

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

RN to BSN

Prospective Student Guide

FY 2024-2025



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Approval to Offer RN-to-BSN Online Program and Program Description

South Texas College is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to offer the online Registered Nurse-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-to-BSN) Program.

RN-to-BSN Program at South Texas College is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Program Description

The RN-to-BSN Online Program is designed to respond to the increased demand for baccalaureate-level nurses by providing increased access to the BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree to applicants who already possess a current, unencumbered RN license to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License. The program focuses on advancing the competencies, skills, and values needed to meet the demands of the current healthcare system.

The upper-division coursework focuses on the BSN role in evidence-based nursing practice and research, interprofessional communication, professionalism, health promotion, community and population health, leadership for quality care and patient safety, management of information and patient care technology, and healthcare policy. The program coursework is deliverable in an online instructional model that includes online learning activities and clinicals.

The BSN degree consists of 42 credit hours of the core curriculum, 47 credit hours of lower-division coursework, and 31 upper-division coursework for 120 credit hours.

Marketable Skills

After completing the BSN Program, students can increase their value to a hospital or healthcare organization, making them a more skilled asset to the healthcare team. A South Texas College BSN graduate will acquire the following skills, making them more appealing to employers:

- a. Strengthened Management Skills
Through targeted coursework, RN-to-BSN students are provided in-depth training in staffing, leadership and management skills, budgeting, and cost-effective day-to-day operations.
- b. Effective Leadership Skills
In today's complex healthcare delivery system, RN-to-BSN students boost their leadership skills as they are expected to run departments efficiently, act as role models, and adapt to the pressures confronted in today's healthcare environment.
- c. Proficient in Applying Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)
The RN-to-BSN Program is focused on applying the principles of EBP in the workplace. The RN-to-BSN degree plan has a separate capstone course on EBP where students must formulate a capstone project designed to yield better patient outcomes in a health care setting/department.
- d. Foster an Attitude of Continuous (Continued) Learning
This is an effective trait rather than a skill that South Texas College has nurtured in the ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) program. In today's ever-evolving and rapid-pace healthcare environment, students need to develop this trait to keep abreast with the latest trends in their field of specialty and expand their knowledge to stay ahead.
- e. Effective Financial Skills
The RN-to-BSN coursework provides a solid foundation of instruction in healthcare fiscal planning and accountability for costs and outcomes. This instruction is designed to produce a budget manager equipped with the knowledge, skills, and principles in financial management, as well as knowledge of the political, economic, and social factors that affect healthcare.
- f. Sigma Nurse Manager Certification
The evidence-based curriculum in the Sigma Nurse Manager Certificate Program was developed by experienced clinical and academic nurses. Course work consists of teaching materials, self-assessments and case studies, and includes exercises focusing on team building, mentoring, conflict resolution, budgeting, data analysis, quality processes and more.

ADMISSION TO SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

Students are admitted to South Texas College in accordance with College policies. General admission to the College does not imply admission to all programs of the College. The College complies fully with the state mandated Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Rules as specified in Texas Education Code Section 51.331. Students entering South Texas College must comply with state-mandated Texas Success Initiative Rules ([TSI](#)) and the South Texas College Developmental Education Plan regarding testing requirements.

New Students

South Texas College has developed a checklist to help prospective students with admission. Please follow the [Admission to South Texas College Checklist](#) and complete the admission process with the Office of Admissions & Records (OAR). For more information or assistance, contact the OAR at 956-872-8323 or email admissions@southtexascollege.edu and/or visit a [South Texas College Admissions Office](#).

Transfer Students

Students transferring from another accredited college or university are eligible for admission. Transfer students must comply with the Academic Progress Standards in accordance to College policies. For more information or assistance, contact the OAR at 956-872-8323 or email admissions@southtexascollege.edu and/or visit a [South Texas College Admissions Office](#).

Note to transfer students: When transferring credits from former colleges/universities to South Texas College, only the course credits transfer, not the GPA. The GPA for the core curriculum will be calculated to the program application for points.

International Students

The College is authorized under federal law to enroll students who are valid F-1 or M-1 visa holders under the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and authorized by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Upon initial admission to the College, [international students](#) must comply with all federal regulations in order to obtain a student visa prior to enrollment and must remain in compliance throughout the duration of study. International students may seek general admission to the College or admission to selective programs. For assistance, contact the [Office of Admissions & Records](#), the [Residency Specialist](#), at 956-872-2250. Website: <https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/admissions/international.html>

RN-to-BSN PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Program focuses on advancing competencies, skills, and values needed to meet the demands of the current healthcare system. The degree consists of 42 state-required credit hours of the core curriculum, 47 credit hours of lower-division courses accepted from the Associate Degree in Nursing track, which includes BIOL2420 or BIOL2421, and 31 credit hours comprised of upper-division coursework to be offered in an online format. The upper-division coursework includes the BSN role in evidence-based nursing practice and research, interprofessional communication, professionalism, health promotion, community and population health, leadership for quality care and patient safety, management of information and patient care technology, and healthcare policy.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Program will prepare graduates for leadership and management positions in a healthcare facility. The Program will deliver a fully online instructional model through carefully planned online learning activities and clinical coursework.

Through the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN-to-BSN Program outcomes, the student will be able to:

1. Apply clinical judgment in decision-making based on the nursing program of study, evidenced-based practice outcomes, and research studies in the provision of comprehensive and safe patient and population care.
2. Deliver safety and quality improvement initiatives as an advocate and manager of nursing care rendered by the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
3. Demonstrate clinical inquiry in applying patient care technologies and information systems to support safe nursing practice and population risk reduction.
4. Examine the monitoring of institutional, professional, and public healthcare policies to maintain adherence to legal standards and regulatory frameworks of the professional nursing practice.
5. Manage care transitions across the healthcare continuum in populations with diverse communities in collaboration with members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
6. Demonstrate effective leadership that reflects the values, ethics, and continuing competence of the nursing profession.
7. Demonstrate leadership skills related to financial resources, human resources, clinical management, and professional issues in providing and evaluating comprehensive nursing care.

Prospective Student Advising

The RN-to-BSN Program offers advising sessions for prospective students. Prospective students can meet with the BSN Academic Coach face-to-face or virtually to learn about program information and requirements, tracks, point system, and application periods.

Students can schedule an appointment through the web portal.



<https://nahappointments.setmore.com/ccamacho>

Face-to-face Advising

Face-to-face Advising (<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html>) is available. Students can visit the Student Success Center at 1101 E Vermont Ave, McAllen, to meet with the BSN Academic Coach.

Online Advising

Online Advising (<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html>) is available. It is designed for students who prefer a virtual meeting.

BSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) [RN-to-BSN] Program is a selective admissions program with program application requirements. Prospective students must meet all program application requirements before being eligible to apply to the program. To be considered for program admission, applications must be submitted during the application periods as published on the RN-to-BSN Program webpage.

Application Timelines

See BSN Website for Application Timeline

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html>

Application Requirements

Students must meet all program application requirements to be eligible to apply to the BSN Program. Meeting the program application requirements is not a guarantee of program admission. Requirements are listed below. Use the Program Requirement Checklist to guide you through the process.

RN-to-BSN Program Application Requirements

- Current, unencumbered RN License to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License from the [Texas Board of Nursing Website](#)
- Conferred Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS-ADN) with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
 - If applicable, required courses have been transferred and are listed on the Official South Texas College transcript
- At least 30 of 42 core curriculum credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale have been completed. (Remainder of the 12 credit hours may be taken while in the program.)
- Personal letter of intent – Why did you want to become a nurse, and Why do you want to pursue your BSN?
- Curriculum vitae detailing academic career and professional experience
- Two Reference Forms or reference letters from faculty members, employers, or professional colleagues

Student Application Checklist

Prospective students must meet all application requirements to apply to the RN-to-BSN Program. Below is a list of items and documents required to submit a complete program application.

Check Mark (✓)	List of Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A current unencumbered RN License to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License Obtain a copy of the RN License from the Texas Board of Nursing website to upload to the application; save it as a PDF.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earned an Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS-ADN) with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and on file with STC Admissions Office.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 30 of 42 core curriculum credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (The remainder of the 12 credit hours may be taken during the program).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal letter of intent – Why did you become a nurse and Why do you want to pursue your BSN?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum Vitae (résumé) detailing your academic career and professional experience
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) Applicant Reference Forms or 2 letters of recommendation emailed to BSNdept@southtexascollege.edu from faculty members, employers, or professional colleagues.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STC ADN Alumni <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need a copy of your degree works conferring the ADN degree • Transfer student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Core courses have been evaluated and are on file with the STC Admissions Office ○ Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS-ADN) from another college and official transcript conferring degree is on file with the STC Admissions Office

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are used to assess the applicant's score. Points are given for the following selection criteria:

1. Cumulative GPA upon conferral of AAS-ADN degree
2. Cumulative GPA of the state-required core curriculum
3. Percentage of completion of core curriculum
4. STC ADN Alumni

Selection Process

The RN-to-BSN Program selection process is Competitive Entry based on a Point System. Points are given for the following selection criteria: cumulative GPA upon conferral of AAS-ADN, core curriculum cumulative GPA, and additional points as listed on the Application Form. A cutoff score is calculated for each application period based on the qualified applicant pool and the number of slots available, and it may vary for each application period. Completed applications are ranked from highest to lowest points, and admission is based on this ranking. Applicants with total points equal to the cut-off score will be designated as alternates. If any admitted applicants decline, an alternate will be admitted to the program. A random draw of alternate applicants will be used as needed. Alternate applicants not selected for the application period must re-apply to be considered for the next application cycle.

Core Curriculum GPA

This worksheet is provided to prospective students to help them calculate their cumulative GPA for core curriculum courses. First, use the grading system below to convert letter grades to points, and enter your grade points for each course listed. Then, multiply the grade points by the number of credit hours for each course and enter the total points. The last step will be to calculate your cumulative GPA by (1) adding the total points and (2) dividing that number by 42, entering the result as your cumulative GPA.

Grading System: A=4 points B=3 points C=2 points						
CORE CURRICULUM COURSES		Letter Grade	Grade Points	x	Credit Hours	TOTAL POINTS
ENGL 1301	Composition I			x	3	
ENGL 1302	Composition II – Rhetoric			x	3	
BIOL 2401	Anatomy and Physiology I			x	4	
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II			x	4	
HIST 1301 or HIST 2327	United States History I or Mexican-American History I			x	3	
HIST 1302 or HIST 2328	United States History II or Mexican-American History II			x	3	
GOVT 2305	Federal Government			x	3	
GOVT 2306	Texas Government			x	3	
PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314	General Psychology or Lifespan Growth and Development			x	3	
MATH 1442	Elementary Statistical Methods+			x	3-4	
Creative Arts Elective *: Course Name				x	3	
Language, Philosophy & Culture Elective *: Course Name				x	3	
Component Area Option +*: Course Name				x	3-4	
TOTAL GRADE POINTS						
Calculate cumulative GPA for core curriculum courses: Total the points earned divided by 42 (total number of credit hours taken)						÷ —
Cumulative GPA						
Percentage of Core Curriculum Completion Total number of credit hours completed divided by 42 (total number of hours required)						

+STUDENTS TAKING A 4 CREDIT CORE MATH CLASS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE 3 CREDIT HOURS IN THE CORE COMPONENT AREA. STUDENTS TAKING A 3 CREDIT CORE MATH CLASS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE 4 CREDITS IN CORE COMPONENT AREA.

*See current [FY Academic Catalog](#) for core curriculum

Point System

Program Selection Process: The RN-to-BSN Program selection process is based on a Point System. The following selection criteria determine the applicant's points.

Points Based on Academic Record	Points	Student Points
1. Cumulative GPA of conferred Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS-ADN)	4.00 - 3.50 = 3 points 3.49 - 3.00 = 2 points 2.90 - 2.50 = 1 point	
2. Cumulative GPA of Core Curriculum as calculated on GPA Calculation Worksheet	4.00 - 3.50 = 3 points 3.49 - 3.00 = 2 points 2.90 - 2.50 = 1 point	
3. Completed Core Courses (percentage) as calculated on the GPA Calculation Worksheet	100% (42 credits) = 6 50% (21 credits) = 2 25% (11 credits) = 1 Less than 25% = 0	
4. South Texas College Graduates who completed the Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree in Nursing	1 point	
	Maximum Points: 13	

DEGREE PLANS

Full-Time Degree Plan

The full-time degree plan for the RN-to-BSN Program is designed for individuals who would like to pursue the program on a full-time basis.

DEGREE PLAN Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Degree Program Course Sequence: Full-Time Track			
First Semester – SPRING / FALL			Credit Hours
First Minimester			
NURS	3370	Professional Development & Interprofessional Collaboration	3
NURS	3302	Contemporary Issues in Nursing & Healthcare	3
Second Minimester			
NURS	3304	Holistic Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
NURS	3310	Evidence-Based Nursing Practice and Research	3
Second Semester			
First Minimester			
NURS	3401	Population Focused Community Health Care	4
NURS	3102	Population Focused Community Health Care - Clinical	1
Second Minimester			
NURS	3312	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS	3320	Public and Global Health Policy	3
Third Semester			
First Minimester			
NURS	3408	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing	4
NURS	3108	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing - Clinical	1
Second Minimester			
NURS	3301	Nursing Capstone - Capstone	3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS			31

Part-Time Degree Plan

The part-time degree plan for the RN-to-BSN Program is designed for individuals who would like to pursue the program on a part-time basis.

DEGREE PLAN			
Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Degree Program			
Course Sequence: Part-Time Track			
FIRST SEMESTER – SPRING / FALL			Credit Hours
First Minimester			
NURS	3370	Professional Development & Interprofessional Collaboration	3
Second Minimester			
NURS	3310	Evidence-Based Nursing Practice and Research	3
NURS	3304	Holistic Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
SECOND SEMESTER			
First Minimester			
NURS	3401	Population Focused Community Health Care	4
NURS	3102	Population Focused Community Health Care - Clinical	1
Second Minimester			
NURS	3312	Nursing Informatics	3
THIRD SEMESTER			
First Minimester			
NURS	3408	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing	4
NURS	3108	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing – Clinical	1
Second Minimester			
NURS	3320	Public and Global Health Policy	3
FOURTH SEMESTER			
First Minimester			
NURS	3302	Contemporary Issues in Nursing and Healthcare	3
Second Minimester			
NURS	3301	Nursing Capstone – Capstone	3
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS			31

PROGRAM COST

The total program cost for each RN-to-BSN Program track is provided below.

Program	Semester	Credit Hours	Tuition	Differential Tuition	Books	Program Total Cost
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Full-Time Track	1	12	\$ 1,968.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 400.00	
	2	11	\$ 1,804.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 400.00	
	3	8	\$ 1,312.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	
	Total	31	\$ 5,084.00	\$ 2,325.00	\$1,100.00	\$8,509.00

Program	Semester	Credit Hours	Tuition	Differential Tuition	Books	Program Total Cost
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Part-Time Track	1	9	\$ 1,476.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 400.00	
	2	8	\$ 1,312.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	
	3	8	\$ 1,312.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 300.00	
	4	6	\$ 984.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 100.00	
	Total	31	\$5,084.00	\$2,325.00	\$1,100.00	\$8,509.00

Source: South Texas College Student Financial Services and Division of Nursing & Allied Health

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION STATUS

The South Texas College RN-to-BSN Program communicates via Jag email to inform all applicants of their application status. Notification Letters will be emailed on the date listed on the BSN Website. Applicants should ensure their Jag email account is working to receive the notifications. Please contact the Instructional Technology Service Desk if you are not receiving Jag email or if the account needs to be reset.

Email: isphelp@southtexascollege.edu Phone: 956-872-2111

Admitted Status

Applicants with total points above the cutoff score will be accepted and notified of their application status through Jag email. Applicants must officially accept their admission to the program by submitting the acceptance form (emailed with the acceptance letter).

The new student orientation will be available through BlackBoard. It will include welcome videos by faculty and staff, resources, booklists, etc.

Denied Status

Applicants with total points below the cutoff score will be denied admission to the RN-to-BSN Program and notified of their application status through Jag email. Denied applicants are encouraged to meet with the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach for improvement of points.

Upon the denied applicant's request, further consultation can be held to meet with the following:

- BSN Program Director
 - Applicant can meet with the Program Director after the applicant has met with the Academic Coach.
- NAH Division Dean
 - Applicant can meet with the NAH Division Dean after the applicant has met with the Academic Coach and Program Director.

WHAT'S NEXT...

Email

Your STC email is our form of communication in the program. You may also use Pronto, BB, and by telephone.

Once you are accepted into the BSN program, the Academic Coach will email you regarding your next step, which would be the following:

- Complete the acceptance form
- Make sure you can register for courses
- Information regarding the books will be emailed and available on the BSN Orientation on BB
- Keep checking your Jag email for emails about the program

Registration

The BSN Program conducts registration. You will be registered by your track preference: full-time or part-time. Once you are registered, you will be emailed that registration is complete. You can then make payment arrangements or pay your bill through your Jagnet Portal.

Start of the Semester

The BSN courses are entirely 100% online. At the beginning of the semester, you will log on to your Learning Management System, Blackboard, and be able to see your courses.