

# Vocational Nurse Education Admission Requirements, Application Guidelines & Selection Process

## I. 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](https://apps.delmar.edu/survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=ml53374#) (https://apps.delmar.edu/survey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=ml53374#)

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 DNE Vocational Nurse Education Program:

- A. Students must be currently enrolled as a student at Del Mar College. For more information go to: [Becoming A Viking](http://www.delmar.edu/becoming-a-viking/index.html) (http://www.delmar.edu/becoming-a-viking/index.html)
- B. Students must have completed all pre-requisite courses **AND** must have a Program Grade Points Average (PGPA) of 2.5 or higher at time of application.
  1. Pre-requisite courses are as follows:
    - ENGL 1301 Composition I
    - BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
    - PSYC 2301 General Psychology
    - BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
  2. Pre-requisite and co-requisite courses used to calculate a student's PGPA are as follows:
    - ENGL 1301 Composition I
    - PSYC 2301 General Psychology
    - PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics
    - BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
    - BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
    - SPCH 13xx Communications Core Elective
  3. Notes:
    - a. Students must make a grade of C or better in all pre-requisite and co-requisite coursework.

- b. Due to the program's highly selective admission criteria, the most recent grades (not the highest) for all courses are used for admission purposes and in calculation of a student's PGPA.
  - c. Completion of co-requisite courses is not required prior to admission. However, if a course has been completed by the student with a grade of C or better, it will be used in the PGPA calculation for admission purposes.
- C. Students must pass the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) as detailed in the guidance document found here: [ATI TEAS Guidance Document](http://www.delmar.edu/degrees/nursing-education/_resources/ati_texas_guidance.pdf) ([http://www.delmar.edu/degrees/nursing-education/\\_resources/ati\\_texas\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.delmar.edu/degrees/nursing-education/_resources/ati_texas_guidance.pdf)).

(NOTE: Students who previously passed the HESI A<sup>2</sup> prior to September 1, 2018 may use their passing HESI A<sup>2</sup> scores to apply to the nursing program within the one (1) year period from the date they pass the HESI A<sup>2</sup> exam. However, if a student chooses to take the ATI TEAS, their previous HESI A<sup>2</sup> scores will become null and void.)

- D. 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 or the Texas Department of State Health Services Documenting History of Illness: Varicella (Chickenpox) form found here: [Texas DSHS History of Illness form](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/docs/c-9.doc) (<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/immunize/docs/c-9.doc>).
  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).

**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 Vocational 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 clearance from Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) DPS/FBI Criminal Background Check is required prior to the enrollment in program courses. Students will be given specific instructions on how to initiate the criminal background check after acceptance to the nursing 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, may be required to petition the TBON for a declaratory order concerning their eligibility to take the licensing examination. If a declaratory order is necessary, students will be sent instructions by TBON after acceptance to the nursing program.

If a student does not receive TBON written clearance prior to the start of classes, they will have one year to obtain clearance and return to the program. After one year the student must reapply.

#### 5. Pre-Admission Academic Assessments

##### a. Weaver Reading Program Automatic Placement Test

All students are required to take the Weaver Reading Program Automatic Placement Test to determine their current reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge levels prior to admission.

If the placement test indicates a student falls below the required 10<sup>th</sup> Grade reading level, 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.

##### b. ATI Anatomy & Physiology Assessment

All students are required to take an Anatomy & Physiology assessment exam prior to admission. If a student does not successfully pass the Anatomy & Physiology assessment exam the student will be placed on an individualized lesson plan with assignments that must be completed prior to admission and registration of courses. The assessment costs \$20 (paid by the student) and will be given on campus after acceptance to the nursing program

#### 6. Compliance Tracker and Drug Screen

The Department of Nurse Education contracts with CastleBranch Corporation, a third-party compliance and screening company, to oversee drug testing and provide for electronic tracking of nursing program admission requirements. Student accounts cost \$85, paid by the student. The \$85 fee includes the mandatory drug screen and lifetime access to important student records including, but not limited to, physicals, CPR cards, immunizations and TB Tests.

Students are required to pass a random drug screen prior to the beginning of clinical rotations. Details regarding the drug screen and CastleBranch student accounts 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 31<sup>st</sup> of the same year. The deadline for admission to a Spring Semester is July 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year.

All prospective Del Mar College nursing students must complete and submit applications for admission to the nursing program through NursingCAS. NursingCAS is an internet based, third party application service and is not affiliated with Del Mar College.

The links below are provided to assist students with completing applications.

[NursingCAS Homepage](http://www.nursingcas.org) (www.nursingcas.org)

[Preparing to Apply with NursingCAS](http://www.nursingcas.org/prepare-to-apply/) (http://www.nursingcas.org/prepare-to-apply/)

[NursingCAS Application Instructions](http://www.nursingcas.org/application-instructions) (http://www.nursingcas.org/application-instructions)

[NursingCAS Applicant Help Center](https://help.liasionedu.com/NursingCAS_Applicant_Help_Center) (https://help.liasionedu.com/NursingCAS\_Applicant\_Help\_Center)

If an applicant has additional questions regarding the NursingCAS website or completing the online application, contact NursingCAS Customer Service using one of the following:

Phone: (617) 612-2880

Email: [nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org](mailto:nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org)

[Contact Form](https://www.nursingcas.org/contact/#contactform) (https://www.nursingcas.org/contact/#contactform)

Applicants must provide their NursingCAS ID Number and name in all communication. Allow up to 3 business days for NursingCAS to respond to your inquiry. NursingCAS will only discuss an application with the applicant. NursingCAS staff will not discuss an application with a parent, spouse, relative, friend, or employer.

## 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. Program Grade Point Average (PGPA) Points

PGPA Points are calculated by multiplying the number of completed nursing pre-requisites and co-requisites courses (See Section II.B.2) by the student's PGPA. (Students may request a copy of the DNE PGPA Calculator by emailing [NurseEd@delmar.edu](mailto:NurseEd@delmar.edu).)

## 2. Bonus Admission Points

Bonus Admission Points include ATI TEAS Points, Direct Care Points and Pathway Points combined as detailed below.

### a. ATI TEAS Points

Students may earn up to four (4) ATI TEAS Points toward their Total Admission Points based on their **TOTAL** score as shown on their ATI TEAS Individual Performance Profile report as follows:

<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Academic Preparedness Level</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
78.0 – 90.0%	Advanced	2
90.7 – 100.0%	Exemplary	4

### b. Direct Patient Care Points

Students who have direct patient care training or work experience may earn Direct Patient Care (DPC) Points as follows:

- Four (4) DPC Points may be earned if a student is currently certified as a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) or Certified Medical Assistant (CMA) (cannot be expired) AND has a minimum of one (1) year work experience as a CNA or CMA.
- Three (3) DPC Points may be earned if a student has completed a Recognized CNA or CMA training program within the two (2) year period immediately prior to the student's anticipated admission date.
- Two (2) DPC Points may be earned if a student has completed an Allied Health Profession or EMT/Paramedic program AND has a minimum of one (1) year work experience in chosen field.

To qualify for DPC Points, applicants must provide verifiable documentation within their NursingCAS application.

Military veterans with previous direct patient care experience that do not fit in the criteria detailed above may also qualify for DPC Points. Please contact Dr. DeLeon at [vdeleon@delmar.edu](mailto:vdeleon@delmar.edu) or Dr. McWha at [jmcwha2@delmar.edu](mailto:jmcwha2@delmar.edu) for more information.

### c. Pathway Points

Students may earn Pathway Points as follows:

- Two (2) Pathway Points are earned for completion of HPRS 2201 Pathophysiology with a C or better within the two-year period immediately prior to the application deadline.
- Two (2) Pathway Points are earned for completion of PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development with a C or better prior to the application deadline.
- Two (2) Pathway Points are earned for completion of MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods with a C or better prior to the application deadline.

- Two (2) Pathway Points are earned for completion of BIOL 1322 Nutrition & Diet Therapy a C or better prior to the application deadline.
- One (1) Pathway Point (up to seven (7) total) may be earned for each additional general education course completed, with a C or better, as shown on the Associate of Arts: Nurse Education degree plan (ERGN.AA) prior to the application deadline.

#### B. Admission Class Selection

Students are ranked for admission from highest to lowest based on Total Admission Points (PGPA Points + Bonus Points).

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

Students are notified of admission decisions via NursingCAS E-mail approximately 8 weeks after each application deadline.