
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

MISSION

The mission of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is to educate the health care providers of today and leaders of tomorrow through the provision of excellent educational programs in the professions of nursing and the health sciences. The College identifies, attracts, and graduates students of high potential, especially those from groups who have been historically under represented in Texas health care. This mission is enhanced through faculty contributions to community service, leadership, practice, and research. These responsibilities are fostered within an interdisciplinary college by promoting a sense of community and caring, and through a system of shared governance.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences Goals

The goals of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences assist the College in implementing the university and college missions:

1. To develop within the student the knowledge and skills necessary for beginning professional and advanced nursing practice, cultivating basic and specialized abilities needed to successfully pursue a career.
2. To promote the concept of nursing as caring and facilitate attainment of a care delivery system sensitive to multicultural communities and their health values.
3. To offer individuals the opportunity to increase the breadth and depth of the theoretical base for nursing practice, enhance and expand competence, prepare for role specialization and contribute to the discovery of new nursing knowledge.
4. To provide an educational environment of respect within which students may evolve as broadly educated, responsible and accountable professionals dedicated to the principles of lifelong learning.
5. To build a foundation for graduate education.
6. To serve the community as nursing experts, leaders and consultants in professional organizations, health promoters, providers of health care policy information and advocates of ethical distribution and usage of resources.

Undergraduate Degrees

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers course work leading to the following undergraduate degrees:

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS)

Health Sciences

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS) prepares graduates for a variety of career opportunities in the health care field by providing the management skills necessary for success. By designing a degree plan using electives in such areas as computer science, geographic information systems, mathematics, business administration, accounting, international business, and information systems, the student may pursue specific areas of interest. Students can also use electives to design a degree plan that will satisfy entrance requirements for admission to professional schools such as medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, public health, law, and business.

The expected outcomes required for the effective health administrator include the ability to:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of the health care delivery system from a historical, comparative, economic, cultural and ethical perspective.

- Employ a variety of business and management skills and techniques including marketing, financial management, law and information management to effectively and efficiently advance the goals of the organization.
- Demonstrate creativity in defining, negotiating and solving problems.
- Communicate and educate, using the most current information and communication technology.

Program Requirements for Health Sciences

All of the following requirements MUST be completed and turned into the appropriate persons into personnel located in FC 151 BEFORE the practicum is begun. Students who do not have the following completed will not be able to participate in HLSC 4680.

Joint Commission, the health care institutional accrediting body, requires care giving institutions to follow specific guidelines for staff and students including but not limited to

- 2008/2009 Standard: IC.1.10 1. An organization wide IC program is implemented.
- 2008 Standard IC. 1.10 The risk of development of a health care-associated infection is minimized through an organization wide infection control program.
- 2005 Standard HR.1.20 for staff, students and volunteers who work in the same capacity as staff who provide care, treatment, and services, at EP 5 states criminal background checks are verified when required by law and regulation and organization policy (<http://www.jointcommission.org/>).

The Texas Department of State Health Services has specific immunization requirements for students involved with direct patient contact and are stated in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64, include the following: (for additional information, please see the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, which is accessible at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml>).

Direct patient care is defined by DSHS, for purposes of this rule, as students whose course work involves contact with patients in a manner that can result in direct contact with blood, blood-contaminated body fluids, or other bodily fluids from the patient. This definition is available at http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/school/hepB_Policy.pdf

HLSC student practicum experiences are to assist the student in meeting program goals as identified above. Direct patient care that would involve contact with patient body fluids is neither warranted nor appropriate.

To meet the organizational requirements and facilitate student progress toward goal attainment through practica experiences in a health care system, the following are required prior to beginning the practica experience:

- DRIVERS LICENSE
 - o Date Verification (No Numbers please)
- HEALTH INFORMATION
 - o Date of Last PPD (Within The Past Year)
 - o Hepatitis B Vaccine Confirmation Date
 - o Declined Date of Hepatitis B
 - o MMR Immunizations
 - o Varicella Titer Or Positive History Date
- EDUCATION
 - o City Wide Orientation Completion Date AND/OR Hospital Orientation Date
- BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION
 - o Social Security Number Date Verification (No SSN's to be released)
 - o Criminal Search Date: Up to 7 years, or Up to 5 searches
 - o Date of HHS/OIG/GSA List of Excluded Individuals
 - o Date of Texas HHS List of Excluded Individuals
 - o Date of Violation Sexual Offender & Predator Registry

Verification of completion of the above must be presented by the student to the personnel in FC 150 prior to beginning HLSC 4680: Practicum.

BSHS Graduation Requirements

Degree Requirements

	Sem. Hrs.
A. Transfer Coursework*	84
B. Health Science Major	36
Total	120

* Students must have all core curriculum and supporting courses completed before admittance into the program. This includes a completed Core Curriculum, 18-22 hours of a specialization area, and 14-18 hours of other electives.

Health Science Major

	Credits
HLSC 3300 The Health Care Systems	3 hrs.
HLSC 3310 Epidemiology	3 hrs.
HLSC 3320 Marketing & Transcultural Health Care	3 hrs.
HLSC 3330 Financial Management in Health Care	3 hrs.
HLSC 3340 Quantitative Methods in Health Care	3 hrs.
HLSC 3350 Information Systems and Technology in Health Care	3 hrs.
HLSC 3370 Complementary & Alternative Medicine	3 hrs.
HLSC 4300 Management & Organization Behavior	3 hrs.
HLSC 4310 Health Law	3 hrs.
HLSC 4340 Quality Management & Evaluation in Health Care	3 hrs.
HLSC 4680 Practicum	6 hrs.
Total	36 hrs.

Specialization Area

Students may complete a designated minor in the following areas:

Geographic Information Systems	22 hrs.
Computer Science	22 hrs.
Mathematics	18 hrs.
Business Administration	18 hrs.
Accounting	18 hrs.
Economics	18 hrs.
International Business	18 hrs.
Management Information Systems	18 hrs.

With approval, students can design a degree plan with an interdisciplinary area of specialization (22 hrs) or use electives to satisfy pre-professional school requirements.

Health Science Minor

Students majoring in other academic fields who wish to earn a minor in Health Science must complete the following courses:

	Credits
HLSC 3300 The Health Care Systems	3 hrs.
HLSC 3310 Epidemiology	3 hrs.
HLSC 3350 Information Systems and Technology in Health Care	3 hrs.
HLSC 4310 Health Law	3 hrs.
HLSC Electives	6 hrs.
Total	18 hrs.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

All course descriptions are located in one section near the back of the catalog.

Nursing

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The philosophical foundations of the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Baccalaureate Nursing Program are based on the belief that caring is the essence of nursing. Students are unique individuals with differing backgrounds, needs and interests, and have the freedom and responsibility to make considered choices. Nursing faculty subscribe to the belief that professional nurses must have a solid foundation in the arts, sciences and humanities that provides a reservoir of knowledge from which to draw when making critical clinical decisions in the roles of care provider or care coordinator (A.A.C.N., *Essentials of Baccalaureate Nursing*, 1998). To this purpose, baccalaureate students complete 66 semester hours in the liberal arts. In addition, they complete 60 semester hours in the nursing courses. Total program hours = 126.

The Nursing Program provides a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through two options:

1. Generic baccalaureate nursing education for the individual who wishes to earn the BSN degree while preparing to become a Registered Nurse (RN).
2. RN-BSN Completion for the RN who wishes to build upon previous education and earn a baccalaureate degree.

The expected outcomes for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing are that graduates will:

- Incorporate the philosophy, “Caring is the Essence of Nursing” into nursing practice.
- Practice nursing utilizing the nursing process and other systematic approaches derived from the sciences and liberal arts to promote optimum health for individuals, families and communities from diverse populations.
- Communicate and collaborate purposefully, using creative approaches that acknowledge interdependent roles and relationships.
- Demonstrate leadership through the application and utilization of theories for the improvement and enhancement of care and health status.
- Display critical thinking and independent decision-making that utilize and apply theory and research in practice.
- Show awareness of political, ethical and social issues; accountability for professional practice and commitment for continuing professional development.
- Accept nursing leadership roles that respond to a changing society and health care delivery system.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120, telephone (202) 887-6791 for a term of ten years until June 30, 2016 and the Texas Board of Nursing, 333 Guadalupe St, Suite #3-460, Austin, TX 78701 telephone (512) 305-7400. The objectives of the program are published in the *College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook*, which may be found at <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/>.

The Texas Board of Nursing requires disclosure of criminal history or disciplinary action and an FBI background check before licensure is granted. In order to promote the safety of the clients in their care and to meet the requirements of the BON and affiliated clinical agencies, students will complete the background check before acceptance to the program is granted. See the BON web site <http://www.bne.state.tx.us> for the statutes and rules regulating licensure.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

A. Generic (Basic) Option:

1. For those seeking entrance into the nursing major, the admission procedure is competitive. Admission to the program is three times a year – fall, spring and summer. Three tract options are available – generic, accelerated, and eLine. Spring and summer admissions include the accelerated tract (students who have already received a bachelor degree) as well as the generic option. eLine is an online option designed to be self-paced. A course must be completed within three academic semesters (for specific progression information See College of Nursing & Health Sciences Student Handbook <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook>).

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi sophomores and transfer students will be accepted based on their grade point average for the last 60 credit hours. No “D” or “F” grades will be accepted for transfer credit. Science courses may not be older than 7 years. Those students seeking admission to the nursing program must contact the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to obtain materials to complete the application process. The application process is as follows:

- a. Students must complete a written application to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences See College of Nursing and Health Sciences web page for admission deadlines <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/>. If the student is not already enrolled at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the student must also apply to the University for admission. Admission to the University DOES NOT constitute admission to the nursing program.
 - b. The admissions committee meets in three times a year to review applications and to make recommendations.
 - c. Notification of the results of the admission review is mailed to students. Admission to the program is conditional pending submission of the background check, proof of vaccination status, and possession of a current CPR card .
 - d. Pre-nursing courses may be continued in the spring and summer semester prior to the junior year. A GPA of 3.0 must be maintained during this period and is conditional to final admission.
2. Minimal overall GPA for admission to the major is 3.0. Freshmen generally declare pre-nursing as their intended course of study. Prior to registration, students need to contact the nursing academic advisor to assist in degree planning.
 3. Freshmen and sophomores enrolled as pre-nursing students must complete the University Core Curriculum Program (47 semester hours) and required science support courses prior to admission to the nursing major. Additionally, validation or course work in computer literacy is required for admission to the major. Please see “University Core Curriculum Programs” in this catalog for information on core curriculum requirements. See “Degree Requirements” in the “Undergraduate Programs” section of this catalog for information on computer literacy requirements. In the areas of science, mathematics, and social science, pre-nursing students should select the following core curriculum and support courses:

BIOL 1406	Biology I
BIOL 2420	Principles of Microbiology
CHEM 1311	General Chemistry I & CHEM 1111 General Chemistry Lab I
PSYC 2301	General Psychology
BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II
BIMS 3401	Pathophysiology or NURS 4322 Health Alterations
PSYC 2314	Life Span Developmental Psychology
MATH 1442	Statistics for Life

Students should consult the academic advisor and/or faculty advisor for additional information on core curriculum and support courses, including the sequence in which the courses should be taken. To lighten the academic load, it is suggested that some of these courses be taken in the summer sessions. Science courses may not be older than 7 years for generic BSN students.

4. A personal interview with the applicant may be requested.
5. Transfer students from another nursing school who have completed nursing courses over 2 years ago must validate completed course work or repeat the course. Additionally, students should provide nursing course descriptions from the college catalog and the course syllabi (must have at least the course objectives, course outline and a list of textbooks used) from the transferring college/school of nursing. Students should also submit a letter from the Dean or Director of the transferred nursing program indicating they are in good standing and eligible to return. Any student needing to validate courses must meet with the academic advisor who will forward materials to the Associate Dean.
6. Post-Baccalaureate students may progress through a compressed sequence of courses (Sequence in College of Nursing & Health Sciences Student Handbook <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/>.)
7. Eline students may take up to three academic semesters to complete a course (for specific progression information See College of Nursing & Health Sciences Student Handbook <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook>.)
8. Students may only apply for one track into the program. The students choice must be designated on the application.

B. RN-BSN Completion Option

1. This option is designed for RNs who have completed one of two types of Nursing Programs:
 - Completion of a nationally accredited associate degree nursing program.
 - Completion of a nationally accredited diploma school of nursing program.For students who are graduates of a non-accredited program, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Nursing and Health Sciences honors the Texas Nursing Articulation Model, the first voluntary statewide model for transitioning from one level of education to another without repetition in learning. The assumptions of the model that apply to graduates from non-accredited programs are the following: “5. Articulation without testing is an educationally and professionally sound practice based upon the accepted competencies; 6. Texas nurses seeking educational mobility demonstrate minimal competence on the basis of an official transcript(s) and a valid Texas license(s). (The Texas Nursing Articulation Model 1997-2000).”
2. A student receives 30 hours of credit from previous nursing courses, which is held in escrow until the student has successfully completed 12 hours of nursing courses.
3. The application process is as follows:
 - a. Provide evidence of current unencumbered Texas registered nurse license.
 - b. Attend a personal interview if requested.
 - c. Transfer credit if grade is C or better.
 - d. Have a grade point average of 2.5 (4.0 scale) or better in the last 60 hours of course work.

Students who are currently enrolled in their last semester of an associate nursing degree program may apply for admission. These students must take and pass the state board examination on the first date they are eligible. State board results are to be sent to the nursing academic advisor.

Associate degree students receiving conditional admission status may take up to 5 semester hours of selected nursing courses prior to full status admission. These courses include: NURS 4318 Nurse as Research Consumer (3), NURS 4250 Professional Nursing Issues (2), NURS 4390 Dimensions in Nursing (3), or NURS 3435 Health Assessment (4).

Program Requirements for All Undergraduate Students

A. The Texas Department of State Health Services has specific immunization requirements for students involved with direct patient contact. These requirements, as stated in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64, include the following:

- (1) "Students may be provisionally enrolled for up to one semester to allow students to attend classes while obtaining the required vaccines and acceptable evidence of vaccination."
- (2) "Students cannot be provisionally enrolled without at least one dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment period."
- (3) "Polio vaccine is not required. Students enrolled in health-related courses are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis"
- (4) "One dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) is required within the last ten years."
- (5) "Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968."
- (6) "Students must show, prior to patient contact acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of rubella vaccine."
- (7) "Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of mumps vaccine."
- (8) "Students shall receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus." (Additionally, the Nursing Program requires students to receive a complete series of hepatitis A vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis A virus.)
- (9) "Students shall receive two doses of varicella vaccine unless the first dose was received prior to thirteen years of age."

For additional information, please see the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, which is accessible at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml>. Please note that some hospitals have stricter requirements than the state minimum standards.

Rule 97.65 lists the following exceptions to the immunization requirements:

- (1) "Serologic confirmations of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella, are acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, or hepatitis B, or varicella illness must consist of a laboratory report that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection."
- (2) "A parent or physician validated history of varicella disease (chickenpox) or varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of vaccine. A written statement from a physician, or the student's parent or guardian, or school nurse, must support histories of varicella disease." (Immunizations are available for a nominal fee at the student health clinic for currently enrolled students and from the Public Health Department.)

B. Results of tuberculosis screening are required annually.

C. A copy of the student's current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) for Health Care Providers is required annually.

- D. All Students are required to complete a criminal background check through the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the time of acceptance into the program.
- E. Students are required to purchase professional liability coverage through the University. Fees for this coverage are included in the fees paid at the time of registration at the beginning of each academic year. (See *College of Nursing & Health Sciences Student Handbook* <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook>.)
- F. Medical insurance coverage is strongly recommended. The University and affiliating clinical agencies accept no responsibility for medical care sought as a result of accidents/incidents occurring during the course of nursing instruction or clinical assignments (See *College of Nursing & Health Sciences Student Handbook*: <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook>.)
- G. Students forced to interrupt their regular rotation for personal or academic reasons may be reinstated on a “place available” basis. Students must write a letter asking for readmission to the program. The academic advisor is available for assistance with this process. The Admissions and Progression Committee may admit a student conditionally if there is evidence of extenuating circumstances.

Graduation Requirements

A. Generic (Basic) Option	Sem. Hrs.
General Education/Support Courses	66
Upper-Division Nursing Major	61
Total	127

Nursing Competency Exit Examination

Generic BSN candidates for graduation are required to take this standardized Exit Exam in the last semester of their program of study. Students must pass the exam with a minimum score of 850 (the national standard) in order to graduate.

B. RN-BSN Completion Option

General Education/Support Courses	63
Nursing Validation/Articulation	30
Nursing Upper-Division Course Work	36
Total	129

Grading Policies: Progression, Retention and Dismissal

The following requirements refer to grading policies.

1. A scholastic grade point average of 2.25 is a minimum requirement in the upper-division nursing courses designated for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing. A minimum grade of C is required in all courses in the nursing major.
2. If a student earns a grade of D, F, or W in a nursing course, that course must be repeated. A course in which a grade of less than C (i.e., D, F, or W, Withdrawal) was earned may be repeated only once.
3. A student who has earned a grade of less than C (i.e., D, F, or W, Withdrawal) in two nursing courses or who has earned a grade of less than C (D, F, or W, Withdrawal) twice in the same nursing course will be dismissed from the nursing program.
4. Students receiving a grade of D, F, or W (Withdrawal) or I (Incomplete) in a nursing course may not progress to courses for which that course is a prerequisite.
5. Administration and faculty reserve the right to dismiss students without previous warning for unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior. The conduct of nursing students should meet ethical standards as defined by American Nurses Association (ANA) in the Code For Nurses. Personal integrity is reflected in professional judgments. Consequently, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for unprofessional or unsafe behavior. (See *College of*

Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook for further examples and to review the Academic Honesty and Professional Integrity Policy) <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook>

6. Following dismissal, students may apply for reinstatement to the nursing program. Reinstatement is competitive and based upon space availability.
7. Students must meet the standards for minimal performance and progression established by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (see the catalog section on Academic Policies and Regulations).
8. In order for students to progress through the program, they must be in compliance with immunizations/CPR and Hospital Orientation regulations. (See College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook for consequences for noncompliance to these policies.)

Advising

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this catalog. However, information is subject to change without notice. Therefore, students must consult with their Nursing Program advisors each semester prior to registration. Transfer students must meet with their advisors.

Students in the nursing majors are assigned a faculty mentor by the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. If for any reason the faculty mentor-student assignment is not effective, the student or the faculty member can request a change in assignment. Freshmen and sophomore students pursuing the pre-nursing curriculum are also assigned a nursing faculty mentor. The academic advisor for the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is available for advisement. Students must make appointments for advisement.

RN-MSN Option

See the Nursing section of the Graduate catalog.

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

All courses are located in one section near the back of the catalog.