

NURSING DEPARTMENT
PROGRAM FACT SHEET
For
ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING (R.N.)

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WEB Site Information: www.odessa.edu/dept/nursing

Accreditation Status:

The Odessa College Associate Degree Nursing Program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). The nursing curriculum plan is approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The Program is accredited by The National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). NLNAC may be reached at 3343 Peachtree Road, NE, Suite 500, Atlanta, Georgia, 30326, phone 212-363-5555 ext. 153.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program (A.D.N.)

Nursing is a care-oriented profession requiring a well-educated nurse. The curriculum of the Odessa College Nursing Program prepares graduates to assume beginning staff positions under supervision as providers of care, coordinators of care, and members of the nursing profession. Upon successful completion of the licensing examination, NCLEX-RN®, the graduate becomes a Registered Nurse.

Odessa College offers three options to obtain the Associate Degree in Applied Science for nursing. Each option requires the same non-nursing courses to complete the degree requirements. The Day Option and Evening Option also require the same nursing courses. The Transition Option allows the licensed vocational nurse (L.V.N.) to receive credit for selected nursing courses through advanced placement. Transition students must hold a license to practice nursing as a L.V.N. in Texas.

Generic students are those who do not hold a licensure to practice nursing as a L.V.N. Once admitted into the Nursing Program, generic students take nursing courses for two years or four semesters. Transition students take nursing courses for three semesters, plus one summer session. Generic and transition students receive clinical education each semester in various hospitals and health care agencies.

Day Option:

The Day Option track allows generic students the opportunity to take classes and receive clinical education during weekday daytime hours. Odessa College admits students into the Day Option track each fall and spring semester.

Evening Option:

The Evening Option track is designed for generic students to attend nursing classes during weekday evening hours. Clinical education primarily occurs on Saturdays and some weekdays with prior scheduling. A new class for the Evening Option begins in the fall semester of even numbered years. The group of students completes the two year curriculum before another class is admitted.

Transition Option for the LVN:

The transition student receives advanced placement credit for Introduction to Nursing (RNSG 1309), Clinical Introduction (RNSG 1160), Common Concepts of Adult Health (RNSG 1341), Clinical Basic (RNSG 1260), Nursing Skills I (RNSG 1105), and Health Assessment (RNSG 1215). Pharmacology (RNSG 1201) and Dosage Calculations (RNSG 1108) must be taken or the candidate may opt to receive

advanced placement credit by examination. Transition students begin by taking Transition to Nursing Practice (RNSG 2307) to prepare them for their role as an R.N.

Academic Advisement for Prospective Nursing Students:

Initial academic advisement should begin with a college counselor. Prospective nursing students are encouraged to visit with the Chair of the A.D.N. Program or a nursing faculty member to develop a plan of study. The plan of study will assist the student to meet the requirements for program admission.

Application Deadline:

Students must apply to the program by coming by the Nursing Office on the second floor of the Composite Technology Building or by going onto the department's home page on the college's WEB site. Students are encouraged to apply after completing the first semester of Anatomy and Physiology (BIOL 2401). The application deadline is May 20 for fall (late August) admission and September 20 for spring (mid January) admission. LVN's seeking admission to the transition track must apply by May 1. Letters of acceptance are sent in a timely manner after each deadline, usually within three weeks.

Pre-requisites for Admission:

This program has selective admission criteria. Students who have met all the admission criteria are ranked according to the GPA (grade point average) on the five pre-requisite courses and the score on the department approved entrance examination. The number of students admitted each semester depends upon faculty availability.

In order to be admitted into the Nursing Program, the student must:

- Be a high school graduate or earned a GED.
- Have a minimum *overall* GPA of 2.5.
- Have acquired a satisfactory score on the nursing entrance examination. If a satisfactory score is not earned, the student should see the Nursing Department for information regarding alternate testing.
- Complete the requirements for the college's Success Initiative Plan, which usually includes passing scores on the COMPASS or the THEA exam, unless an exemption has been earned.
- Be currently certified as a Nurse Aide. CNA training is offered through the Odessa College Continuing Education Department. (Not applicable for the L.V.N.)
- Present the nursing department with an immunization record and obtain any required immunizations.
- Be currently trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, professional rescuer module. CPR must remain current during the two year program. On-line CPR training or renewal courses are not accepted.
- Have proof of health insurance, which is a requirement of the clinical agencies.
- *All* course work for the degree must be passed with a grade of "C" or better. The grading scale in RNSG (nursing) courses requires a minimum grade of 75 to earn a "C."
- The courses required as pre-requisites for admission are the following:
 - BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I (must be current within 5 years of admission*)
 - BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II (must be current within 5 years of admission*)
 - PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology
 - HPRS 1106 Essentials of Medical Terminology
 - RNSG 1108 Dosage Calculations for Nursing

*Some exceptions apply.

Information on the nurse entrance examination:

The pre-nursing assessment test (TEAS) is given in the Testing Center, located in room 203 of the Student Union Building (SUB). The test has four sections: Reading, Mathematics, Science, and English and Language Usage. Each section is scored and utilized in placement considerations for the nursing program. The test can be taken only once per admission cycle. Because the science section contains content learned in anatomy and physiology classes, the student should not take the TEAS test until these courses are successfully completed. The test is given Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 to 10 a.m. (Summer schedule differs slightly.) Allow four hours for testing. The cost is \$45.00 (subject to change).

The Nursing Curriculum:

The curriculum for the Associate Degree in Applied Science (nursing) is attached. Please note that there are other non-nursing (general education) courses that must be taken for the degree but are not required as pre-requisites for program admission. Most students take their pre-requisite courses and most of the non-nursing courses over one year to 18 months prior to program admission. This plan allows the student to focus on the nursing courses but may not be appropriate if the student needs to take 12 or more semester credit hours to maintain a scholarship or health care benefits under some insurance plans. There are two nursing courses (prefix RNSG) that can be taken prior to admission. These are RNSG 1201 Pharmacology and RNSG 1215 Health Assessment. Students must have passed BIOL 2401 prior to taking these courses. BIOL 2402 may be taken prior to taking the courses or may be taken concurrently as a co-requisite. (Note that RNSG 1108 Dosage Calculations, a nursing course, *must* be taken prior to admission.)

Cost of the Nursing Education:

Tuition and fees are payable according to the published table found in the college catalog. Tuition and fees for nursing courses are approximately \$2555. Tuition and fees for non-nursing (general education) courses required for the degree are approximately \$1750. The cost of nursing books, most of which are utilized throughout the entire two years, totals approximately \$1500. Other fees include the comprehensive assessment and review program, uniforms, supply kits, and fees for testing and licensing. These costs total approximately \$2975, with half of these funds due the last semester of nursing school. Many scholarships are available, especially after acceptance into the Nursing Program. Contact Student Financial Services at 335-6429 for more information, or go by the department which is located in the Student Union Building (SUB). The course to become a certified nurse aide is taught through the Continuing Education (CE) Department. C.N.A. training and CPR is approximately \$580. A few scholarships, covering partial costs, are available for C.N.A. training. Make application in CE.

Ability to Work During the Program:

The nursing curriculum is difficult and demanding. Students who work in outside jobs must be good time managers and have sufficient support systems in place. It is recommended that students not work during the first semester. After that time, a maximum of 20 hours per week is recommended.

Criminal Background Check:

After admission to the program, new students will authorize the nursing department to conduct a criminal background check. This procedure is required for students to go to various hospitals and agencies for clinical education. If the background check is positive for certain offenses, the student may not be able to participate in clinical education and therefore will not be able to complete the requirements for the clinical courses and continue in the nursing program.

Licensure Information:

The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) approves all candidates for licensure. Good professional character must be present. The BON runs an FBI check using fingerprint identification for ALL candidates for

licensure. Some events, such as having a felony or misdemeanor conviction, including expunged offenses and deferred adjudication with or without prejudice of guilt, pleading no contest to any crime, having unresolved arrests, having pending criminal charges, having action taken against your health care provider license, having certain mental health disorders or a history of substance abuse MAY disqualify a candidate for licensure. (Please note that it does not matter how long ago these events occurred; if they are on your record, *they count*.) The BON requires a review of the individual's situation under a process called a declaratory order. If you believe you may have licensure eligibility issues, go to the BON WEB site at www.BON.state.tx.us to the section on Forms. From there, download the information on declaratory order. It will take a minimum of 3-6 months for the BON to determine eligibility after a request for declaratory order is submitted. Licensure eligibility issues should be resolved before beginning the nursing program.

End of Program EXIT Exam:

Students must pass the end of program achievement exam with the passing score set by the faculty before graduation can occur. This exam gives a predictability rating related to passing the NCLEX-RN® licensing exam.

R.N. Salary Information:

A new associate degree RN in the Permian Basin can make \$40,000 or more annually. This figure does not include shift differential, weekend differential or special area pay that many employers provide.

Employment Opportunities:

The associate degree R.N. may seek employment in a variety of structured health care settings, including hospitals, nursing homes, home health care services, rehabilitation hospitals, mental health hospitals and agencies, hospice care, outpatient clinics, ambulatory care centers, schools, and community settings.

Furthering Your Education:

Students completing the Associate Degree in Nursing may continue their education toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at an upper level university. These programs are known as RN to BSN programs or bridge programs. Locally, Texas Tech University offers this course of study on-line. Several other universities offer such programs. Nurses may earn master's degrees and even the doctorate degree. A few university programs offer fast track options for the RN to progress to the master's level without earning the BSN. There are many options for the nurse to continue formal education and advance in the profession of nursing. Odessa College nursing faculty fully support and encourage life-long education for the registered nurse.

ADMISSION TO THE ODESSA COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM IS WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, AGE, ETHNIC/NATIONAL ORIGIN, RELIGION/CREED, GENDER/SEX, MARITAL STATUS, VETERAN STATUS, OR DISABILITY.

This Fact Sheet contains information that is current when published. The College and/or Nursing Department reserves the right to modify, amend or revise programs, courses, tuition, fees and any information in this publication.

**COURSE OF STUDY FOR ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE NURSING – CURRICULUM PLAN
DAY OR EVENING OPTION – GENERIC TRACK
TRANSITION STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE SAME GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES (BOLD)**

Prerequisites	Semester Hrs
RNSG 1108 Dosage Calculations for Nursing	1
BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I.....	4
BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II.....	4
HPRS 1106 Essentials of Medical Terminology	1
PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology	3
Total Semester Hours	13

First Year

First Semester	
*RNSG 1201 Pharmacology.....	2
*RNSG 1215 Health Assessment.....	2
RNSG 1105 Nursing Skills I.....	1
RNSG 1309 Introduction to Nursing	3
RNSG 1341 Common Concepts of Adult Health	3
RNSG 1160 Clinical – Introduction	1
RNSG 1260 Clinical – Basic	2
Total Semester Hours	14

*May be taken prior to program admission with BIOL 2401 as a prerequisite and BIOL 2402 as a corequisite.

Second Semester	
RNSG 1443 Complex Concepts of Adult Health	4
RNSG 1361 Clinical – Complex.....	3
RNSG 2213 Mental Health Nursing.....	2
RNSG 2161 Clinical – Mental Health.....	1
BCIS 1305 Business Computer Applications.....	3
PSYC 2314 Life Span Growth & Development	3
Total Semester Hours	16

Second Year

Third Semester	
RNSG 2201 Care of Children and Families	2
RNSG 1162 Clinical – Pediatrics	1
RNSG 2208 Maternal/Newborn Nursing and Women’s Health	2
RNSG 1161 Clinical – Obstetrics.....	1
RNSG 1144 Nursing Skills II.....	1
ENGL 1301 Composition and Rhetoric.....	3
SPCH 1321 Business & Professional Speech or SPCH 1315 Public Speaking.....	3
BIOL 2420 Microbiology	4
Total Semester Hours	17

Fourth Semester	
RNSG 2121 Management of Client Care.....	1
RNSG 2163 Clinical – Management.....	1
RNSG 1146 Legal and Ethical Issues for Nurses.....	1
RNSG 2331 Advanced Concepts of Adult Health.....	3
RNSG 2262 Clinical – Advanced	2
PHED 1100 Lifestyle Assessment & Modification.....	1
Humanities/Fine Arts Requirement: At least three hours from art, Bible, mass communication (COMM1316, COMM 1318 or COMM 1319), English (except ENGL 1301, ENGL 1312 or ENGL 2311) history, foreign language (2311 or higher), music, philosophy or photography	3
Total Semester Hours	12

Total Hours	72
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Quick Check for Courses Needed for the Degree

Pre-requisite General Education Courses:

MUST have in order to be considered for admission to the A.D.N. Program:

___ BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I

___ BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II

___ PSYC 2301 Introduction to Psychology

___ HPRS 1106 Essentials of Medical Terminology (this course is taught in the biology department and is a co-requisite with BIOL 2401)

Pre-requisite Nursing Course:

MUST have in order to be considered for admission in to the A.D.N. Program:

___ RNSG 1108 Dosage Calculations (LVNs may receive credit by examination)

Nursing Courses that MAY be taken prior to Program admission if BIOL 2401 has been taken and BIOL 2402 has been taken or is taken with these nursing courses:

___ RNSG 1201 Pharmacology

___ RNSG 1215 Health Assessment (not required for LVNs)

General Education Courses that must be taken to earn the degree:

These courses can be taken prior to program admission or can be taken while in the nursing program.

___ ENGL 1301 Composition and Rhetoric

___ BCIS 1305 Business Computer Applications

___ SPCH 1321 Business and Professional Speech OR
SPCH 1315 Public Speaking

___ PSYC 2314 Lifespan Growth and Development (Must be taken prior to the third semester of nursing school so that the student has the foundation for pediatric nursing)

___ BIOL 2420 Microbiology

___ PHED 1100 Lifestyle Assessment and Modification

___ HUMANITIES/FINE ARTS Requirement: At least 3 hours (*which will be one course*) from the Following: Art, Bible, Mass Communications (1316, 1318 or 1319), English (except 1301, 1312, or 2311), History, foreign language (2311 or higher), Music, Philosophy, or Photography