

ADN Framework - Texas State Technical College

What is an ADN?

ADN stands for Associate Degree in Nursing and at TSTC it is an LVN-to-RN track program. It will prepare students with the basic skills to become safe practitioners in the healthcare field. The individual will be a registered nurse and can work in hospitals, day-surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, home health care agencies, among other areas. <https://www.tstc.edu/programs/Nursing>

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

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The first 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>

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- **Where can the student work with their degree?**

- Associate's Degree of Nursing

- Hospitals
 - Physician's Offices
 - Home Health Care Services
 - Community Care Facilities
 - Insurance Carriers

- <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/what-can-you-do-with-associate-degree-in-nursing/>

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- **What kind of responsibilities does a nurse with this degree have?**

- Examining patients and speaking with them about their symptoms and health histories
 - Recording patient information for physician diagnosis and decision-making
 - Delivering essential information and counsel with the goal of improving health
 - Playing a key role in patient education regarding illness and injury management
 - Operating medical equipment
 - Performing diagnostic tests and analysis of results
 - Collaborating with other health care professionals to ensure a high quality of patient care <https://nurse.org/education/adn-guide/>

- **How much does an ADN earn?**

- The median pay for an ADN is about \$34.48 per hour - \$71,730 per year.

- **What is the projected job growth for an ADN?**

- The projected job growth is 12%. The government expects to have 371,500 jobs available by 2028.

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

Academic Pathway			
What coursework should be taken to become a nurse?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual Enrollment • Relevant Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual v. AP • Coursework Transferability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-Secondary programs GPA

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is dual enrollment?**

- The term dual enrollment refers to students being enrolled—concurrently—in two academic programs or institutions. The term is used in reference to high school students taking college courses while they are still enrolled in high school (i.e., a *dual-enrollment student*), or to the programs that allow high school students to take college-level courses (i.e., a *dual-enrollment program*). For this reason, the term *early college* is a common synonym for dual enrollment.

<https://www.edglossary.org/dual-enrollment/>

- The student needs to be aware that the grades they receive in any dual or concurrent enrollment courses will stay with them throughout their college career. These grades will be averaged into their overall college GPA.

- **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](http://www.getting-into-a-nursing-program.html)

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- **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 is the difference between AP and Dual Enrollment?**

- Dual enrollment courses allow students to get early access to college courses. AP courses are different because they only result in college credit if a student earns a particular score on the AP exam at the end of the course, and if the college that the student enrolls in, accepts AP scores as course credit. This means students who complete a dual enrollment program have a college transcript at the end of their high school career and can enroll directly into that college or transfer these courses if they move to another institution. AP courses on the other hand result in an AP score that can be submitted to a college. The college can then decide if the score will amount to any college credit.

<https://blog.ed.gov/2019/07/burning-questions-dual-enrollment-answered/>

- **Will Dual Enrollment coursework transfer to all colleges and universities?**

- Academic dual credit can be applied toward the core curriculum or to other specific degree program requirements of an academic associate degree or baccalaureate degree. Students who want more information about the transferability of their dual credit courses should seek guidance from an advisor at the institution offering the dual credit.

<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/institutional-resources-programs/public-community-technical-state-colleges/transfer-resources/dual-credit-initiatives/>

- If the student has course credit from TSTC, they may check if a course will transfer to a college or university in Texas at www.tccns.org. For information regarding transferability of courses to institutions *outside* of Texas, students should check with the institution receiving the credit.

<https://www.tstc.edu/admissions/firststeps>

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- **What GPA does the student need in order to apply to these programs?**

- While most universities and colleges have a minimum GPA posted for acceptance, they accept students with a GPA much higher on average. This is why it is important to achieve the highest GPA possible and maintain it throughout schooling. Applicants must meet the required TSTC cumulative GPA of 2.7 Figured using ONLY the Prerequisite letter grades.

- https://www.tstc.edu/programrequirements/lvn_rn_har

Admissions			
What does the student need in order to apply for the ADN program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce associate's degree • Introduce job titles associated with the specific programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed information about program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission Requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCLEX • License renewal • CE courses

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is an ADN?**

- The ADN program will prepare students with the basic competencies to become safe practitioners in the healthcare field.
 - The individual will be a registered nurse and can work in hospitals, day-surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, home health care agencies, among other areas.

<https://www.tstc.edu/programs/Nursing>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What is the ADN program at TSTC?**

- The LVN to RN Transition Program is a 20-month program and is designed for individuals who hold an LVN License and seek to pursue the Registered Nurse Licensure. Students will care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. They may work under the supervision of a registered nurse. A current LVN License is required to apply.

[Harlingen Nursing Associate Degree Program Advisory Packet](#)

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the requirements to get into the TSTC ADN Program?**

- Attend a Prospective Student Advisory Session and have a Certificate of Completion in the Admission Packet
 - The LVN to RN Transition Program is designed for individuals who hold an LVN License and seek to pursue the Registered Nurse Licensure.

- Complete ALL prerequisites with a “C” or better. The higher your grade is on prerequisites, the more points you get on your Admission Score Sheet. ALL SCIENCES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE PAST 10 YEARS.
- Applicants must take the HESI LPN-ADN (Admissions Assessment) Exam and meet the required score of at least 800.
- Applicant must meet the required TSTC cumulative GPA of 2.7 using ONLY the prerequisite letter grades
- Applicant must complete Fingerprint Clearance and L1 criminal History check for the TX Board of Nursing Drug Screens (These items are scheduled *after* acceptance into program)
- Complete all Health Requirements/Immunizations within the last 12 months
*health requirement including immunizations must be signed by your healthcare provider and recorded on TSTC physician document
- Complete and Submit Admission Application in 9 X 12 Sealed envelope

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- **What certification exam has to be taken after the completion of the ADN program?**
 - In order to become licensed, nursing hopefuls must have an approved nursing degree and pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). It’s important that registered nurses are truly knowledgeable and can hold their own in a medical setting, so the National Council of State Boards of Nursing administers the NCLEX to provide legally defensible nursing licensure and certification consistent with current practice.
<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/what-is-the-nclex/>
- **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
- **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

Programs and Professions in Nursing			
What exams does the student need to take for the nursing program they're interested in?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Nursing Examinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HESI LPN-ADN ○ NCLEX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HESI LPN-ADN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Test Description ○ Test outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCLEX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description ○ Outline ○ Prep course ○ Exam registration ○ Locations ○ Scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCLEX remediation

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- **Nursing Exams Introduction**

- Applicants must take the HESI LPN-ADN. (Admissions Assessment) Exam and meet the required score of at least 800.
 - The NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) is a licensure exam that the student must take after completing and passing the LVN program. This exam will determine if the student has retained the information learned and are ready to enter the workforce setting.

<https://nursejournal.org/articles/6-things-to-know-about-the-nclex-examination/>

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- **HESI LPN-ADN Outline**

- **Information Pending**

- The test has 75 questions designed to be used as an exam for currently Licensed Practical/Vocational nurses seeking entrance in an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program. Most students will

complete the test in 90 minutes. The test will take approximately 2 hours to complete, but it is not a timed test.

- The exam identifies their strengths and weaknesses in PN/VN content areas, and the possible need for remediation prior to entrance into an ADN program. The LPN to RN Entrance Exam covers:

- Fundamentals
- Pediatric Nursing
- Maternity
- Medical-Surgical
- Psychiatric/Mental Illness
- Professional Issues

<https://www.ntcc.edu/student-services/testing-center/hesi-lpn-adn>

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- **NCLEX Outline**

- In order to become a practicing Registered Nurse, the student must pass the NCLEX in order to obtain their license. The test is made up of four sections. The first section is *safe effective care environment*. This is about being able to maintain sterile hygiene and control infections. The second section is *health promotion and maintenance*. This section revolves around preventative healthcare, which is one of the fastest growing subsections of medicine today. Third, there is *psychosocial integrity*. This looks at the student's ability to cope with the stresses of being a nurse and also focuses on being able to deliver mental health care. The final and largest element of the NCLEX exam is *physiological integrity*, the student's ability to deliver proper nursing care.
 - In order to register for the NCLEX, the student must ask their State Board of Nursing for licensure. If they accept, the student will be allowed to take the NCLEX, and will receive an Authorization to Take the Test (ATT) letter. There is no letter or percentage grade for the NCLEX. It is a pass/fail test. If the student fails the NCLEX, there is a Candidate Performance Report (CPR) telling them what they need to work on. The official results for the exam will come six weeks after the exam. However, there is an option to pay a fee to

see the unofficial results two days after the exam. The location for testing depends on where the student lives. One of the websites below can tell the student the closest testing location to where they live. If the student wants to prepare for the NCLEX, there are different online preparation courses that they can use like Kaplan, NRSNG, and HURST.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>

<https://nursejournal.org/articles/6-things-to-know-about-the-nclex-examination/>

<https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/registration/SelectTestCenterProximity/NCLEXTTESTING?conversationId=519306>

<https://nurse.org/articles/top-nclex-review-courses/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What happens if the student fails the NCLEX? Can he/she retake the exam?**

- The NCSBN retake policy allows candidates to retake their exam 45 days after administration of the exam. Candidates who have applied for licensure/registration with a participating nursing regulatory body (NRB) will be permitted to take the NCLEX eight times a year and there must be 45 test-free days between each examination. <https://www.ncsbn.org/1224.htm>

Want to learn more? Visit the TSTC ADN Page here:

<https://www.tstc.edu/programs/Nursing>