I. Introduction

This document has been prepared to ensure prospective Del Mar College Registered Nurse Education students receive accurate information and understand the requirements for admission to the nursing program. Prior to enrolling in classes, it is highly recommended that students meet with a Nurse Education Faculty Advisor who can answer program related questions, provide students with Registered Nurse Education Degree Plans and assist them with course selections for registration. Students may make an appointment with a Department of Nursing Education (DNE) Faculty Advisor by calling 361-698-2860. Additionally, students can request an advising appointment by completing the Department of Nurse Education Advising request form found here: Nurse Education Advising Request Form.

Prospective nursing students must meet the minimum REM assessment levels of Reading (R) = 3, English (E) = 3 and Math (M) = 1 to be eligible to enroll Nurse Education pre-requisite and co-requisite courses. Students who do not meet these REM requirements may contact the Student Enrollment Center (SEC) at 361-698-1740 for advising on developmental courses needed to meet the minimum REM levels.

II. Admission Requirements Prior to Application

Students must meet the following criteria prior to applying to the Del Mar College Department of Nurse Education (DNE) Registered Nurse Education Program:

A. Students must be currently enrolled as a student at Del Mar College. Information regarding admission to Del Mar College can be found here: Becoming a Del Mar Student

B. Students must have completed all pre-requisite coursework with a minimum grade of C or better before the start of classes. Pre-requisite courses are as follows:

- ENGL 1301 Composition I
- BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I
- PSYC 2301 General Psychology
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II

Notes:
1. Students may apply to the program if they have completed ENGL 1301 and BIOL 2401 and have completed or are currently attending BIOL 2402 and PSYC 2301 at the time of application.
2. BIOL 2402 must have been completed within the five-year period prior to admission. Otherwise, student will be required to repeat the course prior to the start of classes.

C. Students must pass the Health Education System Incorporated Admission Assessment (HESI A2) with a score of 75 or higher in all required sections. Information about the HESI A2 exam can be found here: HESI Exam Guidance Document.

D. Students must have an overall Program GPA of 2.5 or higher at time of application.

E. Students must meet recommended standards for immunizations for Health Professions Personnel prior to applying to the nursing program. Additionally, students must submit documentation of the following immunizations (or other acceptable proof of immunity) in their NursingCAS applications:
1. Hepatitis B. Students are required to have completed the Hepatitis B vaccine series prior to admission. This series takes 6 months to complete, therefore documentation of at least the first dose is required at time of application. The entire series must be complete before the start of classes.

2. Tetanus-diphtheria. One dose of a tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) is required within the last ten years. The booster dose may be in the form of a tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis containing vaccine (Tdap).

3. Varicella. Students are required to have received one dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine on or after the student's first birthday or, if the first dose was administered on or after the student's thirteenth birthday, two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine are required. If a student has previously had Varicella (chickenpox) disease the student will need to submit Verification of Immunity/History of Illness to the nursing office.

4. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella. If a student has their immunization record and this record reflects two doses of MMR vaccine then the student is in compliance with all of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella requirements. If a student does not have two documented doses of MMR they will need to ensure that they meet the minimum requirement:
   a. Measles: Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968 (preferably MMR vaccine).
   b. Mumps: Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of a mumps vaccine. Serological lab showing proof of immunity is acceptable.
   c. Rubella: Students must show acceptable evidence of one dose of rubella vaccine.

   For Measles, Rubella, Mumps, Hepatitis B and/or Varicella, serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps and varicella consist of a laboratory report at the student’s expense that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection (commonly known as TITER test).

F. Must have successfully completed a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) or Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) training course. Acceptable documentation includes one of the following:

1. Copy of current CNA or CMA certification (cannot be expired); or

2. Documentation of completion of a recognized CNA or CMA program within the two (2) year period immediately prior to the student's anticipated admission date. Recognized CNA programs include Nurse Aide Training and Competency Evaluation Programs (NATCEP) approved by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). Recognized CMA programs include those accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) or by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES).

   Students applying to a Fall semester (January 31st deadline) may apply to the nursing program prior to completion of a required training CNA or CMA course with the condition that they successfully complete and submit appropriate documentation of completion to the nursing department by July 15th of the application year. Students applying for a Spring semester (July 31st deadline) must submit documentation at the time of application.
Exemptions from the CNA or CMA requirement may be given to applicants currently or previously employed in other medical professions that require direct hands-on patient care, i.e. surgical technicians, hospital patient care technicians, military corpsmen or medics, etc. To be considered for an exemption, applicants must submit documentation of work history with a summary of work experience to the nursing department for review and approval prior to submittal of their application. Please contact the nursing department at (361) 698-2613 for submission instructions.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Satisfactory compliance with the abovementioned minimum application requirements does not guarantee admission to the Del Mar Nursing Program.

### III. Admission Requirements After Acceptance

Students must meet the following criteria after acceptance, but prior to admission, to the DNE Registered Nurse Education Program: Students must meet the following criteria after acceptance, but prior to admission, to the DNE Registered Nurse Education Program:

A. Must meet REM assessment levels of Reading (R) = 3, English (E) = 3 and Math (M) = 3

B. Must complete and submit documentation of following as directed by the nursing department:

1. **Physical Examination**

   Evidence of good physical and mental health through a health screening documented on the standard departmental physical examination. Please note that failure to reveal a pre-existing physical or mental illness could result in dismissal from the nursing program.

2. **Negative PPD, chest X-ray with the last 12 months or other acceptable documentation of negative TB status.**

   Students with a positive PPD and a negative chest X-ray on admission into the program must complete a TB screening questionnaire annually while enrolled in the program. Students whose responses indicate possibility of TB infection must submit documentation of medical evaluation and treatment, if applicable. Students with a negative PPD on admission who convert to positive while enrolled in the program must submit documentation of medical evaluation and treatment.

   Other acceptable blood tests for documentation of TB health status include QuantiFERON®–TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and T-SPOT®.TB test (T-Spot)

   - **Positive IGRA:** A positive test result suggests that TB infection is likely. Additional testing is necessary and includes checking for signs and symptoms suggestive of TB disease, a chest x-ray, and, when indicated, examination of sputum or other clinical samples for the presence of TB.

   - **Negative IGRA:** A negative test suggests that infection by TB bacteria is not likely. No additional testing is necessary.

   A Negative PPD, or other acceptable test documenting negative TB health status, is required yearly thereafter by each student while enrolled in the program.
3. CPR Certification

Student must submit documentation of American Heart Association BLS Provider or American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers certification prior to admission. CPR Certification must be kept during the entirety of the nursing program.

4. Criminal Background Check

Verification of completion and clearance of the BON DPS/FBI Criminal Background Check. Students will be given specific instructions on how to obtain a criminal background check once admitted to the program.

Nursing applicants who have been arrested, convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized in the past five years for schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorders, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder, or addicted to or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug within the past five years, must petition the Texas Board of Nursing for a declaratory order concerning their eligibility to take the licensing examination, the NCLEX-RN. The Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) can be reached at 512-305-7400. The application for a declaratory order can be downloaded from the TBON website at http://www.bne.state.tx.us/forms_declaratory_order.asp. This declaratory order must be completed and cleared before the student starts the nursing program. A clearance from the Texas Board of Nursing is required prior to the enrollment in program courses. If a student does not receive TBON written clearance prior to the start of classes they will have one year to return to the program. After one year the student must reapply.

5. Pre-Admission Weaver Reading Assessment

All students are required to take the Weaver Reading Program Placement Assessment to determine their current reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge levels prior to admission. The assessment costs approximately $50 (paid by the student) and will be given on campus after acceptance to the nursing program.

If the placement assessment indicates a student falls below the required thresholds in either subject, an individualized Weaver Reading Program lesson plan will be developed for the student. The lesson plan will include required assignments that must be completed prior to admission. The Weaver Reading Program is designed to help student build a strong general and nursing vocabulary in addition to reinforcing reading skills.

6. Drug Screen

Students are required to pass a random drug screen prior to the beginning of clinical rotations. Details on the drug screen will be provided after students are accepted to the nursing program.

7. Flu Vaccine

While enrolled in the nursing program, students must receive and submit documentation of having received a seasonal flu vaccine annually. Additionally, student must submit evidence of current compliance with all health requirements to the nursing office. Professional documentation is required for medical contraindications to the health requirements.
IV. Application Guidelines

Students are accepted to the DNE Registered Nurse Education Program for admission during Fall and Spring semesters. The deadline for admission in a Fall Semester is January 31st of the same year. The deadline for admission to a Spring Semester is July 31st of the previous year.

All prospective nursing students must complete and submit applications for admission to the DNE Registered Nurse Education Program online through NursingCAS.org. NursingCAS is a third-party unbiased application service and is not affiliated with Del Mar College.

To begin your application, go to www.NursingCAS.org and following the instructions given below:

1. Select “Apply Now” to initiate your application.
2. Select “Create Account” (or sign-in if you already have an existing account)
3. Select the appropriate Del Mar College Department of Nurse Education program from the “Full Programs List”.
4. Complete all sections and upload required documentation, as applicable.
5. Pay the required fee. The fee must be paid to submit your application to Del Mar.

**VERY IMPORTANT NursingCAS Transcript Requirements:**

- Applicant transcript entry (in the Academic History section of Nursing CAS) should be completed using OFFICIAL transcripts and must include ALL of your college level coursework (including non-nursing program and in-progress coursework). Using online and/or unofficial transcripts could result in an incomplete application and potential denial to the nursing program.

- Students must request official transcripts be sent directly to NursingCAS from your school’s Registrar’s Office as indicated on the NursingCAS Transcript Request Form.

- NursingCAS does not accept transcripts stamped “Issued to Student”.

- **DO NOT have official transcripts sent the Del Mar College Department of Nurse Education.**

- Transcripts from international institutions must be evaluated by a transcript evaluation service, World Education Services or Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. Foreign evaluations should be mailed to NursingCAS at the address above.

Monitoring the Status of Your Application:

The “View My Notifications” section of the NursingCAS application will include any messages that NursingCAS or a school has sent to you. Messages will be sent to the “View My Notifications” inbox and your personal email address associated with your NursingCAS account.

Use the “Manage My Programs” option to check the status of your application including Transcripts, References, and Programs Selected. You can access your “Program Status” page in the “Manage My Programs” section of NursingCAS at NursingCAS Program Status (when logged into your account).

For more information, students may visit NursingCAS FAQs.
V. Selection Process

A. Admission Point System

Selection of students for admission to the Del Mar Department of Nurse Education’s nursing program is conducted utilizing an Admission Points system as follows:

1. **PGPA Points** are calculated by multiplying the number of completed pre-requisites and co-requisites courses by the student’s PGPA.

2. **HESI Points** are determined from the HESI A² section score calculation as detailed in the HESI Guidance Document.

3. **Bonus Admission Points** may be earned as follows:

4. Three (3) Bonus Admission Points may be earned if a student passes all required sections of the HESI A² exam on the student’s first attempt.

5. HPRS 1106 Medical Terminology and HPRS 1204 Basic Health Professional Skills are not required, however students may earn two (2) Bonus Admission Points if both courses are completed within the two-year period immediately prior to the application deadline.

6. Two (2) Bonus Admission Points may be earned for completion of PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development with a C or better prior to the application deadline.

7. Two (2) Bonus Admission Points may be earned for completion of MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods with a C or better prior to the application deadline.

8. One (1) Bonus Admission Point (up to seven (7) total) may be earned for each additional general education course completed (with a C or better) on the BSN Pathway Education Plan (AA-RN) prior to the application deadline.

**Total Admission Points = PGPA Points + HESI Points + Bonus Admission Points**

Students may calculate their program GPA and potential admission points using the spreadsheet found here: [Program GPA and Admission Points Calculator](#)

B. Admission Class Selection

A minimum of 95% of each new admission class is selected from Registered Nurse Education applicants with 5% reserved for Vocational Nurse Education applicants (Fall Admission Only).