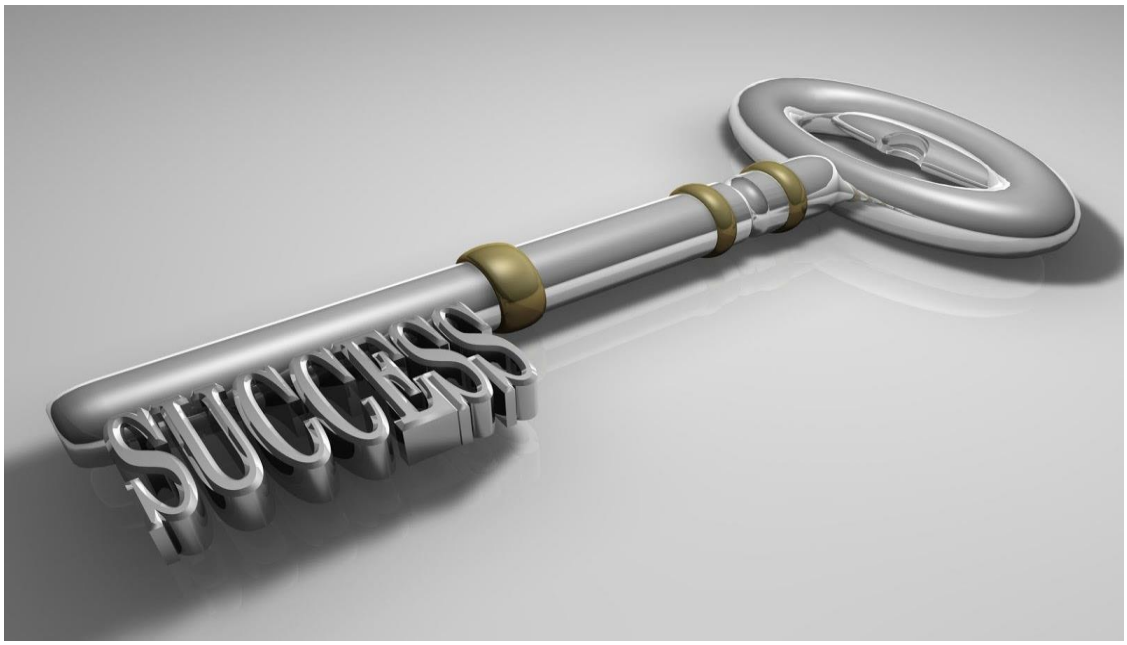
Alvin Community College

Vocational Nursing



Program Information
and
Application Instructions

Application Period Oct. 1 – Nov. 7, 2025
Classes begin June 1, 2026
(Last modified 02/2025)

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
VOCATIONAL NURSING APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please note: the following checklist contains abbreviated information for your convenience. Further detailed information concerning the Vocational Nursing Program application process and admission requirements is contained in the remainder of this packet.

Gain Admission to Alvin Community College

☐ U.S. CITIZENS start here: https://www.alvincollege.edu/admissions/getting-started-first-time-students.html

(Note: International students on F1 Visas requiring I20 forms are not eligible for the LVN program at ACC.)

Apply to Vocational Nursing

☐ Apply at: https://www.alvincollege.edu/vocational-nursing/application.html during the application period. It typically occurs during October/November and the program begins each Summer semester. See the VN website and the cover of this packet for application period dates.

☐ Submit any applicable original college transcripts to the college registrar. If you are submitting a GED certificate, original High School diploma, or official High School transcript, submit those documents directly to the ACC VN department. For further important information on previous education admission requirements see "Provide Proof of Previous Education" in this packet.

Any foreign high school or college transcripts must be accompanied by an official evaluation from an approved agency. For a list of ACC approved transcript evaluation services, see the "Evaluation of Credit from Foreign Institutions" section of the ACC College Catalog or go to www.alvincollege.edu/international-students/foreign-transcripts-evaluation-agencies.html .

☐ Meet Texas Success Initiative (TSI) standards by the end of the application period, including completion of developmental coursework.

☐ Attend a mandatory Applicant Meeting (meeting schedule is in this packet and on the VN web page). The link to attend virtual meetings is on the LVN web page https://www.alvincollege.edu/vocational-nursing/application.html.

☐ Hepatitis-B: By the application deadline, submit a record of at least the first Hepatitis-B immunization, or record of a Hepatitis-B surface antibody titer report which states you are immune to Hepatitis B.

☐ Take HESI-A2 exam. The test date must be within 5 years of the VN application deadline. Minimum scores: 70 on reading comprehension section, and 65 for cumulative score. See additional information in the information packet regarding HESI testing.

What's Next?

☐ At some point around the end of January, we will email and inform you of whether you are conditionally accepted, on the alternate list, or neither of these.

If Accepted

The initial VN program admission is *conditional*. Final acceptance is based on completing the following:

☐ Attend the class orientation meeting. It occurs approximately three weeks prior to the start of classes
☐ Pass a drug screen
☐ Pass two background checks: one done for the Texas Board of Nursing and another done by a private background screening company
☐ Submit copy of Social Security card if private background check is unable to verify your social security number
☐ Submit copy of Physical Examination report
☐ Submit copies of Tests, Titers, Immunization series: Tuberculosis test, Varicella, Hepatitis-B, MMR, adult Tdap, COVID, and seasonal Influenza
☐ Submit copy of Driver's License or other official picture ID
☐ Submit copy of current CPR card (AHA BLS for providers)

We're glad that you're interested in the Alvin Community College (ACC) Vocational Nursing (VN) program! Vocational Nursing can be an exciting and rewarding career. The ACC VN Program is fully approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). The ACC VN program functions to educate competent and compassionate Graduate Vocational Nurses who are able to uphold the stated mission of the Texas BON which is to protect and promote the welfare and safety of the people of Texas. The ACC VN program has educated individuals to enter the nursing profession for over 40 years and has a reputation as an outstanding program. **All** ACC VN graduates from 2012 through present who have taken the state licensing exam for VNs (the NCLEX-PN) have passed the exam.

The ACC VN program consists of an intensive 44 credit hour curriculum. Successful completion results in graduation with a Level II Certificate. The curriculum is "block scheduled". All accepted and enrolled students begin the program in the Summer semester. All students take the same courses at the same time in a specified sequence. Those who successfully progress through the program complete it the following May. We will accept applications **10-1-2025 through 11-07-2025** for the VN class that starts June 2026.

Admission to the ACC VN program is competitive. Applicants are ranked *primarily* on HESI A-2 scores. See the "Take the HESI-A2" section in this packet for further detailed information. To be considered for the VN program, you must meet all college admission requirements listed in the College Catalog **and** complete all initial VN application steps (1-6) explained in this information packet. The VN department must receive the application and the initially required supporting documents by the Vocational Nursing application deadline.

At the end of January, 2026, we will **email** you to inform you whether you are conditionally accepted, on the alternate list, or neither of these. Keep your email address(es) current with the VN department and ensure emails from ACC go to your inbox rather than your junk or spam folder. **Email is the official means of communication from ACC to applicants and students.**

STEPS FOR APPLYING

Please use the checklist on the first page of this packet to assist in keeping track of what steps you have completed and what steps remain to be done**. You must meet the following (1-6) minimum requirements by the nursing application deadline to be considered for admission**. If you do not meet **all** of these minimum requirements your application will **not** be considered. Meeting the minimum requirements for eligibility does not guarantee an offer of admission.

1. APPLY to ACC at http://www.alvincollege.edu/admissions/getting-started-first-time-students.html

- You must meet all college admission requirements, in addition to all VN admission requirements, in order to be eligible to enroll in the VN program. Please refer to the College Catalog and work with the Admissions Department (281-756-3531) to be sure you meet all college admission requirements.
- All students must be TSI (Texas Success Initiative) **complete** or TSI **exempt** to attend the ACC VN program. This is a state-required assessment to determine college readiness in reading, writing, and math. Please work with the Admissions Department (281-756-3531) to determine your TSI status.
- If it has been a year or more since you last applied to ACC, you will need to re-apply to the college. Verify with the registrar's office that previously sent transcripts are still on file as they may be discarded after one year if you registered but did not take courses. Check with the Admissions Department if you are unsure (281-756-3531) if you need to reapply or resubmit transcripts.

2. APPLY TO VOCATIONAL NURSING at https://www.alvincollege.edu/vocational-nursing/application.html

- You must be admitted to ACC before you can apply to the LVN program.
- Applications to nursing may only be submitted during the open application period.
- Click the "Apply Here" button on the LVN Application web page to complete your nursing application. Log in to your ConexED account to complete and submit your nursing application. You will receive an email saying your form submission was successful. After submitting your application, the nursing program will review and approve your submission within a few days. You will receive another email when your nursing application is preliminarily reviewed. **If you do not receive the emails, your application was not fully submitted. Contact the nursing program or re-submit the application after verifying all fields are complete.**
- Check your ConexED dashboard to submit milestone completion requests to verify steps have been completed. Milestone completion requests will be processed weekly. You can also view your submitted application or upload additional documents in your ConexED dashboard. **It is your responsibility to verify transcripts have been received or other steps completed before the end of the application period.**

- If you have issues or questions about the LVN application, please email nursing@alvincollege.edu or call the nursing program at 281-756-5630.
- Do not turn in a printed application. Applications must be submitted electronically.
- Anyone who previously applied, must submit a new application for the June 2026 LVN program.

3. ATTEND A MANDATORY APPLICANT MEETING

TIME	DATE	LOCATION
3 PM	10-02-2025	On-line
3 PM	10-09-2025	On-line
3 PM	10-23-2025	On-line
3 PM	10-30-2025	On-line
3 PM	11-06-2025	On-line

- Applicant meetings are virtual. A link is posted on the LVN web page. Click the link to join one of the on-line applicant meetings a few minutes before the meeting starts. Documents may be submitted through the application platform (ConexED) or emailed to nursing@alvincollege.edu. Registration for the meeting is not necessary. Attendance will be recorded.
- Log into on-line meetings PROMPTLY. Late-comers WILL NOT get credit for attending meetings. **Log in with your full name. Email** (to nursing@alvincollege.edu) **your name and the phone number you called from if attending by phone.**
- Anyone who previously attended a VN applicant meeting must attend another meeting for the current application period.
- Anyone who has been a member of a previous ACC VN class, must attend another applicant meeting for the current application period.
- ACC ADN program applicant meeting attendance does **not** substitute for VN program application meeting attendance.

4. PROVIDE A COPY OF HEPATITIS-B PROOF by the application deadline

- Submit EITHER proof of at least the first Hepatitis-B injection OR a report of Hepatitis-B immunity (called a "Hepatitis-B surface antibody titer") on or before the last day of the application period.
- Hepatitis-B immunization is a series of three injections. The remaining two injections must be completed by the new class orientation date which is approximately two weeks prior to class start date. Exception: the new "Heplisav" type immunization for Hepatitis-B only requires two injections one month apart.
- There is no time limit on Hepatitis-B injections; there is a 5-year time limit on the Hepatitis-B titer.
- A Hepatitis-B titer is accurate only if it is done at least two months after the last Hepatitis-B injection.

5. PROVIDE PROOF OF PREVIOUS EDUCATION

- All applicants **must** provide an original high school diploma, **or** an official high school transcript, **or** a GED certificate, **or** official college transcripts showing successful completion of at least 12 credit hours of core courses from the Core Curriculum which can be found in the ACC College Catalog. College courses must be from accredited institutions.
- The VN department will accept copies of HS diplomas from students. If there are questions concerning authenticity of copies, applicants will be required to present the original diploma to the Vocational Nursing department. High school transcripts must be sent directly to the VN department by the graduating high school.
- If submitting college transcripts, they must be submitted directly to the ACC Registrar. The VN department will not accept college transcripts from students. If an applicant's college transcripts are from ACC, the VN department can retrieve the records.
- The VN program does not accept foreign high school **or** college credits until they have been evaluated and deemed to be equivalent to an education in the U.S. The transcripts must be evaluated by an ACC approved

transcript evaluation services provider. You will find a list of approved companies in the "Academic Policies & Regulations" section of the ACC catalog or go to: www.alvincollege.edu/international-students/foreign-transcripts-evaluation-agencies.html. The original transcript evaluation document must be submitted to either the VN department or the ACC registrar.

- The ACC VN program accepts **BIOL 2401, A&P I and BIOL 2402, A&P II** in place of the A&P course offered in the VN curriculum (VNSG 1420, A&P for Allied for Allied Health Professionals). If choosing this option, official transcripts for the substituted courses must be submitted directly to the ACC Registrar. The VN department will not accept college transcripts from students. If an applicant's college transcripts are from ACC, the VN department can retrieve the records. For more details about the rules applying to this option read in "Frequently Asked Questions": "Can I substitute other college courses for VN courses?"

6. TAKE THE HESI-A2 TEST

- You may take the exam either before or after the applicant meeting as long as the VN department receives the score by the application deadline which is the last day of the application period.
- We use only the HESI A2 test for nursing admission. You cannot substitute any other test. A high enough HESI-A2 test score, by the nursing application deadline, is mandatory for all VN applicants regardless of educational background or college degrees previously attained - no exceptions.
- You must take these 5 HESI sections: Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary & Knowledge, Anatomy & Physiology, and Math. You must make at least 70 on the reading section and 65 for the cumulative score.
- HESI test scores must be 5 years old or less as of the nursing application deadline.
- See "HESI-A2 TEST INFORMATION" later in these instructions for further important detailed information.

SELECTION FOR ADMISSION

Admission to the VN program is competitive. There are no pre-requisite courses for the VN program so **college GPA is not considered.** Applicants are ranked *primarily* according to their HESI-A2 exam scores. We accept approximately 50 students per year. The number of students accepted into the program depends upon the availability of classroom/lab space, instructors, and clinical sites. Additional consideration is given to applicants who:

- Reside within the ACC tax district. To find out if you live in the ACC tax district, call the ACC Admissions Department (281-756-3531).
- Have a score of 85 or higher on the HESI math section.
- Have completed both BIOL 2401/2402 (Anatomy & Physiology I&II) with grade of "C" or better within 5 years of the VN application deadline. There is no BIOL extra credit if you have only one BIOL grade at the time of the VN application deadline.
- Hold a current certificate in a health profession (for example, but not limited to: CNA, CMA, EMT, Dental Assistant, etc.) Diplomas and course completion are not sufficient. You must submit your certification. CPR certification does not count because CPR is a skill not an occupation.

HESI-A2 TEST INFORMATION

- Health Education Systems, Inc. (HESI) is a company that designs tests which assist in evaluating if the test-taker possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in their studies of the health care field.
- The ACC VN program requires applicants to attain a minimum score on the HESI Admission Assessment Exam (HESI-A2 test). This requirement is mandatory for all VN applicants regardless of educational background, no exceptions. You may not substitute any other test scores for HESI-A2 test scores.

HESI-A2 DATES & REGISTRATION

- There is no single web page that lists all HESI-A2 test dates & locations. You may take the test at the location of your choice.
- To take the HESI-A2 at a location other than ACC, we suggest that you contact colleges that have nursing programs. Many of them offer the HESI A-2. If you take the exam at a location other than ACC, you will have to request that the HESI-A2 scores be sent directly from Elsevier to the ACC VN department by email to nursing@alvincollege.edu. This process may take up to two weeks. We do not take HESI A-2 scores from students. If you take the test elsewhere, you must take it in time for the scores to be received by the ACC VN department NO LATER THAN THE APPLICATION DEADLINE. IF THE SCORES ARRIVE AFTER THE DEADLINE, THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you take the HESI A2 **elsewhere**, you must pay a fee to have the company email an official score report (called a "HESI transcript") to the nursing office at nursing@alvincollege.edu. For instructions on how to do this, go to: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/8093/kw/hesi%20transcript/supporthub/evolve/role/student/
- To take the HESI-A2 at ACC go to www.alvincollege.edu, click on "Marketplace" at the top of the screen, and click on the red "Testing" button. If you see no HESI dates, or the HESI dates you wish to take the exam do not show up on the webpage, call the Testing Center to find out whether they will offer HESI on the desired dates (281-756-3526). The VN department is able to access HESI-A2 scores if the exam is taken at ACC. This means that scores do not have to be sent to us by the company and applicants may take the test **up to and on** the VN application deadline. **Do not** pay to have HESI scores sent to us for tests taken at ACC.
- If the ACC testing center does not have additional dates available for HESI testing, a distance testing option is available through Prometric. The testing option must be arranged prior to scheduling the test in order for us to access the score report. Contact the nursing program for details on this option.

HESI-A2 TEST SCORE CRITERIA

- You must take all of the following sections of the HESI-A2 test, no other section scores are considered: Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary & General Knowledge, Grammar, and Anatomy & Physiology
- Minimum required scores
  - at least 70 on the Reading Comprehension section
  - at least 65 for the Cumulative score, which is the average of all five sections
  - The above minimums are ABSOLUTE CUTOFFS – we do NOT round scores up to meet these minimums.
- Although there is no minimum math score, applicants scoring 85 or higher on the math section will receive additional admission consideration.
- Section scores may be combined from two or more tests if the minimum time between test attempts is observed (see below).
- Scores **must** be from HESI-A2 tests taken no more than 5 years before the nursing application deadline. If the scores are from exams taken more than 5 years prior to the VN application deadline, you will have to re-take any out of date sections.

RE-TAKING THE HESI-A2 ***Changes effective 2022***

- You may re-take sections you want to improve on; there is a mandatory 90-day waiting period between re-takes.
- Exams taken prior to January 2022; a minimum of 30 days must have elapsed between re-test attempts.
- For exams taken prior to January 2022, HESI sections retaken 30 or more days apart: the highest score of all re-takes of that section will be used when we calculate your cumulative score.
- For tests taken prior to January 2022, HESI sections retaken less than 30 days apart: the earlier section score will be used regardless of which score is the highest.
- For exams taken **January 1, 2022** and after, two exams from *a twelve-month period* may be submitted. Each exam submitted must have **90 days** from any prior HESI exam section attempt for the new section scores to be considered.
- For exams taken after December 31, 2021, HESI exams taken 90 or more days apart: the highest score of section re-takes will be used when we calculate your cumulative score.
- For exams taken after December 31, 2021, HESI exams retaken less than 90 days apart: the earlier section score will be used regardless of which score is the highest.

COST OF THE HESI-A2 TEST

- It costs $74 (price subject to change without notice) to take the HESI-A2 at ACC regardless of how many sections of the test you take.
- The cost is set by each testing location, so it may cost more or less to take the HESI-A2 elsewhere.

PREPARING FOR THE HESI-A2 TEST

- There are several HESI-A2 study guides and study apps that can be found online. Look for study guides/apps that **highlight important concepts,** and that provide tips for studying and test-taking. They usually explain test question formats and also **provide practice questions** for you to complete.
- The ACC Campus Bookstore carries the following HESI A-2 review book:
  HESI - ADMISSION ASSESSMENT EXAM REVIEW 5th edition - ISBN# 978-0-323-58226-1 - $42.95 plus tax

OTHER HESI INFORMATION

- If you have a documented disability and may need accommodations for testing, contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services 281-756-3533 or SAS@alvincollege.edu BEFORE registering for or taking the HESI-A2.
- IF YOU INTEND TO USE YOUR HESI SCORES TO APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE NURSING SCHOOL,
  - You need to find out whether the other nursing school requires the HESI A-2 to be taken on their campus. Some schools will not accept HESI scores taken off of their campus.
  - If another nursing program requires that the HESI be taken at their campus, you should take the HESI there and then pay to have an official score report emailed to the Alvin Community College VN department. Then you can use your HESI scores to apply to both ACC and to the other nursing school. The VN department does not accept HESI-A2 scores from students.
  - If the HESI you take at the other college does not include some of the sections we require, you are required to take those sections either at ACC or another school that offers those sections.

HESI A2 EXAM AT A GLANCE

Required for:	Subjects Tested (*you can select order*):	Number of Questions	Time
★ ADN ★ LVN ★ LVN-ADN Transition	★ Reading Comprehension ★ Grammar ★ Vocabulary ★ Math (*has on screen calculator*) ★ Anatomy & Physiology	55 55 55 55 30	**4 ½ HOURS TOTAL** ***(self-paced)***

QUALIFYING SCORES (***NOTE: scores will NOT be rounded up***)

ADN MINIMUM SCORES:	LVN MINIMUM SCORES:
➢ Reading Comprehension: 78 ➢ Cumulative (Average): 78	➢ Reading Comprehension: 70 ➢ Cumulative (Average): 65 ➢ BONUS: a MATH score of 85 will increase your ranking

FUTURE PLANNING

CURRENT RETAKE POLICY	CLASSES THAT HELP PREPARE FOR HESI
♦ 2 test submissions per 12 mos ♦ 90+ day wait in between tests ♦ Scores valid for 5 years	♦ ENGL 1301 ♦ MATH Courses ♦ BIOL 2401 & 2402 (Anatomy & Physiology)

EVOLVE (www.evolve.elsevier.com)

Sign In --> Create Account --> Student

After registering, you will be assigned a username. Remember this username to test.

TAKING THE TEST

HOW TO REGISTER:	COST:	WHAT TO BRING TO TEST:
ACC Website --> Marketplace --> Testing *(availability is only posted for 1 month at a time)* **ACC Testing Center is located in Building A-152**	**$74** *price subject to change*	✓ Photo ID ✓ Know your assigned Evolve username & password

OPTION: You can take the Evolve HESI A2 at ***Prometric*** Test locations also, but it costs more. (*www.prometric.com*)
Need to email ACC Director of Assessment: wtrevino@alvincollege.edu to arrange this test at Prometric.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

ACC College of Nursing Recommends:	Additional Suggestions:
HESI Admission Assessment Exam Review, ***5th Edition*** (*or most recent edition available*) ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? Email: nursing@alvincollege.edu	▪ iTunes apps like pocketprep ▪ ***3 Evolve Reach HESI A2 Practice Tests*** by Kathy Zahler ▪ ***CliffsNotes Anatomy & Physiology Quick Review*** by Steven Bassett ▪ Quizlet.com ▪ There are MANY more online resources by googling HESI A2

ACC STUDENT RESOURCES

The Learning Lab:

- Free tutoring in Health, Science, Math, and Writing online and face to face
- Located in Building A, 2nd Floor
- M-TH 8 am – 9 pm Fri. 8 am – 5 pm Walk-ins Welcome
- Visit: https://www.alvincollege.edu/learning-lab/
- Access through the POD>Campus Services>Student Support>Tutoring

TutorMe:

- Free tutoring service available online 24/7
- Find link within your course on Blackboard or the POD

Academic Support Specialist:

- If you are struggling with a course or have other issues affecting your academic progress, you can schedule an appointment with an Academic Support Specialist who can help you devise a strategy plan and connect you to campus resources. Email: LearningLab@alvincollege.edu

Academic Coach

- If you are taking a Developmental Math or English course, Academic Coaching is required. Schedule an appointment with a coach to help you set and reach academic goals. Email: LearningLab@alvincollege.edu

Vocational Nursing Certificate, CERT2

(CIP 51.3901.)

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 approximately 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:

1. Be fully admitted to the college, then submit a completed online VN application at www.alvincollege.edu/vocational-nursing 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 an applicant meeting. Check the VN web page for meeting location, dates, and times. The last meeting is conducted the week of the application deadline date. All initially required application documents (3-5 below) should be turned in prior to the application deadline. Those arriving late to an applicant meeting may not receive credit for attendance. This meeting is for applicants only.
3. All applicants must be TSI met by the application deadline in order to be accepted into the program.
4. All applicants must provide an original High School Diploma, or official High School transcript, or a GED certificate, or official college transcripts showing completion of 12 credit hours of core courses attained while attending an accredited college. The VN program does not accept foreign high school or college credits until they have been 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.
5. Submit HESI A2 exam scores to the VN department. Applicants are required to take the following sections of the exam: Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary & Knowledge, Grammar and Anatomy & Physiology. VN applicants may combine section scores from different HESI exams. If an applicant wishes to repeat the entire exam, they may do so. Students may submit two exams from a twelve-month period. Each exam submitted must be at least 90 days from any prior HESI exam section attempt for the new section score to be considered. 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. 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. ACC VN does not accept HESI score reports from applicants.
6. 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 cumulative 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 BIOL 2401 - Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 2402 - Anatomy and 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. There are no minimum score requirements for the Grammar, Vocabulary & General Knowledge, or Math sections of the HESI exam. Those scoring 85% or higher on the Math section will receive additional admission consideration.
4. Hold a certificate in a health profession (for example, but not limited to: CNA, CMA, EMT, Dental Assistant, etc.)

Program Information:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. The CNA/Med Aide-VN Bridge program (Bridge program) is available for applicants that meet all requirements for the VN program listed under *Procedure for Program Application*, have current Nurse Aide certification and Medication Aide certification from Texas Health and Human Services, and have a minimum of six months full-time employment with a long-term care facility. Approximately ten qualified applicants will be admitted to the Bridge program per class. The first semester will be taught through Continuing Education Workforce Development and will start in June. Students must take VNSG 1420 *Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health* while completing the first Bridge program semester unless BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402 have been completed with a C or better grade within the five years prior to the Bridge program application period. Upon successful completion of the first semester of the Bridge program, students will complete the Prior Learning Assessment process to receive credit for first semester VN courses (VNSG 1122, VNSG 1160, VNSG 1227, and VNSG 1423). See *Earning Credit through Prior Learning Experience* in the ACC catalog for PLA process information. Students will then complete the second and third semesters of the VN program (Fall and Spring semesters). The Bridge program is subject to the same *Progression and Dismissal Policies* of the VN program.
4. The following (a-g) are requirements that must be completed **after** conditional acceptance in order to become fully accepted. There are specific instructions and deadlines for meeting them in the packet sent to all conditionally accepted applicants.
    a. Attend the VN Program new class orientation in May.
    b. Have a 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 Program Information and Application Instructions at

alvincollege.edu/vocational-nursing for further information about BON background check procedures and BON Licensure Eligibility Questions.

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. 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.

d. Pay for and submit a urine drug screen. The screen must be negative in order to maintain accepted student status.
e. Obtain CPR certification from the American Heart Association, it **must** be for Basic Life Support (BLS) Providers.
f. Provide proof of the following by the date noted in the acceptance packet:
    a. Up-to-date immunizations or titers that show proof of immunity for - measles mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (pertussis booster required after age 18), varicella, all 3 injections of the Hepatitis B vaccine series or a titer that shows proof of immunity to HEP B, seasonal flu vaccine when available for the upcoming flu season, and negative tuberculin screen [Quantiferon blood test or two-step PPD] (yearly).
g. Pay for lab supplies.
h. Order and pay for VN uniforms.

Transfer Students / Readmission Students

1. Applicants from ADN or VN programs not affiliated with ACC are considered new students. They must complete an application, meet with the VN Department Coordinator, and meet and 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 Coordinator. The courses must be no older than 1 year as of the application deadline with a minimum grade of B. If the VN Department Coordinator finds the course content suitable for transfer, evidence of competency in the 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 written competency testing with a 75% or better in order for the courses to be accepted. Skills competency demonstration is evaluated on a pass-fail basis.
2. ACC ADN students who wish to join the VN program may apply. If the student must enter the VN program in the first semester, they must complete an application and meet with the VN Department Coordinator. Admission is not guaranteed; it is dependent upon admission slots available after ranking and acceptance of non-ADN applicants. If the number of ADN applicants exceeds available slots, a ranking system may be used to determine placement in available slots. ADN applicants must meet and 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 and 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 written testing with a score of 75% or better in order to be admitted. If skills competency demonstration is required, it will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis.
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 and 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 clinicals skills competency demonstration. The student must pass the written competency testing with a 75% or better in order to be admitted. Skills competency demonstration is evaluated as pass/fail. The ACC VN program does not readmit applicants who:
    - 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 on the first day of the summer semester 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. A 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 in both components. If a student receives a grade of less than 75% 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. Absences in the VN program are not excused. The student is allowed a specific number of absences in each course. The maximum allowable 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 16-week courses is two per academic course and two total for clinical. The maximum allowable absences in the fall and spring semesters 8-week courses is one absence per academic course.

First Semester (Summer)

- VNSG 1122 - Vocational Nursing Concepts **1 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1160 - Clinical I - Vocational Nurse **1 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1227 - Essentials of Medication Administration **2 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1420 - Anatomy and Physiology for Allied Health **4 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1423 - Basic Nursing Skills **4 Course Credits**

Semester Credits: 12

Second Semester (Fall)

- VNSG 1329 - Medical-Surgical Nursing I **3 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1331 - Pharmacology **3 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1332 - Medical-Surgical Nursing II **3 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1660 - Clinical II - Vocational Nurse **6 Course Credits**

Semester Credits: 15

Third Semester (Spring)

- VNSG 1219 - Leadership & Professional Development **2 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1226 - Gerontology **2 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1230 - Maternal-Neonatal Nursing **2 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1234 - Pediatrics **2 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1301 - Mental Health & Mental Illness **3 Course Credits**
- VNSG 1661 - Clinical III - Vocational Nurse **6 Course Credits** *

Semester Credits: 17

Total Credits Required for Vocational Nursing Certificate: 44

* Capstone Course

Statutory law (Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 53) requires the Alvin Community College nursing and allied health programs to notify prospective applicants and future healthcare professionals a licensing/credentialing authority may suspend or revoke a license/credential, disqualify a person from receiving a license/credential, or deny to a person the opportunity to take a licensing/credentialing examination on the grounds that the person has been convicted of certain criminal behavior.

For individual course descriptions, please refer to the College Catalog at https://www.alvincollege.edu/catalog/index.html.

Vocational Nursing
BACKGROUND CHECKS

The **purpose of background checks** is to:

1. Comply with clinical affiliates who may require a student background check as a condition of their contract
2. Provide early identification of students who may have difficulty meeting Texas Board of Nursing (BON) eligibility for licensure requirements and the ACC VN program requirements
3. Promote early preparation for submission by students of petition for a declaratory order from the BON
4. Promote and protect patient/client safety

Two criminal background checks must be conducted **as a condition of full acceptance after your initial acceptance** into the ACC Vocational Nursing (VN) program and before you may enroll in any nursing course:

1. A criminal background check required by our clinical affiliates and conducted by the college-designated private agency - "Viewpoint". Results of the private agency background check are sent directly to the VN Department Chair. The results must be satisfactory. The student pays the cost of the private agency background check directly to the agency.

2. The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requires DPS/FBI background checks to be done on all students entering a nursing program.

Individuals with felonies (felony conviction, deferred adjudication felony, or pending felony) are NOT eligible for admission to the Alvin Community College Vocational Nursing program. *This policy applies even if you have filed a "Petition for Declaratory Order" with the BON and the BON granted permission to take the NCLEX-PN after graduation from an approved nursing program*. If you fail to disclose a felony criminal history and it is revealed/discovered after you have been accepted into the ACC VN program, you will be immediately dismissed from the program.

☑ We will submit your name to the Texas Board of Nursing. Subsequent to that, you will receive an email in mid to late February from a company named "IdentoGo". Follow the instructions in the email, they will direct you as to how to make an appointment to be fingerprinted. Your submission of fingerprints triggers the DPS/FBI background check process. You **must** begin this process immediately upon receipt of the email from "IdentoGo". The background check process can be lengthy. If you delay fingerprint submission you risk losing your placement in the VN class.

☑ When you make your fingerprinting appointment you will also be paying for the background check process. You **must** email a copy of your payment receipt to nursing@alvincollege.edu. If we do not receive your proof of payment in a timely manner, you risk losing your seat in the VN program.

Please review the document on the next page titled "Texas Board of Nursing Licensure Eligibility Questions" **now**.

☑ Depending on results of your DPS/FBI background check, one of the following two things will occur:

- The BON will postal mail you a "Blue Card" (postcard) stating that your background check is clear

OR

- The BON will postal mail you an Outcome Letter stating you may sit for the NCLEX-PN Exam

OR

- The BON will postal mail you an Outcome Letter requesting you file a Petition for Declaratory Order

Note: A Petition for DO should only be submitted after receiving an outcome letter requesting it, or if you received a Blue Card, BUT have to disclose a non-CBC related eligibility issue (i.e. answering "yes" to any questions other than Question 4). If you previously did fingerprints, you will only do them again if the BON requests you to do so. Your CBC will be updated from your prior fingerprints.

☑ Submit a legible copy of either a "Blue Card," a BON "Outcome Letter," or "Declaratory Order" by the date of the VN class orientation meeting. If you receive an "Outcome Letter" instead of a "Blue Card," it must state that you are eligible to sit for the NCLEX-PN licensure examination after graduation from an approved VN program. If it does not, your acceptance into the VN program will be revoked. If your "Outcome Letter" includes an "Eligibility Order," you **must** submit the Order along with the letter.

☑ There are NO EXCEPTIONS to the above requirement. If this requirement is not met by the VN class orientation meeting date, your acceptance to the VN program will be revoked. THIS IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU GET YOUR FINGERPRINTS DONE IMMEDIATELY!

☑ If there are any questions about Texas Board of Nursing DPS/FBI background check, please either email nursing@alvincollege.edu or call 281-756-5630. For further information on the Declaratory Order process, visit https://www.bon.texas.gov/licensure_eligibility.asp.html.

Texas Board of Nursing Licensure Eligibility Questions

A Petition for DO should only be submitted <u>after</u> receiving an outcome letter requesting it, or if you received a Blue Card, BUT have to disclose a <u>non-CBC related eligibility issue</u> (i.e. answering "yes" to any questions other than Question 4). If you previously did fingerprints, you will only do them again if the BON requests you to do so. Your CBC will be updated from your prior fingerprints.

<u>You should submit the</u> **DO & $150** <u>if:</u>

- You submitted fingerprints as part of the New/Accepted Student Roster process & you received an outcome letter from the Board requesting the submission of the DO & $150.

<u>You should submit the</u> **DO ONLY** <u>if:</u>

- You submitted fingerprints as part of the New/Accepted Student Roster process & received a Blue Card, **BUT** have to disclose a non-CBC related eligibility issue (i.e. answering "yes" to any question other than Question 4 on the following license eligibility questions).

You will need to contact the Board for specific instructions on submitting the DO without the $150 payment. Please send an email with your name, DOB, and last 4 of your SSN to webmaster@bon.texas.gov. The subject line should be DO – Payment Bypass.

The Petition for DO must be submitted electronically via the Nurse Portal (https://www.bon.texas.gov/texasnurseportal/).

If you submit a Petition, the BON will investigate your case and then send you a letter stating whether you are eligible to sit for the NCLEX licensure exam. If the BON letter says you are eligible to sit for the licensure exam, you must submit the letter to the nursing department no later than 30 days before first day of class. If you do not have the BON letter by 30 days before first day of class, you will not be eligible to enroll in the nursing program, and you will have to re-apply to the next nursing program after you do receive the BON letter.

You are eligible for admission into an ACC nursing program only after you: (1) Submit the Petition for Declaratory Order form to the BON; (2) Receive the BON outcome letter verifying your eligibility for future licensure; (3) Submit the BON outcome letter to the nursing department no later than 30 days before first day of class; and (4) meet the minimum standards set by clinical affiliates.

If you know you have an issue that will require disclosure, you may begin gathering necessary documentation and writing a letter of explanation. However, you should wait for the outcome letter requesting the Petition for DO, or a Blue Card, IF you have to disclose a non-CBC related eligibility issue (i.e. answering "yes" to any question other than Question 4 on the following license eligibility questions).

1. Have you ever had any disciplinary action on a nursing license or a privilege to practice in any state, country, or province?

2. Do you have an investigation or complaint pending on a nursing license or a privilege to practice in any state, country, or province?

3. Have you, in the last 5 years*, been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?

4. For any criminal offense*, including those pending appeal, have you:
(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations or offenses previously disclosed to the Texas Board of Nursing on an initial or renewal application.)

   A. been arrested and have a pending criminal charge?
   B. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
   C. been convicted of a felony?
   D. pled nolo contendre, no contest, or guilty?
   E. received deferred adjudication?
   F. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
   G. been sentenced to serve jail, prison time, or court-ordered confinement?
   H. been granted pre-trial diversion?
   I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
   J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses: While expunged or sealed offense, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office with your application. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character. (See 22 TAC §213.27)

NOTE: Orders of Non-Disclosure: Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code § 552.142(b), if you have criminal matters that are the subject of an order of non-disclosure you are not required to reveal those criminal matters. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to Gov't Code chapter 411, the Texas Nursing Board is entitled to access criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure.

If the Board discovers a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure, even if you properly did not reveal that matter, the Board may require you to provide information about any conduct that raises issues of character and fitness.

5. Have you ever had any licensing (other than a nursing license) or regulatory authority in any state, jurisdiction, country, or province revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew or otherwise discipline any other professional or occupational license, certificate, nurse aide registration or multistate privilege to practice that you held?

6. Are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being appropriately treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice nursing in a competent, ethical, and professional manner?

7. *Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?

8. *Are you currently a participant in an alternative to discipline, diversion, or a peer assistance program? (This includes all confidential programs)

NOTE: Any positive response will remain confidential and not subject to public disclosure unless required by law.

9. Have you ever been granted the authority to practice nursing in any country, state, province, or territory?

NOTE: This does not apply to any nursing license(s) issued by another US state or territory, excluding Puerto Rico. If you were licensed in Puerto Rico, you should be answering yes.

*Pursuant to the Texas Occupations Code §301.207, information, including diagnosis and treatment, regarding an individual's physical or mental condition, intemperate use of drugs or alcohol, or chemical dependency and information regarding an individual's criminal history is confidential to the same extent that information collected as part of an investigation is confidential under the Texas Occupations Code §301.466.

Satisfactory criminal background check findings are determined by the licensure eligibility criteria established by the BON and standards mandated by clinical affiliates and VN program policy. Additionally, statutory law (Texas Occupations Code Chapter 53) requires Alvin Community College nursing programs to notify prospective applicants and future nurses that once licensed, criminal behavior may result in loss of licensure.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Will I Study?

The ACC VN program is an intensive study of vocational nursing, including classroom, laboratory, and clinical experiences. Courses include medication administration, pharmacology, surgical nursing, maternal-neonatal nursing, pediatrics, gerontological nursing, and more. View the Curriculum Guide below for a detailed program outline. LVN training includes attending clinical where you obtain nursing experience working directly with patients in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. The ACC VN program has affiliation agreements with numerous area health care institutions. Instruction in the clinical setting is supervised by an ACC VN instructor who is a Registered Nurse.

Curriculum Guide

FIRST SEMESTER (SUMMER)	**CREDITS**
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	4
SECOND SEMESTER (FALL)	
VNSG 1329 - Medical - Surgical Nursing I	3
VNSG 1331 - Pharmacology	3
VNSG 1332 - Medical - Surgical Nursing II	3
VNSG 1660 - Clinical II - Vocational Nurse	6
THIRD SEMESTER	
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	6
VOCATION NURSING CERTIFICATE – CREDIT HOURS	**44**

* Capstone Course

How Much Will the Program Cost?

Costs, including tuition and fees, for the LVN certificate are approximately $7,100 if you live in district and approximately $9,300 if you live out of district.

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
APPROXIMATE COST for 1-YEAR VN PROGRAM

Semester	VN Credit Hours	ACC Tuition			ACC Fees	Course Fees	Required Texts	Additional Expenses *see below*	TOTALS		
		In-district	Out-of-district	Out-of-state					In-district	Out-of-district	Out-of-state
FIRST	12	612	1224	1860	341	544	464	654	2,615	3,227	3,863
SECOND	15	765	1530	2325	371	524	259		1,919	2,684	3,479
THIRD	17	867	1734	2635	391	544	284	460	2,546	3,413	4,314
TOTAL	**44**	**$2,244**	**$4,488**	**$6,820**	**$1,103**	**$1,612**	**$1,007**	**$1,114**	**$7,080**	**$9,324**	**$11,656**

APPROXIMATE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

First Semester	Cost
Uniform+shoes (varies by size and gender) (Adaptive)	175
Nursing Lab Supplies (MEA)	170
Criminal Background Check & Drug Screen Plus Health Portal (Viewpoint)	95
Criminal Background Check - BON DPS/FBI	40
CPR certification (ACC)	100
HESI-A2 test fee (Elsevier)	74
Physical exam, TB test, immunizations (1)	varies
Health Insurance (recommended) (2)	varies
Subtotal	**$654**

Last Semester	Cost
Licensure Application fee	100
NCLEX-PN Registration	200
NCLEX-PN Review Course (recommended but optional)	68
Vocational Nursing Pin	40
Lamp of Learning	15
Graduation Cap and Gown	37
Subtotal	**$460**

*****A personal laptop computer is required for use in class. ***Cost varies.*** VN exams are taken on-line whether in the classroom or remotely. Minimum technical specifications: **Operating System:** Windows 10 ***or*** MacOSX 10.14 and higher ***or*** ChromeOS **Browser:** Google Chrome (minimum version 93) **Internet Speed:** 1.5 Mbps download, 750 Kbps upload.

- Check with your health care provider regarding costs of physical exam, TB test & immunizations
- Some clinical sites may require students to have health insurance; cost depends on provider and extent of coverage
- Transportation costs and parking fees at clinical sites are not included in the calculations above and will vary depending on the clinical sites attended
- ***Alvin Community College may change tuition rates and other fees without notice or when so directed by the Board of Regents.***

Will I be an LVN when I graduate?

No. Successful VN program graduates receive a Level II Certificate and may then **apply to the BON** for a **temporary permit to practice as a Graduate Vocational Nurse (GVN).** This allows the GVN to practice while waiting to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN**). After passing the exam, the GVN is issued a license to practice as a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN).**

What do LVNs do?

"LVN" stands for "Licensed Vocational Nurse" also called an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) in some states. The LVN is an important member of the health care team, providing basic patient care through a directed scope of practice that is supervised by Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice RNs, Physicians, Physician's Assistants, Dentists, and Podiatrists. LVNs provide basic care such as taking vital signs, applying dressings, helping with personal hygiene, administering medications, and observing/reporting symptoms & reactions to treatments / medications, and monitoring patient progress. LVNs are on their feet most of the time: walking, bending, stooping, reaching, and lifting / moving patients are required. LVNs generally work a 40-hour week which may include nights, weekends, and holidays. LVNs may work in acute care facilities, long-term care facilities, home health care, schools, clinics, physicians' offices, the criminal justice system, and other health care settings. A career as an LVN can be very rewarding for those who enjoy being of service to others.

If I make the minimum required scores on the HESI A-2 exam am I then accepted in the program?

Not necessarily. Again, the HESI A-2 scores are used as a *ranking* tool. Most accepted applicants have higher than the minimum scores. Please read the detailed "HESI-A2 Test Information" section in this packet for further information.

Can I substitute courses I have already taken for VN courses?

You may substitute both BIOL2401 & BIOL2402 for the VN A&P course, if the BIOL grades are C or better and less than 5 years old as of the VN application deadline. If you took VNSG 1420 (the VN A&P course) at another school, you may transfer it into the VN program if the grade is "C" or better and less than 5 years old as of the VN application deadline.

If your **BIOL or VNSG A&P grades are high enough but too old,** you may still substitute the old grades for the VN A&P if you pass a competency exam over both semesters of A&P. You must take the competency exam at ACC. You may not use the A&P competency exam in place of taking BIOL 2401/2402 or VN A&P courses. For questions about the A&P competency exam or to sign up for it, call the testing center at 281-756-3531.

You may be able to substitute RN or VN courses from other nursing programs subject to the VN Coordinator's approval. VN department course competency testing is required before any nursing courses from other nursing programs will be considered for transfer.

Will "bad" grades I made in previous courses hurt my chances of being accepted?

Because VN acceptance is based on HESI-A2 test scores, not course grades, previous college grades do not affect your chance of acceptance into our VN program.

Are there any courses I could take to help prepare for the VN program?

VN students must have adequate English (verbal, reading, & writing) skills & have sufficient basic math skills to successfully complete the program. If English is not your primary language, or you want to strengthen your English skills, ACC offers ESOL 0301 Basic English for Speakers of Other Languages. You may want to take this or an equivalent course before starting the VN program. This a suggestion, but not a requirement.

What hours are the classes?

VN lecture classes are weekdays only (no evening, weekend, or internet courses, except VNSG 1420 A&P).

CLASSROOM HOURS:

- First (summer) Semester: 8a-5p, Mon-Tue-Wed
- Second & Third Semesters: 8a-4p, Monday & Friday only

CLINICAL HOURS*:*

- First semester: Thursdays on ACC campus 8a-4p and off campus sites 6:30a-4:30p
- Second & Third semesters: In area health care facilities. We attempt to schedule clinical on Tuesdays & Wednesdays for 12 hours each day, BUT we are limited to the clinical placements the facilities will grant us each semester. This means that clinical may occur on any day of the week, on evenings, and/or nights, and/or weekends.

Can I work while I am in the VN program?

We STRONGLY recommend that students DO NOT work, or work as little as possible, while in the VN program. The VN program is very demanding in terms of time and effort. Classroom, lab and clinical hours will total 24 to 40 hours per week depending on semester. Study time outside of class, clinical preparation time, and commute time are extra. Students should budget at least 2 hours of outside study time for each hour in class. While some students do work, a full-time work schedule of 40 hours/week is *extremely* difficult to maintain. Work schedules must be flexible and planned around classroom and clinical requirements since lecture and clinical hours will change from semester to semester.

Do I need to have health insurance?

You are strongly encouraged to have health insurance, and some clinical sites may require students to have health insurance in the future. They do not specify the types or extent of coverage you should buy, they just require you to be covered by a health insurance policy. The fees you pay at registration include "malpractice insurance" which does NOT cover costs for any illness or injury that a student may sustain while in the clinical setting. It is the student's responsibility to cover those costs.

Is financial aid available?

For information on tuition & fees, financial aid, and scholarships visit www.alvincollege.edu and click on “Paying for College” at the top of the screen.

Do you take transfer students?

All applicants that are accepted into the ACC VN program must complete all three semesters of the program beginning with the first (summer) semester. Substituting individual nursing courses taken elsewhere *may* be possible, *subject to the VN Coordinator's approval*. Students must take ACC VN course competency exams for any course being evaluated for transfer. Students must pass the competency exam(s) with a score of 75% or better.

What is the current job market for LVNs?

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of LVNs is projected to grow 12% from 2020-2030.

How much money do LVNs make?

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the mean annual wage for LVNs in the Woodlands / Houston / Sugarland area is $48,960.

What are the physical and performance requirements to participate in the nursing program?

The Vocational Nursing Program complies with College policies regarding Civil Rights and the Rights of Individuals with Disabilities. Purpose of the ADA: to provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; to provide clear, strong, consistent enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities; to ensure that the Federal government plays a central role in enforcing the standards established in this act on behalf of individuals with disabilities and to invoke the sweep of congressional authority, including the power to enforce the fourteenth amendment and to regulate commerce, in order to address the major areas of discrimination faced day-to-day by people with disabilities. (Americans with Disabilities Act, 1991)

An individual with a disability is a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a “major life activity,” or has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment. A qualified individual with a disability is one who meets the essential eligibility requirements for the program or activity offered by a public entity with or without reasonable accommodation. (ADA 1630.20). Essential functions are: those functions that the individual who holds the position must be able to perform unaided or with the assistance of a reasonable accommodation. (ADA 1630.20). Reasonable accommodation: a “Change in the way things are customarily done that will enable an individual with a disability to enjoy equal opportunities.” (ADA 1620.20):

a. equal opportunity in the application process
b. enable the disabled to perform essential functions of the position held or desired
c. accommodations that enable disabled to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of persons without disabilities.

Performance requirements are basic activities a student must be able to complete in a reasonably independent manner. A student who poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or to themselves will not meet the clinical/skills competencies required in the Vocational Nursing Program. A “direct threat” is defined as a significant risk to the health or safety of others that cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level by modification of policies, practices or procedures, by the provision of auxiliary aids or services. Determination will be made on an individual basis.

Following is a list of performance requirements for all students enrolled in the Vocational Nursing Program:

a. Visual acuity, depth perception and peripheral vision adequate with corrective lenses to see objects more than 20 feet away and less than 20 inches away, read small print on containers and withdraw medications from small containers.
b. Hearing ability with auditory aids to distinguish faint sounds with variations, understand the normal speaking voice without viewing the speaker’s face, hear auditory alarms, emergency signals, and communicate via the telephone.
c. Gross motor skills and physical endurance to be able to stand and maintain balance for prolonged periods of time, lift objects of 35 lbs. or more, reach above shoulders and below waist, move from room-to-room, maneuver in limited spaces, and squeeze with hands.
d. Communicate effectively in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment and procedures, describing patient conditions, implementing/assisting with health teaching, and writing legibly.
e. Fine motor skills with manual dexterity to write with a pen or pencil, type on a computer keyboard, pick up and manipulate small objects with hands, screw on caps, perform actions using two hands simultaneously, and pinch small objects with fingers
f. Function safely under stressful conditions with the ability to adapt to ever-changing environments.

Are there legal limitations for VN program admission and licensure?

Yes! Satisfactory criminal background check findings are determined by the licensure eligibility criteria established by the BON and standards mandated by clinical affiliates and VN program policy. Additionally, statutory law (Texas Occupations Code Chapter 53) requires Alvin Community College nursing programs to notify prospective applicants and future nurses that once licensed, criminal behavior may result in loss of licensure.

Applicants who are convicted of a felony, appealing a felony conviction, or have a deferred adjudication felony are not eligible for admission to Alvin Community College nursing programs. "Conviction” is defined in Texas Administrative Code Chapter 213, RULE §213.1, #12. 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. See the “Background Checks” section of this packet for full details.

What is the difference between an LVN and a RN?

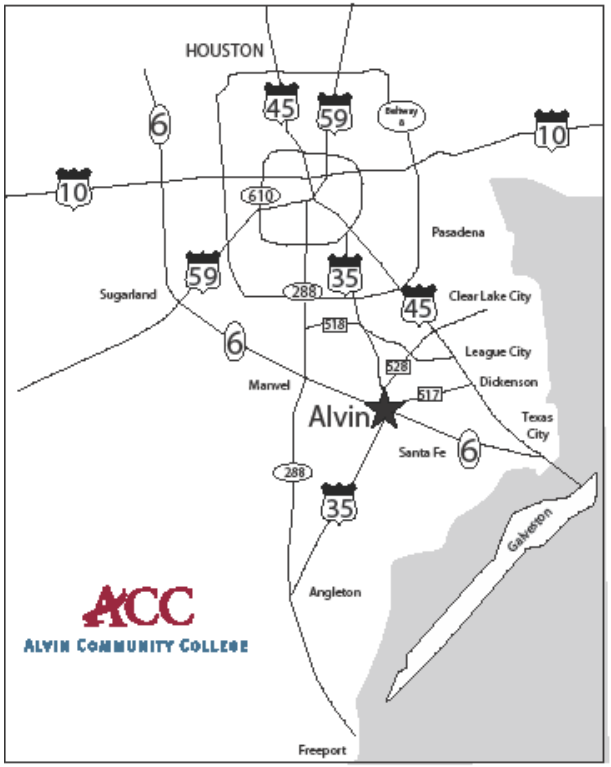
In general, RNs have a wider scope of responsibility, perform more complex tasks, earn higher pay, and supervise LVNs. Texas law (Nursing Practice Act) and Texas Board of Nursing Differentiated Essential Competencies describe the scope of LVN duties. Each facility that employs nurses designates LVN tasks within Texas law and BON guidelines.

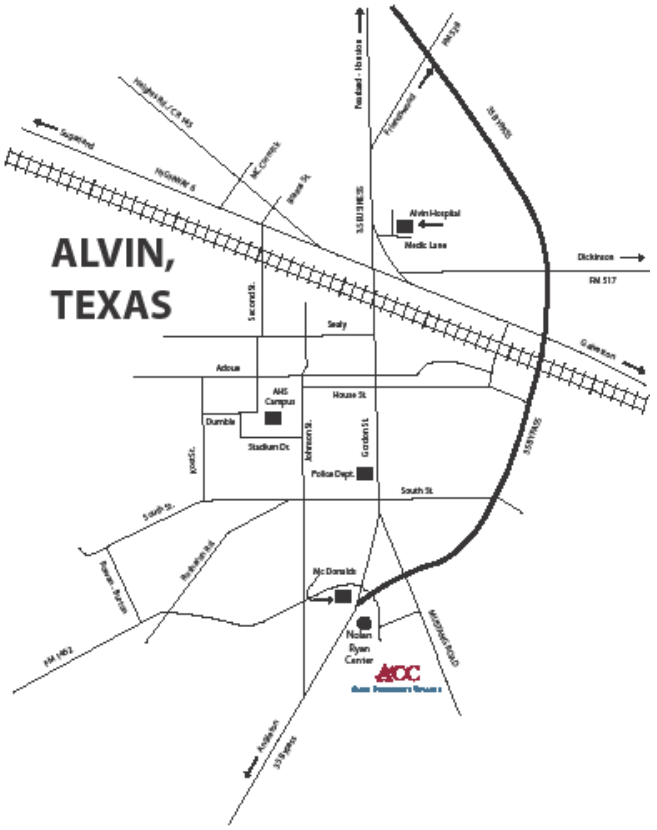
Do I have to be an LVN first before I can become a RN?

No, you can earn a 2-year or 4-year RN degree without being an LVN first. If you can’t dedicate 2 to 4 years to an RN degree, you can earn your LVN and work as an LVN first, then enter an RN program. Many Associate Degree nursing programs have a "transition" or "bridge" program that substitutes the year of VN training for the first year of the RN Associate’s Degree training. Information on ACC’s Transition program and 2-year RN program is at www.alvincollege.edu/ADN.

MAPS

How to Reach Alvin Community College



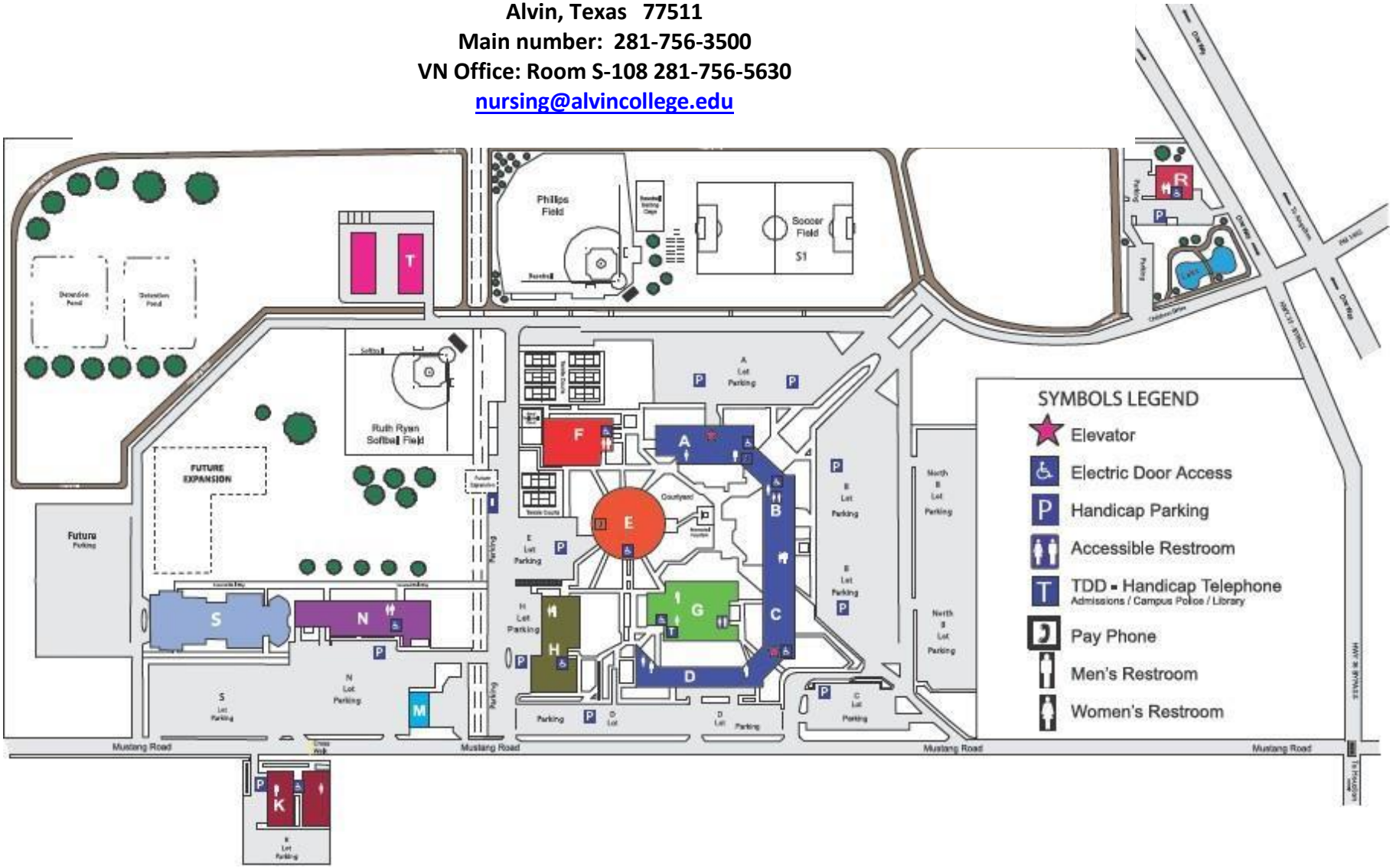


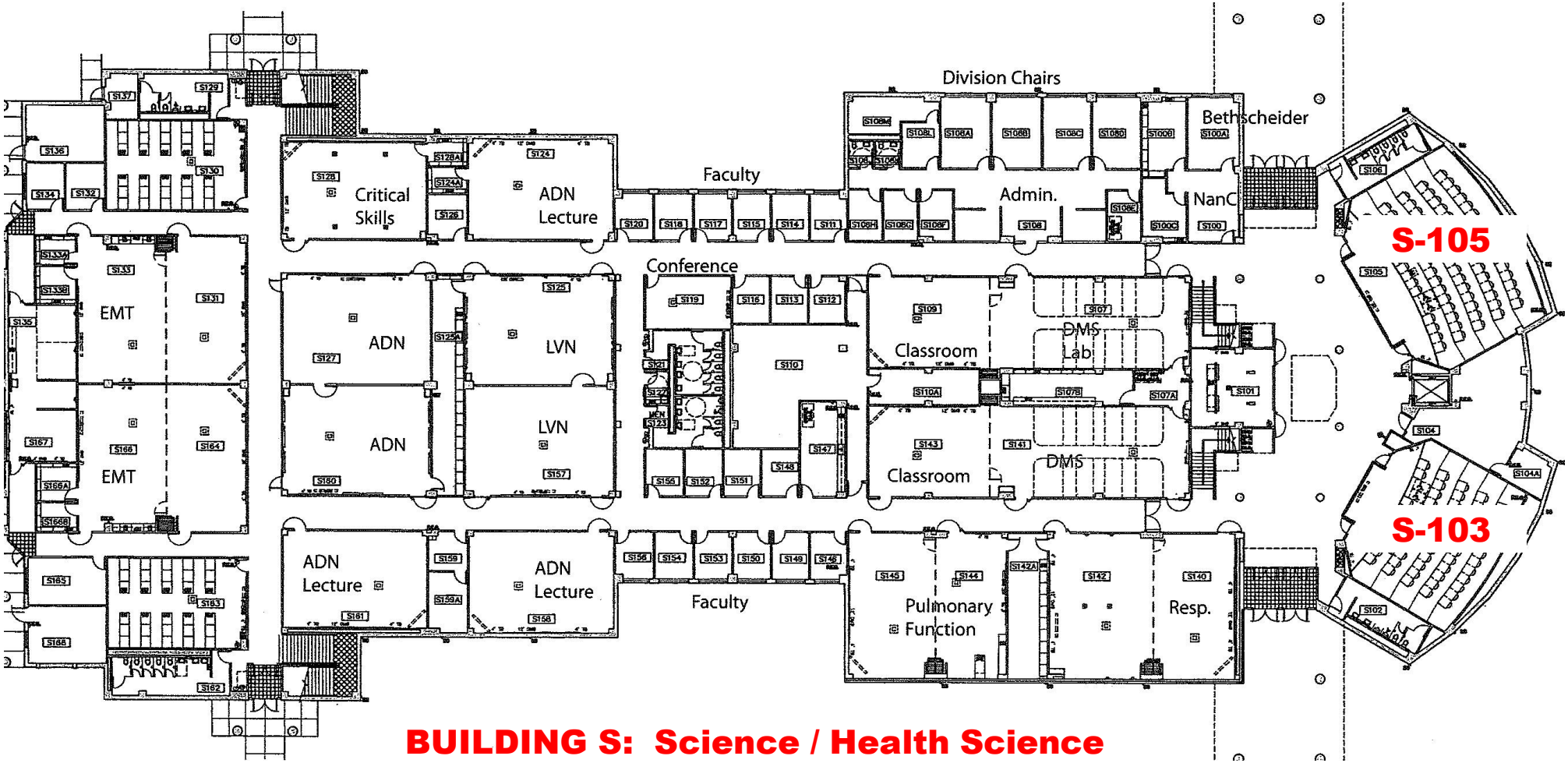
Alvin Community College is located 25 miles South of Houston and 30 miles North of Galveston on Hwy. 35 Bypass in Alvin, Texas.

From Houston, use Hwy. 35 South; or take I-45 South to Webster, then West on FM 528 to 35 Bypass; or Hwy 288 South to Manvel, then East on Hwy. 6 to 35 Bypass.

Froma Galveston, use Hwy. 6 to reach 35 Bypass, from Angleton and points South, use Hwy. 35.

Alvin Community College Campus Map
3110 Mustang Road
Alvin, Texas 77511
Main number: 281-756-3500
VN Office: Room S-108 281-756-5630
nursing@alvincollege.edu





BUILDING S: Science / Health Science