

Health Professions Academic Preparation

NURSING

There are several pathways toward entering the nursing profession. This handout will focus on the pathway for students who, with no prior nursing experience or education, intend to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). At The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing (UTHSCSA SON), this approach is called the “Traditional Track” and requires two phases. The first is the completion of pre-nursing coursework at an undergraduate institution. After being accepted into the School of Nursing at UTHSCSA, students complete the second phase of upper-division nursing courses leading to a BSN. **The following courses represent what courses may be taken at UTSA to fulfill the core and program prerequisites for entry into the UTHSCSA SON Traditional or Accelerated BSN Program.** There is some variation in requirements for other nursing schools. Thus, students are advised to consult individual programs for their specific and most current information. Supplemental worksheets that detail pre-nursing coursework from some other area institutions may also be available upon request in the University Health Professions Office (UHPO).

Required Areas of Study	UTSA Course	Grade/ Sem	Prerequisites/ Corequisites
UTHSCSA Core Curriculum-Must receive C or better			
English (6 hrs lecture)	WRC 1013		
	WRC 1023		WRC 1013
US History (6 hrs lecture) <i>NOTE: Six total hours of HIS are required. Students may choose any two of these three courses.</i>	HIS 1043, HIS 1053 or HIS 2053		
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US Government (6 hrs lecture)	POL 1013		
	POL 1133 or POL 1213		
Visual/Performing Arts (3 hrs lecture)	Any ART, AHC, MUS or THR course <i>others considered on an individual basis</i>		
Humanities (3 hrs lecture) <i>NOTE: By choosing to take PHI 2013 specifically to fulfill this requirement, student will also have necessary prerequisites to apply to the UTHSC-Houston SON.</i>	Any “literature,” HUM, or PHI course <i>BIO 1033 and CLA 2323 also acceptable; others considered on an individual basis</i>		
UTSA Prerequisites for Other Required BIO Courses			
Biology <i>NOTE: These courses are not officially included among the program prerequisites for the UTHSCSA SON, but are required before taking the other BIO prerequisites at UTSA (ie Anatomy, Physiology etc).</i>	¹ BIO 1404 or ² BIO 1233		¹ Completion of or concurrent enrollment in MAT 1023, MAT 1073 or higher or STA 1053 (for non-BIO majors). CHE 1003 or higher <i>recommended by the UHPO</i> ; ² no prerequisite required
<i>Continued on Reverse</i>			



Program Prerequisites-Must receive C or better			
Biology (12 hrs lecture; 3 hrs lab) <i>NOTES: Most institutions offer Anatomy and Physiology I and Anatomy and Physiology II (A&P I and II). UTSA offers Anatomy separate from Physiology as two separate courses. The Anatomy and Physiology course sequence should be completed at the same institution.</i> <i>These courses are formerly known as AHS.</i>	BIO 2083 Anatomy		BIO 1404 or 1233
	BIO 2091 Anatomy Lab		BIO 1404 or 1233; concurrent enrollment in BIO 2083 recommended
	BIO 2103 Physiology <i>BIO 3413 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233
	BIO 2111 Physiology Lab <i>BIO 3422 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233; concurrent enrollment in BIO 2103 recommended
	BIO 1053 Microbiology <i>BIO 3713 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233 or consent of instructor
	BIO 1061 Microbiology Lab <i>BIO 3722 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233 or consent of instructor; concurrent enrollment in BIO 1053 recommended
	BIO 2043 Nutrition <i>HTH 3013 also acceptable</i>		BIO 1404 or 1233
	Chemistry (6 hrs lecture; 2 hr lab) <i>NOTE: UTHSCSA SON requires two semesters of chemistry coursework with labs. While it is preferred that both inorganic and organic chemistry concepts be covered, General Chemistry I and II with corresponding labs are acceptable for admission.</i>	CHE 1003 <i>CHE 1103 also acceptable</i>	
CHE 1011 Lab <i>CHE 1122 Lab also acceptable</i>			Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1003
CHE 1013 <i>CHE 1113, CHE 1153, or CHE 2603 also acceptable</i>			CHE 1003
CHE 1021 Lab <i>CHE 1132 Lab and CHE 1130 Lab lecture or CHE 2612 Lab also acceptable</i>			Completion of or concurrent enrollment in CHE 1013
<i>Continued on Reverse</i>			

Algebra (3 hrs lecture)	MAT 1023 or higher		Satisfactory performance on placement exam
Statistics (3 hrs lecture)	STA 1053 or higher		Satisfactory performance on placement exam
Psychology (3 hrs lecture)	PSY 1013		
Growth & Development (3 hrs lecture)	PSY 2503		PSY 1013
Sociology (3 hrs lecture)	SOC 1013		

Please note that the previously listed UTSA courses and prerequisites are for students following the 2010-2012 Undergraduate Catalog. Students following another undergraduate catalog should consult an advisor with any questions about course numbering.

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing: The accelerated BSN program is designed for students who already hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in something other than nursing. Students will complete four semesters and 60 hours of nursing credits in fifteen months of fulltime study.

Application Process: At the UTHSCSA School of Nursing, prospective students must apply online and the UTHSCSA SON must have all supporting documents by the following deadlines:

January 10 – For the upcoming Fall semester (Traditional BSN)

July 1 – For the upcoming Spring Semester (Traditional BSN)

November 1 – For the upcoming Summer Semester (Accelerated BSN)

Applying to the UTHSCSA SON is done via an online national centralized application service for students applying to registered nursing programs in the U.S. known as NursingCAS (www.nursingcas.org). For fall 2012 admission, a prospective student is eligible to apply once they have completed 42 of the 62 hours of pre-nursing course requirements as designated by the UTHSCSA SON. Applicants for spring 2013 and after are not eligible to apply until they have completed 53 of the 62 hours of pre-nursing course requirements. **Within the 53 hours, all science prerequisite coursework must be completed.** Of the 62 credit hours required for entry, a **maximum of 12 hours will be accepted without a letter grade**, such as through advanced placement (AP), pass/fail, credit by examination, challenge examination or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP). Additionally, **no more than three hours of credit in history AND no more than three hours in politics can be accepted without a letter grade.** Official transcripts from ALL schools attended should be mailed directly to NursingCAS. Additional application information, program curriculum, as well as other information and requirements can be found at the UTHSCSA School of Nursing website (<http://nursing.uthscsa.edu/>). NursingCAS support can be reached at (617) 612-2880 or nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org.

When considering an applicant for admission, the UTHSCSA School of Nursing calculates two GPAs: the overall or cumulative GPA and a program prerequisite GPA. All college level coursework, including all grades for repeated courses, is included in the overall GPA. The program prerequisite GPA is calculated based on an applicant's grades in all of the 62 hours of program prerequisite courses. Higher grades for

repeated courses will be used when calculating this GPA. **Students must have an overall GPA of at least a 2.5 and a program prerequisite GPA of at least 3.0 in order to apply for admission to the UTHSCSA School of Nursing.** Once eligible for application, the prerequisite GPA alone is used for admissions purposes. However, these are only the minimum GPA requirements to be **eligible** to apply to the program, and the **average GPAs for accepted students are significantly higher.**

It is advisable to start the application process as soon as possible. It can take 4-6 weeks to process your application once it is complete. To be complete, NursingCAS must receive 1) the electronic application, 2) all official transcripts and 3) the application fee. Students will NOT be notified if documents have not been received by NursingCAS. It is the student's responsibility to check status updates.

After applications and transcripts have been processed, selected applicants are invited to complete a three-hour online test (TEAS) evaluating basic reading comprehension, math, and science skills.

Other schools application processes vary. Some additionally use NursingCAS while others use its own application process. Due to the variation in application procedures, students should consult individual nursing schools for specific information pertaining to their programs. To locate schools and programs across the country, please visit the website of the American Association of College of Nursing at <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/students/nursing-program-search>.

Community Service/Volunteering/Shadowing: An integral part of preparation for programs in nursing entails involvement in community service projects and volunteer work in a hospital or clinical setting. These activities serve to familiarize prospective nurses with the realities of everyday clinical practice as well as to underscore the role of nurses and healthcare in relation to broader community level concerns and issues. One should be prepared to be able to demonstrate their commitment to the nursing profession with evidence of work, volunteer activities and related work in the profession. This will be an admissions factor that any school of nursing will be particularly interested to see of each applicant. A list of volunteer opportunities is available on the UHPO website (<http://www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions/>). We do not, however, have a list available for shadowing experiences. Students must exercise personal initiative and develop relationships that would allow them to have this direct contact with a nurse in everyday clinical practice.

Interviews: At this time the UTHSCSA School of Nursing does not require a formal interview. However, for other nursing programs, this might be an essential part of their application. The UHPO can offer some advice as students prepare for interviews and, after interviews, would like to debrief with students about their impressions. The University Career Center also facilitates interview workshops and conducts mock interviews to provide students with feedback. For more information about their services, contact them at the Main Campus [UC 2.02.04 or (210) 458-4589] or Downtown Campus [BV 1.304 or (210) 458-2910].

Letters of Evaluation: At this time the UTHSCSA School of Nursing does not require letters of evaluation. However, again for other nursing programs, this might be an essential part of their application. Upon request, the UHPO can provide suggestions for asking for letters of evaluation (or recommendation) successfully.

Additional Information/Resources: The UHPO has developed and maintains resources that will be available to students in our office. These include books, journals, handouts, and other resources. Useful information about nursing programs and the profession can be found on the website of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing at: <http://www.aacn.nche.edu/>.

Students are also encouraged to consult individual schools for specific information about their programs and prerequisites. For students considering remaining in San Antonio, the UTHSCSA School of Nursing can be one of various sources of primary information. Students can contact the Nursing Admissions Office [(210) 567-2670] to discuss any questions regarding prerequisite courses and other questions.

Health Professions Advising: The UHPO provides advising and support to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions, including nursing. This consists of academic preparation assistance as well as information about health careers, application procedures, and entrance exams for undergraduates, postbaccalaureate students, non-degree seeking students, and alumni. Students are encouraged to seek advice and consult with the UHPO advising staff early in their college career. For more information about our appointment and walk-in schedules and our other services, please contact us:

The University Health Professions Office (UHPO)
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www.utsa.edu/healthprofessions
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