



## Nursing School FAQs

### **Q: What should I major in?**

A: Honestly, it doesn't matter. You should major in whatever subject interests you. There is no general, pre-nursing major offered at Texas A&M. Majors like Public Health, Psychology, and Sociology are the most common for applicants because the prerequisite courses are included in your degree plan.

### **Q: Can I take a course at a community college?**

A: Yes, taking classes at a community college is acceptable. Know that while the grade earned at a community college does not count towards your TAMU GPA, it will be calculated into your overall GPA when you apply to nursing school. When taking science classes at community college, taking the lab in person is the safest route. Some schools do not count online labs.

### **Q: What is the TEAS?**

A: TEAS stands for: Test of Essential Academic Skills and is designed specifically to assess a student's preparedness for entering the health science fields. The TEAS test comprises 170 questions set up in a multiple-choice format with four-option answers. Questions are designed to test the basic academic skills you will need to perform successfully in the areas of: Reading, Math, Science, and English and Language Usage.

### **Q: What is the HESI?**

A: The HESI test is used for nursing schools to screen applicants for admission into nursing programs. Also known as the Evolve Reach Admission Assessment, the HESI is a multiple-choice test with possibility of seven scored exam topics and one unscored personality assessment. Test-takers are allowed a maximum of five hours and fifteen minutes to complete the exam. Check the nursing school website to know which of the seven topics are required.

### **Q: Should I take the TEAS, HESI, or both?**

A: Different schools require different tests. Research the nursing schools you are interested in applying to and find out which test they require. Then make the decision as to whether you want to take the TEAS, HESI, or both.

### **Q: When should I take the TEAS or HESI?**

A: The TEAS and HESI should be taken during the season you are applying.

### **Q: Does nursing school accept AP credit?**

A: While this may differ from school to school, most programs will accept AP credit. We do, however, recommend that you fully discuss this with your academic advisor before accepting any AP credit to ensure that won't affect your degree plan. Note that once you accept AP credit, you cannot un-accept it.

**Q: What factors do nursing school application committees consider other than my GPA?**

A: Other than GPA, test score is the next best indicator of your academic capabilities. Beyond the numbers, though, leadership and community service are important factors. A competitive application will include work history, leadership skills demonstrated through on and off campus involvement, community service and involvement, and academic achievements and awards. Your application should paint a picture of you as an individual, highlighting your professional, academic, and personal qualities.

**Q: How do I get shadowing hours?**

A: For nursing school, absolutely any medical experience can help strengthen your application. You can work or volunteer at a doctor's office or clinic. Look into volunteer programs at local hospitals and clinics, either in College Station during the school year or in your hometown over summer breaks. You should look for exposure to the nursing field to make sure it is the career you want to pursue. The more shadowing and volunteering experience in health care, the more competitive your interview will be with specific examples.

**Q: Does the Texas A&M College of Nursing have a preference for Texas A&M undergraduates?**

A: No, they do not; however, like all professional schools, Texas A&M College of Nursing is always looking for intelligent, compassionate, and capable applicants. An undergraduate education at Texas A&M is a great foundation for a competitive application.

**Q: Do all schools require a personal statement?**

A: No, each school is different. If your school does require one, we are happy to review it for you.

**Q: If I take a class twice will nursing programs take the highest grade?**

A: Nursing CAS will average the two grades. So, if you make a C the first time, and an A the second time, both grades will be entered into Nursing CAS and they will be average as a B in Nursing CAS GPA.

**Q: Can I take A&P I and II at a community college?**

A: Yes, but your degree plan may not allow for it because Texas A&M's A&P is a 300 upper-level course while the courses at community colleges A&P is a 200 lower-level course.

**Q: What are rolling admissions?**

A: Rolling admissions means that schools fill their spots as they interview and receive applications and do not wait for the application deadline. If the school you are applying to has rolling admissions, it is recommended that you apply early rather than later in the cycle since there will be fewer spots available the longer you wait to apply.

**Q: How many times are you allowed to take the HESI & TEAS?**

A: It depends on the school you are applying to.

**Q: Do you have to have proof of volunteering or shadowing?**

A: No, but if you aren't truthful with this information it is grounds for dismissal from the program.

**Q: What are the different pathways to becoming a RN?**

A: 1. Diploma of Nursing – This is offered through a hospital-based nursing program.

2. AND (Associate's Degree in Nursing) - A two-year program offered through many community colleges. The ADN is the quickest and most popular pathway to become an RN; however, an RN without a BSN might not qualify for upper-level nursing positions.

3. BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) - While also a two-year program, this pathway requires a bachelor's degree. RNs with a BSN typically qualify for upper-level nursing positions.

**Q: What is NursingCAS?**

A: This centralized application service allows applicants to apply to multiple nursing programs through submitting one application. They will also have up-to-date admission requirements and deadlines for each school in their service. Click [here](#) to find out if your school participates in NursingCAS.

**Q: What statistics class is required for Nursing School?**

A: 201 or higher.

**Q: Should I upload a resume on my application if given the opportunity?**

A: Yes! This is a great way to show your work and professional experience.

**Q: Can I take nursing prerequisites online?**

A: For most schools the answer is yes, but double check with the program you are applying to. Some schools do not accept science labs online.

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