College West Texas by submission of an online Admission Application at tstc.edu.
2. Request an official sealed copy of your high school transcript or your GED diploma including test scores to the Enrollment Center. If you received your GED in Texas and need an official transcript, visit the Texas Education Agency (TEA) certificate search website @ txchse.com to obtain one.
3. Submit an official college transcript from all previously attended colleges to the Enrollment Center. The college transcript(s) must be an official transcript – imprinted with the college's seal and delivered in a sealed envelope.
4. Complete the 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 at fafsa.gov. Contact the Enrollment Center 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.

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 one of 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. For virtual or online testing, please register at tstc.edu/Testing-Waco.

Location	Contact	Telephone
Abilene	Francis Gross	325-734-3641
Breckenridge	Lisa Langford	254-559-7731
Brownwood	Kimberly Carroll	325-641-5955
Sweetwater	Patricia Carpio	325-235-7441

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 Enrollment coach, Lisa Langford 254-559-7731 or lisa.langford@tstc.edu for Breckenridge, or Candice Leonard 325-734-3604 candice.leonard@tstc.edu for Sweetwater campus.
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

    Pre-requisite courses Anatomy and Physiology I & II and Medical Terminology must be within 5 years.

8. Must pass all academic courses(A&P I and II) 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 course. These courses must be less than 5 years old.
9. Applicants to the VN Program must take the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Version 7 Entrance Exam, consisting of four sections; reading, math, science ,English, and Lauguage Usage. Learn more about the ATI TEAS Versions 7 exam at https://help.atitesting.com/ati-teas-version-7. The composite score will be used within the selection criteria with additional points for GPA and any previous achievements related to nursing education.

ATI TEAS Exam (On Campus)

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.

The ATI TEAS exam is used as part of the admission process by the LVN programs. **There are only two attempts allowed per application period.**

Steps before scheduling your exam

● Sign in at one of our campuses. **(New users will be assessed an annual one- time non-refundable $5 scheduling fee.)**

  ● Abilene: tstc.edu/Testing-Abi

  ● Breckenridge: tstc.edu/Testing-Breck

  ● Brownwood: tstc.edu/Testing-Bro

  ● Sweetwater: tstc.edu/Testing-Swtr

● Choose a group: **ATI TEAS (On Campus)**

● Choose an exam: **ATI TEAS Exam OR ATI TEAS Retake**

● 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)

Testing Fees & Requirements

● Bring a current (non-expired) government-issued photo ID

● Bring a credit/debit card to pay the test fee online ($65) (This is in addition to the $25 proctoring fee paid online through our scheduling system.)

● Create a profile with ATI before your test date at atitesting.com. Bring your ATI student login credentials.

Study Resource

http://atitesting.com/teas-prep

http://tstc.libguides.com/teas

For additional information, please contact a Testing Center in West Texas. For contact information, please visit tstc.edu/testing. To request testing accommodations, please contact the Access and Learning Accommodations Office at adarequest@tstc.edu.

ATI TEAS Exam (Virtual)

The ATI TEAS measures basic skills in the academic areas of reading, mathematics, science and English and language usage. The ATI TEAS exam is used as part of the admission process by the LVN programs. **There are only two attempts allowed per application period.**

The time limit for the exam is approximately four hours. Below are the WTX virtual test dates. **Max is 50 per test session.**

Sweetwater campus	Breckenridge campus
April 5, 19	April 4, 18
May 1, 16, 31	May 3, 17, 31
June 8	June 7

Steps before scheduling your exam

- Sign in at tstc.edu/Testing-Swtr **(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 Exam (Virtual) OR ATI TEAS Retake (Virtual)**
- 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

- Bring a current (non-expired) government-issued photo ID
- A credit/debit card to pay the test fee online ($65) and Proctorio fee of $5 plus tax
- Laptop/desktop, internet connection, webcam, microphone, install Google Chrome. Student Orientation Video.

Benchmarks for ATI TEAS ® version 7 sections:

Reading 50
Math 50
Science 40
English Language 50.0

2nd Step in becoming a Vocational Nursing Student

TSTC Vocational Nursing Program Application Requirements
You must be prepared to upload documents at one time. You cannot save the application.

Complete all items as described in step one. For questions about submitting the packet, please contact Mary Wilhite   325-734-3644 or mary.wilhite@tstc.edu.

10. Print out the Vocational Nursing program Application https://www.tstc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/VN-App-21-22-w-degree-plan.pdf.

    Complete application information and obtain all documents as described in the application to be ready to submit online. ***Applicants m*ust 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. ***

11. Submit VN Application via the Online portal link before the application deadline as announced per semester (NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED). https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/Submit/Page?form=ba48bb83-6357-4f79-8a0c-98537a1070bc&section=362065&page=313942&token=pW4x517mdsuXHT1f_ZFu0GBgN51UFLaG_yLqZWDceiQ

12. **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.**

13. 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.

3rd Step in becoming a Vocational Nursing Student
You have completed step one and two

14. You have received an email with a response to your Vocational Nursing application- There are three outcomes- accepted, alternate or denial. Students receiving an outcome of denial are encouraged to apply for the next intake.
15. Students receiving a denial outcome are encourage to reach out to Jennifer Nichols for the options available and to pick up their packet @ jlnicholscunningh@tstc.edu   or 325-235-7307.
16. Students receiving an outcome of an alternate - Students on the alternate list may be admitted if space becomes available and encouraged to complete all steps as directed via email.

17. 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.
18. Eligible applicants will be notified of the date to attend your MANDATORY ORIENTATION. Those applicants not attending or arriving late to the orientation will automatically be dropped from consideration.
19. Students receiving an accepted outcome are subject to the next steps.

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 a background check or if for any reason as a result of the information gathered in this check you are refused access to a clinical facility, you will be 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 sent to the accepted students via email from the Board of Nursing. You must provide a valid email address. This will be used to submit your information to the Texas Board of Nursing. **DO NOT COMPLETE A BACKGROUND CHECK PRIOR TO ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAM.**

20. The selected applicants will be admitted pending proof of Immunizations required by TSTC and Clinical facilities. These **must be current** and completed by the beginning of the program.
21. **Clinical Vaccination Requirements-**
    All vaccinations must be current by August 23, 2023.   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/or 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 also 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 it relates to exemptions and approval or denial of waivers. TSTC 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 clinicals 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.

22. 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: https://www.bon.texas.gov/forms_declaratory_order.asp.html

23. 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, HPRS 1206 and 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, the 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 missed clinical hours without a medical excuse. Only 2 missed clinical days are 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, etc.)