

LVN Framework - RGV College

This is just a reminder that this framework is a **work in progress**. We are working with RGV College to complete this framework.

What is an LVN?

LVN stands for Licensed Vocational Nurse and the program at RGV College prepares students to become licensed by the Texas Board of Nursing and perform simple and more complex patient care. <https://www.rgvcollege.edu/vocational-nursing.asp>

<u>Admissions</u>			
What does the student need in order to apply for the LVN program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce certification programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RGV College LVN description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Certification Programs at RGV College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RGV College LVN program admission requirements

- **Ninth Grade**
 - **What certifications are available that are related to the nursing program?**
 - There are certification exams that the student is able to take, even while in high school, that can allow them to get hands-on experience that can be useful in the nursing program/career fields.
 - While not all school districts offer every one, the certifications listed below are some examples of certification programs offered at regional school districts.
 - Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA)
 - Phlebotomy Technician
 - Certified Electrocardiogram Technician
 - Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)

- Dental Assistant
- Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Certified Pharmacy Technician
- Ophthalmic Assistant
- Veterinary Technician

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What will students do at the LVN program at RGV College?**
 - Students in the LVN program at RGV College will:
 - Learn common diagnoses, drugs, & therapies
 - Safely administer medications and treatment
 - Monitor & report patient response
 - Help assess patient status
 - Participate in plan of care for a patient
 - Compassion to help those in need
 - Clinical reasoning
 - Professional communication
 - Nursing care for mothers, newborns, children, the elderly, and more!
 - The program will take 13 – 19 months to complete.
<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/vocational-nursing.asp>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the different certification programs available at RGV College?**
Does the student need to take one to get into the LVN program?
 - According to the admission requirements at RGV College, the student must be certified as a CNA, Medical Assistant, Surgical Tech., EMT, PCT, or a Paramedic. The institution does have some of these programs if the student was unable to take one of these programs at high school.
 - RGV college has these certification programs available:
 - Medical Assistant
<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/medical-assistant.asp>
 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/nurses-aide.asp>
 - Patient Care Technician (PCT)
<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/program-patientcaretech.asp>
 - Emergency Medical Technician - Basic (EMT)
<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/program-emt.asp>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What are the requirements to get in the LVN Program at RGV College?**

- Should have minimal work experience in the certified field of expertise.
- Complete a 250 word essay and participate in a panel interview on campus.
- Student slots available for the enrollment period
- Must have and pass a criminal background check to include fingerprinting
- Admission Entrance Exam (minimal total score of 60% must be achieved) \$65 to be paid prior to the exam date and must present a valid ID. The entrance exam can be taken up to two times in a six-month period, and then can not be taken again until six months after the last failed date. Pre-entrance test score of 54.0% for the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills (Scores below 54.0% will be evaluated on a case by case basis)
- The cost of the program is \$27,500.

<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/files/Course-Catalog.pdf>

<u>Programs and Professions in Nursing</u>			
What exams does the student need to take for the nursing program they're interested in?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursing Examinations Introduction ○ Admission Entrance Exam ○ NCLEX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admission Entrance Exam ○ Test ○ Description ○ Test outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX-PN ○ Description ○ Outline ○ Prep course ○ Exam registration ○ Locations ○ Scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX remediation

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Exams Introduction**

- The admission entrance exam is a test that needs to be taken *before* applying to the LVN program at RGV College. The score from this exam will determine whether the student will be considered for the program or not.

<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/files/School%20Catalog%202019-2020.pdf>

- The NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) is a licensure exam that the student must take after completing and passing the LVN program. This exam will determine if they have retained the information learned and are ready to enter the workforce setting. <https://nursejournal.org/articles/6-things-to-know-about-the-nclex-examination/>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **Admission Entrance Exam Outline**



- **Eleventh Grade**

- **NXLEX-PN Outline**

- In order to become a practicing Registered Nurse (RN), the student must pass the NCLEX-PN in order to obtain their license. The test is made up of four sections. The first section is *safe effective care environment*. This is about being able to maintain sterile hygiene and control infections. The second section is *health promotion and maintenance*. This section revolves around preventative healthcare, which is one of the fastest growing subsections of medicine today. Third, there is *psychosocial integrity*. This looks at the student's ability to cope with the stresses of being a nurse and also focuses on being able to deliver mental health care. The final and largest element of the NCLEX exam is *physiological integrity*, the student's ability to deliver proper nursing care.
- In order to register for the NCLEX, the student must ask their State Board of Nursing for licensure. If they accept, the student will be allowed to take the NCLEX, and will receive an Authorization to Take the Test (ATT) letter. There is no letter or percentage grade for the NCLEX. It is a pass/fail test. If the student fails the NCLEX, there is a Candidate Performance Report (CPR) telling them what they need to work on. The official results for the exam will come six weeks after the exam. However, there is an option to pay a fee to see the unofficial results two days after the exam. The location for testing depends on where the student lives. One of the websites below can tell the student the closest testing location to where they live. If the student wants to prepare for the NCLEX, there are

different online preparation courses that they can use like Kaplan, NRSNG, and HURST.

<https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm>

<https://nursejournal.org/articles/6-things-to-know-about-the-nclex-examination/>

<https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/registration/SelectTestCenterProximity/NCLEXTTESTING?conversationId=519306>

<https://nurse.org/articles/top-nclex-review-courses/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What happens if the student fails the NCLEX? Can he/she retake the exam?**

- The NCSBN retake policy allows candidates to retake their exam 45 days after administration of the exam. Candidates who have applied for licensure/registration with a participating nursing regulatory body (NRB) will be permitted to take the NCLEX eight times a year and there must be 45 test-free days between each examination. <https://www.ncsbn.org/1224.htm>

Below is a small chart that briefly outlines the nursing field, specifically the LVN program. The information is organized in a way that allows the educator to introduce information to the student in *small, appropriate increments*.

<u>Programs and Professions in Nursing</u>			
What certificate degree can the student get in the nursing field?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursing Introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Types of schools to obtain certificate/degree at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tech. school (certificate) ○ Commun. College (certificate, associate's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job responsibilities ● Job statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pay ○ Job growth ● RN License Renewal ● RN Continuing Education

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The lowest level would be a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), then an Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN), followed by a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN), a Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), and finally, a Doctorate in Nursing (DNP). Each one of these levels takes different amounts of time to obtain, and have very different job opportunities and responsibilities. <https://nursejournal.org/articles/types-of-nursing-degrees/>
- **Tenth Grade**
 - **What are the types of schools can the student earn these at?**
 - Technical schools
 - Technical schools, also known as “vocational schools” offer targeted, shorter instruction at a lower tuition, or cost, leading to a certificate or an associate's degree. Many technical schools in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. <https://scitexas.edu/technical-school/>
 - Community College
 - A community college is an institution that offers short term certificates or two year associate's degrees. Associate's degrees transfer and often lead to four year degrees at partnering universities. Many community colleges in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. They typically offer less expensive education than four year universities. Most community colleges have open enrollment, meaning there are very few requirements for admission. <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2012/03/what-is-community-college>
 - College
 - A college is a four year institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study (i.e. medicine or law). These degrees can lead to graduate or professional school. Colleges may have open enrollment or may have strict admission requirements. <https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>
 - University

- A University is a four-year institution that offers many different degrees through multiple “colleges” located on the same campus. Typically, a university may have a “College of Education” or a “College of Health Sciences”. Universities also usually offer graduate (Master’s, Doctorates) and professional degrees. Typically, universities have strict admission requirements that include grades, placements tests, and admissions tests like the SAT/ACT.
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **Where can the student work with an LVN certification?**

- Licensed Vocational Nurse

- Nursing Care Facilities
- Home Health Care Services
- Community Care Facilities for the elderly
- Medical and Surgical Hospitals
- Physician’s Offices

<https://nursejournal.org/practical-nursing/best-paying-lpn-nursing-jobs-careers/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What responsibilities does an LVN have?**

- Provide routine care
- Observe patients’ health
- Assist doctors and registered nurses
- Communicate instructions to patients regarding medication, home-based care, and preventative lifestyle changes

<https://www.practicalnursing.org/lpn-jobs-description>

- **How much does an LVN earn?**

- The median pay for an LVN is about \$22.23 per hour - \$46,240 per year.

- **What is the projected job growth of LVNs?**

- The projected job growth is 11%. The government expects to have 78,100 jobs available by 2028.

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/licensed-practical-and-licensed-vocational-nurses.htm>

- **When and how often does an LVN have to renew their license?**
 - In Texas, LVNs have to renew their license every two years. However, the renewal time could be different depending on which state the student moves to.
https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D

- **Does an LVN have to take Continuing Education (CE) courses?**
 - For licensure renewal, LVNs must complete 20 contact hours of continuing nursing education (CNE) in the nurse’s area of practice OR demonstrate the achievement, maintenance, or renewal of a board-approved national nursing certification in the nurse’s area of practice within the licensing period and meet the applicable targeted continuing education requirements.
https://www.bon.texas.gov/education_continuing_education.asp#D

<u>Academic Pathway</u>			
What coursework should be taken to become a nurse?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dual Enrollment ● Relevant Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dual v. AP ● Coursework ● Transferability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post-Secondary programs GPA

- **Ninth Grade**
 - **What is dual enrollment?**
 - The term dual enrollment refers to students being enrolled—concurrently—in two academic programs or institutions. The term is used in reference to high school students taking college courses while they are still enrolled in high school (i.e., a *dual-enrollment student*), or to the programs that allow high school students to take college-level courses (i.e., a *dual-enrollment program*). For this reason, the term *early college* is a common synonym for dual enrollment. <https://www.edglossary.org/dual-enrollment/>

- The student needs to be aware that the grades they receive in any dual or concurrent enrollment courses will stay with them throughout their college career. These grades will be averaged into their overall college GPA.
- **Is high school coursework relevant to the nursing field?**
 - The student might not realize it, but preparing for a future career starts in high school (or even earlier). For example, did you know that nurses use algebra when calculating medication dosages? What the student learns in high school builds the foundation for their college education and career. If a student is considering nursing, they should take classes *now* that will prepare them for college *later*. <https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>
- **Does high school GPA matter?**
 - Most BSN programs often set the minimum GPA at 3.0. ADN programs are more likely to set the minimum somewhere in the 2.0 to 2.75 range. Grades in prerequisite courses may be considered separately. *These are minimum requirements and ***to be competitive, the student should aim much higher***. When interest exceeds available spots, grades are often an important factor. [Getting-into-a-nursing-program.html](#)
- **Tenth Grade**
 - **What are examples of courses to take in high school to best prepare for nursing school applications?** <https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Physics
 - Algebra
 - Geometry
 - Psychology
 - Speech
 - Foreign Language
 - Health courses
- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What is the difference between AP and Dual Enrollment?**
 - Dual enrollment courses allow students to get early access to college courses. AP courses are different because they only result in college credit if a student earns a particular score on the AP exam at the end of the course, and if the college that the student enrolls in, accepts AP scores as course credit. This means students who complete a dual enrollment program have a college transcript at the end of their high school career and can enroll directly into that college or transfer these courses if they move to another institution. AP courses on the other hand result in an AP score that can be submitted to a college. The college can then decide if the score will amount to any college credit.
<https://blog.ed.gov/2019/07/burning-questions-dual-enrollment-answered/>

- **Will Dual Enrollment coursework transfer to all colleges and universities?**
 - Academic dual credit can be applied toward the core curriculum or to other specific degree program requirements of an academic associate degree or baccalaureate degree. Students who want more information about the transferability of their dual credit courses should seek guidance from an advisor at the institution offering the dual credit. <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/institutional-resources-programs/public-community-technical-state-colleges/transfer-resources/dual-credit-initiatives/>

- **Twelfth Grade**
 - **What GPA does the student need in order to apply to these programs?**
 - While most universities and colleges have a minimum GPA posted for acceptance, they accept students with a GPA much higher on average. This is why it is important to achieve the highest GPA possible and maintain it throughout schooling.

Want to learn more? Visit the RGV College LVN Page here:
<https://www.rgvcollege.edu/vocational-nursing.asp>