

## Vocational Nursing Certificate (CIP 59.3901.)

281-756-5630

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Alvin Community College Vocational Nursing Program (ACC VN Program or VN Program) is to provide a Texas Board of Nursing (BON) approved educational curriculum designed to prepare students to be eligible to write the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) after the student has successfully completed the VN program. Those passing this examination will become licensed to practice Vocational Nursing in the State of Texas. The program delivers the instruction necessary for the LVN to function, at an entry level, in the following roles: as a member of the profession, as a provider of patient centered care, as a patient safety advocate, and as a member of the healthcare team. LVN practice is a directed scope of practice. VN licensure enables the nurse to care for clients with predictable health care needs in a variety of healthcare settings while under the supervision of a registered nurse, advance practice registered nurse, physician's assistant, physician, dentist or podiatrist.

**Accreditation:** The program is fully approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). The stated mission of the BON is to protect and promote the welfare and safety of the people of Texas by ensuring that each person holding a license as a nurse in the State of Texas is competent to practice safely.

**Procedure for Program Application for Conditional Admission:** A new class starts at the beginning of each 11-week summer semester. Enrollment is limited to 30-50 qualified applicants per class. The number of students accepted will depend upon instructor and clinical site availability. To be considered for conditional admission to the ACC VN program, the applicant **MUST** complete the following steps by the application deadline, although the steps do not have to be completed in the order in which they are listed:

1. Be fully admitted to the college, then submit a completed online VN application at [www.alvincollege.edu/LVN](http://www.alvincollege.edu/LVN) during application period. See the VN web page for exact dates of application period. Applications may be accessed on the web page on the first day of the application period and will not be accepted after the close of the application period.
2. Attend a Vocational Nursing applicant meeting. Check the VN web page for meeting location, dates, and times. The last meeting is conducted on the application deadline date. All initially required application documents (3-5 below) should be turned in at an applicant meeting. Those arriving late to an applicant meeting may not receive credit for attendance. **CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ATTEND.**
3. Provide original **official** proof of a high school level education. This is a BON requirement. Proof of college attendance or graduation is not acceptable. The VN program does not accept foreign high school credits. They must be evaluated for U.S. equivalency by an ACC approved transcript evaluation services provider. You will find a list of approved companies in the "Academic Policies & Regulations" section of this catalog. The **original** transcript evaluation document must be submitted to the VN department.
4. Submit HESI A2 exam scores to the VN department. Applicants are required to take the following sections of the exam: Math, Reading, Comprehension, Vocabulary & General Knowledge, Grammar and Anatomy & Physiology. VN applicants may combine section scores from different HESI exams. If an applicant wishes to repeat the entire exam, or repeat specific sections, at least 30 days must elapse prior to retesting. HESI A2 scores for all required test sections must be less than five years old as of the application deadline. If the exam is taken at ACC, the VN department automatically receives a score report. If the exam is taken elsewhere, you must have the results sent to [nursing@alvincollege.edu](mailto:nursing@alvincollege.edu). It may take up to 2 weeks for us to receive them. Plan accordingly, we **MUST** receive the exam scores no later than the application deadline.
5. Submit proof of Hepatitis-B (HBV) vaccine injection #1, or proof of HBV immunity (a titer).

**Selection for Admission:** Admission to the VN program is competitive. There are no prerequisite courses for the VN program. After the application deadline, applicants are primarily ranked according to their HESI-A2 exam scores. Applicants must achieve a reading comprehension score of 70% or better and a composite score of 65% or better. Additional admission preference is given to applicants achieving the required HESI exam scores if they:

1. Live in-district for Alvin Community College. To determine if you reside within the district, contact the Admissions Office at 281-756-3531.
2. Have completed Biology 2401 Anatomy & Physiology I and Biology 2402 Anatomy & Physiology II by the application deadline. The grade attained in each course must be a "C" or better and must be no more than 5 years old as of the application deadline.
3. Although there is no minimum requirement for HESI A2 math scores, those scoring 85% or above on the math section receive additional admission consideration.

### Program Information:

1. The total cost for the VN Program is approximately \$5,700 for students living in-district and approximately \$7,700 for students living out-of-district. This includes all tuition and fees, HESI A2 fee, required CPR certification, malpractice insurance, books, miscellaneous supplies, uniforms, plus costs related to graduation and licensure. The cost of personal health insurance and transportation are the student's responsibility. Note: Costs are subject to change without notice.
2. The VN program reserves the right to dismiss, at any time, any student. The reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the infractions listed in BON rule # 214.8. The VN Program adheres to ACC Academic Dishonesty & Integrity policies and procedures.
3. The program consists of both academic courses and associated clinical learning experiences as required by the BON. The student must demonstrate the ability to meet the course objectives identified in each academic course plus the learning and skill performance objectives identified for each clinical course in order to progress in the program.
4. The ACC VN program is affiliated with a variety of healthcare facilities in order to provide the clinical experiences required by the BON. The days and shifts available for clinical vary from facility to facility. Clinical assignments can be in any geographical area in Brazoria County or the counties surrounding it. Clinical hours can be scheduled for any hour on any day of the week.
5. Requirements that must be completed **after** conditional acceptance in order to become fully accepted:

**Note:** These requirements must be met by the deadlines listed in the instructions sent to students after they are initially accepted. The instructions give specific directions for completing the following steps:

- a. Attend the VN Program orientation for the class of 2018-2019 (date and time TBA).
  - b. Have healthcare provider complete, sign, and date a "Statement of Fitness," VN department will provide the form.
  - c. Pay for and complete two criminal background checks. Results of background checks must be deemed as satisfactory according to VN Program policy, the requirements of VN clinical affiliates, and must meet the eligibility criteria, as determined by the BON that will allow graduated students to write for the NCLEX-PN. A social security number is required and will be verified during the background checks. One of the background checks is done by a private firm and is required by clinical affiliates. The other is a DPS/FBI background check that the Texas Board of Nursing requires for all nursing students. See VN application instructions at [www.alvincollege.edu/LVN](http://www.alvincollege.edu/LVN) for further information about BON background check procedures.
- Note:** Persons convicted of a felony offense, those who have received deferred adjudication for a felony offense, and those appealing a felony conviction, are not eligible for admission to the ACC VN Program. The ACC VN program defines the term "conviction" as BON rule 213.1.12 does. This policy **is applicable** even when a prospective student has filed a "Petition for Declaratory Order" with the BON and received BON consent to sit for the NCLEX-PN after graduation from an approved VN program.
- d. Pay for and submit a urine drug screen. This is done on program orientation day, the screen must be negative in order to maintain your accepted student status.
  - e. Obtain CPR certification from the American Heart Association, it **must** be for Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers.

- f. Provide proof of the following:
  - a. Up-to-date immunizations or proof of immunity – measles mumps, rubella (titer required), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (pertussis booster required after age 18), varicella (titer required), all 3 injections of the Hepatitis B vaccine series (or a titer indicating Hepatitis B immunity), and seasonal flu.
  - b. Negative TB screen (PPD) skin test, Quantiferon blood test, or chest xray performed specifically for TB screening purposes).
  - g. Pay for lab supplies.
  - h. Order and pay for VN uniforms on program orientation day.

**Transfer Students / Readmission Students**

1. Applicants from ADN or VN programs not affiliated with ACC are considered new students. They must apply during the application period, and meet & abide by the current VN admission, curriculum, and program requirements. Courses from other ADN or VN programs will be evaluated for transfer on an individual basis by the VN Department Chair. The courses must be no older than 2 years as of the application deadline. If the VN Department Chair finds the course content suitable for transfer, evidence of competency in these previously completed nursing courses will be required before the courses are accepted for transfer. This will be accomplished by a written exam and may include clinical skills competency demonstration. The student must pass the competency testing in order for these courses to be accepted.
  2. ACC ADN students who wish to join the VN program may apply. If the student must enter VN program in the first semester, they must apply to the program along with all other applicants. They must meet & abide by the current VN admission, curriculum, and program requirements.
  3. ACC ADN students who wish to enter the VN program in the fall semester will be placed on a wait list after filling out an application. The students will be admitted on a space available basis if they meet & abide by the current VN admission, curriculum, and program requirements. Evidence of competency in previously completed nursing courses will be required before the courses are accepted. This will be accomplished by a written exam and may include clinical skills competency demonstration. The student must pass the competency testing in order to be admitted.
  4. ACC VN students who fail to complete the program in the first semester and wish to make a second attempt must reapply to the program. They will then be ranked for admission along with all other applicants. They must meet & abide by the current VN admission, curriculum, and program requirements.
  5. All students are allowed two attempts, maximum, to complete the program. For returning VN students entering in the second or third semester, the second attempt must be made within 1 year of the previous withdrawal from the program.
  6. ACC VN students who complete the summer semester successfully, but fail to complete the fall semester may return for one further attempt. The second attempt must be made within 1 year of the previous withdrawal from the program. They must complete a new program application, and must meet & abide by the current VN admission, curriculum, and program requirements. The students will then be placed on a wait list and admitted as space permits. Evidence of competency in previously completed VN courses will be required before the courses are accepted. This will be accomplished by a written exam and may include clinical skills competency demonstration. The student must pass the competency testing in order to be admitted.
- The ACC VN program does not readmit VN students, or accept students from other nursing programs if they:
- failed clinically, or;
  - were dismissed for professional behavior issues, or;
  - committed acts of academic dishonesty

**Progression and Dismissal Policies:**

1. The VN program is a block scheduled program with one entry point and one exit point. A new cohort enters each June and exits the following May. All courses are taken in the same sequence and at the same time by all students. Course sequencing is shown in the curriculum below.
2. Students must attain a "C" or better in all required courses. An average of 75% is the lowest score accepted as a "C".
3. In classes that have both a classroom and clinical component, the student must attain a 75 % or greater average in both components. If a student receives a grade of less than 75% average in either component, the student cannot continue either course or any co-requisite courses. The student must withdraw from the program and, if eligible, reapply to the program within the required time-frame.
4. The maximum allowable number of absences in summer semester (11 week) is two per academic course, and one total for clinical. The maximum allowable absences in the fall and spring semesters (sixteen weeks each) is three per academic course and two total for clinical. For classroom courses, late is defined as more than 15 minutes after the beginning of class. See the VN Student Handbook for policies regarding being late to clinical assignments. Three instances of being late to a class or clinical equals one absence in that class or clinical.

<i>Course Number</i>	<i>Course Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>
<b>First Semester (Summer)</b>		
VNSG 1122	Vocational Nursing Concepts	1
VNSG 1160	Clinical I - Vocational Nurse	1
VNSG 1227	Essentials of Medication Administration	2
VNSG 1420	Anatomy & Physiology for Allied Health	4
VNSG 1423	Basic Nursing Skills	<u>4</u>
		<b>12</b>
<b>Second Semester (Fall)</b>		
VNSG 1329	Medical-Surgical Nursing I	3
VNSG 1331	Pharmacology	3
VNSG 1332	Medical-Surgical Nursing II	3
VNSG 1660	Clinical II - Vocational Nurse	<u>6</u>
		<b>15</b>
<b>Third Semester (Spring)</b>		
VNSG 1219	Leadership & Professional Development	2
VNSG 1226	Gerontology	2
VNSG 1230	Maternal-Neonatal Nursing	2
VNSG 1234	Pediatrics	2
VNSG 1301	Mental Health & Mental Illness	3
*VNSG 1661	Clinical III - Vocational Nurse	<u>6</u>
		<b>17</b>
Total Credits Required for Vocational Nursing Certificate .....		<b>44</b>

\* Capstone Course