



## **LVN to RN Transition Program ADVISORY PACKET**

The LVN to RN Transition Program will hold information sessions prior to each application period. Dates will be listed on the TSTC website. These sessions will provide information on the application process and requirements for entrance to the LVN to RN Transition Program.

The LVN to RN Transition Program will prepare students with the basic competencies to become safe practitioners in the healthcare field. Upon successful completion of the Associate of Applied Science major in Associate Degree Nursing, the graduate will be able to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be a registered nurse and can work in hospitals, day-surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, and home health care agencies, among other areas.

The LVN to RN Transition Program is a highly selective program. The selection process is based on a competitive point system evaluation. Selection criteria are used to assess the applicant's score. Please refer to <https://www.tstc.edu/programs/nursing> for the information session dates, HESI pre-entrance testing information, and other deadlines.

This program is a HYBRID program which means the program combines elements of online learning and in-person instruction. Skills, simulation lab, and clinical experiences are face-to-face, while 'classroom' work is online.

An application link will be given to you after attending a mandatory information session. Information sessions are conducted via Google Meet or in-person (depending on campus).

### **APPLICATION / ADMISSION PROCESS:**

Requirements for application to the LVN to RN Transition Program

1. Must be an LVN. License should be current, active, and in good standing and should be kept current for the duration of the program.
2. Apply for admission to TSTC and meet all college requirements. TSTC maintains an open admission policy. Admission to the college does not guarantee admission to all programs.
  - a. Requires an official copy of high school transcript and transcripts from other colleges.
  - b. Apply for financial aid.
3. Attend a mandatory information session.
  - a. Link to LVN to RN Transition Program will be provided after attending the session.

4. Must take the HESI RN Mobility Comprehensive Exam and meet the required score of at least 850. If a score of 850 is not met, the test may be taken again for a higher score. The exam can be taken up to three times in a testing period. **Submit proof of the higher score.**
  - a. To prepare for the exam, it is recommended that you review the HESI Comprehensive NCLEX-PN Examination Study Guide.
5. Complete online application for the LVN to RN Transition Program.
  - a. All required copies of documents must be submitted with the application.

Required Prerequisite Courses:

1. BIOL 2401: Anatomy & Physiology I (or BIOL 2301 A&PI lecture and BIOL 2101 A&P I lab)\*\*
2. BIOL 2402: Anatomy & Physiology II (or BIOL 2302 A&PII lecture and BIOL 2102 A&P II lab)\*\*
3. BIOL 2420: Microbiology for Non-Science Majors (or BIOL 2320 Micro lecture and BIOL 2120 Micro lab)\*\*
4. ENGL 1301: Composition I
5. PSYC 2301: General Psychology
6. PSYC 2314: Lifespan Growth and Development
7. ACGM X3XX: Humanities or Fine Arts elective (see list below)

**\*\*Science courses cannot be older than 10 years\*\***

**If A&P I or II are older than 10 years:**

An LVN that is currently working with direct patient care, and has been for a minimum of 5 years, is eligible to test out of the A&P time limit restrictions.

The student may register and take the HESI A&P exam and must make at least an 850. This exam can only be taken ONCE per application period.

- If this score is MET, the student will **not** have to retake the expired A&P courses.
- If this score is NOT met, the student **will** need to retake the A&P courses that are expired or wait to retake the HESI A&P exam in the next application period.
- This must be completed prior to the application period due date. Score must be submitted with the application.

Courses eligible for Humanities/Fine Arts credit:

ARTS 1301 Art Appreciation	ENGL 2321 British Literature
ARTS 1303 Art History I	ENGL 2322 British Literature II
ARTS 1304 Art History II	ENGL 2326 Scripture I
ARTS 1313 Foundations of Art	ENGL 2307 Creative Writing I
ARTS 1316 Drawing I	ENGL 2331 World Literature
ARTS 2316 Painting I	ENGL 2341 Forms of Literature
HUMA 1301 Introduction to Humanities	PHIL 1301 Introduction to Philosophy
HUMA 1302 Introduction to Humanities II	PHIL 1304 Introduction to World Religions
HUMA 2323 World Cultures	PHIL 2306 Introduction to Ethics
MUSI 1306 Music Appreciation	

## SELECTION PROCESS:

The selection process is based on a competitive point system evaluation. Selection criteria are used to assess the applicant's score. Points are given for the following criteria:

- HESI Exam Scores
  - >1000 =20 points
  - 951-1000 =15 points
  - 901-950 =10 points
  - 850-900 = 5 points
- Other Certification
  - Paramedic = 3 points
  - Resp Therapist = 3 points
  - Advanced EMT = 2 points
  - EMT = 1 point
- Years of Work Experience
  - >5 years = 3 points
  - 3-5 years = 2 points
  - 7 mo.-2 years = 1 point
  - No exp.-6 mo. = 0 points
- Area of Work Experience
  - Acute Care = 5 points
  - Skilled Nursing = 4 points
  - PDN/Home Health = 3 points
  - Clinic/School = 2 points
  - Non-pt. Care = 1 point
  - No experience = 0 points
- TSTC VN Graduate
  - Within 3 years =20 points
  - More than 3 years = 0 points
- Early Applications - Submitted by:
  - May 30, 2025 = 5 points
  - June, 30, 2025 = 3 points
- Prerequisite Course Grades
  - A = 4 points
  - B = 3 points
  - C = 2 points
  - In Progress = 1 point

\*For all prerequisite courses, points will be given based on the letter grade received.

## NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION STATUS:

Applicants must have submitted all required application documents. All scores will be added and students with the highest points will be accepted into the program based upon the number of available spots in the cohort. Decisions are ultimately made by the LVN to RN Transition Program Admissions Committee and confirmed by the Program Team Lead and may not be appealed. Students not admitted are free to reapply in the following application enrollment period.

A letter will be sent to the student indicating acceptance, contingent acceptance, alternate list, or non-acceptance. All students except those that are not accepted will be required to attend a mandatory orientation.

Should any of the accepted applicants decline admission, an alternate will be offered a spot in the program. Alternates are selected from the next highest scores in the pool of qualified applicants.

Any applicants that are not accepted may schedule a meeting with the Enrollment Coach or Program Team Lead for further consultation.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:**

Students who have accepted a position in the LVN to RN Transition Program will have their names submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing for clearance into the program. A blue card, letter of clearance, or a letter of denial will be sent directly to the student from the Board which must be turned in to the Program Team Lead or program secretary.

The student may be required to complete fingerprint clearance and criminal history check for the Texas Board of Nursing. Students will be notified by the Texas Board of Nursing directly. Registered nurse license eligibility is determined through a DPS/FBI criminal history background check completed through the Texas Board of Nursing. Information relating to the criminal history and declaratory order (DO) process is available on the Texas Board of Nursing website: [http://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure\\_eligibility.asp](http://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_eligibility.asp)

**It is highly recommended to initiate the DO process at the time of your application if there is anything in your background that may show up as a criminal offense in the background check, even if adjudicated or expunged and it happened many years ago.**

### **DRUG SCREENS:**

Drug screening is arranged through the nursing program and will be completed prior to the start of clinical rotations. The program can request initial, random, and for-cause drug screening. Cost for drug screening will be the responsibility of the student.

### **REQUIRED INSURANCE:**

Health science students should be aware that many of the facilities where they will receive clinical training require each student to be covered by various forms of insurance. TSTC may request proof of coverage prior to enrollment or prior to placement at a clinical site, and clinical site personnel may ask for proof of coverage at any time. Students may be denied access to clinical experience if not covered by the required insurance. Failure of students to obtain required insurance will prevent students from attending some facilities which may prevent students from completing the program or cause them to fail the program.

**LVN to ADN Transition Program  
Estimated Costs**

ITEM	ESTIMATED COST
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>	
Drug Screen (Have \$\$ available)	\$20
TSTC-HGN Tuition/Fees	\$3,684
ATI Book Package (books, virtual programs, exams)	\$950
Supply Kit for Lab	\$213
Uniform patches	\$40
Uniforms (approx. cost)	\$200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,107</b>
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>	
TSTC-HGN Tuition/Fees	\$3,684
ATI Book Package (books, virtual programs, exams)	\$950
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,634</b>
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>	
TSTC-HGN Tuition/Fees	\$3,684
ATI Book Package (books, virtual programs, exams)	\$950
PearsonVue NCLEX-RN Exam Fee (Not paid to TSTC)	\$200
Texas Board of Nursing Licensing Fee (Not paid to TSTC)	\$75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,909</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,650</b>

\*\*These fees are estimates for your information only. They may increase or decrease based upon the cost at the time of registration. These fees are the student's responsibility.

TSTC HARLINGEN LVN-RN COURSE SEQUENCING CALENDAR							
Semester 1							
Prefix	Course #	Course Name	Course Type	Weekly Lecture Hours	Weekly Lab Hours	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
RNSG	1210	Introduction to Community-Based Nursing	Academic	2	0	32	2
RNSG	1227	Transition to Professional Nursing	Academic	1	3	64	2
RNSG	1261	Clinical-Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	Academic	0	CL-8	128	2
RNSG	1300	Health Assessment Across the Lifespan	Academic	2	2	64	3
RNSG	1301	Pharmacology	Academic	2	2	64	3
		<b>Totals</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>L-7 CL-8</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>12</b>
Semester 2							
Prefix	Course #	Course Name	Course Type	Weekly Lecture Hours	Weekly Lab Hours	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
RNSG	1343	Complex Concepts of Adult Health	Academic	2	2	64	3
RNSG	2162	Clinical-Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	Academic	0	CL6	96	1
RNSG	2262	Clinical-Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	Academic	0	CL9	144	2
RNSG	1412	Nursing Care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family	Academic	3	2	80	4
RNSG	2213	Mental Health Nursing	Academic	1	3	64	2
		<b>Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>L-7 CL-15</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>12</b>
Semester 3							
Prefix	Course #	Course Name	Course Type	Weekly Lecture Hours	Weekly Lab Hours	Contact Hours	Credit Hours
RNSG	1463	Clinical-Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse	Academic	0	CL12	192	4
RNSG	2221	Professional Nursing-Leadership and Management	Academic	2	0	32	2
RNSG	2230	Professional Nursing and Licensure Preparation	Academic	1	2	48	2
RNSG	1207	OR Nursing Jurisprudence	Academic				
RNSG	2432	Enhanced Concepts of Adult Health	Academic	3	2	80	4
		<b>Totals</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>L-4 CL-12</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>12</b>
		<b>TOTAL FOR PROGRAM</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>LAB 18 CL 35</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>36</b>

## KEY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Must be licensed as an LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse) in Texas in good standing prior to entrance.

Complete on-line application packet. Link will be given after attending the mandatory information session.

Documentation of *HESI LPN to ADN Mobility Exam* Scores; indicating at least the minimum proficiency score of 850.

Must be 18 years old + admitted into TSTC Harlingen.

Meet all college and program requirements.

Completion of all prerequisite courses:

- BIOL 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I OR BIOL 2301 and BIOL 2101\*
- BIOL 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II OR BIOL 2302 and BIOL 2102\*
- BIOL 2420 Microbiology for Non-Science Majors OR BIOL 2320 and BIOL 2120\*
- ENGL 1301 Composition I
- PSYC 2301 General Psychology
- PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development
- ACGM X3XX Humanities or Fine Arts Elective

\*Science courses must not be older than 10 years.

\*Letter from the instructor of any course(s) in progress must be submitted with application.

Identification Documents submitted in the online application (all names on each document must match):

- Copy of Driver's License or State issued ID (non-expired)
- Copy of Social Security Card
- Copy of CPR Card from American Heart Association- BLS for Healthcare Provider only
- A print out of a valid LVN license from the Texas Board of Nursing Website
- Photo: 2"x2" color picture of student

Proof of all required immunizations (documentation must be signed by a physician or associate). Titer testing will be accepted for MMR, HEP B, and Varicella vaccinations.

- MMR (x2)
- Hepatitis B (x3)
- Tetanus Booster within 10 years
- Varicella (if you have had chickenpox, you will need to submit a titer)
- Bacterial Meningococcal vaccination if under age 22
- Covid Vaccine #1 and #2 (requested by clinical facilities, not TSTC)
- Seasonal influenza vaccination (current flu season)
- TB results (must be less than a year old throughout program)
  - If chest x-ray is needed, it must be within 5 years

Proof of current medical/health insurance should be uploaded in application.

Transcripts (may be unofficial transcripts for nursing program application):

- Vocational Nursing program transcripts
- All colleges or universities attended, including TSTC

**\*Admissions must have possession of all official transcripts when a student applies to TSTC.**

**If a course is in progress, it is the responsibility of the applicant to have a new official transcript sent to TSTC after completion of the course.**

If course numbers of non-nursing courses do not match those required on the curriculum plan, the registrar's office will decide if the course is equivalent to courses in TSTC's catalog. Decisions to accept these classes will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Three (3) letters of recommendation from non-family members. (Email reference letters should be professional in nature—should include date, signature, and letterhead when applicable.)

- 1 professional (ex: coworker, instructor, previous employer)
- 1 personal (ex: friend, pastor, etc.)
- 1 from the supervisor of the current or most recent employer (indicating employment status, length of employment, and type of clinical experience).

Must meet all Texas Board of Nursing licensure eligibility rules.

Must have reliable transportation to and from clinical sites & family/employer support.