Alvin Community College

Vocational Nursing

Program Information
and
Application Instructions

Application Period Oct 3 – Nov 14, 2019
Classes begin June 2020
(last modified 09/07/2019)
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:  http://www.alvincollege.edu/StepstoGettingStarted
☐ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS start here:  http://www.alvincollege.edu/International-Students

Apply to Vocational Nursing

☐ Apply at:  http://www.alvincollege.edu/LVN during the application period. It typically occurs during October/November and the program begins each June. 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 at one of the mandatory applicant meetings. 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.
☐ Attend a mandatory Applicant Meeting (meeting schedule is in this packet and on the VN web page).
☐ Hepatitis-B: at the applicant meeting, submit a record of at least the first Hepatitis-B immunization, or record of a Hepatitis-B surface antibody titer report.
☐ 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.

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 two 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 (PreCheck)
☐ Submit copy of Social Security card if PreCheck is unable to verify your social security number
☐ Submit copy of Physical Examination report
☐ Submit copies of Tests, Titors, Immunization series: Tuberculosis test, Varicella, Hepatitis-B, MMR, adult Tdap, and seasonal Influenza
☐ Submit copy of Driver’s License or other official picture ID
☐ Submit copy of current CPR card
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 the past 8 years (2012-2019) have passed the state licensing exam for VNs (the NCLEX-PN).

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 June. 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 **10-3-2019 through 11-14-2019** for the VN class that starts June 2020.

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 2020 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.

**1. U.S. CITIZENS APPLY to ACC at** [http://www.alvincollege.edu/StepstoGettingStarted](http://www.alvincollege.edu/StepstoGettingStarted)

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS APPLY to ACC at** [http://www.alvincollege.edu/International-Students](http://www.alvincollege.edu/International-Students)

- 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 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. The registrar's office discards records after one year if you registered but did not take courses. Check with the Admissions Department if you are unsure (281-756-3531).

**2. APPLY TO VOCATIONAL NURSING at** [http://www.alvincollege.edu/LVN](http://www.alvincollege.edu/LVN)

- After submitting your VN application, return to the “status screen” at the above link to verify our confirmation of VN application steps that you have completed. **ALLOW UP TO 5 DAYS AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION OR COMPLETE A STEP** to see if steps have been checked off on the status screen.

- If you have problems with or questions about completing the VN application, please contact the VN department (281-756-5630).

- Do not turn in a printed VN application. We can print one if necessary.

- Anyone who previously applied to the VN program, must submit a new application for the June 2020 VN program. Previous or current ACC ADN program applications will not be accepted in place of a current VN program application.
3. ATTEND A MANDATORY APPLICANT MEETING

- Applicant meetings are held in the Health Science Building on the main college campus in either S-103 or S-105 which are adjacent to one another in the S-Building lobby. The 2019 meeting schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td>10/10/2019</td>
<td>S-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td>10/17/2019</td>
<td>S-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td>10/24/2019</td>
<td>S-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td>11/07/2019</td>
<td>S-105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 PM</td>
<td>11/14/2019</td>
<td>S-105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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 will not be substituted for VN program application meeting attendance.
- Meetings start promptly on schedule. Plan your route in advance and allow enough time to arrive before the meeting starts. Anyone arriving late to a meeting may not get credit for attending that meeting. Please do not bring children!

4. BRING A COPY OF HEPATITIS-B PROOF to the applicant meeting

- Bring EITHER proof of at least the first Hepatitis-B injection OR a report of Hepatitis-B immunity (called a "Hepatitis-B surface antibody titer").
- 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.
- 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 third 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 12 credit hours of core courses attained while attending an accredited college.

- If submitting an original high school diploma, it must be submitted directly to the VN department. It must be the original. No copies.

- If submitting an original high school transcript, it must be submitted directly to the VN department. The transcript must be a sealed official transcript from the high school. The VN department will accept faxed high school transcripts (fax# 281-756-5606) if they are submitted directly from 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 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](http://www.alvincollege.edu/international-students/foreign-transcripts-evaluation-agencies.html). The original transcript evaluation document must be submitted to the VN department.
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 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 have to 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. 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.
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 to the ACC VN department. 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 will have to request that the ACC VN department send the scores directly to the ACC VN department. If the scores arrive after the application 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, click on “Testing Center” on the left side of the screen, then click on the HESI icon for open test dates and registration instructions. If the 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 (281-756-3531). 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.

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 subject to the waiting period for any re-takes (see below) of individual sections.

- 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

- You may re-take sections you want to improve on; there is a mandatory 30-day waiting period between re-takes.

- HESI sections re-taken 30 or more days apart: the highest score of all re-takes of that section will be used when we calculate your cumulative score.

- HESI sections re-taken less than 30 days apart: the earlier section score will be used regardless of which score is the highest. All re-takes must comply with all previously discussed HESI-A2 deadlines and HESI-A2 test score requirements.
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: ADMISSION ASSESSMENT EXAM REVIEW by HESI 4th edition ISBN# 978-0-323-35378-6 PRICE: $42.95 PLUS TAX

OTHER HESI INFORMATION

- If you have a documented disability and need accommodations for testing, please contact Brett Haduch at 281-756-3533 or at bhaduch@alvincollege.edu prior to registering for the HESI A-2 exam.
- 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.
Vocational Nursing Certificate (CERT2) (CIP 513901) 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. These passing this examination will become licensed to practice Vocational Nursing in the State of Texas. The program delivers the instruction necessary for the VN to function, at the entry level, 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. LVN 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, 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 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 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. This meeting is for applicants only.
3. All applicants must be TSI met in order to be accepted into the program.
4. All applicants must provide an official High School diploma, or an 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 or 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 & 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 retaking. 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.
6. Provide 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. Achieve a composite score on the math section of the exam.

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 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 acceptance packet.
   a. Attend the VN Program new class orientation in May.
   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 Program Information and Application Instructions at www.alvincollege.edu/LVN for further information about VN 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 maintained in order to maintain accepted 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 titers that show proof of immunity for - measles mumps rubella tetanus diphtheria pertussis (pertussis booster required after age 18), varicella, at 3 injections of the Hepatitis B vaccine series or a titer that shows proof of immunity, and seasonal flu vaccine when available for the upcoming flu season. Negative TB screen (PPD) skin test, Quantiferon blood test, or chest x-ray performed specifically for TB screen 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 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 competency testing in order for the 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 filing 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 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 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% in either component, the student cannot continue in 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1122</td>
<td>Vocational Nursing Concepts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1190</td>
<td>Clinical I - Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1227</td>
<td>Essentials of Medication Administration</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1420</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology for Allied Health</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1423</td>
<td>Basic Nursing Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Semester (Summer)</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1228</td>
<td>Medical-Surgical Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1331</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1332</td>
<td>Medical-Surgical Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1660</td>
<td>Clinical II - Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Semester (Fall)</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1216</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; Professional Development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1226</td>
<td>Gerontology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1230</td>
<td>Maternal-Neonatal Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1234</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1301</td>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Mental Illness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1651</td>
<td>Clinical III - Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Semester (Spring)</strong></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
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 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 a college-designated private agency. 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. A DPS/FBI background check mandated by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). If the student has a satisfactory outcome with the BON-mandated background check, the BON will mail a “Blue Card” to the student stating this. If a positive criminal history is revealed during the BON-mandated DPS/FBI background check, the BON will send the student a letter requesting a “Petition for Declaratory Order” from the student. For more information on submitting a “Petition for Declaratory Order”, see below. A CONDITION OF FULL ACCEPTANCE INTO THE VN PROGRAM IS THAT THE STUDENT MUST PRESENT AN ORIGINAL BLUE CARD FROM THE BON OR AN ORIGINAL DECLARATORY ORDER LETTER FROM THE BON (STATING STUDENT IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE NCLEX-PN AT A FUTURE DATE) BY THE NEW CLASS ORIENTATION DATE BEFORE CLASS STARTS. NO EXCEPTIONS. IF A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT RECEIVES AN OUTCOME LETTER THAT CONTAINS AN “AGREED ORDER”, THE OUTCOME LETTER AND THE AGREED ORDER MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE VN PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR REVIEW.

Student Rights: If the student believes their background information is incorrect, the student is responsible for providing the evidence of the inaccuracy of the information to the investigating agency. The student will not be allowed to enroll in the ACC VN program until the matter is resolved.

Board of Nursing Petition for Declaratory Order: A student who has any criminal offense (other than a very minor traffic violation), or has been diagnosed with mental illness, or has a history of substance abuse (i.e. the answer is “yes” to any of the questions on the next page), is eligible for admission into the VN program ONLY if the student has:

1. Submitted a Petition for Declaratory Order to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requesting the BON to further investigate their criminal history and/or their mental health history, and/or their history of substance abuse / substance abuse treatment. The form and instructions are at


   AND

2. Received a written response to the Petition for Declaratory Order from the BON stating the student is eligible to take the NCLEX-PN in the future.

Depending on the complexity of the student’s situation/background and the BON's workload, it may take a minimum of 6 months to 2 years for the BON to process the student’s Petition for Declaratory Order. The BON determines eligibility for future licensure on a case-by-case basis. For criminal incidents, the BON considers severity of the offense, how long ago the offense was committed, and the behavior of the individual since the incident.

IF YOU CAN ANSWER "YES" TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE, IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT YOU BEGIN THE DECLARATORY ORDER PROCESS NOW. You do not have to wait to hear whether you are conditionally accepted to the VN program in order to submit a Petition for Declaratory Order to the BON.

If you are able to answer "NO" to all questions on the next page, DO NOT submit a Petition for Declaratory Order to the BON. You will be required to do a DPS/FBI background check only if you are conditionally admitted to the VN program, and the VN program notifies you to do it.

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.
Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Licensure Eligibility Questions
Can you answer “yes” to any of the following?

1) For any criminal offense (adult or juvenile), including those pending appeal, have you:
   A. been convicted of a misdemeanor? (You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)
   B. been convicted of a felony?
   C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
   D. received deferred adjudication?
   E. been placed on community supervisor or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
   F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time or court-ordered confinement?
   G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
   H. been arrested or have any pending criminal charges?
   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 or action?

   **NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses:** While expunged or sealed offenses, 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. Failure to reveal an offense, arrest, ticket, or citation that is not in fact expunged or sealed, will at a minimum, subject your license to a disciplinary fine. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

   **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 on this form. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to other sections of the 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 that criminal matter.

2) Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?
3) Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a professional license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?
4) In the the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia or other psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder which impaired or does impair behavior, judgement, or ability to function in school or work? (You may answer “no” if you have completed or are in compliance with TPAPN OR you’ve previously disclosed to the Texas Board of Nursing and have remained compliant with your treatment regime and have had no further hospitalization since disclosure).
5) Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?

**DO NOT turn in this page to the nursing department!**
This page is only for your information!
**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1122</td>
<td>Vocational Nursing Concepts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1160</td>
<td>Clinical I - Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1227</td>
<td>Essentials of Medication Administration</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1420</td>
<td>Anatomy &amp; Physiology for Allied Health</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1423</td>
<td>Basic Nursing Skills</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1329</td>
<td>Medical - Surgical Nursing I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1331</td>
<td>Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1332</td>
<td>Medical - Surgical Nursing II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1660</td>
<td>Clinical II - Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1219</td>
<td>Leadership &amp; Professional Development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1230</td>
<td>Maternal - Neonatal Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1234</td>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VNSG 1301</td>
<td>Mental Health &amp; Mental Illness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*VNSG 1661</td>
<td>Clinical III - Vocational Nurse</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 $6,000 if you live in district and approximately $8,000 if you live out of district.
APPORXIMATE ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Semester</th>
<th>Last Semester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uniform (varies by size and gender)</td>
<td>Licensure Application fee - Texas BON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse Pack</td>
<td>NCLEX-PN Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Background Check - PreCheck</td>
<td>NCLEX-PN Review Course (recommended)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Background Check - BON DPS/FBI</td>
<td>Vocational Nursing Pin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Screen</td>
<td>Lamp for Pinning Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical exam, TB test, immunizations (1)</td>
<td>Graduation Cap and Gown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance (recommended) (2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation to clinical sites (3)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>varies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR card</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HESI-A2 test fee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$530</strong></td>
<td><strong>$570</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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 a 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 Director'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).

CLASSROOM HOURS:
- First (summer) Semester: 8a-5p, Mon-Tue-Wed
- Second & Third Semesters: 8a-3p, Monday & Friday only

CLINICAL HOURS:
- First semester: 7a-3p, Thursdays on the ACC campus;
- 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 35 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, 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 Director'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 2016-2026. This is faster than the average for other occupations.

**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 $48,950.

**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
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.

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