Vocational Nurse Education
Admission Requirements, Application Guidelines
& Selection Process

Introduction

This document has been prepared to ensure prospective Del Mar College Vocational 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 Vocational 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.

Admission Requirements

Students must meet all of the following criteria prior to admission into the Del Mar Department of Nursing Program:

- 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
- 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.

- 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
- Must have an overall Program GPA of 2.5 or higher at time of application
- Must comply with applicable health requirements
- Must pass a random drug screen
- Must pass a criminal background check
PLEASE NOTE: Beginning with the Fall 2018 Admission Class and continuing with all admission classes thereafter (application deadlines of January 31, 2018 and after), all applicants must have current Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) certification or must have completed a CNA program within the two-year period prior to admission. A student may also apply to the nursing program if they are currently enrolled in and then successfully completes a CNA program prior to the start of classes. Information about Del Mar College’s CNA program can be found here: Certified Nurse Aide Training Program

Satisfactory compliance with these minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the Del Mar Nursing Program.

Health Requirements

All students are required to meet recommended standards for immunizations for Health Professions Personnel. Students must submit record of the following immunizations in the NursingCAS application.

A. Hepatitis B Vaccine. Students are required to have completed the hepatitis B vaccine series prior to the start of nursing school. Please keep in mind that this series may take up to 6 months to complete.

B. 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).

C. Varicella Vaccine. 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.

D. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella Vaccines. 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:

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. 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).

Upon conditional acceptance and prior to admission to the nursing program student must submit the following:
1. Health Screening on a standard departmental physical examination form to provide evidence of good physical and mental health. Failure to reveal prior or present physical or emotional illness will place a student as subject to dismissal. While information will be held in confidence there are certain circumstances that, for the student's protection as well as others, make health information disclosure a necessity.

2. Negative PPD or chest X-ray with the last 12 months.
   - 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. Current documentation of CPR certification (American Heart Association BLS for Healthcare Providers or American Red Cross CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers and Health Care Providers) during the entirety of their nursing education. Additionally, all students must

   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.

   If there are further questions regarding these requirements, please call 361-698-2860 or 361-698-2863.

   **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.
Criminal Background Check through the Texas Board of Nursing

After conditional acceptance but prior to admission, each student must submit record of the following to comply with clinical agency requirements:

A. 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.

B. 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.

Application Guidelines

Students are accepted to the Vocational Nurse Education Program for admission during Fall semesters only. The deadline for admission in a Fall Semester is January 31st of the same year.

All prospective nursing students must complete and submit applications to the Del Mar Nursing Program online through www.NursingCAS.org

- Select “Apply Now” to initiate your application.
- Select “Create Account” (or sign-in if you already have an existing account)
- Select the appropriate Del Mar College Department of Nurse Education program from the “Full Programs List” section of the NursingCAS application. Note: Students may only apply to one (1) Del Mar College Nursing Program during an application cycle.
- Pay the required fee. The fee must be paid to submit your application to Del Mar.

A step-by-step guide to assist students with completing the application can be found here: Del Mar NursingCAS Application Guide

IMPORTANT Information Concerning 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”. Additionally, do NOT have official transcripts sent the Del Mar College Nursing Department.

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.

Monitor 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 that you created your account with.

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)

Note: You must submit your application to monitor to the status. For visual instructions, visit [NursingCAS Status Checks](#) (when logged into your account).

NursingCAS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are posted here: [NursingCAS FAQs](#).

Selection Process

Admission Points

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:

- PGPA Points are calculated by multiplying the number of completed pre-requisites and co-requisites courses by the student’s PGPA.
- HESI Points are determined from the HESI A² section score calculation as detailed in the HESI Guidance Document
- Bonus Admission Points may be earned as follows:
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Two (2) Bonus Admission Points may be earned for completion of PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development prior to the application deadline.
  - Documentation of current CNA certification is worth three (3) Bonus Admission Points (Note: Beginning with the Fall 2018 Admission Class and continuing with all admission classes thereafter, all applicants must have current Certified Nurse’s
Aide (CNA) certification or must have completed a CNA course within the two-year period prior to admission and these bonus admission points will no longer apply.)

**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 & Admission Points Calculation Worksheet*

**Admission Class Selection**

Each new admission class is selected as follows:

1. A minimum of 95% is selected from Registered Nurse Education applicants
2. 5% is reserved for Vocational Nurse Education applicants