

Nursing FAQ

What is the difference between ADN & BSN?

The BSN is a bachelor's degree typically structured as a four-year program and is a degree credential step higher than the ADN. The associate degree in nursing (ADN) is typically structured as a two-year associate degree program. Both BSN and ADN programs qualify a student to take the NCLEX licensure exam to become a licensed Registered Nurse (RN).

What does the TEAS exam cover?

The TEAS, the Test of Essential Academic Skills, is a standardized exam nursing programs use in nursing school admission that covers Reading, Math, and English Language usage. The Health Professions Website Pre-Nursing page under Resources provides a direct link to the TEAS website for more information.

What does the HESI exam cover?

It is another type of standardized entrance exam some nursing schools require for admission instead of TEAS. The exam consists of six sections: Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, and general knowledge of Biology, Chemistry, and Math. The Health Professions Website Pre-Nursing page under Resources provides a direct link to the HESI website for more information.

Do I need any shadowing hours/ health care or clinical experience?

No, shadowing hours are not required to apply to nursing school. The Health Professions Office encourages students to take a holistic view of their pre-professional development before application. This may include electing to have volunteer hours in health care settings, community service hours, involvement in student organizations, or employment experiences that help applicants develop competencies nursing schools are looking for in applicants.

Where can I find nursing schools in Texas?

Program directory information is located on our website under pre-nursing in resources. The first link is to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). You may also use the program directory through AACN for Texas and out-of-state schools. Navigate to Program Directory and Select State = Texas, and Programs Offered = Bachelors.

What types of careers can I pursue with an ADN/BSN?

Please visit discovernursing.com, as you can pursue a wide variety of careers with an ADN/BSN. Once on the website, go to the menu and explore specialties.

What Does 2+2 Pre-Nursing Mean?

Any student on the pre-nursing track attending UTSA with an initial goal to receive their initial bachelor's degree in Nursing (BSN) in 4 years. UTSA does not offer a BSN, so students elect to take only the prescribed mandatory undergraduate pre-requisite courses as required by the school(s) they hope to apply to. Students can submit applications to these preferred nursing schools once this coursework has been completed or will meet the minimum number of credit hours required to apply. Upon acceptance, students will transfer and enroll in nursing school to complete their two-year curriculum and earn their BSN.

Note: Students will still be considered on a 2+2 track even if their pre-requisite course completion at UTSA takes slightly longer than 2 years. For example, sometimes students may need 2.5 years to complete requirements depending on their pre-requisite completion progress.

What is the BSN-MDST Pathway?

UTSA and UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing (UTHSA) have partnered to offer the Joint BSN-MDST 2+2 Pre-Nursing Pathway. This pathway is designed for students already on a 2+2 pre-nursing track and are already interested in applying to UTHSA nursing school.

The pathway allows students to study multidisciplinary fields (biology, chemistry, and social sciences), which combine the required pre-requisite nursing coursework within the MDST Focus Areas. The BSN-MDST pathway is optional, and students are not required to choose this major to apply to UTHSA Nursing school. Ideally, this program is for those students who want both a bachelor's degree from UTSA and their BSN from UTHSA at the conclusion of their 4-year BSN curriculum.

Who is eligible for the BSN-MDST Pathway?

Students attending UTSA directly following their high school graduation. Students who are admitted to UTSA and have earned credit through Advanced Placement or Dual Credit courses are eligible for the pathway since college credit was earned occurred prior enrolling at UTSA.

Are the Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses applicable to the UTHSA School of Nursing Pre-requisites for the BSN-MDST Pathway?

Yes, students who have already received college credit for required UTHSA pre-requisites through AP or Dual credit are not required to repeat courses unless the grade earned was not 'C' or better. Students interested in the BSN-MDST Pathway would take any remaining courses to fulfill pre-requisites at UTSA.

Would I be allowed to take courses at a Community College during the summer?
No, the BSN-MDST pathway requires that once a student has been admitted and has enrolled in courses at UTSA, all remaining UTHSA nursing pre-requisites must be completed at UTSA.

Note: Students choosing not to opt-in to the BSN-MDST pathway may take courses outside of UTSA at Community College or other institutions to fulfill pre-requisites coursework requirements.

How do I join the BSN-MDST Pathway?

There is no special application. A student just needs to make sure they have declared the MDST-Nursing major.* If a pre-nursing student is interested in the BSN-MDST pathway and has a different major, please work with your Primary Advisor to request a change of major, if eligible.

Students may also self-identify with a Health Professions Advisor that they are interested in opting into the BSN-MDST pathway. Student can self-identify with the Health Professions Office during Appointments, Drop-in Advising or via an email from their @my.utsa.edu student account.

Students may opt into or out of the pathway at any time during their enrollment at UTSA.

**reminder: Transfer students who may choose the MDST-Nursing major within the Apply Texas admission application should meet with their Primary Advisor to select a different pathway major option.*

How do I complete the BSN-MDST Pathway?

Students who meet the below UTSA pre-application academic requirements apply for admission to UTHSA Nursing School. An applicant that is admitted into UTHSA Nursing School through their holistic admission process will be noted as BSN-MDST students upon enrollment into the nursing school. Once a student has completed their 2- year UTHSA BSN curriculum and graduated, they will arrange to have their UTHSA Nursing School transcript submitted to UTSA to complete the MDST Bachelor's degree. *Students will need to follow all UTSA procedures and deadlines to apply for Graduation.* Please contact your Primary Advisor within MDST-Nursing or the Health Professions Office for any questions about UTSA procedures and deadlines for graduation.

BSN-MDST Academic requirements

- Have a minimum 3.6 GPA in the UTHSA Pre-requisite coursework
- Score a minimum 84 on the TEAS exam
- Have completed the 12 credit hours of UTSA MDST Courses (a) HTH 2413, b) COM 1043/COM 1053/COM 2113 or ENG 2413, c) IS 1403/IS 1413 or CS 1173, and d) MDST 4983.