

# 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)

**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.

Both the HESI and TEAS exams are offered online.

HESI through [Elsevier HESI Assessment](#)

TEAS through [Blinn College](#)

**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.

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
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/PBSI (Intro)	PSYC 2301	PSYC/PBSI** 107	3
*PSYC/PBSI (Lifespan)	PSYC 2314	PSYC/PBSI** 225	3
*SOC1 (Intro)	SOCI 1305	SOCI 205	3
*STAT	MATH 1342	STAT 201	3
Visual/Perf Arts	TX Core Approved	TX Core Approved	3

\*Indicates a common pre-nursing prereq course.

\*\*Starting Fall 2022, PSYC at Texas A&M is transitioning to PBSI—course content is the same

**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 by checking the program websites and attending information sessions.**

## Texas Accelerated (Second Degree) BSN Programs

	<a href="#">Anglo State</a>	<a href="#">Baylor</a>	<a href="#">Concordia</a>	<a href="#">MSU Texas</a>	<a href="#">Texas A&amp;M</a>	<a href="#">TAMU-Corpus Christi</a>	<a href="#">Texas Christian</a>	<a href="#">Texas Lutheran</a>	<a href="#">TTUHSC El Paso</a>	<a href="#">TTUHSC @Lubbock</a>	<a href="#">UH @ Sugar Land</a>	<a href="#">UIW</a>	<a href="#">UTHSC @SA</a>
<b>Classes begin</b>	May	May	January, May, & August	May	January	May	August	February, June, & September	August & January	January	January	January, May, & August	May
<b>Months to complete</b>	15	12	16	15	15	16	16	16	16	12	12	16	15
<b>Admission Exam</b>	TEAS	HESI	TEAS	HESI	HESI	HESI	HESI	TEAS	HESI	TEAS	HESI	TEAS	TEAS
<b>Location</b>	San Angelo	Dallas	Austin	Wichita Falls	Round Rock	Corpus Christi	Ft. Worth	Seguin	El Paso	Lubbock	Sugar Land	San Antonio	San Antonio

The accelerated program requires a bachelor's degree, completion of their schools' core curriculum, and their programs pre-nursing prerequisite courses.

<b>Prereqs</b>													
A&P I/II	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CHEM I	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Micro-biology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NUTR	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PSYC/PBSI (Intro)	✓	✓		✓	✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PSYC/PBSI (Lifespan)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SOCI (Intro)		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
STAT	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Add'l Prereqs	Research Methodology	See footnote 1	Medical Spanish for Healthcare Professionals	Patho-physiology	Intro Biology I & Ethics <sup>2</sup>	See footnote 3	Patho-physiology	Patho-physiology	Patho-physiology	Patho-physiology & see footnote 4			CHEM II & Ethics

<sup>1</sup>Baylor 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.

<sup>2</sup>Texas A&M also requires Intro Biology I and an Ethics course. They will take core humanity in place of ethics or an additional social science (PSYC, SOCI) in place of general psychology if degree conferred.

<sup>3</sup>Texas A&M CC will accept either Intro to SOCI or Intro to PSYC, and they encourage a medical terminology course.

<sup>4</sup>Texas Tech HSC in Lubbock also requires an Intro Nursing course and Comm. in Nursing.

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

## Texas Registered Nursing programs:

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

**Required Admission Test: H = HESI; T = TEAS; E = Either; G = GRE; \*Second Degree Programs offered; FP: For Profit**

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