Traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)

Advising and Information Session

UTEP School of Nursing – Office of Student Affairs
Phone: (915) 747-8337
Website: http://nursing.utep.edu/sa
Location on the UTEP Campus: HSSN Bldg. Room 200

The UTEP BSN Degree Plan consists of:

- **Phase 1** (Core Curriculum and Pre-Professional Courses)
- **Phase 2** (Pre-Nursing Courses) – *1 semester, requires acceptance*
- **Traditional BSN Nursing Program** – *4 semesters, requires acceptance*

➢ ***Recommended average*** **Pre-Professional Courses GPA** for acceptance into Phase 2: **3.77**
(average PPC GPA of students who gain acceptance into Phase 2, according to the most recent rankings)

➢ **Minimum Overall GPA** for eligibility to apply for Phase 2 and/or Trad BSN program: **2.50**

About the BSN:

The UTEP Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program offers students a dynamic course of study that is both theoretical and practical. The program prepares graduates to work in a wide variety of clinical settings and provides the necessary foundation for masters and doctoral degrees in nursing. Graduates of the BSN program will be prepared to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) with the Texas Board of Nursing.

BSN coursework emphasizes critical thinking and clinical judgment, integration of knowledge from nursing, biological and behavioral sciences, and the humanities in the planning, implementing, and evaluating of nursing care, application of research findings to demonstrate evidence-based nursing practice, and nursing leadership, and offers a variety of hospital and community settings for clinical experiences. Admission into the Pre-Nursing Phase 2 and into the BSN program is ***highly competitive***.

GO MINERS!

The ROADMAP into Nursing School at UTEP



First step: **Gain ADMISSION to UTEP as a New Student or Transfer Student**

Start PHASE 1

UTEP Core Curriculum + Pre-Professional Courses

(pre-requisites)

- Approx. 4 – 5 semesters for full-time students (12 credit hours +)
- Achieve the **highest possible grades** in all course requirements
- Get **ADVISED and INFORMED** before every registration period
- Plan far ahead for Phase 2—submit application + pass TEAS exam
- A background check is coming up soon …keep your record clean!

Apply for admission into Phase 2 one to two semesters before finishing Phase 1.

Get accepted into PHASE 2

3 Pre-Nursing Courses

- 1 semester
- Achieve **highest possible grades in all Pre-Nursing courses** in order to have the highest possible chances of acceptance into the BSN nursing program
- Pass **Criminal Background Check** for TX BON
  (you will be guided through this process during Phase 2)

Apply for admission into the Traditional BSN nursing program.

Get accepted into the UTEP Traditional BSN Nursing Program

- 4 semesters (between 15—24 months)
- Pass drug screening & complete all compliance requirements
- Gain approx. 900 hours of clinical experience
- Become fully prepared to take and pass the NCLEX RN licensing exam



BSN graduates are then eligible to take the NCLEX exam in order to gain their RN LICENSE with the TX BON.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

2015-2016

http://nursing.utep.edu/sa

Student Name _____ **UTEP ID#** _____

Pre-Nursing--Phase 1

All courses used to satisfy the core curriculum must be completed with a 'C' or better.

	University Core Curriculum	Hrs	Grade
	Communication (Select 6 hours)	6	
	COMM 1611, ESOL 1311, ESOL 1312, RWS 1301, RWS 1302, RWS 1601		
*	Math 1320	3	
*	**Life and Physical Sciences (Select 6 hours)**	6	
	BIOL 1305, BIOL 1107, BIOL 2311, BIOL 2111, BIOL 2313 BIOL 2113, CHEM 1407, CHEM 1305, CHEM 1105		
	Language, Philosophy, & Culture	3	
	(Select 3 hours)		
	ENGL 2311, ENGL 2312, ENGL 2313, ENGL 2314, ENGL 2318, Fren 2322, HIST 2301, HIST 2302, PHIL 1301, PHIL 2306, RS 1301, SPAN 2340, WS 2300, WS 2350		
	Creative Arts (Select one 3 hour course)	3	
	ART 1300, ARTH 1305, ARTH 1306, DANC 1304, FILM 1390, MUSL 1321, MUSL 1324, MUSL 1327, THEA 1313		
	HIST 1301 AND HIST 1302	6	
	POLS 2310 AND POLS 2311	6	
*	PSYC 1301	3	
	Component Area Option (Select 6 hours)	6	
	BUSN 1301, COMM 1301, COMM 1302, CS 1310, CS 1320, SCI 1301, UNIV 1301		
	TOTAL	**42**	

* **Dual fulfills with Pre-Professional Courses**

Pre-Professional Courses	Hrs	Grade
Math 1320 Math for Social Sciences I	3	
BIOL 1305-1107 General Biology with lab	4	
BIOL 2311-2111 Anatomy/Physiology with lab	4	
BIOL 2313/2113 Anatomy/Physiology II with L	4	
CHEM 1407 ***OR*** 1305/1105 ***lab required***	4	
MICR 2330 Microorganisms and Disease	3	
HSCI 2302 Fundamentals of Nutrition	3	
PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology	3	
TOTAL	**28**	

** **Application must be submitted to be considered for the pre-nursing courses in Phase 2**

Pre-Nursing-Phase 2

Department approval required to enroll in following courses:

**	NURS 2303 Foundations of Nursing Practice	3	
**	NURS 2307 Pharmacotherapeutics	3	
**	NURS 2402 Pathophysiology	4	
	TOTAL	**10**	

** ***Students are ranked for selection based on:***
Competitive Pre-Professional Courses GPA
Competitive Cumulative GPA (minimum of 2.50)
Completion or in the last semester of completing Phase 1 at UTEP
Succesful completion of the ATI-TEAS exam

Application must be submitted to be considered for the nursing program--Traditional Option

Students are ranked for selection based on:
Competitive Pre-Nursing courses GPA
Competitive Pre-Professional Courses GPA
Competitive Cumulative GPA (minimum 2.50)
Completion or in the last semester of completing Phase 2
Succesful completion of the ATI-TEAS exam

Required Clearances: Health, Clinical and Background/Drug Screening Check (Failure to comply with requirements will result in having holds placed on registration or being withdrawn from courses.)
Grade Requirement: All Nursing courses must be passed with a C [≥ 75] or better
Effective with students accepted Summer 2006 or later: Two failures in Nursing courses will result in dismissal from the School of Nursing. Dismissal also occurs if a NURS class is not successfully completed in two attempts - a W counts as an attempt.

Professional Courses--Traditional BSN Option	Hrs	Grade	Sem/Yr
5th Semester			
NURS 3314 Research and Statistics	3		
NURS 3401 Introductory Health Assessment	4		
NURS 3604 Nursing Care of the Individual	6		
6th Semester			
NURS 3608 Family Development Stressors	6		
NURS 3609 Family Situational Stressors	6		
7th Semester			
NURS 4307 Nurse as a Coordinator of Care	3		
NURS 4313 Nursing Care of Persons with Psychiatric Illness	3		
NURS 4614 Nurse as Provider of Care in Crisis Events	6		
8th Semester--FINAL SEMESTER			
NURS 4611 Promoting Health Along The Border	6		
NURS 4612 Acute Care Practicum	6		
TOTAL	**49**		

Required Elective (must be taken during the 6th or 7th semester)

NURS _____	3		
(Select one course)			
NURS 3315, 3318, 3319, 3330, 3380, 3605, 3606			
TOTAL	**3**		

Total Credit Hours: **120**

Keep track of your progress with your own degree evaluation:
Access Goldmine
Student Records>Degree Evaluation>Select Current Semester>
>Generate New Evaluation>Program: Pre-Nursing>Generate Request

Pre-Professional Courses and Pre-requisite Information

Course	Pre-requisite
Math 1320	Course or test; Math 0311 or higher with minimum grade of "C"; may NOT be taken concurrently
BIOL 1305-1107	Math 0311 or higher with a minimum grade of "C"; may NOT be taken concurrently
BIOL 2311-2111	BIOL 1305-1107 with a minimum grade of "C"; may NOT be taken concurrently
BIOL 2313-2113	BIOL 1305-1107 with a minimum grade of "C"; may NOT be taken concurrently
CHEM 1407	Math 0311 or higher; may be taken concurrently
CHEM 1305-1105	Math 1508 or higher; may be taken concurrently
MICR 2330	BIOL 1305-1107 with a minimum grade of "C"; may NOT be taken concurrently
HSCI 2302	BIOL 1305-1107 with a minimum grade of "C"; may NOT be taken concurrently
PSYC 1301	-

UTEP Policies on Repeating Courses

- **Repetition of most courses** (D/F Repeat for all 1000 and 2000 level courses):
  - If a student earns a D or F in a 1000 or 2000 level course the student may "D/F repeat" that course. Students have only one opportunity per course to improve their original grades under the D/F repeat policy.
  - The new grade becomes the grade that counts toward the student's cumulative GPA and credit hours for graduation, even if the repeated course grade is lower than the original grade in the course.
  - The D/F repeat policy will be enacted any time an eligible course is repeated.

  When a course is D/F repeated, the following procedure occurs:
  1. The original grade is disregarded for the purpose of determining the overall UTEP GPA, it is marked as excluded (E) in the semester that the student originally took the course.
  2. The original grade is not deleted from the student's permanent record.
  3. The second grade is entered on the student's transcript and marked as included (I) in the semester that the course was repeated.

- **Repetition of Pre-Professional Courses in which a grade of "C" or better was earned:**
  - Repeating a Pre-Professional course in which a grade of "C" or better was earned **requires approval by the appropriate department**. See nursing advisor for details and necessary permission form(s).
  - Departments may restrict the repetition of a course; however, if the course is approved to retake, then the department will enter a "C Grade Override" on the student's record.
  - Failure to get Departmental approval for a repeated course will result in a withdrawal/drop from the course.
  - All attempts are used in determining the cumulative UTEP GPA.
  - **RANKING**: For ***individual ranking calculations only,*** the School of Nursing will use the ***highest grade earned per Pre-Professional course*** in the calculation of the Pre-Professional Courses GPA. This is the first criteria used for ranking for the Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses.

EPCC/UTEP TRANSFER GUIDE

University Core Curriculum

Courses indicated with an asterisk * dual fulfill for some Pre-professional course requirements.

Communication	
Select 6 semester credit hours from:	
UTEP	**EPCC**
COMM 1611	No equivalent
ESOL 1311, ESOL 1312	No equivalent
RWS 1301	ENGL 1301
RWS 1302	ENGL 1302
RWS 1601	No equivalent

Life & Physical Sciences*	
Select 6 credit hours from:	
UTEP	**EPCC**
BIOL 1305-1107	BIOL 1306-1106
BIOL 2311-2111	BIOL 2401
BIOL 2313-2113	BIOL 2402
CHEM 1407	CHEM 1306-1106
CHEM 1305-1105	CHEM 1311-1111
MICR 2330	BIOL 2420

Language, Philosophy, & Culture	
Select 3 credit hours from:	
UTEP	**EPCC**
ENGL 2311	ENGL 2322
ENGL 2312	ENGL 2323
ENGL 2313	ENGL 2342
ENGL 2314	ENGL 2372
ENGL 2318	ENGL 2372
FREN 2322	No equivalent
HIST 2301	HIST 2321
HIST 2302	HIST 2322
PHIL 1301	PHIL 1301
PHIL 2306	PHIL 2306
RS 1301	PHIL 1304
SPAN 2340	No equivalent
WS 2300	WMST 1370
WS 2350	No equivalent

Important:

1. All courses used to satisfy the core curriculum must be completed with a grade of "C" or better. This also applies to courses transferred from another institution.
2. **It is highly recommended that POLS be completed at EPCC then transferred to UTEP or both be completed at UTEP.**
3. **No subsitutions** will be allowed in the Core Curriculum.

Mathematics (3 credit hours)*	
UTEP	**EPCC**
Math 1320	Math 1324

Social & Behavioral Sciences (3 credit hours)*	
UTEP	**EPCC**
PSYC 1301	PSYC 2301

Creative Arts	
Select 3 credit hours from:	
UTEP	**EPCC**
Art 1300	ARTS 1301
ARTH 1305	ARTS 1303
ARTH 1306	ARTS 1304
DANC 1304	DANC 2303
FILM 1390	COMM 2366
MUSL 1321	MUSI 1307
MUSL 1324	MUSI 1306
MUSL 1327	MUSI 1310
THEA 1313	DRAM 1310

American History (6 credit hours)	
UTEP	**EPCC**
HIST 1301	HIST 1301
HIST 1302	HIST 1302

Government/Political Science (6 credit hours)	
UTEP	**EPCC**
POLS 2310	GOVT 2305
POLS 2311	GOVT 2306

Component Area Option (6 credit hours)	
UTEP	**EPCC**
BUSN 1301	No equivalent
COMM 1301	SPCH 1315
COMM 1302	SPCH 1321
CS 1310	COSC 1301
CS 1320	No equivalent
SCI 1301	No equivalent
UNIV 1301	EDUC 1300

Pre-Professional Courses

Pre-Professional Courses	
UTEP	**EPCC**
Math 1320	Math 1324
BIOL 1305-1107	BIOL 1306-1106
BIOL 2311-2111	BIOL 2401
BIOL 2313-2113	BIOL 2402
MICR 2330	BIOL 2420
HSCI 2302	HECO 1322
PSYC 1301	PSYC 2301
Select 4 credit hours from:	
CHEM 1407	CHEM 1306-1106
CHEM 1305-1105	CHEM 1311-1111

Pharmacology Course:

RNSG 1301 is no longer an equivalant for the UTEP Pre-nursing course, NURS 2307.

- **ALL PHASE 2 Pre-Nursing courses must be completed at UTEP.**
- **Pre-nursing courses will not be accepted from other institutions.**
- Fall 2016 is the **last semester** RNSG 1301 will transfer to UTEP.
- NURS 2307 changes to NURS 2407 in Spring 2017.

Ranking information:

- Selection for the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses is on a ranking system, primarily based on the pre-professional courses GPA, cumulative GPA, ATI-TEAS exam and seats available per course.
- Students are responsible for transferring University Core and Pre-Professional requirements in a timely manner **prior** to the ranking process.
- Students **will not** be ranked if their record is incomplete [missing University Core, pre-professional courses from Phase 1, and/or Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses (if applying to the Trad BSN program)], Cumulative GPA is below 2.50, and/or overall TEAS test score is missing or below 58.7%.
- The School of Nursing is not responsible for incomplete student records and inactive UTEP e-mail accounts.
- Selection for the Trad BSN program is primarily based on the final grades of the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses.

For more information or to attend an **ADVISING & INFORMATION SESSION**:

UTEP School of Nursing Office of Student Affairs
UTEP Campus: HSSN 200 (walk-ins not accepted)
Phone: (915) 747-8337
Website: http://nursing.utep.edu/sa

Applications and Application Windows

Application website: http://nursing.utep.edu/sa

Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses application:

FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Apply between: **January 2—February 28**	Apply between: **August 1—September 30**	Apply between: **December 1—January 31**
TEAS must be completed with passing score (58.7%) by **May 31st**	TEAS must be completed with passing score (58.7%) by **October 31st**	TEAS must be completed with passing score (58.7%) by **March 1st**
Ranking takes place in JUNE	**Ranking takes place in NOV.**	**Ranking takes place in APRIL**

Traditional BSN program application:

FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Apply between: **January 2—February 28**	Apply between: **August 1—September 30**	Apply between: **December 1—January 31**
Ranking takes place in August	**Ranking takes place in December**	**Ranking takes place in May**

RANKING

Phase 2 Pre-Nursing Courses ranking eligibility:

Phase 1 courses must be either be ***previously completed*** or student must be ***in the process of completion*** **(last semester of Phase 1) at UTEP**. Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted if a student is in the process of completing of Phase 1 at another institution.

Students are ranked for selection into the Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses based on:

- **Competitive Pre-Professional Courses GPA** (Average for accepted students: **3.77**)
- **Competitive Cumulative GPA** (Minimum of **2.50** required to apply - DO NOT apply if below minimum)
- Passing overall ATI-TEAS score of 58.7% or higher [pass/fail] (subject to change)

Traditional BSN program ranking eligibility:

Phase 2 courses must either be ***previously completed*** or student must be ***in the process of completion*** **of Phase 2 at UTEP**. Students must also pass the TX BoN Criminal Background Check during Phase 2.

- Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses must be completed at UTEP and are not accepted from other institutions.
- The final grades earned in each of the Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses (Pre-Nursing courses GPA) are the first criteria used for ranking into the Traditional BSN program.
- ***All attempts*** of the Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses will be used (averaged) in the Pre-Nursing courses GPA calculation.

Important Ranking Information

- Selection for the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses and the Traditional BSN are on a ranking system, primarily based the Pre-professional courses GPA, Cumulative GPA, Pre-Nursing courses GPA, TEAS-V test, and available seats per course. The Pre- professional courses include MATH 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2313-2113, CHEM 1407,MICR 2330, HSCI 2302, PSYC 1301. The Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses include NURS 2303, NURS 2307, NURS 2402**. The highest grades earned in the Pre-professional courses will be calculated for ranking into Phase 2 (must be on your official UTEP transcript at the time of ranking).**

- **Minimum Cumulative GPA of 2.50** is required to submit an application. If your Cumulative GPA is below the minimum, please do NOT submit an application because you will NOT be ranked.

- Having a **previous Bachelor's, Master's, and/or Doctoral degree(s)** DOES NOT guarantee a seat in either the Phase 2 Pre-nursing Courses/Traditional BSN program and is not a considered a ranking factor.

- **Meeting the minimum criteria for ranking does not guarantee selection to the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses. Acceptance to the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses does not automatically guarantee a seat in the Traditional BSN program.**

- Students are responsible for transferring all University Core and Pre-professional pre- requisites in a timely manner. Transfer credits must be officially posted on your UTEP transcript by the application deadline.

- Ranking for the Fall Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses will always take place during the month of June (no specific date). Ranking for the Spring Pre-nursing courses will always take place during the month of November (no specific date). Ranking for Summer Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses will always take place during the month of March/April (no specific date).

- Ranking for the Trad BSN program will take place during finals week. Check academic calendar on the **UTEP Records & Registration website** for specific dates.

- **NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE**: If selected, a notice of acceptance will be sent **via the student's UTEP e-mail account** with deadline and registration information. Failure to register by the deadline will result inforfeiture of the seat. Only students who are accepted may register and students cannot register until receiving acceptance.

- The Texas Board of Nursing (TX BoN) will be conducting a Criminal Background Check (CBC) for every student enrolled in the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses (at the student's expense). Failure to comply and/or pass the CBC will result in not being ranked for the Trad BSN program.

- **Students will not be ranked if:** the student's academic record is **incomplete** (missing University Core, Pre-professional courses from Phase 1; missing Pre-nursing courses for the Trad BSN program), Cumulative GPA is below 2.50, and/or ATI-TEAS exam score is below 58.7%.

- It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with all relevant information and to be familiar with their own academic record.

Thank you.

TEAS

The ATI-TEAS exam is used to evaluate *entry level* skills and abilities of nursing program applicants.

What is the ATI-TEAS?

The TEAS is an internet-based, multiple-choice, exam that assesses a student's abilities in four essential subject areas:

Reading (approx. 48 questions, 58 minutes) – section includes questions regarding paragraph comprehension, passage comprehension, and inferences/conclusions.

Math (approx. 34 items, 51 minutes) – section includes questions regarding whole numbers, metric conversion, fractions, decimals, algebraic equations, percentages, and ratio/proportion. ***A calculator is embedded in the exam.***

Science (approx. 54 items, 66 minutes) – section includes questions regarding science reasoning, science knowledge, biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, basic physical principles, and general science

English and Language Usage (approx. 34 items, 34 minutes) – section includes questions regarding punctuation, grammar, sentence structure, contextual words, and spelling.

PLEASE SCHEDULE 4 HOURS TO TAKE THE EXAM.

Your final scores will be shown *immediately* on the screen following the exam.

How do I register ?

Step 1: Determine if you need to take the exam

All students who are applying to Phase 2 of the BSN degree plan must take the TEAS.

Step 2: Payment Procedures

Make sure you have a credit card ready and go to **http://www.atitesting.com**

Phone registration is also available by calling **(800) 667-7531**.

THE TEST FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE

Step 3: Register for a test session

1. Select "Register for the TEAS" in the lower right-hand corner.
2. Select city and state. Click "next".
3. Choose the test session that is most convenient for you and select "register".
   Click "check out" on the bottom right hand-corner.
   Next, you must create a user name and password (or use the one you already have, if so).
4. Once you've logged in, fill in the account information and then use your credit card to pay.

MAKE SURE TO ENTER YOUR UTEP ID DURING REGISTRATION

Where do I take the TEAS exam at UTEP?

Step 4: On the day of the test

- Report to the **UTEP Student Assessment & Testing Center, below**.
- Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in. If you arrive late, you will not be admitted.
- Present your identification: you will be required to present an acceptable form of identification (such as an original, current and valid ID used by a city/state/federal government agency).
- Electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, MP3 players) are not allowed. However, two #2 pencils are allowed.

NO ID—NO TEST

UTEP ASSESSMENT & TESTING CENTER

Academic Advising Center Building — Hawthorne Street, 1st floor

Website: http://testing.utep.edu Phone: (915)747-8009

Personal calculators or any other electronic devices such as phones, laptops, etc., are not allowed in the UTEP Testing Center.

A calculator will be provided during the TEAS exam (embedded within the exam).

What are the rules for the TEAS at UTEP?

1. **A passing TEAS score is valid for 2 years.**
2. **There is a 30 day waiting period to re-take the TEAS (30 days in between each attempt).**
3. **The TEAS exam may only be taken twice within a 12 month cycle. Only 2 attempts will be considered, regardless as to where the TEAS is taken.**
4. **Each UTEP Phase 2 Pre-Nursing Courses application window has it's own TEAS deadline. Please see Application Windows handout or nursing website for more information.**

What do my results mean and how does UTEP get my scores?

- Official TEAS exam **results are available *immediately after the exam*** on the computer screen—a copy of the scores will not be issued, but your official results are available by logging into the ATI website: **www.atitesting.com**).
- Students can view and print a copy of their test scores anytime at the above website using the username and password that was created to register for the TEAS.
- If you entered in your correct UTEP ID number when registering, the UTEP School of Nursing will *usually* have immediate access to view your TEAS scores, as well.
- The UTEP School of Nursing recommends that applicants have a *CURRENT*, valid score at the **"Proficient" level (58.7%) or above**, in order to be eligible to apply and rank for Phase 2 and/or the Traditional BSN program.

*MINIMUM SCORE SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

TEAS• Proctored Assessment		OVERALL (150)items)
Scores	Developmental	< 41.3%
	Basic	41.3%
⇨	**Proficient**	**58.7%**
	Advanced	78.0%
	Exemplary	90.7%

How can I transfer my score?

To send your score to another school *or* to transfer your score to UTEP:

1. Visit **http://nursing.utep.edu/sa**
2. Under "Important Links", click on TEAS test (bottom right hand side).
3. Click on the "TEAS Transcript" link.
4. LOG IN to the ATI website, then simply select your TEAS transcript to add to your cart and purchase.

There is a $27 charge to transfer the score and it is typically received at UTEP within 48 hours.

IMPORTANT:

If you are transferring your score to UTEP, please ensure the UTEP School of Nursing receives your score(s) by verifying with a UTEP nursing academic advisor: http://nursing.utep.edu/sa.

How do I study for the TEAS?

- Examinees can purchase an **ATI-TEAS VI Study Guide** at:

  https://www.atitesting.com/ati_store/product.aspx?zpid=1483

- Students may also purchase **TEAS online practice assessments** for a fee through the ATI website.
- The **ATI TEAS Exam Prep 2016 (Pocket Prep) app** is available for **iPhone and/or Android** phones in your App Store.

UTEP BSN Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQ)

Pre-Nursing Phase 1 and 2 Questions:

How do I apply to the Pre-nursing courses (Phase 2) and/or the nursing program?
Click here to visit the School of Nursing (SoN) application windows. This link will take you to the UTEP online application process for the School of Nursing where you will also find the deadlines for each application window.

Can I have someone in the SoN Office of Student Affairs review my transcript(s) before I apply to the pre-nursing courses?
No. The School of Nursing does not offer transcript evaluation. However, after your credits have been officially evaluated by the Office of Admissions, the School of Nursing will create a degree evaluation for you.

Do I need to take an admission examination for the nursing program?
Yes. Students are required to take the ATI-TEAS exam. This examination may be taken for a maximum of 2 times in a 12 month period. There is a deadline set for each application window.

Do I need to pass the ATI-TEAS exam *before* I can submit an application for the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses?
No. Please refer to the Application Windows for each TEAS deadline.

Do I have to disclose any criminal charges or arrests to the Texas Board of Nursing before I start the nursing program?
Yes. The TX Board of Nursing has to be aware of any criminal charges or arrests that you may have had against you in your lifetime. In order to be eligible to take your NCLEX exam and to be accepted into a nursing program, you must be cleared by the TX Board of Nursing.

You must declare any outstanding eligibility issue(s) prior to applying to the pre-nursing courses by filing a Declaratory Order with the Texas Board of Nursing. This process can take anywhere from 3 to 6 months depending on the type of offense and the workflow of the enforcement office.

What will my major code be after receiving acceptance from UTEP?
Upon acceptance to the University, students are considered **Pre-nursing majors** if they select this course of study. The School of Nursing will change the Pre-nursing major to "Nursing" upon acceptance into the nursing program.

What is pre-nursing Phase 1 and Phase 2?
Pre-Nursing Phase 1 includes the University Core Curriculum and the pre-professional courses. The pre-professional courses includes Math 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111, BIOL 2313-2113, MICR 2330, CHEM 1407 or CHEM 1305-1107, HSCI 2302, and PSYC 1301. Pre-nursing Phase 2 includes the 3 pre-nursing courses—NURS 2303, NURS 2307, NURS 2402.

What do I need to complete to apply to the Phase 2 pre-nursing courses?
Students must complete the Phase 1 University Core Curriculum, the pre-professional courses, and the TEAS test to be eligible to rank for the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses. NOTE: Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee a seat in the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses.

As a Pre-nursing student, where do I get advised?
Students with 0-29 credit hours will be required to get advised in the Academic Advising Center. Students with 30+ credit hours will be required to attend an information session and advising at the School of Nursing (HSN room 200P). Students must call (915) 747-8337 or visit the **Office of Student Affairs in HSN room 200** to sign up for a session.

What are the ranking criteria to apply to the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses?
Students are ranked on the following criteria:

1. Pre-professional courses GPA
2. Cumulative GPA (must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50)
3. TEAS exam (must meet minimum score of 58.7%)

Are there any time limits on the Pre-professional courses for the nursing program?
There is no time limit on the pre-professional courses.

Can I take the Phase 1 pre-requisites at EPCC?
Yes. The Phase 1 pre-requisite courses may be taken at EPCC. However, we require students attend the last semester of Phase 1 at UTEP, due to the timing of the ranking. All courses must be accounted for on your UTEP transcript at the time your application is processed, including courses in progress at UTEP.

Can I repeat Pre-professional courses for higher grades?
Course failed: If a student earns a D or F in a 1000 or 2000 level course the student may "D/F repeat" that course. Students have only one opportunity per course to improve their original grades under the D/F repeat policy. The new grade becomes the grade that counts toward the student's cumulative GPA and credit hours for graduation, even if the repeated course grade is lower than the original grade in the course. The D/F repeat policy will be enacted any time an eligible course is repeated.

Course previously passed: If a student earns a "C" or better in a Pre-professional course and wishes to retake for a higher grade, they must get approval from the corresponding department (i.e. Biology Dept, Chemistry Dept). If they choose to repeat a "passed" course, both grades for the course will be posted on the transcript and will be used in the calculation of the cumulative GPA. Please see a nursing advisor for instructions on how to get permission to retake any pre-professional courses at UTEP.

Please follow these guidelines for re-taking courses at UTEP:

- For MATH 1320, BIOL 1305/1107, BIOL 2311/2111, BIOL 2313/1113, CHEM 1407, CHEM 1305/1105, and MICR 2330: can only be re-taken at UTEP if a student has a current grade of "C". Grades of "B" cannot be re-taken at UTEP. Limit of 2 attempts.
- For HSCI 2302, "B"s or "C"s are currently allowed to be re-taken at UTEP. Limit of 2 attempts.
- PSYC 1301 cannot be re-taken at UTEP at all.

The School of Nursing will accept *transferred* course grades (for example, from EPCC) for re-takes, as well.

Please note that for ranking purposes only, the School of Nursing will use the *highest grade earned* per pre-professional course in the calculation of the pre-professional courses GPA.

Do I get credit for my work or life experience?
No. UTEP does not award university credit for non-academic professional certificate or life experience.

Can I use graduate-level coursework for the BSN degree?
No. Graduate-level coursework is not transferrable as undergraduate credit.

How can I determine what credits will transfer to UTEP?
Visit the Office of Admissions online transfer credit equivalency feature where students can have access to transfer equivalencies from various institutions in order to help them determine what transfer credit they can expect to receive upon entry to UTEP. The equivalencies listed are the most current articulations established and may be subject to change.

When does ranking take place for the Phase 2 pre-nursing courses?
Ranking for the Phase 2 pre-nursing courses takes place in March/April for the Summer semester, June for the Fall semester, and November for the Spring semester. Grades for courses in progress will not be included at the time of ranking.

Can I take some of the requirements for Phase 1 online?
Yes. UTEP offers many of the requirements for Phase 1 100% online. In addition, students are permitted to choose online courses with UT institutions as an option to expand their educational opportunities. You may click here to visit the University of Texas System Online Consortium.

What if I fail a Phase 2 pre-nursing course? Can I take the course the following semester?
All students have a maximum of 2 attempts to take a pre-nursing or nursing course. However, you must submit an application by the applicable deadline to be considered and ranked for the following semester. Depending on the application window, this may not be possible for back-to-back semesters. "Just-in-case" applications will not be considered if a student is already enrolled in a Pre-nursing course and wants to apply for the following semester, "just in case" a lower grade is earned.

Traditional BSN Program Questions:

When does the nursing program begin?
The program begins three times a year (Fall, Spring, Summer) for the Traditional BSN and the RN to BSN options.

Is the UTEP School of Nursing accredited?
Yes. The nursing program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

How long does it take to complete the Traditional BSN Program?
After you are admitted to the nursing program, it will take 15 to 24 months to complete the nursing program. The program is 4 semesters long and attending the summer term is optional.

Can I enter directly into the nursing program?
No. You must first complete Phase 1 and 2 and be ranked to the nursing program. Meeting minimum criteria does not guarantee a seat in the nursing program.

When do you rank for the Traditional BSN Program?
Ranking takes place in May for the Summer semester, August for the Fall semester, and December for the Spring semester. Phase 2 pre-nursing final grades will be used for ranking.

If selected into the Traditional BSN Program, do I have to attend an orientation?
Yes. All selected students are **required** to attend the Red Carpet Orientation before the start of the semester. Important information such as compliance, the UG student handbook, required uniform/supplies, clinicals and required coursework will be presented at the orientation.

What do I need to complete to apply to the Traditional BSN program?
Students must complete the University Core Curriculum, pre-professional courses, TEAS test, and the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses to be eligible to rank for the Traditional BSN Program. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee a seat in the Traditional BSN Program.

What are the ranking criteria to apply to the Traditional BSN Program?
Students are ranked on the following criteria:

1. Pre-nursing courses GPA
2. Pre-professional courses GPA
3. Cumulative GPA (must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50)
4. Teas V test (must meet minimum score of 58.7%)

What if I decline my seat for a particular semester? Will my admission be valid for future semesters?
No. Each ranking is independent; if a student declines their acceptance, they must re-apply for a future semester and will be ranked with that applicant pool.

How competitive is UTEP's nursing program?
The UTEP Traditional BSN Program is highly competitive. We typically receive 450 applications each Fall and Spring semesters for the Phase 2 Pre-nursing courses (up to 160 seats available) and 250 applications each semester for the Traditional BSN Program (up to 90 seats available).

Average GPAs of SELECTED applicants:

Phase 2 Pre-Nursing Courses (120 - 160 students selected)
Average Pre-professional courses GPA: 3.77
Average Cumulative GPA: 3.45

Traditional BSN Program (80-90 students selected)
Average Pre-nursing courses GPA: 3.45
Average Pre-professional courses GPA: 3.65
Average cumulative GPA: 3.47

If I am not accepted, do I have to re-apply the next semester?
Yes. Applications are not transferrable to the next semester. You must resubmit a new nursing application by the applicable deadline if you wish to be considered for another semester.

What is required for an RN license?
To obtain a RN license, the individual must have graduated from a nursing program approved by a state board of nursing, meet all the requirements to sit for the licensure examination (including no felony convictions), and successfully pass the examination.

How do you specialize?
Upon graduation, students are prepared to be generalists. Although they can work in any number of settings, true specialization requires advanced graduate education.

Do you accept nursing courses from other nursing programs?
No. All professional nursing courses must be taken at UTEP.

If I was dismissed from another nursing program, can I apply to the Traditional BSN program?
Students dismissed from another nursing program may not apply to the UTEP Traditional BSN Program.

Where can I go for more information?
You may visit our website at http://nursing.utep.edu/sa or you may sign up for an **Advising and Information Session** by calling (915) 747-8337.

Petition for Declaratory Order (DO)

➔ **If any of the following information applies to your background, you must complete the Declaratory Order BEFORE being accepted into the Phase 2 Pre-Nursing courses at UTEP.**

➔ **The Texas Board of Nursing strongly advises students petition the Board BEFORE enrolling into a nursing program if the student has potential eligibility issues.**

Petitions for Declaratory Order (DO) are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are processed in the order that they are received. In addition, providing incomplete information may result in the Board delaying or denying the approval of the DO. You will receive an Operations outcome letter if the DO is approved. Students who are denied have the option of re-petitioning the Board or may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

Criminal background checks will be completed on all applicants accepted to the program. The following histories will ***disqualify*** an individual from consideration for clinical rotations:

- Felony convictions
- Misdemeanor convictions or felony deferred adjudications involving crimes against persons (physical or sexual abuse, etc.)
- Misdemeanor convictions related to moral turpitude (prostitution, public lewdness/exposure, etc.)
- Felony deferred adjudications for the sale, possession, distribution, or transfer of narcotics or controlled substances, and
- Registered sex offenders

You will need to submit a **Declaratory Order of Eligibility** to the Texas Board of Nursing for any criminal offense including those pending appeal if you have:

- been convicted of a misdemeanor
- been convicted of a felony
- pled non contendere, no contest or guilty
- received deferred adjudication
- been placed on community supervision or court ordered probation
- been sentenced to serve in jail or prison or court ordered confinement
- been granted pretrial diversion
- been arrested or have any pending criminal charges
- been cited or charged with any violation of the law (excluding minor traffic tickets)
- been subject to court martial

Conditions requiring you to complete the Petition for Declaratory Order of Eligibility as outlined above include: Within the last 5 years, a diagnosis, treatment or hospitalization for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder.

The Declaratory Order of Eligibility form can be found at:

https://www.bon.state.tx.us/forms_declaratory_order.asp