

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM

Revised Summer 2009

Nursing is a service to individuals, to families and to the community of man. The individual nurse has scientifically based competencies and skills to assist people, sick or well, to cope with their health needs. Nursing is practiced in conjunction with other disciplines of the health care team.

The Galveston College Associate Degree Nursing program is offered by Galveston College in Galveston, Texas. The 72 credit hour curriculum leads to an Associate of Applied Science Degree and is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and the Texas Board of Nursing.

Admission to the Associate Degree Nursing Program

Acceptance to the Associate Degree Nursing program is through a competitive selection process based on a point system. Students will earn points based on prerequisites, science courses, Grade Point Average (GPA), NET (Nurse Entrance Test) scores, and general recommended education courses completed. Potential applicants are expected to be familiar with the process for application, program requirements and meet the required deadlines.

General Admission Criteria for the Galveston College Associate Degree Nursing Program

Applicants to the Associate Degree Nursing program must:

- Meet with the Nursing Department to obtain updated information about the program requirements, the application process and develop a degree plan.
- Have a clear criminal background check or approved Declaratory Order.
 - In cases of criminal history or psychiatric treatment or drug/alcohol treatment/addiction, the prospective applicant must receive approval from the Texas Board of Nursing, to sit for the licensing exam (NCLEX). To obtain approval to sit for the licensing exam an applicant must apply to the Texas Board of Nursing for a Declaratory Order. The approved Declaratory Order must be obtained prior to submitting an application for admission into the Galveston College nursing program.
- Begin immunizations including Hepatitis B injections 7 months prior to admission into the ADN program. The series and titer must be complete by October 1st of the 1st semester. Proof of the first Hepatitis B immunization must be provided at time of application.
- Complete requirements for admission into Galveston College.
- Have all official transcripts from high school or proof of G.E.D and all colleges attended sent to the Galveston College Admissions Office.
- Have satisfied Texas Success Initiative (TSI).
- After all prerequisites have been completed, obtain a Galveston College Associate Degree Nursing program application from the Nursing Department.

Specific Admission Criteria for application to the Galveston College Associate Degree Nursing Program

To be considered for admission to the Associate Degree Nursing program, the student must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 on all courses taken at Galveston College and all other colleges during the past ten years
- Have a GPA of 2.5 on all prerequisite courses
- Be in good standing at Galveston College. Please refer to the Galveston College catalog for information pertaining to Academic Probation and Suspension.
- Complete ***all*** prerequisites before December 31.
- Have the entrance test completed by January 31 with passing scores. The entrance test may be repeated one time each year and the earned score is good for one year from the date of the test.

NOTE:

- 1) All math and science classes (Anatomy and Physiology, Microbiology, Chemistry and MATH 0303 or higher) must have been completed no more than five (5) years prior to acceptance in the program.
- 2) No grades below "C" will be accepted for transfer credit.

Prerequisite Courses

The following college level courses are prerequisites and must be completed prior to entering the nursing program:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>
BIOL 2401 – Anatomy and Physiology I	4
CHEM 1405 –Introductory Chemistry I	4
HPRS 1206 –Essentials of Medical Terminology	2
PSYC 2301 – General Psychology	3
MATH 0303 - Introductory Algebra (or higher)	**

13

**Math 0303 can be satisfied by THEA/Compass test or course completion. Math 0303 is not a college level course and does not carry credit hours toward degree. Mathematics satisfaction is according to Galveston College requirements.

Criminal Background Checks/Fingerprinting

Effective September 1, 2003, Section 301.2511(c) of the Texas Occupations Code provides that the Texas Board of Nursing may, for the purpose of evaluating a person's eligibility for licensure, require from any person enrolled in or planning to enroll in an educational program that prepares a person for an initial license as a registered nurse to submit, along with a fee required by the Board, a complete and legible set of fingerprints on a form prescribed by the Board for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history from the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

State Board Requirements

Students are required to answer certain questions on the Texas Board of Nursing application for Registration by Examination to become licensed as a Registered Nurse. These questions are in regard to criminal convictions, mental illness or chemical dependency, or prior disciplinary action by a licensing authority for nurses. Copies of these questions are available from the Nursing Department. Any student who answers "yes" to any of the questions must receive a Declaratory Order (a decision from the Board of Nursing regarding an applicant's eligibility to take the licensing exam) prior to submitting an application to the nursing program. For further information, contact the Nursing Department at (409) 944-1369. You may also visit the Texas Board of Nursing website at www.bon.state.tx.us.

Application Deadlines:

Associate Degree Nursing Program – Classes begin once each year in the fall. Deadline for submission of an application for the program is January 15 of each year.

The Admission and Progression Committee will review and rank all completed applications received by the January 15 deadline for the following fall semester. If January 15 falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be the first working day following January 15. **Only those applications submitted by the January 15 deadline will be considered for admission.**

- Applicants who have all prerequisites completed by the end of the fall semester will be reviewed for acceptance in March. Acceptance letters will be mailed the week of March 15 of the application year.
- Applicants completing prerequisites by the end of the spring semester will be considered on a space available basis. Acceptance letters will be mailed by May 31.

Applications must be submitted in person to:

Director of Nursing
R-266 Galveston College
4015 Ave. Q

Selection Process

Applicants are selected for acceptance into the nursing program using the following process:

1) Math Requirement

a. THEA Score:

0-219 – Complete the Texas Success Initiative sequence (MATH 0300 and MATH 0303).

220-249 – Complete MATH 0303.

250 or Above – NO additional math required

OR

b. Compass Score:

PA 0-43 – Complete the Texas Success Initiative sequence (MATH 0300 and MATH 0303).

PA 44-100, A 0-45 – Complete MATH 0303.

49 or Above – NO additional math required

2) Point Determination

- a. Prerequisite courses are added according to their point value and multiplied by the grade points
- b. General education courses are added according to their point value and multiplied by the grade points. General education courses cannot be calculated until all pre-requisites are satisfied.
- c. The cumulative GPA has an assigned point value.
- d. The NET has an assigned point value.

3) Nurse Entrance Test (NET) scores

- a. Contact the Nursing Department for prearranged testing dates.
- b. The student must complete the Essential Math Skills and Reading Comprehension sections of the test with a 50% or greater. Each section of math and reading will be assigned a point value individually.
- c. The NET must be completed successfully before candidate can be accepted.
- d. The NET includes:
 - Math
 - Science
 - English
 - Reading

Point Distribution

Prerequisite courses	Points
BIOL 2401 – Anatomy and Physiology I	5
CHEM 1405 –Introductory Chemistry I	5
PSYC 2301 – General Psychology	1
HPRS 1206 – Essentials of Medical Terminology	1
MATH 0303 – Introductory Algebra (or higher)	0

General Education courses

BIOL 2402 – Anatomy and Physiology II	5
BIOL 2421 – Microbiology for Science Majors	5
ENGL 1301 – Composition I	1
PSYC 2314 – Lifespan Growth & Development	1
HITT 1211 – Computers in Health Care	1
HUMA X3XX- Core Humanities	1

Sample Course Ranking

- Prerequisite Courses

Course	Points	Grade	Total
BIOL 2401 – Anatomy & Physiology I	5 X	B (3) =	15
CHEM 1405 – Introductory Chemistry I	5 X	B (3) =	15
HPRS 1206 – Essentials of Medical Terminology	1 X	A (4) =	4
PSYC 2301 – General Psychology	1 X	A (4) =	4
TOTAL			38

The student in this sample would receive a total of **38** application points for these prerequisite courses.

- NET (Nurse Entrance Test) Scores
Math and Science – Each section calculated individually

Below 50 = Does not satisfy requirement

50 – 60 = 1

61 – 70 = 2

71 – 80 = 3

81 – 90 = 4

90 – 100 = 5

The student who earns a 52% on the math component and a 62% on the science component would receive 3 points for the NET (One [1] point for the math score and two [2] points for the science score = 3 points).

- Cumulative Grade Point Average

3.00-4.00 = 15
2.75-2.99 = 10
2.50-2.74 = 5

NOTE: *Students who are not selected for admission and wish to reapply the following year automatically receive two (2) application points toward admission. A new Application for Admission must be completed and the degree plan must be updated.*

General Helpful Admission Criteria for the Galveston College Associate Degree Nursing Program

- Applicants may improve their ranking by
 - 1) Repeating one or more of the pre-requisites or general education courses to earn a higher GPA. The last grade earned will be the grade of record.
 - 2) Completing all general education courses
- Courses may be repeated for the purpose of raising the GPA **only if the original grade was a “C” or higher**. The decision to repeat a successfully completed course (a course that was completed with a “C” or better) in order to improve an applicant’s competitiveness in the ranking process is solely the decision of the applicant.
- Students are encouraged to complete the general education support courses included in the nursing curriculum prior to entrance into the Associate Degree Nursing program, especially if the student plans to work while enrolled or has significant family responsibilities.
- Pre-nursing course RNSG 1301 may be completed no more than 12 months prior to admission the following fall. RNSG 1215 may be completed the spring or summer prior to admission the following fall. They may not be completed at an earlier time. Pre-nursing courses (RNSG) hold no point value toward the application.

Substitute Course Evaluations

Students desiring substitution of coursework for listed pre-requisite or general education courses must present the following materials:

- Official transcript of course(s)
- Photocopy of course description from that college’s catalog

The Director of Nursing usually completes the substitute course evaluation within 7 – 10 days of the request. If approved, a substitution form will be completed for inclusion in the student’s file.

Five-Year Time Limit

All math and science coursework (Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Microbiology, Chemistry and Math 0303 or higher) must be completed less than five (5) years prior to acceptance into the nursing program. If an individual has current experience utilizing their related science knowledge or has completed advanced courses in a related area,

the student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Nursing Department Office. As part of the petition, the student must present the following materials:

- Official transcript of course(s)
- Photocopy of course description from that college's catalog
- Letter from the student indicating their specific situation
- Letter from the student's supervisor with their duties identified

The Director of Nursing usually completes the transfer course or experience evaluation within 7-10 days of the request. If approved, a substitution/waiver form will be completed for inclusion in the student's file.

Procedure after Admission

Applicants chosen for admission will:

- Be informed by mail of acceptance into the program.
- Attend a mandatory departmental orientation for new students. All entering students will be notified by mail of the scheduled orientation session.
- Submit a personal health history form furnished by the UTMB Student Wellness Center. Required immunizations may be obtained from a private physician, clinic, or HMO, at the student's expense. Immunizations are available from the UTMB Student Wellness Center at a reduced cost. A physician must document health situations, such as pregnancy or allergies, which may prohibit the use of the Hepatitis B vaccine, and the student must sign a waiver. All three (3) Hepatitis injections and titer level must be administered prior to October 1 of the 1st semester.
- Be certified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) at the "Healthcare Provider" level as designated by the American Heart Association. A copy of a current CPR card must be submitted to the student's instructor on the first day of class. CPR classes are available through the Galveston College Continuing Education Department, American Heart Association or community hospitals.
- Submit to an unannounced, random drug screening.

General Helpful Information

- 1) The Associate Degree Nursing program can be completed in 2 years with one summer session. Each semester involves 16-20 hours per week of class, college laboratory and clinical experience with an additional 2-3 hours of study and preparation time for each hour of class and clinical experience. Students should be aware that the high demand on their time will not allow for full-time employment while enrolled in the nursing program. Students should expect clinical experiences in area hospitals to involve daytime, evening and weekend hours.
- 2) Students must be physically able to meet the technical demands of the program, which include lifting an adult patient, moving, bathing and

transferring patients into and out of bed. Students will be standing on their feet for at least eight hours each clinical day. Students must be able to read fine print for medication administration purposes and be able to hear heart and breath sounds. Manual dexterity is required for skills such as starting IV's and administering injections. In the event that a student has a medical condition that may compromise their ability to care for patients, a medical release from their physician may be required. Students may be exposed to communicable diseases.

- 3) Students must comply with class and clinical attendance requirements according to the nursing student handbook, which is published each year. Students who are absent from clinical for physical or mental illness, surgery or pregnancy reasons must present a written release from their physician before being allowed to return to the clinical setting.

Program guidelines are subject to change.

Galveston College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action College in Education and Employment. It is the policy of Galveston College to provide equal opportunities without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or veteran status.

GALVESTON COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM CURRICULUM

Prerequisite Courses:

BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I	4
CHEM 1405 Introductory Chemistry I	4
HPRS 1206 Essentials of Medical Terminology	2
PSYC 2301 General Psychology	3
MATH 0303 Introductory Algebra (or higher)	*

FIRST YEAR

Semester I:

RNSG 1413 Foundations for Nursing Practice	4
RNSG 1105 Nursing Skills I	1
RNSG 1260 Clinical (Foundations)	2
RNSG 1215 Health Assessment **	2
BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II	4

Semester II:

RNSG 1441 Common Concepts of Adult Health	4
RNSG 1360 Clinical (Common Concepts)	3
BIOL 2421 Microbiology for Science Majors	4
RNSG 1301 Pharmacology ***	3

SECOND YEAR

Semester III:

RNSG 2213 Mental Health Nursing	2
RNSG 1261 Clinical (Psys/Mental Health)	2

ENGL 1301 Composition I	3
HITT 1211 Computers in Health Care	2

Semester IV:

RNSG 2201 Care of Children & Families	2
RNSG 2260 Clinical (Pediatrics)	2
RNSG 2308 Maternal/Newborn & Women's Health	3
RNSG 2261 Clinical (Maternal/Newborn Child)	2
HUMA X3XX Core Curriculum Humanities	3

Semester V:

RNSG 1443 Complex Concepts of Adult Health	4
RNSG 2360 Clinical (Complex Concepts)	3
RNSG 1166 Practicum (Preceptorship/Capstone)****	1
PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth & Development	3

Total Credit Hours = 72

Bolded courses may be taken prior to entry into the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

**Math 0303 can be satisfied by THEA/Compass test or course completion. Math 0303 is not a college level course and does not carry credit hours toward degree. Mathematics satisfaction is according to Galveston College requirements.*

***May only be enrolled in RNSG 1215 during the spring and summer prior to entering the nursing program. BIOL 2401 is a prerequisite for this course.*

****May only be enrolled in RNSG 1301 during 12 months prior to entering the nursing program. BIOL 2401 is a prerequisite for this course.*

****** All students will be required to take and pass a comprehensive exit exam in order to pass RNSG1166. Students will be offered remediation and may repeat the exam twice.**

Graduation Requirements: To be eligible for an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing and receive permission to take the NCLEX-RN exam for licensure, students must have: 1) successfully completed the prescribed course of study of 72 credit hours; 2) met the required passing score on a comprehensive NCLEX-RN readiness exam; and 3) met any individually prescribed behavior or remediation related requirements.