Welcome to the Associate Degree Nursing – Traditional Track Program Information Session

Our Traditional Track program is for those students who are not currently licensed or board certified in a designated health care profession. If you are licensed or board certified in a health care profession, please visit our Mobility Track web site to see if you may qualify for that program.

The information session is designed to supply applicants to the Associate Degree Nursing program with accurate information and guide the applicant through the application and selection processes.

Successful completion of an information session is a mandatory step in the application process and must be completed before seeking an appointment with the nursing staff. The ADN program is the largest Health Science program at ACC and it is very important for students to complete the information session and read through the web site before contacting the office.

A post test will be completed as part of your application packet.
The goal of this information session is to define the Associate Degree Nursing Program (ADN), give you a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities that you should expect as you enter the nursing profession, and to provide you with the application process.

Significant information will be provided on the slides and in the audio narrative. You may want to view this presentation several times to ensure that you have all the information you need to apply for admission to the ADN Program.
Detailed information on topics covered in this presentation can be found by clicking on the links at the left of the screen.

If you have questions during the presentation, click on the pause button at the bottom of the slide, write down your question, and either click the links to the left or check the Frequently Asked Questions section of the ADN-Nursing website.

Clicking on the sidebar links during the session will cause you to lose your place. We suggest writing down the links you are interested in and visiting them after completing the session.
What is a Registered Nurse?

Registered nurses work as patient advocates for the care and recovery of the sick and maintenance of the healthy. In their work as advocates for the patient, RNs ensure that the patient receives appropriate and professional care. They use the nursing process to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate nursing care of the sick and injured and have more training than licensed vocational nurses.

There are many opportunities in the field of nursing which include advancement, a variety of roles, and a variety of settings. Nurses can work with babies, children, adults and seniors in different venues such as, private practice, rehabilitation, home care or in acute care settings such as hospitals. Nursing offers flexible schedules with RNs working days, evenings, or nights to accommodate facility needs.
Austin Community College has been providing quality nursing education since 1982.

Graduates of the ADN program receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to apply for the licensure examination called the NCLEX-RN. Associate degree programs are considered 2 year programs; but will actually take longer to complete because of the prerequisite courses.

An important fact to consider when choosing a nursing program is the success rate of students passing the NCLEX-RN licensure examination.

ADN should be seen as a stepping stone to higher education. After achieving RN licensure students often go on to complete their BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) and then MSN (Master of Science in Nursing). Nurse Education does require MSN level of education.
Accreditation and Licensure

- **Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing**
  - (ACEN)
  3343 Peachtree Road NE, Ste 850
  Atlanta, GA 30326
  www.acenursing.org

- **Texas Board of Nursing**
  333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-460
  Austin, Texas 78701
  (512)305-7400
  www.bon.state.tx.us

The ACC, ADN program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the Texas Board of Nursing. You may find contact information for these two entities on the ADN homepage.
Students are admitted to the ADN-Traditional Track program each fall and spring semesters. Students do not attend nursing classes during the summer semester.

The program requires participation in lecture, labs, and clinical hours in each semester. Students are given theory in their lecture setting that they then practice in a skills/simulation lab, and finally utilize in the clinical setting in one of our hospital affiliates.

We offer an on-site option which is the traditional lecture format in a classroom setting, and is available at our Eastview (EVC) campus, Clinical Education Center (CEC), or Round Rock campus (RRC). There are no differences between the programs at the different campuses other than location.
There are four skills/simulation labs for the ADN program. The labs use computer assisted learning modules and testing, as well as patient simulation training. Educational methodologies are utilized throughout the program among all four lab locations.

These labs are also equipped with manikins with varying levels of technology. Some of these patient simulators mimic human physiology to provide an interactive learning tool that better prepares nursing students for successful function in the clinical setting. This also provides an opportunity for nursing students to improve their critical thinking skills in combination with psychomotor skills and build self confidence in a safe environment.

Students who choose Eastview on-site option utilize the Eastview simulation lab. Those who choose CEC on-site option utilize the CEC simulation lab. The Round Rock lab is for the RRC onsite group. The Cypress Creek lab is only for some RNSG 1105 courses.

Once accepted into the program we strongly encourage students to practice their nursing skills during our open lab hours. The Eastview campus lab and Round Rock lab are the only labs that offers open lab hours.
Start your immunizations early! It can take up to 6 months to complete all immunizations. Completed immunizations are required at the time of application. There are no exceptions made to this requirement so start early. If you need assistance, go to the web site listed to print out the immunization form. The form lists the specific immunizations required by law. You can also find a listing of community sites that can help you with these immunizations if you do not have a complete record.

All students will be required to provide proof of TX Board of Nursing clearance prior to starting the program. Student will be notified when to begin this process.

Criminal background checks are required by the clinical sites and should not be done until instructed by the department.
The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) now requires that all students obtain clearance through them prior to starting a nursing program. Applicants must answer questions concerning any history of criminal convictions, drug or alcohol addiction, or diagnosis and treatment of certain mental illnesses. Licensure may be denied under certain conditions.

The mission of the BON is to protect and promote the welfare 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. Applicants for licensure undergo FBI background check prior to final approval.

If you need to complete the Declaratory Order process please start now as this process may take 3 – 6 months to complete.

If you do not need to complete a Declaratory Order process you will wait until directed by the department to begin the BON process.
Please note that every Health Science Program at ACC has Technical Standards and Essential Functions.

A complete list of the minimal abilities and essential functions required for this program can be found in the application packet.

If you are not able to meet the Technical Standards, please contact the Student Accessibility Services & Assistive Technology (SAS) Office at any campus.

Technical Standards

- Minimal abilities and essential functions:
  - Visual and Auditory Abilities
  - Communication Abilities
  - Motor Abilities
  - Behavioral and Social Attributes

- A complete list of Technical Standards can be found at: http://www.austintx.edu/health/msg/technicalstandards.php

  - If you cannot meet the Technical Standards, contact the Student Accessibility Services & Assistive Technology (SAS) Office.
This is a full-time program and is academically challenging. For every hour that is spent in a classroom, it is recommended that students spend 2-3 hours of preparation time at home. Statistics show that students are at greater risk for failure if they are also working more than 20 hours per week.

There are three levels of tuition rate for ACC: In-District, Out-of-District, and Out-of-State. You may access a complete list of all the expenses for this program at the FAQ's link on the left side of the screen.

Reliable transportation is required for travel to clinical sites. Clinical sites can be anywhere in the Austin or surrounding areas.
Here is a sample schedule for the first semester:

Lecture 4hrs/day, 2 days/wk- 8-12;
Lab 4 hrs/day, 2 days/wk 8-12 or 12:30-4:30 as assigned
Clinical begins around week 3 approximately 7 hours/day; 2 days/wk

Clinical schedules are given at Orientation and can not be arranged prior to that time.
All of the following application steps can be found on the Application Process page for future reference.

The first step to becoming an ADN student is to apply to ACC. All new students must complete this process before applying.

Texas has a state required test called Texas Success Initiative (TSI) to determine readiness for college level course work which covers reading, writing, and math skills. You can verify your TSI status in person at student services located at any ACC campus. For this program your status must be complete or exempt.

For students who have attended other colleges, all official transcripts should be submitted to ACC’s Admissions and Records for course credit evaluation for graduation. Unofficial transcripts may be used by the nursing department to facilitate nursing program advising.

It is a mandatory part of the application process for students to complete either an on-line or on-site information session. A completed post test will be part of the application process.

As stated earlier, immunizations are required by our clinical sites and must be completed before an application can be accepted.
There are five pre-requisite courses required to apply to the program: Human Anatomy w/lab, Human Physiology w/lab, Intro to Microbiology and Pharmacology for Healthcare Professions. All the prerequisites must be completed before you can apply to the program. They must be completed with a minimum 2.7 GPA. The department does not round up on GPAs.

Human Anatomy is a pre-req to Human Physiology, Micro and Pharmacology so it needs to be taken first. Pharmacology also has a math requirement. Please see the course schedule for specific details regarding these classes.

Human Physiology and Micro both must have been completed within 5 years at the time of application. The 5-year time frame freezes at application and remains frozen as long as the application stays active, meaning a student reapplications each cycle until they are offered admission. If an application period is skipped then the next time the student applies their application is looked at as a brand new applicant and if the classes have expired they will have to be repeated before the application will be accepted again.

There is an assessment test that is required by the Biology Department in order to register for Human Anatomy and Human Physiology. It is important to plan in advance for this test. Once the test is passed the Biology department will petition the student to register for the course(s). This is a Biology requirement not a Nursing requirement. Please visit the Biology Department web site for testing information, test objectives, and test preparation.

The math course must now be Elementary Math Statistics. The course has to be labeled under the Math Department. We cannot substitute a statistics class from a Psychology or Business Department.

Nursing Skills is the only course listed as a pre-req that is not taken before application. It is a pre-req to starting the program but not a pre-req to applying. Department approval is given for this course once students are high enough on the ranking list. This is to ensure that students take the course as close to entering the program as possible; skills testing is done over that course the first week of the program.

There is a link on the left under Application Process that will give you a complete checklist of the application process. You may print this out for your records.
The HESI A2 test is the nursing admission assessment test that cannot be taken prior to finishing all 5 prerequisite courses. These courses help prepare students for the HESI test. You must register ONLY via the online registration form on the HESI info page. Make sure to follow the instruction in the first paragraph to set up an Evolve account. You will need this to take the test. Please allow up to 72 hours for confirmation email and payment form. Generally they are sent on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There are 5 graded sections of the HESI test and one diagnostic section. You must make a 75% or better on each of the five graded sections to pass the test. The graded sections are Anatomy & Physiology, Math, Reading Comprehension, Grammar and Vocabulary. The Critical Thinking component is for learning diagnostic purposes only.

Students can repeat the test ONLY if they score under 75% on a scored test section. Only the failed section can be repeated. Students may not retake the test just to increase their score.

This HESI A2 is only for students applying to the ACC ADN program. Students applying to other schools may contact Prometrics or the other school directly to set up their test: www.Prometrics.com

The HESI A2 Admission Test:

- Must be taken after completion of all 4 Prerequisites
- Register ONLY via online registration form.
- The dates are listed here: https://sites.google.com/a/austincc.edu/adn-hesi-a2-test/
- Must make a minimum score of 75% on each graded test section (A&P, Math, Reading Comprehension, Grammar and Vocabulary)
- This HESI A2 is only for students applying to the ACC ADN program. Students applying to other schools may contact Prometrics or the other school directly to set up their test: www.Prometrics.com
Application Process con’t

• Submit ADN application with following information:
  - Immunization documentation-copies only
  - Information Session Post-test
  - Licensure Eligibility-BON Module
  - Copy of transcripts from colleges other than ACC
  - Copy of HESI Test Summary Report including the Critical Thinking score.
  *You may only submit an application during application periods (see deadlines page under the Application Information link on the left)
  *Incomplete applications are not accepted.
  *Please refer to the Application Packet page with specific information on submitting an application.- Under Application Information tab.

The ADN application is available under the Application Information link on the left.

For only your immunization documentation, please submit copies and keep the originals for your personal records.

You may submit unofficial transcripts with your application. Make sure that officials have been submitted to Admissions and Records for evaluation.

Do not submit ACC transcripts with your application.

The program accepts applications twice per year for the Traditional Track and you may only submit an application during an application period. Please refer to the Deadlines page under the Application Information link on the left.
The first step in transferring any course work to ACC is to submit official transcripts to Admissions and Records for evaluation. It may take the college up to one full semester to evaluate the transcripts. All official transcripts must be submitted prior to applying to the program. Coursework from another college will not be looked at for application purposes until these official transcripts have been submitted to A&R. Make sure to submit a copy of your un-official transcript with your application.

The equivalency guide is a tool for students to check course work for transferability from US universities. The nursing office can only give specifics about course work related to the nursing degree plan.

If transferring from another nursing program, please see the link under application process for nursing program transfer students. You must have successfully completed at least one full semester in a nursing program (with clinical) to be considered a nursing program transfer student.

All regular admission requirements plus transfer requirements must be met.
This program has a competitive ranking based on the GPA of the prerequisites, any co-requisites that are completed by the deadline, HESI scores, and review points. For a detailed description of the ranking system, please click on the Application Information link to the left.

Students do not need to complete co-requisites in order to submit an application.

This program has become extremely competitive to gain admission. It is taking students on average 2 application cycles to be accepted into the program.
Applicants are selected for admission based on their placement on the current ranking list from highest rank to lowest rank. The ADN Program does not maintain a rank list that allows an applicant to automatically advance in rank from one application cycle to the next.

To be considered for admission you must either apply or re-apply during each admission cycle. The new ranking list is compiled from only those who applied during that cycle. This may result in upward or downward movement on the rank from one cycle to the next as individual scores are compared to the scores of all the applicants in the current pool at that time.

Each applicant selected for admission will be notified via email and given a deadline to accept or decline the invitation to join the incoming class. Acceptance letters are sent to each applicant in order of rank until all available seats in the class are filled. Applicants who do not respond to letters of acceptance or applicants whose letters are "Returned to Sender" will be removed from the applicant pool and lose all review points.
Please bookmark the ADN website in your web browser. It is the student's responsibility to check the website frequently for any program changes.

If a student voluntarily defers or is not admitted to the program based on space availability, the student must reapply during the next application period to remain on active status. You may find the reapplication form under the Application Packet link to the left.

Any changes in demographic information must be sent to the us in writing.

It is important to check the website before calling the nursing office.
There are several resources available to all Health Science students including student services, financial aid, special needs, and the nursing Student Handbook. You may download a copy of the Nursing Student Handbook under the Student Resource link on the left.

It is mandatory for students to read the Nursing Student Handbook before beginning the program.
If you have any questions that were not answered in this presentation or the web site, please contact the Health Sciences Information Office. If they are not able to answer your questions, you will be referred to the nursing department.

This completes your Nursing Information Session. Please click on the verification tab at the top of the screen to begin the post test.