

Vocational Nurse Education Admission Requirements, Application Guidelines & Selection Process

I. Introduction

This document has been prepared to ensure prospective Del Mar College Department of Nurse Education (DNE) licensed vocational nursing 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 DNE Faculty Advisor who can answer program related questions, provide students with a Licensed Vocational Nurse education plan and assist them with course selections for registration. Students may make an appointment with a 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 college readiness in Reading, English and Math prior to admission. Requirements may be found here: [Assessment Requirements - Del Mar College](https://www.delmar.edu/offices/testing/assessment-requirements.html) (https://www.delmar.edu/offices/testing/assessment-requirements.html)

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. PGPA will be calculated using the pre-requisite and co-requisite general education courses shown on the Registered Nurse Education degree plan, as follows:
 - ENGL 1301 Composition I
 - BIOL 2401 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
 - PSYC 2301 General Psychology
 - BIOL 2402 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
 - SPCH 13** Speech Elective (if complete)
 - PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics (if complete)
 2. 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.
 - d. If accepted to the nursing program, students must complete co-requisites before or during the semester they appear on the Vocational Nurse Education Certificate education plan. (Speech Elective prior to Level 3; Introduction to Ethics during Level 3).
- C. Students must pass the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (ATI TEAS) prior to applying to the nursing program. Information regarding the ATI TEAS can be found here: [ATI TEAS Information Page](https://www.delmar.edu/degrees/nursing-education/ati-teas.html) (<https://www.delmar.edu/degrees/nursing-education/ati-teas.html>).
- 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 two (2) doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. If a student has previously had Varicella (chickenpox) disease the student may 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.
 - b. Mumps: Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of a mumps vaccine.
 - c. Rubella: Students must show acceptable evidence of one dose of rubella vaccine.

For Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Hepatitis B and/or Varicella, serologic confirmation of immunity is acceptable. Confirmation should consist of a medical laboratory report that indicates immunity (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 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. Weaver Reading Program

Student success throughout the program is of highest importance. There is a high correlation between reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge and overall student success in the program. The Department of Nurse Education requires that all students selected for admission complete the Weaver Reading Program. This program helps identify areas that may need to be strengthened in reading comprehension and vocabulary knowledge. The Weaver Reading Program must be completed by the designated date, or the student will forfeit his/her acceptance into the nursing program.

6. Drug Screen

Students are required to pass a random drug screen prior to the beginning of the clinical experience in Level 1. Details regarding random drug screening during enrollment throughout the program will be provided during program orientation "Jump Start".

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 August 31st 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](https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/) (https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/)

[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.liaisonedu.com/NursingCAS_Applicant_Help_Center) (https://help.liaisonedu.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

[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 nursing program is conducted utilizing an Admission Points system as follows:

1. Program Grade Point Average (PGPA) Points

PGPA Points will be awarded based on the student's PGPA at the time of application, as follows:

3.50 - 4.00 = 10 points

3.00 - 3.49 = 8 points

2.75 - 2.99 = 5 points

2.50 - 2.74 = 3 points

Students may request a copy of the DNE PGPA Calculator by emailing NurseEd@delmar.edu.

2. Bonus Admission Points

a. Co-requisite Points

Students will be awarded one (1) point for each co-requisite course (Speech, Microbiology and/or Introduction to Ethics) complete with a C or better at the time of application, up to three (3) points total.

b. ATI TEAS Points

Students may earn up to ten (10) ATI TEAS Points based on their Academic Preparedness Level as shown on their Individual Performance Profile report as follows:

<u>Academic Preparedness Level</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Advanced	5
Exemplary	10

c. General Education Points

Students may earn up to five (5) points for completion of designated general education courses with a C or better as follows:

<u>General Education Course</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development	2
HPRS 2201 Pathophysiology	1
MATH 1342 Elementary Statistics	1
BIOL 1322 Nutrition & Diet Therapy	1

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 e-mail approximately 8 weeks after each application deadline. Email notifications are sent to the email address on file with NursingCAS.