

ADN Framework - South Texas College

What is an ADN?

ADN stands for Associate Degree in Nursing. The ADN program at South Texas College (STC) will prepare students to take the NCLEX-RN, and if the student passes, he/she is a registered nurse who can work in hospitals, day-surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, home health care agencies, among other areas.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/>

Below is a small chart that briefly outlines a broad question pertaining to the nursing field, specifically the ADN program. The information is organized in a way that allows the educator to introduce information to the student in *small, appropriate increments* by grade level.

<u>Programs and Professions in Nursing</u>			
What 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">• Job Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job responsibilities• Job statistics<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pay○ Job growth

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The first level would be the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), then the Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN), followed by a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN), Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), and 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 the student can attend?**

- Technical schools
 - Technical schools, also known as “vocational schools” offer targeted, shorter instruction at a lower tuition, or cost depending on the school, 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, two year Associate degrees, and sometimes Bachelor 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. 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 a student work with an ADN degree?**

- Associate Degree of Nursing

- Hospitals
- Physician's Offices
- Home Health Care Services
- Community Care Facilities
- Insurance Carriers

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/what-can-you-do-with-associate-degree-in-nursing/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What kind of responsibilities does an ADN Nurse have?**

- Examining patients and speaking with them about their symptoms and health histories
- Recording patient information for physician diagnosis and decision-making
- Delivering essential information and counsel with the goal of improving health
- Playing a key role in patient education regarding illness and injury management
- Operating medical equipment
- Performing diagnostic tests and analysis of results
- Collaborating with other health care professionals to ensure a high quality of patient care <https://nurse.org/education/adn-guide/>

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

- The median pay for an ADN is about \$34.48 per hour - \$71,730 per year.

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

- **What is the projected job growth for an ADN Nurse?**

- The projected job growth is 12%. The government expects to have 371,500 jobs available by 2028.

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>

<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 • GPA Relevancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual v. AP • Coursework Transferability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required 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](http://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/)

- **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
- English 1302
- PSYC 2301

- **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/>
 - If the student has course credit from South Texas College, they may check if a course will transfer to a college or university in Texas at www.tccns.org. For information regarding transferability of courses to institutions *outside* of Texas, students should check with the institution receiving the credit.
<https://www.southtexascollege.edu/dual/faqs.html>
- **Twelfth Grade**
 - **What GPA does the student need in order to apply?**
 - While most universities and colleges have a minimum GPA posted for acceptance, they usually 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 for applications.

<u>Admissions</u>			
What does the student need in order to apply for the ADN program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce associate's degree ● Introduce job titles associated with the specific program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed information about program ● Different track programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admission Requirements for ADN program at STC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX ● License renewal ● CE courses

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is an ADN?**

- The ADN program at STC is a 4-semester program that will prepare students with the basic competencies to become safe practitioners in the healthcare field.
- The registered nurse can work in hospitals, day-surgery centers, rehabilitation centers, physicians' offices, home health care agencies, among other areas.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/index.html>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What is the ADN program at South Texas College?**

- The ADN program at STC is identified as *competitive entry* and has a selection process based on a competitive point system. Due to limited resources, some applicants who meet all program application requirements may not be admitted to the program for the current application period.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/index.html>

- **What track programs does STC offer for ADN?**

- There are 3 track programs for the ADN program: Traditional Track, LVN-to-ADN transition track, and EMT Paramedic-to-ADN transition track. All of these track programs have prerequisite courses that need to be taken. The LVN-to-RN track program is when the student completes the LVN program, and then decides to apply to the ADN program. Secondly, the EMT Paramedic-to-RN track program is when the student completes the EMT Paramedic program, and then decides to apply to the ADN program. The traditional track is when the student takes the prerequisite courses and applies for the program.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/index.html>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the admission requirements for the ADN program at STC?**

- Students are to attend a mandatory orientation to attain all necessary information such as, but not limited to, program expectations, schedules, clinical clearance, financial aid

information, uniforms, purchase of electronic software and books, etc. It is imperative the student attend the mandatory orientation.

- Complete the required prerequisite courses of Anatomy and Physiology I & II with a grade of an A or B. However it is recommended to obtain an A due to the competitive admission of the program.
- Take the HESI exam and score a 75% and above in all sections. It is recommended to take Anatomy and Physiology I & II before taking the HESI A2 exam.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/pdf/HESI-Exam-Info.pdf>

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/pdf/ADN-Student-Handbook.pdf>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What certification exam has to be taken after the completion of the ADN program?**

- In order to become licensed, nursing hopefuls must have an approved nursing degree and pass the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses(NCLEX-RN). It is important that registered nurses are truly knowledgeable and can hold their own in a medical setting, so the National Council of State Boards of Nursing administers the NCLEX to provide legally defensible nursing licensure and certification consistent with current practice.

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/what-is-the-nclex/>

- **When and how often does a Registered Nurse have to renew their license?**

- In Texas, Registered Nurses 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 a Registered Nurse have to take Continuing Education (CE) courses?**

- For licensure renewal, Registered Nurses 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>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"> ● Introduce Nursing Examinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HESI A2 ○ NCLEX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HESI A2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description ○ Outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Test Description ○ Test Outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX Remediation

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Introducing the Student to Nursing Examinations**

- The HESI A2 is an exam that needs to be taken *before* applying to the ADN program. The score from this exam and the grades from the required prerequisite courses will determine whether the student will be considered for the program or not.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/vn/index.html>

- The NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) is a licensure exam that the student must take after completing and passing the ADN program. This exam will determine if the student has 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**

- **HESI Outline**

- The HESI A2 is an exam that most colleges require the student to take before applying for their nursing programs. The subjects that are tested are English Language (Reading, Grammar, Vocabulary), Math, and Science (Anatomy and Physiology). The student can register for the exam at [Evolve.Elsevier.com](https://www.elsevier.com/evolve). There are various testing centers that offer this exam. When registering, the student can select where they would like to take the exam. To prepare for the exam, the student can use a HESI A2 review book that can be bought online or at a bookstore. To pass the exam they must score at 75% or higher on each section, which will then be calculated into an average. To find more information on the HESI exam, follow the link below.

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/pdf/HESI-Exam-Info.pdf>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **NCLEX Outline**

- In order to become a practicing Registered Nurse, the student must pass the NCLEX-RN 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 examination. 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 they 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>

Want to learn more? Visit the STC ADN Page here:

<https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/adn/>