

LVN Framework - Texas State Technical College

What is an LVN?

LVN stands for Licensed Vocational Nurse and only upon completion of their LVN program and the National Council Licensure Examination, is a person then classified as one. Graduates of this LVN program will have a wide array of job opportunities to choose from including working in hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, homes, or any other setting where nursing care is needed. <https://www.tstc.edu/programs/Nursing>

<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"> ● TSI Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description ○ Test Outline ○ Prep ○ Exemptions ○ Recommended time to test ● GPA requirements & how it coincides with program acceptance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce certification programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TSTC LVN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TSTC LVN program admission requirements

- **Ninth Grade**
 - **Are there any exams that the student needs to take in order to apply for the LVN program?**
 - A student interested in applying to an LVN program, will need to take the TSI. TSI Assessment is a program designed to help an institution determine if the student is ready for college-level coursework in the general areas of reading, writing and mathematics. This program also will help determine what type of course or intervention will best meet the students' needs to help them become better prepared for college-level coursework if they are not ready.
 - The TSI is a state of Texas exam that requires the student to demonstrate level of competency in the key areas of reading, writing, and mathematics for all students enrolled at public institutions of higher education. To demonstrate college-readiness in reading, writing and mathematics, a

student must either meet a TSI Exemption requirement or pass the TSI Assessment. https://www.depts.ttu.edu/tsi/what_is.php

- If they are *not* taking dual enrollment, most students should aim to take the TSI their junior year of high school - typically after they have completed the Algebra 2 course. If they choose to wait until after they graduate to take it, it is considerably more expensive when taking it at the collegiate level.
- If they *are* taking dual enrollment or are attending an early college high school, they have to take it before their first college course. That time varies, depending on the school and when they decide to allow students to begin college courses.
- Starting in 2020, there will be another exam replacing the TSI. It will no longer exist and they must pass it before August if they want the scores to be valid.
- The TSI consists of three sections that are to be tested on. They are reading, writing and mathematics.
 - The required passing scores for each are as follows:
 - Reading: 351
 - Mathematics: 350
 - Essay score of 4 and multiple choice of 340 or higher; OR multiple choice of less than 340, and ABE diagnostic level of at least 4, and essay of at least 5.
- Not everyone is required to take the TSI. There are a few factors that go into determining if the student can be exempt from having to take the TSI.
- Not all incoming students need to take the TSI Assessment. There are many ways they can be exempt. Qualifying for a TSI Assessment exemption means the student can enroll in any entry-level college course without restrictions. In other words, there are no prerequisites for enrollment in college-level courses. The student may be exempt if they:
 - Have met the minimum college readiness standard on SAT®, ACT, or a statewide high school test
 - Have successfully completed college-level English and math courses

- Have enrolled in a Level-One certificate program (fewer than 43 semester credit hours)
- Are not seeking a degree or
- Have been, or currently are, in the military

If the student thinks they may be exempt, please have them contact an advisor at their institution. For more information visit our website at www.thecb.state.tx.us/DE/TSI (See #1 and click on TSI/Exemptions)

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/tsi/tests/TSI-Assessment-Preparation>

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/accuplacer-texas-success-initiative-assessment-student-brochure.pdf>

https://ugs.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/TSIASSESSMENTSampleTestQuestionsJuly2013_%282%29.pdf

<https://ugs.utexas.edu/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/TSIASSESSMENTWritePlacerSampleEssaysJuly20132.pdf>

○ **What is a good GPA to maintain and how will it affect the student's academic career?**

- GPA is also known as Grade Point Average. The GPA is a 4-point scale that will reflect the student's academic performance.
- It is important for the student to keep their GPA at a higher level since it is one of the many factors that colleges and universities look at when it comes to determining the application decision. The main attribute universities look for is a steady improvement in the student's grades over the years.

<https://www.crimsoneducation.org/us/blog/average-gpa-ivy-league>

● **Tenth 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

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What will students do at the LVN program at TSTC?**

- The LVN program at TSTC is a 16-month program and has one intake per year during the fall semester. Students will care for ill, injured, or convalescing patients or persons with disabilities in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, private homes, group homes, and similar institutions. They may work under the supervision of a registered nurse.
 - <https://www.tstc.edu/programs/Nursing>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What are the requirements to get into the TSTC LVN Program?**

- Requirements: Be 18 years of age and eligible for Texas State Technical College admission; non probationary for grades
- Have all transcripts of courses taken from other colleges sent to TSTC and reviewed by Admissions
- TSI must be complete before applying to the program
- Submit a copy of picture ID (preferably current driver's license) and SSN.
- Must be able to pass L1 Board of Nursing Criminal Background Check & 5 panel drug screen; (Student will receive further instructions after he/she has been selected in to the LVN Program).
- A typed essay which must include the following: explanation of desire to be a nurse; the steps taken to make sure the one-year commitment to the Vocational Nursing Program can be fulfilled; where this education will lead over the next 10 years. Also include academic record from high school and/or college; hobbies and volunteer work.
- All Immunizations must be current including Hepatitis A and B series, TB, Flu shot, Meningococcal vaccine TDap, Varicella, MMR series.
- Must have a current Physical from a physician.

- Applicants will be evaluated on an admission rating scale consisting of TEAS score, GPA, and Nurse Assistant certification. The rankings will be submitted to the Admissions Committee for consideration as a component of the total admission criteria.
- Must pass all academic courses prior to start of nursing courses; no “Ds” for program of study courses
- *Prerequisite courses Anatomy and Physiology I & II must be within 5 years.*
- Must take TEAS Exam here at TSTC through the Testing Center within one year of application date
- Must submit a complete Application Packet in sealed 9x12 envelope prior to deadline. https://www.tstc.edu/programrequirements/vn_har/

Programs and Professions in Nursing			
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"> ○ TEAS ○ NCLEX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TEAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Test Description ○ Test outline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX-PN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Description ○ Outline ○ Prep course ○ Exam registration ○ Locations ○ Scores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCLEX remediation

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Exams Introduction**

- The TEAS Exam is an exam that needs to be taken *before* applying to the LVN program at TSTC. The score from this exam will determine whether the student will be considered for the program or not. https://www.tstc.edu/programrequirements/vn_har/
- 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**

- **TEAS Exam Outline**

- Applicants to the LVN Program must take the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Entrance Exam, consisting of four sections; reading, math, science and english.
- The composite score will be used within the selection criteria with additional points for GPA and any previous achievements related to nursing education.

https://www.tstc.edu/programrequirements/vn_har

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **NCLEX Outline**

- In order to become a practicing Registered Nurse, 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/NCLEXTESTING?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>

<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"> ○ Tech. school (certificate) ○ Commun. College (certificate, associate's) • Length of program 	<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 • CE Courses • License Renewal
--	---	---	--

- **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>

- **How long does it take to earn an LVN certification?**

- The LVN, or Licensed Vocational Nursing program usually takes about 3 college semesters to complete, on average, and may differ based on the institution or the student.

- **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>

- **What are CE courses and do they need to be taken?.**

- CNE is Continuing Nursing Education and refers to courses specifically for nursing professionals. Most states require nurses to complete some form of continuing education every two to three years as a condition of licensure. Even if your state board does not require any education for continuing competence for renewal, you may still be required by your employer or nursing association for job-specific certifications.

- <https://nurse.org/resources/continuing-education/>

- LVNs must take at least 20 hours of CE courses in order to maintain their license.

- <https://www.nurse.com/state-nurse-ce-requirements/texas>

- **Does a LVN license need to be renewed? If so, how often does it have to be renewed?**

- All nurses are required to renew their licenses on a biennial basis with evidence of required continuing nursing education.

- <https://www.bon.texas.gov/>

<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/>

- If the student has course credit from TSTC, 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.tstc.edu/admissions/firststeps>

- **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. A G.P.A. of 2.5 is required to be considered for the program.

- https://www.tstc.edu/programrequirements/vn_har

Want to learn more? Visit the TSTC LVN Page here:

<https://www.tstc.edu/programs/Nursing>