

# **UTEP BSN Frequently Asked Questions**

## **(FAQ)**

### **Is the undergraduate UTEP College of Nursing program accredited?**

Yes. The nursing program is accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education \(CCNE\)](#) and approved by the [Texas Board of Nursing](#).

### **As a nursing major, 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 and advising session at the College of Nursing (HSSN room 200). Students must call (915) 747-8337 or visit the **Office of Student Affairs in HSSN room 200** to sign up for a session. Advising is mandatory every semester until a student reaches the nursing professional courses.

### **Do you accept nursing courses from other nursing programs?**

No. All nursing courses must be taken at UTEP.

### **If I was dismissed from another nursing program, can I apply to the Traditional BSN program at UTEP?**

No. Students dismissed from another nursing program may not apply to the UTEP Traditional BSN Program.

### **Can I have someone in the CoN Office of Student Affairs review my transcript(s)?**

No. The College of Nursing does not offer transcript evaluation. However, after your credits have been officially evaluated by the [Office of Admissions](#), the College of Nursing will create a degree evaluation for you when you sign up for an information and advising session.

### **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.

### **Do the University Core Curriculum and Pre-professional courses expire?**

The pre-professional courses and the University Core Curriculum do not expire.

### **Can I take the core-curriculum and pre-professional courses at EPCC?**

Yes. The University Core Curriculum and the pre-professional courses may be taken at EPCC. However, students will be required to attend UTEP when taking the sophomore-level and the nursing professional courses.

### **Can I take the core-curriculum and pre-professional courses online?**

Yes. UTEP offers many of the core and pre-professional requirements 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](#).

### **Does the University Core Curriculum have to be taken in a specific order?**

No, students may complete the University Core Curriculum in any order if all course requirements are completed before starting the nursing professional courses.

**Can I complete the pre-professional courses in any order?**

To be eligible to register for the sophomore-level nursing courses, students must adhere to the required sequence of pre-professional courses for each nursing course.

**What are the pre-requisites of the sophomore-level nursing courses?**

**NURS 2303** [MATH 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111 (may be taken concurrently)]

**NURS 2502** [TEAS, MATH 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111, CHEM 1307-1107, BIOL 2313-2113 (may be taken concurrently)]

**NURS 2407** [TEAS, blue card or outcome letter from the TX BON, MATH 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111, CHEM 1307-1107, BIOL 2313-2113, MICR 2330 (may be taken concurrently)]

**Am I eligible to register for the sophomore-level nursing courses if I am a transfer student that has completed the University Core Curriculum and pre-professional courses, and I don't have an established UTEP GPA?**

Transfer students are eligible to register for NURS 2303 if they have a previous institution overall GPA of at least 3.00, a pre-professional courses GPA of 3.20 or better and be admitted as a nursing major.

Transfer students will be required to submit valid TEAS scores to be eligible to register for NURS 2502. At that point, CON Office of Student Affairs will provide students with a link to submit their criminal background check (CBC) form.

Transfer students will be eligible to register for NURS 2407 when they submit their blue card or outcome letter from the Texas Board of Nursing.

Transfer students will be given registration overrides for the above courses if requirements are met and seats are open.

**Once I establish my UTEP overall GPA, will you continue to use my transfer overall GPA?**

When a student establishes an overall GPA at UTEP, the CON Office of Student Affairs will only use the UTEP overall GPA for progression in the nursing courses.

**There is a non-contributing course on my degree evaluation. What does that mean?**

These course(s) are not a part of your approved degree plan and will not count towards financial aid eligibility. Click [here](#) for more information on non-contributing courses.

**Can I repeat pre-professional courses for higher grades?**

**Course failure:** 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 Nursing Office of Student Affairs. 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 course at UTEP.

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

- For MATH 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111, BIOL 2313-2113, CHEM 1307-1107, 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.
- Students must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 and a minimum PPC GPA of 3.20 to be eligible to retake a pre-professional science course in which a C was earned.
- For HSCI 2302 and PSYC 1301, "B"s or "C"s are currently allowed to be re-taken at UTEP. Limit of 2 attempts.

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

Please note that for ranking purposes only, the College of Nursing will use the *highest grade earned* per pre-professional course in the calculation of the pre-professional courses (PPC) 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 transferable as undergraduate credit.

**Can I enter directly into the nursing professional courses?**

No. You must first complete the university core curriculum, the pre-professional courses, the sophomore-level nursing courses, meet all GPA and TEAS requirements, show proof of health insurance, submit a copy of your blue card/outcome letter to the CON Office of Student Affairs, and submit a complete titer lab report to the CON Compliance Officer.

**When should I submit the criminal background check form (CBC)?**

Students will be required to submit their criminal background check (CBC) form while enrolled in NURS 2303. After Census Day, all students in NURS 2303 will receive an email from the CON Office of Student Affairs with instructions on submitting the CBC form.

**When can I schedule my fingerprint appointment with Identogo?**

Students can schedule their fingerprint appointment after the Texas Board of Nursing sends them an email with the link to schedule the appointment with Identogo. The estimated time to receive the email is up to 2-3 weeks. If the student does not receive an email from Identogo after 3 weeks, the student should contact the CON Office of Student Affairs at [nursing@utep.edu](mailto:nursing@utep.edu) or HSSN room 200.

**What happens after I complete my fingerprints with Identogo?**

Students will be mailed a blue card (postcard) if their CBC came back with no findings. If any incidents (criminal activities) are found, then the student will receive an initial outcome letter with instructions on the documents needed for further review from the Texas Board of Nursing. The CON Office of Student Affairs will need a copy of the blue card or outcome letter from the student.

**What are titers?**

A titer is a laboratory test that measures the presence and amount of antibodies in blood.

**Do I need to take an admission examination to take the sophomore-level nursing courses?**

Yes. Students are required to take the [ATI-TEAS exam](#) as one of the pre-requisites to register for NURS 2502 and NURS 2407. This examination may be taken up to four times in a 12-month period. Required TEAS scores: 65% composite, 60% reading, 50% science.

**When will I need to show proof of health insurance and start my titers blood test?**

While in NURS 2407, the CON Office of Student Affairs will need a copy of the student's current and active health insurance along with instructions on obtaining the titers blood test. Registration overrides for the nursing professional courses will be entered when the student submits the proof of health insurance to CON Office of Student Affairs and the complete titer report to the CON compliance officer.

**Why do I need health insurance to continue in the nursing program?**

Health insurance is required by our clinical partners and is necessary to cover any emergency room visits to the clinical sites.

**What if I fail a nursing course? Can I take the course the following semester?**

All students have a maximum of 2 attempts to take a nursing course. Students may submit a nursing course repeat form to the College of Nursing Office of Student Affairs. Repeating a course in the following semester is not guaranteed, and depends on space availability, meeting the minimum overall and PPC GPAs, and TEAS scores.

**When are the sophomore-level nursing courses and the nursing professional courses offered?**

All nursing courses are offered three times a year (Fall, Spring, Summer) for the Traditional BSN and the RN to BSN options.

**How long does it take to complete the nursing professional courses?**

The nursing professional courses are completed in 4 semesters in a lock-step sequence.

**What is a passing grade in nursing courses?**

Students must pass nursing courses at a minimum of 75%. Per the College of Nursing policy, achieving less than 75% in the didactic portion of the course results in a course failure. There is no rounding of grades and fractional points will be dropped upon final course grade. For example, if you earn a 74.999 your final grade is 74.

**What is required for an RN license?**

To obtain an 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?**

The decision to specialize and advance professionally is a commitment that generally requires a master's degree in nursing. Click [here](#) to access the Master of Science in Nursing & Post-graduate APRN Certifications website.

**Where can I go for more information?**

You may visit our website at <https://www.utep.edu/nursing/> or you may sign up for an **Advising and Information Session** by calling (915) 747-8337.