GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

LPN - ADN

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in our Associate Degree Nursing Program's LPN to ADN Transition articulation program option. The need for registered nurses in the community and nationwide has remained constant, an average salary for staff RNs in Florida ranges from $84,760 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2023) depending upon education, experience, and location. The Gulf Coast State College Associate Degree Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc.**

The articulation program is designed to facilitate the transition from the role of licensed practical nurse to registered nurse. Following completion of other prerequisites, applicants will enroll in the five-credit LPN-to-ADN transition course (NUR 1000C). LPN Transition students are then articulated with advanced placement into the traditional weekday program with generic students or into the special weekend option. Upon acceptance into the LPN-to-ADN Transitions track, students will earn 17 credit hours of nursing course credit toward the ADN degree.

Upon graduation, students receive an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (A.D.N.) and are eligible to sit for the national exam to obtain a registered nurse (R.N.) license. An Associate in Science Degree in Nursing is the first step in professional nursing. It prepares you to begin further studies to progress in the profession for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, a Master's Degree in Nursing, or a Doctoral Degree.

Attached is the program information packet. It includes information you will need to read and forms you will need to complete and return if you would like to begin the application process. Current estimated expense sheets for the LPN to ADN program are available online by clicking on the cost sheet link at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/nursing/lpn-adn/index.html. Applicants desiring admission into the RN program, who have failed to achieve a "C" or better or whose transcripts reveal withdrawals in **ANY** two nursing courses, in any registered nursing program(s) attended, may be considered for admission pending an Admissions Committee hearing and completing a minimum of 1-year employment in an acute care setting. Students who have been readmitted more than one time to **ANY** RN program are not eligible for admission.

As identified in the packet and brochure, GCSC's LPN-to-ADN program option is a **73-credit hour** program that encompasses on-campus classroom and laboratory hours and clinical experience in a variety of local hospitals and facilities. Students who are engaged in this type of program will complete the Practical Nursing program (1 year or have Florida Practical Nursing equivalency), take 32 credit hours for pre- and co-requisite course work (1 - 2 years), then two semesters of the nursing program (1 year).

Please read through the attached information. Should questions arise, please contact the program's Senior Administrative Assistant, Ryan Walding, at 850.769.1551, x5522, or via e-mail jwalding@gulfcoast.edu or the Academic Programs Specialist, Connie Pimentel at HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu. Additional nursing program information is also available on our website at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/nursing/.

Good luck with your educational plans!

*Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc., can be contacted at 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, or 1-404-975-5000.
(Updated 9.23.2024)

Gulf Coast State College
Associate Degree Nursing Program
Tracks for Entering

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING:
The program is for the student who enters without prior nursing core courses and intends to complete all the required nursing core courses at Gulf Coast State College. Only offered at the <u>Panama City</u> campus. (This option uses a different application packet.)

LPN to ADN TRANSITION – TRADITIONAL OPTION:
The student is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and wishes to enter with advanced standing into the Associate Degree Nursing Program <u>Weekday</u> Option at Gulf Coast State College. Classes are full-time, Monday through Thursday. (This option requires <u>this</u> packet.)

LPN to ADN TRANSITION – WEEKEND OPTION:
The student is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and wishes to enter with advanced standing into the Associate Degree Nursing Program <u>Weekend</u> Option on the Gulf Coast State College <u>Gulf Franklin</u> campus. Classes are on Friday for 6 hours, and clinical meets Saturday *OR* Sunday for 12½ hours. (This option requires <u>this</u> packet.)

ADVANCED PLACEMENT INTO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM:
The program is for the student who has completed any portion of a Registered Nursing Program's core courses at another College or University and wishes to transfer credit into Gulf Coast State College's Associate Degree Nursing Program. Depending upon a transcript evaluation, the student may be allowed to enter the program with advanced placement if the coursework in nursing is less than two years old. The student must complete a minimum of <u>eighteen credit hours</u> at Gulf Coast State College to be eligible for graduation. (This option uses a different application packet.)

SPECIAL LPN-to-ADN WEEKEND SCHEDULING OPTION

In addition to the Traditional Weekday program, Gulf Coast State College has also implemented a special **"Weekend Option"** that will meet on **Friday afternoons and Saturdays *OR* Sundays**. This option was created in response to requests from LPNs that are unable to attend the "traditional weekday" track because of their work schedule.

The **Weekend Option** is a **rigorous course of study** requiring dedication and stamina. If you add this option to a full-time work schedule, you will have a very demanding routine over 2 semesters. Between your work, classes, labs, clinical, and study time, you will be busy seven days a week during the program. Obviously, if you have family, they will need to be very supportive and understanding while you are participating in this unique option.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO MARK WHICH OPTION YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE (OR NUMBER IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE), ON YOUR APPLICATION PRIOR TO TURNING IT IN. IF NO OPTION IS MARKED, IT WILL BE ASSUMED YOU WANT THE TRADITIONAL WEEKDAY OPTION.

The **LPN-to-ADN Transition Traditional and Weekend Options** are **limited access programs**. Admission to the program is **competitive in nature** and **is not guaranteed**. A selection committee ranks all applications, and admission is granted to the most qualified applicants. Applicants can improve their chances of admission by maintaining a high GPA and completing pre & co-requisite courses.

It should be understood that satisfactorily meeting minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee admission.

LPN-to-ADN applicants who have been previously admitted to any Registered Nursing program may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Applicants with greater than 2 previous attempts will be deemed ineligible for admission.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING
CHECKLIST FOR LPN to ADN TRANSITION ADMISSION

NOTE: Students who have ever been admitted to any Registered Nursing Program previously must produce a Letter of Recommendation from the previous Nursing Dean / Director. A student whose transcripts reveal withdrawals or failures to achieve a "C" or better in **ANY** two nursing core courses, in any RN nursing program(s) attended, may be considered on a case-by-case basis for admission. Students must have a minimum of 1 year of employment in an acute care setting, a letter of employment confirmation, and an academic letter of recommendation, and must attend our Admissions Committee hearing. Greater than 2 previous program attempts will deem the student ineligible for admission.

Students should complete the following five checklist items as soon as possible to receive a permanent Nursing Advisor assignment.

Step I: **To INITIATE** the application process and be assigned an advisor, the student MUST have their Florida LPN License and complete the following requirements:

1. **APPLY FOR GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE** - (**Choose Planned Course of Study: AS Registered Nurse Applicant.** Failure to declare the correct major can result in lengthy evaluation delays.) Visit GCSC Enrollment Services in person or on the web at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/ to obtain information on the college admissions process, including **the college application fee.**
Returning students who have not taken classes at GCSC in the last year must re-apply for admission.

   While working on admission to this program, you may choose the Nursing Option, Liberal Arts, A.A., as your major only if you intend to complete that separate degree either before or after this limited access program. To request a major change, visit: https://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/forms.html. Students declaring an unintended major for the sole purpose of receiving financial aid may be subject to penalties, including repayment of any financial aid received. Some support courses listed in Gen AA-Nursing Option are not required for the ADN program.

2. **COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FOR LPN TO ADN ARTICULATION ONLINE**
Preferably at the *beginning* of your academic career, you should apply online at https://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/academic-division/nursing/lpn-adn/index.html.

3. **PROVIDE OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS**
An **official** transcript is a transcript that is sent directly from the granting school/institution to **GCSC Enrollment Services**. Transcripts that have been in the student's possession (regardless of whether they are "sealed," stamped, or in a sealed envelope) are not considered official and will not be accepted. Transcripts must be submitted from ALL post-secondary educational colleges or universities attended and must display all periods of enrollment and/or degrees earned. **The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all college transcripts are evaluated prior to the application deadline for which they are hoping to be chosen as an incoming program student.** Evaluations can sometimes take weeks to be completed. Applicants should check their online GCSC academic transcript to see when the review has been completed and to check courses for accuracy.

4. **OBTAIN A NURSING FACULTY ADVISOR** *(Students should reach this point as quickly as possible)*.
After ALL of the above checklist items 1 to 3 are met, the student **MUST** contact the Academic Program Specialist to request a Nursing Faculty Advisor. The Academic Program Specialist can be reached at 850.913.3311 or **HealthSciencesGCSC@gulfcoast.edu.**

NOTE TO ALL STUDENTS: It is the **RESPONSIBILITY** of the **STUDENT** to **MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH** the **ACADEMIC PROGRAM SPECIALIST and/or ADVISOR** to ensure that their application folder is complete and up-to-date with current admission requirements. Check the Academic Program Specialist and/or Advisor's schedule ~ Nursing faculty may not be on campus Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays (due to clinical assignments) or during summer months.

Step II: **The following must be completed prior to admission into NUR 1000C (LPN to ADN Transitions):**

1. **APPOINTMENT WITH ASSIGNED NURSING FACULTY ADVISOR**
The applicant MUST contact his / her assigned Advisor to review the application folder for completeness.

   Dr. Alexander Giles, Gulf Franklin campus, Room D100D   **Ms. Melissa Hobbs, Main Campus, HS Room 225**

   (850) 913-3317   **(850) 769-1551, ext. 5843**
   Agiles3@gulfcoast.edu   Mhobbs2@gulfcoast.edu

2. **PROOF OF CURRENT, ACTIVE PRACTICAL NURSING LICENSE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**
Official transcripts must be sent to GCSC Enrollment Services and a copy of the current Florida LPN license submitted to Nursing to be placed in the student's nursing file.

3 **DOCUMENTATION OF A 30-HOUR I.V. THERAPY COURSE (certificate or on GCSC transcript)**

4. **COMPLETION OF SUPPORT COURSES (**Required through the 3rd semester of the program.)
It is recommended that all General Education support courses be completed with a minimum grade of "C" according to the Course Requirements and Curriculum Plan in this packet.

NOTE: Students who desire to **improve their probability of program selection and success** in ALL NURSING COURSES **are encouraged to enroll** in **MTB 1371 (previously MTB 0375 – Math for Health-Related Professions)** and **HSC 1531 - Medical Terminology**. These courses are designed to improve understanding of core nursing concepts, not to reduce the length or number of credits in the Nursing Program.

      5. **COPY OF CURRENT CPR CARD -** American Heart Association (BCLS-C) for Healthcare Providers (Basic Cardiac Life Support) is the only certification accepted.

      6. **TOTAL, OVERALL, UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE CREDIT (INCLUDING TRANSFER CREDITS) GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) OF 2.5 (MINIMUM)**

      7. **COMPLETION OF ATI TEAS 7 ADMISSION ASSESSMENT TEST / GCSC NURSING PROGRAM RECEIPT OF** OFFICIAL TEAS SCORES *(see last section, page 13)*

- Applicants must successfully complete the TEAS 7 Pre-Admission Exam (The Test of Essential Academic Skills)

   This is exam is specifically designed to assess the academic preparedness of prospective students entering health science fields.

- **The TEAS 7 Exam may be taken no more than twice per selection period. Selection periods are defined as October 1 through the end of February, and March 1 through the end of September. Scores are valid for a period of 2 years. The most recent score will be used for admissions.**

- Included in this packet is information on the exam, the study guide, and how to register to take the exam.

- Students with overall scores lower than 66% may be required to complete a nursing academic preparation course and obtain a certificate of completion before entry.

      8. **With the assistance of your Nursing Advisor, ENROLL IN NUR 1000C – LPN-to-ADN NURSING TRANSITION COURSE (5-CREDIT** hybrid course at the Gulf/Franklin Campus**).** Students must have their nursing advisor's approval to take this course.

Step III: UPON ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NURSING PROGRAM, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE REQUIRED:

      9. **CURRENT PPD** or **TB TEST** or **DECLINATION WITH X-RAY RESULTS**
    10. **MEDICAL EXAMINATION** with satisfactory results
    11. **SATISFACTORY FINGERPRINT / CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**
    12. **HIPAA TRAINING COURSE CERTIFICATION*** (Clinical Requirement)
    13. **INFECTION CONTROL COURSE CERTIFICATION*** (Clinical Requirement)
    14. **CURRENT CPR CARD** - American Heart Association (BCLS-C) for Healthcare Providers (Basic Cardiac Life Support) is the only certification accepted.
    15. **SATISFACTORY 10-PANEL DRUG SCREENING**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM PLAN
LPN-to-ADN ARTICULATION NURSING PROGRAM (TRADITIONAL & WEEKEND OPTIONS)

Prerequisite Courses: Successfully completed with a "C" or higher prior to acceptance into the Nursing Transition			
MAC, MGF, **or** STA	College Level Math **required**	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
ENC 1101	English Composition I	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
BSC 2085	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
BSC 2085L	Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	1 Credit	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
BSC 2086	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
BSC 2086L	Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab	1 Credit	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
NUR 1142	Introduction to Pharmacology **(See Advisor to Enroll)**	2 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
DEP 2004	Developmental Psychology	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible
HUN 1201	Principles of Nutrition	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course _before_ NUR 1000C Eligible

Co-requisite Courses: Courses that may be taken prior to entering **OR** during the nursing program and must be completed with a grade of "C" or higher are indicated below. It is highly recommended that students (particularly those who are taking the weekend option due to speed of delivery of program content) complete all Pre- and Co-Requisites BEFORE entering the program.			
MCB 2004	Microbiology	3 Credits	Before Entering Semester 4 of the Program
MCB 2004L	Microbiology Lab	1 Credit	Before Entering Semester 4 of the Program
Core Humanities	Humanities I, II, **or** III	3 Credits	By the End of Semester 4 of the Program
AMH 2010 **or** AMH 2020 **or** POS 2041 **and** Competency Exam	US History I **or** US History II **or** American National Government **and** State Competency Exam	3 Credits	By the End of Semester 4 of the Program

NOTE: Students must have a **GPA of 2.5 to begin the nursing program.**
All courses must be completed with a C or higher, a **GPA of 2.0, for continuation in the nursing program.**

REQUIRED BEFORE BRIDGING INTO 3RD SEMESTER A.D.N. PROGRAM			
LPN-to-ADN Nursing Transition	NUR 1000C	ATI TEAS 7 Requirement and 30 Hours of I.V. Certification must be met	5 Credits

REQUIRED NURSING COURSES TAKEN OVER TWO SEMESTERS AFTER ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NURSING PROGRAM			
Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Credits
Semester 3:	NUR 2520C	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	4
	NUR 2420C	Maternal-Infant Nursing	4
	NUR 2310C	Nursing Care of the Child	4
Semester 4:	NUR 2214C	Advanced Adult Care	11

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR BACKGROUND

Applicants to the Nursing Programs in the Nursing Division of Gulf Coast State College work very hard to meet the entry requirements for selection. Our programs make every effort to accept as many academically qualified students as possible. In addition to meeting basic entry requirements, however, applicants must also consider how their personal history and background may affect their ability to meet admission and clinical requirements, sit for various state licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students that are granted conditional acceptance into a Nursing program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division to which the student has applied. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the applicable program coordinator.

Please Note: Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. Also, be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. Although background checks are required before program entry, it is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. Even if the student has been accepted into and completed a program at GCSC, this does not guarantee authorization for licensure or eligibility to take the licensure exam. Those authorizations are granted by the Nursing governing professional licensure boards. This is a notification to the applicant that Gulf Coast State College has no authority over any state-level medical licensure board and cannot be held responsible if the student is accepted into or completes a Nursing program and subsequently is denied authorization to take the program-specific licensure exam due to criminal background information.

An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website at https://www.floridahealth.gov/ for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

Please read the following information carefully: Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Nursing program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Nursing programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html

456.0635   Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.-
(1) Healthcare fraud in the practice of a healthcare professional is prohibited.
(2)   Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:
(a)   Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed.

Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1.   For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2.   For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3.   For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;

(b)   Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;

(c)   Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;

(d)   Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or

(e)   Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for initial licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(3)   The department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate, or registration of any applicant if the applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:

(a)   Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the applicant is currently enrolled in a pretrial diversion or drug court program that allows the withdrawal of the plea for that felony upon successful completion of that program. Any such conviction or plea excludes the applicant from licensure renewal unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:

1.   For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.

2.   For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).

3.   For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application.

(b)   Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396 since July 1, 2009, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application.

(c)   Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years.

(d)   Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application.

(e)   Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities, except when such applicant is listed solely based on a default or delinquency on a student loan as provided in s. 120.82.

This subsection does not apply to an applicant for renewal of licensure, certification, or registration who was arrested or charged with a felony specified in paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) before July 1, 2009.

(4)   Licensed health care practitioners shall report allegations of health care fraud to the department, regardless of the practice setting in which the alleged health care fraud occurred.

(5)   The acceptance by a licensing authority of a licensee's relinquishment of a license which is offered in response to or anticipation of the filing of administrative charges alleging health care fraud or similar charges constitutes the permanent revocation of the license.

Important Note: After acceptance and during enrollment in this program, the student is responsible for notifying the program coordinator of any arrest, regardless of adjudication, that occurs after acceptance through graduation. Failure to promptly notify the program coordinator shall be grounds for dismissal from the program.

Rick Scott
Governor

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

John H. Armstrong, MD
State Surgeon General

July 1, 2012

Individuals who are considering entering the nursing profession and who have a criminal history often ask about potential barriers to licensure following successful completion of an approved nursing program. While it would be nice to know this prior to making a decision to enter the program, obtaining that information is not possible under current Florida law.

The Board of Nursing makes decisions about licensure based upon a number of questions on the application and on an individual basis. The application (or the background screening) that indicates a criminal history is considered a non-routine application and must be reviewed by the board staff and possibly referred to the Board of Nursing for action.

Each application is reviewed on its own merit. The Board of Nursing has created guidelines for specific offenses to be cleared in the board office; however, the staff cannot make determinations in advance as laws and rules change over time. Applications that involve violent crimes and repeat offenses are required to be presented to the Board of Nursing for review. Evidence of rehabilitation is important to the Board Members when making licensure decisions.

The Board may issue a license under conditions such as placing the license on probation with supervision, requiring additional education, or the Board may deny your application. If drugs or alcohol are a concern, the board may require the applicant to undergo an evaluation and possibly to sign a contract with the Intervention Project for Nurses (800-840-2720).

Each nursing program makes independent decisions about admissions into the program and may require a criminal background screening as part of that process. Clinical facilities may limit or prohibit students with criminal histories from participating in clinical experiences. Other options may not exist for students to complete the required clinical hours in order to obtain a nursing degree; therefore making such a student ineligible for licensure in Florida.

The licensure application requires disclosure of any criminal history and the disposition of all cases prior to board review. Entry into the nursing education program is the prospective student's decision based upon the knowledge that he/she may, or may not, be granted a nursing license. All of the above factors should be taken into consideration prior to making a decision about a nursing career.

Important Notice for Initial Licensure Applicants and Renewals:

Pursuant to Section 456.0635, Florida Statutes, you are being notified that effective July 1, 2012, health care boards or the department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate or registration, issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

1. Convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendre, regardless of adjudication, to a felony violation of: chapters 409, 817, or 893, Florida Statutes; or 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970 or 42 U.S.C. ss 1395-1396, or similar offenses in other state. unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application for 1st and 2nd degree felony; 10 years prior to the application for 3rd degree felony; and 5 years prior to the application for 3rd degree felony under Section 893.13(6)(a).

2. Terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent 5 years).

3. Terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent 5 years).

The Florida Board of Nursing receives numerous questions from applicants regarding prior criminal offenses. The following are the most frequently asked questions:

Question: What types of crimes must be reported on the application?
Answer: All convictions, guilty pleas and nolo contendere pleas must be reported, except for minor traffic violations not related to the use of drugs or alcohol. This includes misdemeanors, felonies, "driving while intoxicated (DWI)" and "driving under the influence "(DUI)." Crimes must be reported even if they are a suspended sentence.

Question: Can a person obtain a license as a nurse if they have a misdemeanor or felony crime on their record?
Answer: Each application is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Board of Nursing considers the nature, severity, and recency of offenses, rehabilitation and other factors. The Board cannot make a determination for approval or denial of licensure without evaluating the entire application and supporting documentation.

Question: Do I have to report charges if I completed a period of probation and the charges were dismissed or closed?
Answer: Yes. Offenses must be reported to the Board even if you received a suspended sentence and the record is now considered closed.

Question: What types of documentation do I need to submit in support of my application if I have a prior criminal record or license discipline?
Answer:

- Official court document(s) regarding each of your criminal offenses, showing the date(s) and circumstance(s) surrounding your arrest(s), sections of the law violated, and disposition of the case. This includes the complaint or indictment, the judgment, order of probation, docket sheet or other documents showing the disposition of your case(s). You may obtain these documents at the clerk of court where the offense(s) occurred.

- Copies of documents regarding disciplinary action taken against any healthcare license. The documents must come from the agency that took the disciplinary action.

- A detailed description in your own words of the circumstances surrounding your criminal record or disciplinary action. Include a description of the changes in your lifestyle since the time of the offense(s) which would enable you to avoid future incidents. List factors in your life, which you feel, may have contributed to your crime or disciplinary action and what you have learned.

Note: The burden of proof lies with the applicant to demonstrate evidence of positive lifestyle changes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Documented evidence of professional treatment and counseling you have completed. Provide a discharge summary, if available.

- Letters of professional recommendation on official letterhead from employers, nursing program administrators, nursing instructors, health professionals, professional counselors, support group sponsors, parole or probation officers, or other individuals in positions of authority.

- Proof of community service, education and self-improvement.

- Court-issued certificate(s) of expungement, proof of compliance with criminal probation or parole.

Applicants with previous arrest(s) or disciplinary action on a license will not be authorized to practice nursing until all documentation is cleared by staff or reviewed by the Board.

TEAS TEST REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Step # 1: Pay for your exam at the Business Office window on the first floor of the Administration Building.

- Inform them you are paying for the TEAS Pre-Admission Test. You may pay for the exam fee with cash, check, or credit card. (**$70 for current GCSC students or $100 for non-GCSC students.**)
- The Business Office will give you two copies of your transaction receipt.

Step # 2: To receive your testing date; bring one receipt to the Senior Administrative Assistant's office located in the Health Sciences building on the second floor, Room 229. You will be required to present the other receipt to the Testing Center on the day of your exam.

Step # 3: Create an ATI Student Account: The directions on **How to Create a NEW ATI Account for TEAS at Institution Exams** are located outside of Health Sciences, Room 229 (on the left side).

Step # 4: Exam Preparation: ATI offers a variety of test preparation options, ranging from a free TEAS Test Prep Mobile App to a comprehensive online study package with a GCSC discount code (see handout outside of Health Sciences, Room 229 for further information).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students **must register** with the Senior Administrative Assistant (Health Sciences, Room 229) after paying for the TEAS EXAM to secure their seat for an exam date.

- **The Testing Center is located in Student Union West, Room 80.**

- **Students should arrive at the testing site thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled testing time.**

- **You MUST bring a copy of your exam receipt and current photo ID to the Testing Center.**

- **If you cannot take the exam at the scheduled time, please notify the Testing Center and the Senior Administrative Assistant, Lisa Tyus, at 850.872.3829. You will need to reschedule your exam through Register Blast.**

- **The TEAS TEST may NOT be taken any more than twice per selection period Selection periods are defined as October 1 through the end of the last working day of February, and March 1 through the end of the last working day of September.**

- **The most recent TEAS TEST score will be considered for admission.**

If you are a student with a disability and wish to apply for accommodations for the TEAS TEST, you must contact the GCSC Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) Office at 850.747.3243 or email sar@gulfcoast.edu to inquire about the accommodation process at least 2 weeks prior to your intended test date.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE TEAS TEST AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS:

Students may transfer TEAS exam scores taken at another institution or testing center, you must log into your ATI Student Account and send/manage your transcripts under the MY RESULTS TAB. TEAS test scores are considered valid within 2 years of the application deadline.

After completion of the exam, your test results will be sent electronically to the e-mail you provided when you created your ATI testing account. The official copy of the results will be forwarded to the Nursing program.

TEAS TEST SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Applicants to the Associate Degree Nursing program must complete a computer-based entrance exam called the TEAS TEST. It is comprised of exams to assess the academic and personal readiness of prospective students for higher education.

The test includes Reading, Mathematics (numbers and algebra, measurement, and data, Sciences (Human Anatomy & Physiology, Biology, Chemistry Scientific Reasoning), and English and Language usage. Question types include multiple choice, multiple select (select all that apply) fill-in-the-blank, ordered response, and hot spots. Students are encouraged to prepare for this examination. See the ATI website for further information at https://atitesting.com/pre-nursing-school.