

### *What is a BSN?*

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program is generic in nature with a pathway for registered nurses. The Program is designed to enable students to integrate knowledge from theory and research, high-level skills, and concepts of leadership into the practice of professional nursing care of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The BSN Program provides a foundation for graduate study. BSN generic graduates are eligible to apply to the Texas Board of Nursing to take the National Council Licensure Examination. After successfully completing this examination, the graduate is issued a license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas.

<https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-nursing/index.htm>

<b>Admissions</b>			
<b>What does the student need in order to apply for the BSN program?</b>			
<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Introduce BSN</li><li>● Introduce jobs associated with the specific programs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Description of the program</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Admission Requirements for the BSN program at UTRGV</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● CE Courses</li><li>● License Renewal</li></ul>

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is a BSN?**

- A BSN is a bachelor's degree of science in nursing and is a four-year program for students who seek to become a registered nurse, or those who already are a registered nurse and have an associates degree in nursing. Many RNs will enroll in BSN programs to further their education in the nursing field from an associates degree to a bachelor's degree. A BSN program typically takes 4 years to complete and is the standard for entry-level jobs in the nursing field. Those who obtain a bachelor's degree of science in nursing are more likely to be hired for many nursing occupations over those who only have an associates degree, especially those who work in hospitals.

- <https://www.gmercyu.edu/academics/learn/rn-vs-bsn>

- **What jobs can the student get with a BSN?**

- Registered Nurse at a Hospital

- Legal mandate or not, more and more hospitals are already requiring RNs to have a BSN. Hospitals also continue to be the largest employers of nurses. There are pros and cons to working in a hospital, but the nurses who do, typically tend to work in an area of specialization, such as pediatrics, intensive care or emergency.
- So if you're an aspiring nurse who hopes to work at a hospital, earning a BSN may increase your hiring potential.
  - NICU Nurse
  - Trauma Nurse
  - Surgical Nurse
  - Pediatric Nurse
  - ICU Nurse
  - OB/GYN Nurse
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
  - Clinical nurse specialists are a category of advanced nursing professionals who use their specific expertise in an area (i.e., pediatrics, oncology or critical care) to care for patients. Depending on state law, clinical nursing specialists can have an expanded scope of practice and may be able to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment.
  - If you have your sights set on eventually landing a clinical nursing specialist role, know that earning a BSN is only the first step. You'll also need to complete a graduate-level Nursing program to be eligible.
- Nurse Manager
  - This leadership role in nursing is responsible for the overall operations of a nursing floor or unit. Most nurse managers work their way up from bedside care and then take on additional administrative duties as they reach a management role.
  - This means nurse managers will need a strong blend of hands-on clinical skills and experience for training and development of staff as well as an ability to manage the "business" side by understanding budgeting, human resources practices and strategic planning principles.
- Nursing Director
  - The next step up from nurse management is the director of nursing role. This senior-level role places an even greater

level of emphasis on the management and administration side of nursing. They are high-level representatives for nurses at hospitals and other healthcare facilities as executive decisions are made.

- As you might expect, the bar for qualifying for a nursing director position is high—a BSN with substantial leadership experience is a minimum, and most may prefer nurses with a Master's degree to help round out their administrative and business proficiency.
- Nurse Educator
  - As a nurse educator, you typically need to have a degree above the level you are teaching. So in order to teach in a Nursing Diploma program, you would need a Bachelor's degree. And for those looking to teach BSN nurses, a Master's of Science in Nursing would be preferred. If you are passionate about the profession, becoming a nurse educator can be an extremely rewarding way to make an impression on the next generation of nurses.
  - For those who are very passionate about their own nursing career, education can be an excellent opportunity to pass on that passion to inspire the next generation of nurses. There is also currently a major shortage of nursing faculty due to an aging workforce and increased competition with hospitals and other clinical sites, making the role of nurse educators even more critical.
- Clinical Research Nurse
  - Clinical research nurses (CRNs) work with research patients during clinical trials of drugs or other medical treatments. This puts them in an exciting position to see potentially game-changing treatments in their early stages. CRNs are responsible for the patient safety, care coordination and documentation before, during and after any procedures. These specialized registered nurses may work for hospitals, specialized clinics or even pharmaceutical companies.
  - BSN curriculum provides the foundational knowledge needed to become a CRN, with certification programs available to acquire more specialized skills.
- Public Health Nurse

- Public health nurses care for entire populations rather than individual patients. Instead of waiting for patients to seek treatment, they go out into communities to advocate for lifestyle improvements and disease prevention. They often work through healthcare programs and government services to educate the community and improve access for individuals.
  - Quality Assurance or Improvement Coordinator
    - One of the components of the Affordable Care Act is using ratings to improve quality care. Nurses have an interesting perspective on the measurement and analysis of this data because of their knowledge of working with patients. These individuals are responsible for ensuring the nursing staff are in compliance with procedures in place to provide quality care. This is another opportunity for you to make a positive and lasting impact on the industry.
  - Case Management Nurse
    - Case management nurses work primarily with patients dealing with long-term health issues like AIDS or cancer. This includes creating care plans designed to help coordinate several treatments across an extended period of time. Responsibilities can range from scheduling surgeries to advising the best course of action for the patient.
      - <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/7-bsn-jobs-available-now-dont-wait-for-the-mandate/>
- Tenth Grade
  - **What is the BSN program at UTRGV?**
    - The UTRGV BSN program is designed to prepare graduates at a high level of competency for beginning practitioners in a culturally diverse health care setting. The program objectives are as follows:
      - Demonstrate critical thinking in the use of knowledge and theory from the behavioral, physical and nursing sciences to provide safe, holistic (mind, body, spirit) client care in multicultural health care settings
      - Communicate effectively to establish trusting interpersonal caring relationships with individuals, families, groups, populations, and the community network

- Assess the health care status of clients across the lifespan through the use of a knowledge base, data collection techniques and nursing skills.
  - Analyze the nursing needs of clients to assist in the development of nursing diagnoses, client goals, nursing care priorities, and teaching plans
  - Plan methods of assistance, including teaching, that aid clients to enhance learning, encourage self-care and achieve optimal health
  - Implement the nursing care necessary to assist clients in reaching their health care goals
  - Evaluate health care activity and the responses of clients to that activity, modifying the nursing care plan as needed to promote optimum health
  - Practice culturally competent nursing within the bounds of professional standards and ethics, client rights, and legal statutes
  - Collaborate as a responsible member of a multidisciplinary health care team to advocate for safe, effective, and holistic culturally congruent client care, utilizing appropriate resources as necessary.
  - Demonstrate leadership, responsibility, and accountability in the practice of nursing and the management of health care personnel, being cognizant of societal, economic, political, and technological trends
  - Use the research process to identify nursing issues and evaluate research findings for applicability to nursing practice
  - Demonstrate commitment to the nursing profession
    - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-nursing/index.htm>
- **Eleventh Grade**
    - **What are the admission requirements for the program?**
      - Be admitted to UTRGV.
      - Be selected by the Undergraduate Admission, Progression & Graduation (APG) Committee for admission to the School of Nursing BSN Program.

- Maintain a minimum of 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale in all prerequisite courses. [\(link\)](#)
- Complete all BSN prerequisites with a minimum grade of "C" in each course.
- After official acceptance to the BSN Program, students are required to complete the following prior to the BSN Program orientation:
  - Pass math quiz [grade of 100].
  - Provide proof of current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for health care providers.
  - Provide documentation verifying absence of active (infectious) pulmonary disease.
  - Provide documentation verifying current immunization or immunity status for specified diseases (hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus/diphtheria or tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis, varicella, flu/influenza, meningitis *if <age 22*, etc.). [Immunization Compliance Student Form](#)
  - Submit evidence of being cleared by the Texas Board of Nursing's (TBON) criminal background check.
  - Complete the ATI Critical Thinking Exam. (Instructions will be sent to students)
    - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-nursing/admission-criteria/index.htm>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **When and how often does a Registered Nurse have to renew their license?**
  - In Texas, Registered Nurses have to renew their license every two years. However, the renewal time could be different depending on which state the student moves to.
   
[https://www.bon.texas.gov/education\\_continuing\\_education.asp#D](https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D)
- **Does a Registered Nurse have to take Continuing Education (CE) courses?**
  - For licensure renewal, LVNs and Registered Nurses must complete 20 contact hours of continuing nursing education (CNE) in the

nurse's area of practice OR demonstrate the achievement, maintenance, or renewal of a Board-approved national nursing certification in the nurse's area of practice within the licensing period and meet the applicable targeted continuing education requirements.

[https://www.bon.texas.gov/education\\_continuing\\_education.asp#D](https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D)

<b>Programs and Professions in Nursing</b>			
<b>What degree can the student get in the nursing field?</b>			
<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nursing Introduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Types of schools to obtain certificate/degree at               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tech. school (certificate)</li> <li>○ Commun. College (certificate, associate's)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Length of program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Job Opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Job responsibilities</li> <li>● Job statistics               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pay</li> <li>○ Job growth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The lowest level would be the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), then the Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN), followed by a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN), Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctorate in Nursing (DNP). Each one of these levels takes different amounts of time to obtain, and have very different job opportunities and responsibilities.

<https://nursejournal.org/articles/types-of-nursing-degrees/>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What are the types of schools can the student earn these at?**

- Technical schools

- Technical schools, also known as "vocational schools" offer targeted, shorter instruction at a lower tuition, or cost,

leading to a certificate or an associate's degree. Many technical schools in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.

<https://scitexas.edu/technical-school/>

- Community College
  - A community college is an institution that offers short term certificates or two year associate's degrees. Associate's degrees transfer and often lead to four year degrees at partnering universities. Many community colleges in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. They typically offer less expensive education than four year universities. Most community colleges have open enrollment, meaning there are very few requirements for admission.  
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2012/03/what-is-community-college>
- College
  - A college is a four year institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study (i.e. medicine or law). These degrees can lead to graduate or professional school. Colleges may have open enrollment or may have strict admission requirements.  
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>
- University
  - A University is a four year institution that offers many different degrees through multiple "colleges" located on the same campus. Typically a university may have a "College of Education" or a "College of Health Sciences". Universities also usually offer graduate (Master's, Doctorates) and professional degrees. Typically, universities have strict admission requirements that include grades, placements tests, and admissions tests like the SAT/ACT.  
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>
- **How long does it take to earn a BSN degree?**



- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

<b>Academic Pathway</b>			
<b>What coursework should be taken to enter the program?</b>			
<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>12th</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relevant Coursework               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How certain courses align with nursing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List examples of relevant coursework (ex. Foreign language)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HESI info.</li> </ul>	Final GPA to be considered for the BSN Program

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Is high school coursework relevant to the nursing field?**

- The student might not realize it, but preparing for a future career starts in high school (or even earlier). For example, did you know that nurses use algebra when calculating medication dosages? What the student learns in high school builds the foundation for their college education and career. If a student is considering nursing, they should take classes *now* that will prepare them for college *later*.

<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- **Does high school GPA matter?**

- Most BSN programs often set the minimum GPA at 3.0. ADN programs are more likely to set the minimum somewhere in the 2.0 to 2.75 range. Grades in prerequisite courses may be considered separately. \*These are minimum requirements and **to be competitive, the student should aim much higher**. When interest exceeds available spots, grades are often an important factor. [Getting-into-a-nursing-program.html](#)

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What are examples of courses to take in high school to best prepare for nursing school applications?**

<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Anatomy & Physiology
  - Physics
  - Algebra
  - Geometry
  - Psychology
  - Speech
  - Foreign Language
  - Health courses
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- **What other coursework should be taken for the BSN program?**
    - Students must complete 63 hours towards the degree to be officially admitted to the program. The 63 semester credit hours must include the courses needed to apply (see application requirements above) plus the following courses:
      - ENGL 1301 Rhetoric and Composition I (or ENGL 1387 Honors)
      - ENGL 1302 Rhetoric and Composition II (or ENGL 1388 Honors) or ENGL 1305 Writing Cultural Studies
      - HIST 1301 U.S. History I (or HIST 1387 Honors) or HIST/MASC 2327 Mexican American History I
      - HIST 1302 U.S. History II (or HIST 1388 Honors) or HIST/MASC 2328 Mexican American History II
      - POLS 2305 U.S. Federal Government & Politics (or POLS 2385 Honors)
      - POLS 2306 Texas Government & Politics (or POLS 2386 Honors)
      - Core Category 040-Language, Philosophy and Culture (core) – 3 SCHS
      - Core Category 050-Creative Arts – 3 SCHs
      - Core Category 090-Integrative/Experiential Learning Option – 3 SCHs
      - HRPT 2303 Medical Terminology or SPAN 2317 Spanish for Healthcare Professionals I
      - KINE activity course – 2 SCHs

- NUTR 2351 Introduction to Clinical Nutrition
  
- **Eleventh Grade**
  - **How does the HESI affect the student's chance of getting into the BSN program?**
    - Students are eligible to apply to the program when they achieve a 75% or higher on the required components of HESI Admission Assessment Exam (English Language, Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Math, Anatomy and Physiology, and Critical Thinking).
    - Students will be evaluated for admission based on space-availability after being rank-ordered using the total points obtained from the following criteria:
      - GPA for Science Courses - 40%
      - GPA for Strategic Courses - 20%
      - **HESI A2 Composite Score (includes English, Math, Anatomy and Physiology) - 20%**
      - **HESI A2 Critical Thinking Score - 20%**
        - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-nursing/admission-criteria/index.htm>
  
- **Twelfth Grade**
  - **What is the final GPA that the student needs to be considered for the program?**
    - Maintain a minimum of 3.0 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale in all prerequisite courses.
    - Complete all BSN prerequisites with a minimum grade of "C" in each course.
      - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-nursing/admission-criteria/index.htm>

Want to learn more? Visit the UTRGV BSN page here:

<https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/undergraduate-programs/bachelor-of-science-nursing/admission-criteria/index.htm>