Bachelor of Science in Nursing Policies (pre-licensure)

Prerequisite and Upper-Division Nursing Program Eligibility Policies

It is each student’s responsibility to read, understand, and comply with this document and UT Arlington’s:

♦ Undergraduate Catalog
♦ College of Nursing Admission Brochures (Campus-Based program)(Online, AP BSN program)

Supplemental Resources:
♦ UT Arlington website
♦ College of Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing website

Students accepted into the upper-division nursing program must adhere to the College of Nursing BSN Student Handbook.

In addition to the resources listed above, UT Arlington College of Nursing Bachelor of Science (BSN) pre-nursing students are required to adhere to the following policies. These policies are specific to UT Arlington’s College of Nursing and must be adhered to when different from UT Arlington policies.

♦ HESI A2
  • Designated sections of the HESI A2 must be completed with a minimum required score (as indicated below) to be eligible to apply for admission to the upper-division nursing program (scores need to be uploaded to the BSN application) by the following deadlines:
    - Fall start: January 5
    - Spring start: June 1
  • HESI A2 sections considered during the admissions process are:
    Grammar
    Math
    Reading Comprehension
    Vocabulary
    Learning and Personality Styles (sections required; however, results are not part of the admission or ranking criteria)

  • A minimum composite score of 300 (required scored sections added together) and minimum math score of 65 is required to be eligible to apply to the upper-division nursing program.
  • If accepted to the upper-division nursing program and a math score between 65 – 74 was earned, a math remediation course must be successfully completed prior to starting the upper-division nursing program.
  • The actual score earned is not used in the ranking process.
  • If the HESI A2 is re-taken, all required sections must be taken. Submitted scores must be from the same test administration.
  • A six month waiting period is required between test attempts, regardless of where the test was originally taken. Once a passing score is achieved and the other College of Nursing admission criteria are met, a BSN application to the upper-division nursing program may be submitted.
  • Passing HESI A2 scores are valid indefinitely; the scores do not expire.
♦ Improvement of Grades C or Above
Policy applies to all BSN prerequisite lower-division courses on the College of Nursing admission brochures except the three pre-nursing courses (Introduction to Professional Nursing, Pathophysiology, & Pharmacology) and the upper-division elective.

Grades of C or above may be replaced to improve GPAs for the College of Nursing ranking process with the following limitations:
• All earned grades are valid indefinitely; grades do not expire.
• A limit of four courses may be re-taken.
• A course may only be repeated one time. One withdrawal (W) grade may be earned one time between the original passing grade and the attempted grade replacement.
• The higher of the two grades (original grade and replaced grade) is used in the ranking process.
• The first four courses re-taken are the grades used in the ranking process. Any courses re-taken thereafter are not used in the ranking process.
• If a course(s) is retaken due to a nursing program at a different institution having a time limit on the prerequisites, this is considered a Grade Improvement and will count against the limit.
• A course equivalent (i.e. Math Modeling, College Algebra; CHEM 1451, 1441) is considered a grade improvement for the same prerequisite requirement.
• Replaced grades earned by the BSN application deadline are used in the ranking process.
• A replaced grade is used for the College of Nursing ranking purposes only and does not affect the UT Arlington GPA.
• This policy only applies to prerequisites where a grade of C or above was previously earned; this does not apply to courses where a non-passing grade was earned. Refer to the the “Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses” policies in this document for additional information.
• The pre-nursing course Introduction to Professional Nursing may NOT be replaced to improve grades for the College of Nursing ranking process. The initial grade earned is used in the ranking process.
• The two pre-nursing courses, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology may NOT be replaced to improve grades for the College of Nursing ranking process. Due to the three (3) year course time limit, only valid Pharmacology grades are used in the ranking process. For additional information, refer to the “Pharmacology” policy in this document.
• The upper-division elective grade is not used in the ranking process.

♦ Declaratory Order
Applicants accepted to the upper-division nursing program must prove eligibility for RN licensure **before** beginning the program. If any of the following conditions apply,

- Criminal conviction (includes DWI)
- Mental illness
- Chemical dependence

A State of Texas Board of Nursing Declaratory Order granting permission to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses must be completed and approved before starting the upper-division nursing program. (fee associated, visit the Board of Nursing website)

♦ Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses
Policy refers to the two BSN prerequisite lower-division pre-nursing courses (Pathophysiology or Pharmacology) and all upper-division nursing courses.

If a grade of D or F is earned at UT Arlington or an approved transfer course (for information regarding an approved transfer course, refer to the “UT Arlington Transfer Student” policy in this document):

- **One (1) grade of D or F = probationary status with UT Arlington’s College of Nursing.**
  1. Prevents eligibility to begin the upper-division nursing program for that particular application period.
  2. Must re-take the course, pass with a “C” or better and have not violated the UT Arlington and College of Nursing polices to be considered a viable re-applicant.
  3. Both grades, failing and passing, will be used to calculate the BSN prerequisite lower-division courses GPA.
  4. Must re-submit an upper-division BSN application.
Failure of Nursing Courses Policy continued

5. Upper-division program applicants earning a grade of D or F in the term directly following the BSN application deadline, if accepted, may not start the upper-division nursing program even if the course is re-taken and passed during subsequent term. Applicants must re-apply for the following application period.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application for</th>
<th>Non-passing term</th>
<th>Passing term</th>
<th>Re-application term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2021</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
<td>Fall 2020</td>
<td>Fall 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Two (2) grades of D or F = NOT permitted to continue with UT Arlington’s College of Nursing program.

- Any Pathophysiology grade earned is subject to this policy.
- Any Pharmacology grade earned is subject to this policy, including those earned outside the three year time limit.

- A grade of D or F earned in a nursing program at an outside institution prevents application or transfer to UT Arlington’s upper-division nursing program. For the policy in its entirety, refer to the “Transfer Nursing Student Policy” in this document.

- GPA Calculation in Upper-Division Nursing Program Ranking Process
  
  - In the BSN prerequisite lower-division courses, all earned grades, including D’s or F’s, are calculated in the GPAs used in the ranking process if that is the grade earned by the College of Nursing application deadline and no subsequent grade was earned prior to the BSN application deadline.
  
  - For the calculation of a pre-nursing course failing grade (Pathophysiology or Pharmacology), refer to the “Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses”; One (1) grade of D or F, item 3” policy in this document.
  
  - If more than the required credit hours were awarded for a given course, only the UTA’s College of Nursing required number of credit hours will be used to calculate the GPA in the ranking process. For example, if four credit hours are awarded for a college algebra course, the required three credit hours will be used to calculate the GPA in the ranking process.
  
  - A letter grade is required for all BSN prerequisite lower-division natural science courses. The natural science course(s) will only fulfill the prerequisite requirement if a passing letter grade is assigned.

- Grade Exclusion (College of Nursing conditions to UT Arlington’s policy)
  
  - A UT Arlington Grade Exclusion differs from that of the College of Nursing “Improvement of Grades C or Above” policy (refer to the UT Arlington Grade Exclusion policy and the “Improvement of Grades C or Above” policy in this document).
  
  - BSN prerequisite lower-division courses can be excluded with the exception pre-nursing courses (Introduction to Professional Nursing, Pathophysiology, & Pharmacology) may not be grade excluded.

  - Please note: The College of Nursing does not recognize an approved UT Arlington Grade Exclusion; any non-passing grade is considered an attempt (refer to the “Three Attempt Course Limit” policy in this document).

- International Students
  
  - International students with either F1 or J1 visa status are ineligible to participate in the Online Accelerated Program (Online, AP) program. International students are welcome to participate in the traditional Campus-Based BSN program.

- Pharmacology
  
  - Pharmacology must be completed within three (3) years prior to starting the upper-division nursing program. The time is calculated at the time a student enters the upper-division nursing program.
  
  - Due to the three (3) year course time limit, only valid Pharmacology grades are used in the ranking process. The grade used in the ranking process is determined by the following guidelines:
    
    1. If the grade was earned within the three (3) year course time limit: the grade is used in the ranking process
    2. If the three (3) years has expired: the grade is not used in the ranking process
    3. If the initial grade has expired and the course was re-taken: the new grade is used in the ranking process if it was earned by the BSN application deadline.

3
Prerequisite and Upper-Division Nursing Program Eligibility Policies, continued

- **Proof of Identification Requirements for Accepted Applicants**
  If accepted into the upper-division nursing program, two forms of identification may be required by a clinical facility for clinical placement. Acceptable forms of identification are:
  - United States government-issued photo identification (i.e., driver’s license or state-issued identification card).
  - Social Security card or student visa.

- **Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) Requirement:**
  - Please note the College of Nursing has more stringent TOEFL requirements than UT Arlington.
  - Graduation from a U.S. high school and/or a bachelor’s degree or higher earned in the U.S. exempts the TOEFL requirement.
  - Refer to the list of exempt countries for additional exceptions to the policy.
  - In lieu of the TOEFL, native country secondary school documentation, which includes proof of graduation with curriculum taught in English, is acceptable.
  - College of Nursing Academic Advisors can provide further information concerning exemptions.
  - If required, the minimum required scores (Undergraduate Admissions, International Students section) must be earned to be a viable College of Nursing candidate to the upper-division nursing program.
  - All TOEFL documentation (scores or documentation) are due by the BSN application deadlines.
  - TOEFL scores are valid indefinitely; the scores do not expire.

- **Transfer Nursing Student Policy**
  - For a definition and the full policy of a “Transfer Nursing Student”, select the link, scroll down to: “Transfer Nursing Student Policy.”
  - To be eligible to apply to UT Arlington’s College of Nursing program as a transfer nursing student, a student must have:
    - No Ds or Fs in Pathophysiology, Pharmacology or any nursing course (Junior I or higher) if the course(s) is approved for fulfillment of UT Arlington’s College of Nursing requirement(s).
    - A letter from previous school stating that the student is in good standing, confirming the student is eligible to continue in the previous school’s nursing program.
    - Completed UT Arlington’s College of Nursing BSN prerequisite lower-division courses marked with an asterisk (*) on UT Arlington’s College of Nursing admission brochure, with a grade of C or above.
    - A minimum earned GPA of 2.75 in the following BSN prerequisite lower-division courses:
      - Prerequisite natural science GPA (A&P I & II, Microbiology, and Chemistry)
      - Prerequisite natural science and prerequisite courses GPAs (excluding the upper-division elective)
    - Must not have violated any UT Arlington or UT Arlington College of Nursing policies.
    - The Online, AP BSN program does not accept transfer nursing students.

- **UT Arlington Transfer Student**
  - Accepted transfer credit grades are used in the College of Nursing upper-division ranking process.
  - BSN prerequisite lower-division courses, including the pre-nursing courses (Introduction to Professional Nursing, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology), may be transferred from a UT Arlington approved outside institution. These courses must also meet the requirements of the College of Nursing.
  - BSN prerequisite lower-division courses utilize a different approval procedure from the pre-nursing courses transferred from a UT Arlington approved outside institution.
  - All pre-nursing courses taken outside of UT Arlington must follow the “Procedure for Transfer of Nursing Courses” procedure to determine the fulfillment of requirements. For Pathophysiology or Pharmacology only, if approved by the College of Nursing for fulfillment of requirements, the “Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses” policy in this document governs said course(s).

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