

Articulated Credit

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 begins each Summer Session I. The first class that you may apply for begins June, 2017. 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, 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 during application period. See the VN website for exact dates of application period. Applications may be accessed on the website 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 website for meeting location, dates, and times. The last meeting is conducted on the application deadline date. All required application documents should be turned in at an applicant meeting. **CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ATTEND.**
3. Provide official proof of high school level education. If you need information regarding evaluation of foreign credits, please refer to the "Academic Policies & Regulations" section of this catalog.
4. Submit HESI A2 exam scores to the VN department. It is required that applicants take the following sections of the exam: Math, Reading, Comprehension, Vocabulary & General Knowledge, Grammar, 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 directly to the ACC VN department, and 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.

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 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 @ 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.

Program Information:

1. The total cost for the VN Program is approximately \$5,800 for students living in-district and approximately \$7,600 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 required clinical practice area 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 date listed in the packet sent to accepted students.** The acceptance packet will include instructions on how to complete the following steps.

- a. Attend the VN Program orientation for the class of 2017-2018 (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/arrange 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 information packet 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 if 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.