Hello and welcome to the online Information Session for the Vocational Nursing Program at Austin Community College. We are very happy that you are interested in pursuing a career as a vocational nurse and look forward to working with you in the near future. Prior to beginning this session, we recommend that you obtain a copy of the Vocational Nursing Certificate Plan and the application checklist from the links to the left. Clicking on a link during the presentation will exit you from the session.
By the end of this information session you will meet the objectives outlined here. The first goal of this information session, is to give you a brief overview of the roles and responsibilities that you should expect as you enter the vocational nursing profession. We will then discuss eligibility questions of the Texas Board of Nursing that can impact your ability to obtain licensure. We will continue by reviewing the requirements for admission to the Vocational Nursing Program and discuss factors which can impact success in the Vocational Nursing Program. And finally, at the end of this session you should be able to identify all documents that must be submitted to be considered for admission to the Vocational Nursing Program.
If you have questions during the session, click the “Pause” button, then write down your question. Contact information will be provided at the end of the session to assist you with any questions you may have.

After viewing the information session, detailed information can also be obtained by clicking on the appropriate “links” on the left of the screen.
The Texas Board of Nursing describes the licensed vocational nurse practice as a directed scope of nursing practice under the supervision of a registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician's assistant, physician, podiatrist, or dentist. The LVN is educationally prepared to deliver nursing care in "health care settings for individual clients who are experiencing common, well-defined health problems with predictable outcomes." By way of example, a healthcare practice setting for a LVN may include a nursing home, hospital, rehabilitation center, skilled nursing facility, clinic, or private practice physician office, or where the LVN has access to the licensed healthcare provider serving as the LVN's supervisor such as home care, hospice, assisted living facility, group homes, etc.

The LVN's job responsibilities will vary depending on the workplace setting. For example, in a long term care facility, the LVN may serve as charge nurse or team leader where he/she oversees the care of a large group of clients; in a clinic, the LVN may manage the flow of patients in the office, administer ordered treatments such as immunizations, and conduct patient education.
The Vocational Nursing Program degree plan consists of a total of 43 semester credit hours: 43 semester credit hours of nursing coursework that includes classroom, laboratory and clinical learning experiences. Those 43 hours of nursing coursework require three semesters for completion. The curriculum leads to a Certificate of Vocational Nursing.

Graduates are eligible to apply to the Texas Board of Nursing for licensure and to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) exam to become licensed in Texas as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. (All states use the title Licensed Practical Nurse except for Texas and California). Effective September 1, 2008, graduates will also have to pass a Texas Jurisprudence exam approved by the BON to be eligible for licensure in the state of Texas.

The ACC program requires three semesters to complete. Once students enter the nursing program, they must successfully complete all courses in the level concurrently before they can progress to the next level. Nursing courses are designed differently then other college courses. The lab and clinical courses may have additional contact hours required.
The Vocational Nursing Program has one site in Austin located at the Eastview Campus. The Austin-Eastview Campus admits in the fall and spring semesters.
Our program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) and Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing:

- **Approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON)**
- **Accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)**
  
  3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
  Atlanta, GA 30326
  Telephone: 404.975.5000
  Fax: 404.975.5020
  [www.acenursing.org](http://www.acenursing.org)
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. The Board fulfills its mission through the regulation of the practice of nursing and the approval of nursing education programs.

The BON requires that graduates of a nursing program answer questions concerning any history of criminal convictions, drug or alcohol addiction, or diagnosis and treatment of certain mental illnesses at the time the graduate applies to take the NCLEX-PN (licensure exam). Licensure may be denied under certain conditions.

Applicants for licensure undergo FBI background check prior to final approval.
Applicants who answer “Yes” to any of the eligibility questions should contact the Board of Nursing at 512.305.7400 to clarify his/her status and may be required to submit a Declaratory Order. Individuals are strongly encouraged to petition the Board for an eligibility determination prior to enrollment in a nursing program. It can take the BON three to six months to process a Declaratory Order.

Applicants who wait until they submit a licensure application to identify potential eligibility issues could face a delay of up to six months after graduation before receiving a determination regarding approval to take the licensure exam.

To find a declaratory order form, go to the BON website listed on this slide and go to “Download Other Applications and Forms – selecting Declaratory Order Form”
If you have not already done so, pause the session and print a copy of the certificate plan from the link on the left.

**Personal Factors**

Once you begin the nursing courses, the program is three semesters. Students must take the courses in sequence and pass all courses in one level before progressing to the next level. Once the student begins the program, they must take all courses in the level concurrently (at the same time) Students are only allowed one readmission.

Nursing school is very time consuming and academically challenging. The vocational nursing faculty at ACC recommends that students limit the amount of hours they work. Students must earn a minimum grade of “C” in all courses - in the vocational nursing program anything below a 77 is an “D.” Statistics show that students are at greater risk for failure if they are also working more then 20 hours/week.

Policies that govern the Vocational Nursing Program can be found in VNG Handbook which is available under the link “Student Resources” on the left.
Nursing courses may require attendance at lecture, lab &/or clinical. The skills labs are held at the Eastview campus. Clinical courses allow students to care for clients in a variety of settings, including nursing homes and hospitals. The clinical sites for Austin extend from San Marcos to Georgetown.

Nursing courses are designed differently than many traditional academic courses, ie. English where a student goes to class 3 hours/week for 3 Semester Credit Hours (or SCHs). In the Catalog, under course descriptions, you will note numbers in parenthesis: VNSG 1423 (4-2-6). The first number is the number of SCHs; the second is the number of lecture hours; and the third is the number of lab/clinical hours per week. Most nursing courses in fall and spring are 16 weeks unless otherwise noted in the schedule. So this course in the example meets 2 hours a week for lecture and 6 hours a week for lab. Each course’s information is listed in the Certificate Plan.
It is recommended that students spend 2-3 hours of preparation time for every contact hour. The chart above reflects the number of contact hours for theory, lab, and clinical per week in levels one through four. The column labeled study/prep is the amount of time recommended that each student spend which is 2 times the number of contact hours per week. For example there are 35 contact hours/week in level one. This is then multiplied by 2 to equal 70. The last column is the total of the contact hours plus the recommended study hours which totals 105 hrs/week. The student should dedicate 105 hours per week to the nursing program. Students are strongly encouraged to complete Intro to Anatomy & Physiology (Biology 2404) and Pharmacology (HPRS 2300) prior to beginning the program. This could decrease study time in level 1 to 87hr/week and in level 2 to 69 hr/week.
Clinical assignments are based on the learning objectives for the students, not where students live. Students may be required to attend clinical assignments as early as 5 a.m. and as late as 11 p.m. It is extremely important that students have appropriate arrangements for childcare that will enable them to arrive on time and remain in the clinical area for the designated number of hours. The program has very strict attendance policies related to the clinical experience.

Reliable transportation is very important to ensure successful completion of the clinical objectives. Austin students may be assigned to clinical facilities located across Austin, as south as Kyle and north as Round Rock and Georgetown.
Costs include tuition, fees, liability insurance, books, supplies, uniforms, and miscellaneous items. A link to a detailed cost sheet is provided on the Certificate Plan webpage.
Health Sciences programs have established technical standards and essential functions to insure that students have the abilities required to participate and potentially be successful in all aspects of the respective programs. Students are required to meet technical standards and essential functions for the Vocational Nursing program.

Qualified applicants with disabilities are encouraged to apply to the program. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) if they feel they cannot meet one or more of the technical standards listed. Students can obtain complete information from the SAS website listed on the slide or through the Student Accessibility Services on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes.
All applicants must successfully complete the Texas Success Initiative requirements—see an Advisor to determine your status.

If exempt, the student must take the Compass for assessment; Compass for assessment only does not require a written essay. Preadmission assessment testing is a requirement of the BON.

Immunizations are also a part of the application process. Detailed immunization information can be found on the Health Sciences and Vocational Nursing webpages or contact the Health Sciences Admissions Office 223-5700.

It is important to start immunizations early because all required immunizations must be completed before an application can be submitted. The Hepatitis B immunization takes 6 months to complete the series of 3 injections.
Another component of the application process is completion of the online information session post quiz. Printed verification will need to be submitted with the application.

Applicants must schedule the ATI TEAS (formerly TEAS V differentiated skill examination) prior to submission of their application. Applicants will be provided information regarding the process of registering for the admission examination at the link provided.
Although there are no prerequisites classes for the Vocational Nursing Program, students are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to complete the following courses PRIOR to entering the program. The student will have the opportunity to complete the courses during the program but must successfully complete the courses prior to progression to the next level (see Degree Plan).

(Biology) BIOL 2404 Introduction to Anatomy & Physiology
HPRS 2300 Pharmacology for Health Professions

BIOL 2404 and HPRS 2300 must be completed within five (5) years of admission date.

Transcripts and course descriptions must be provided for any courses not taken at ACC.

A grade of "C" or better is required for all Austin Community College Health Science courses. Any non-nursing or general education courses taken at schools other than ACC must have transcripts.

All students will be required to take the ATI TEAS (formerly TEAS V Admission Examination) prior to entering the program. Applicants will be provided information regarding the process of registering for and location of the admission examination by program faculty.
You may submit an application:

• With copy of completed immunization record:
  • Measles, Mumps, and Ruebella
  • Varicella (chickenpox)
  • Diptheria/Tetanus
  • Hepatitis B

• With Vocational Nursing Online Post Test Completion Form.

Applications will not be accepted without a copy of completed immunization record and the online post quiz verification.
The program admits up to 49 students in the fall and the spring semesters. Deadlines for fall admission is January 10th and spring admission is June 1st. Once the application is reviewed and the applicant is qualified, the student is assigned the next space available. That does not mean the space is in the next class. The qualified applicant will be sent a letter indicating the semester for which they are accepted.

Students who have completed the admission process and received official acceptance to the vocational program will receive information regarding the required Board of Nursing background check and fingerprinting. In addition, you will be sent a Score Code (formerly FASTPASS) form to take to the fingerprinting appointment. Upon receiving a "CLEAR" background check, you will receive a "Blue Clearance Card" in the mail from the Board of Nursing. Please include a copy (front and back) of this card with the completed paperwork packet that will be submitted to the Nursing Office.
The Vocational Nursing Program uses a mathematical formula to compute an applicant ranking score based on four criteria. The ranking score is used to select qualified applicants for admission into the Vocational Nursing program. All required information MUST BE submitted prior to the applicant being ranked. The formula is as follows:

\[
\text{Rank} = (\text{Points earned based on grade in course}) + (\text{Submission of application}) + (\text{Attendance at information session})
\]

Additional coursework completed will be taken into consideration by program's admission committee.

**Additional Admission Criteria:**

- **1st application review:** attending information session +1 point and +5 for applying (total of 6 points).
- **Re-Applicants:** additional +5 points
- **Total Max points for reapplying** = 11 points

*Denotes ATI TEAS (formerly TEAS V) test score expires two (2) years from date of examination

**Denotes science courses expire five (5) years since last attempt. Course has a prerequisite as required by the college.
Prior to Beginning the Program, the Student will:

- Receive admission letter - return “Intent Form.”
- Submit current Health Data/Physical form, TB skin test, and CPR for AHA Basic Life Support for Healthcare Workers.
- Submit ACC’s criminal background check- DO NOT submit until directed to do so by program.

Several months before the beginning of the semester, the applicant will receive an admission letter. It is extremely important that you return the “Intent Form” by the designated date. Failure to do so may result in your space being offered to another qualified applicant. After the intent form is received in the Health Sciences office, you will be given an orientation packet. This packet will include information and forms for the Health Data/ Physical form, TB skin test, and AHA Basic Life Support for Healthcare Workers CPR courses. It also includes information about where and how to do criminal background check. DO NOT do the criminal background until directed to do so by program.
There are many resources available to Health Sciences students, including Vocational Nursing Students. These include:

- Student Services
- Financial Aid
- Nursing Tutor
- Health Sciences Counselor
- Students Accessibility Services (SAS)

If you have not already done so, please review the two segments at the beginning of this session regarding criminal background checks, immunizations, and student support services.
If you have further questions, please contact the Health Sciences Admissions and Information Office at the Eastview campus or the Department Chair of the Vocational Nursing Program.
Questions?

- Department Chair, Vocational Nursing
  Sandra McCray-Marshall, RN, MSN
  Email: marshall@austincc.edu
  Phone: 512-223-5768
Post Test

- Complete the online post test now.
- Print a copy of the “Vocational Nursing Information Session Completion Form” and submit with your application.

Now is the time for you to Complete the online post test.
Be sure to print a copy of the “Vocational Nursing Information Session Completion Form” to submit with your application.