

Texas A&M BSN Framework

What is a BSN?

The Traditional BSN program is a two-year standard Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program offered at both the Bryan—College Station and Round Rock campuses.

<https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/bsn-traditional/index.html>

Programs and Professions in Nursing			
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

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The lowest 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 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 an institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study (i.e. medicine or law). These degrees can act as a "stepping stone" to higher level degrees such as Master or Doctorate degrees. 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 a BSN degree?**
 - The program takes a total of 120 credit hours to complete. The program is about 6 semesters, but how long it takes to complete it depends on the basics that need to be taken.

- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/bsn-traditional/index.html#tab-panel-2>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **Where can the student work with the BSN degree?**

- Hospitals
- Physician's Offices
- Home Health Care Services
- Community Care Facilities
- Insurance Carriers
- Schools, Colleges, Universities

- <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/7-bsn-jobs-available-now-dont-wait-for-the-mandate/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What kind of responsibility does a BSN have?**

- Examining patients and speaking with them about their symptoms and health histories in order to make critical decisions about their care
- Deliver essential information and counsel with the goal of improving health
- Play a key role in medication and treatment delivery
- Perform essential research
- Collaborate with other health care professionals to ensure a high quality of patient care through the creation of quality assurance standards <https://nurse.org/education/bsn-degree/>

- **How much does each profession earn? What is the projected job growth of each profession?**

- BSN (Same information for ADN but usually has higher pay over time)
 - The median pay for an ADN is \$34.48 per hour, so the total pay in a year is \$71,730.
 - 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>

Academic Pathway			
What coursework should be taken to enter the program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relevant Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How certain courses align with nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● List examples of relevant coursework (ex. Foreign language) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HESI info. 	Final GPA to be considered for the BSN Program

- **Ninth Grade**

- **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](https://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
 - Health courses
- **What other coursework should be taken for the BSN program?**
- Applicants must have completed a minimum of 40 prerequisite course credit hours of the 59 hours required. Of those 40, twelve (12) credit hours must be from the following Nursing Science courses: Lifespan Psychology (3), Nutrition (3), Texas A&M Core Math (3 or 4), Chemistry (4), Anatomy & Physiology (8) and Microbiology (4).
 - Core curriculum courses that must be taken include:
 - **Communications:** Composition, Technical Writing, Public Speaking; 6 hrs. are required
 - **History:** US History I or TX History, US History II or TX History
 - **Math:** additional math course (6 hrs.)
 - **Government:** Federal Government, Texas Government
 - **Social and Behavioral Science:** General Psychology
 - **Creative Arts:** Art, Dance, Music, Drama, or Theater
 - **Humanities:** Intro to Ethics or Intro to Philosophy
 - **Science:** Introductory Biology
 - **Psychology**(*part of the nursing science courses*): Developmental Lifespan Psychology
 - **Statistics**(*part of the nursing science courses*): Statistics
 - **Nutrition**(*part of the nursing science courses*): Nutrition
 - **Science**(*part of the nursing science courses*): Anatomy & Physiology I and II, General/Introductory Chemistry I with lab, Microbiology
- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/bsn-traditional/index.html#tab-panel-5>

- Eleventh Grade

- **How does the HESI affect the student’s chance of getting into the BSN program?**
 - The College of Nursing requires the Admissions Assessment (HESI A2) Exam for students applying for the Traditional and Second Degree BSN tracks. The exam results are used to determine readiness for admission to, and success in, nursing programs across the nation and are administered through Elsevier Evolve Reach testing services. A minimum score of 75 percent is required for each of the component sections noted above. Applicants who do not achieve the minimum score in any one section will be denied based on test score deficiency.
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/additional-info/baccalaureate-degree-programs.html#tab-panel-3>

- **Twelfth Grade**
 - **What is the final GPA that the student needs to be considered for the program?**
 - Admission to the Texas A&M College of Nursing is competitive. It is strongly recommended that applicants present a GPA above 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/bsn-traditional/index.html#tab-panel-6>

Admissions			
What does the student need in order to apply for the BSN program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce BSN ● Introduce jobs associated with the specific programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Description of the program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admission Requirements for the BSN program at Texas A&M 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CE Courses ● License Renewal

- **Ninth Grade**

- **What is a BSN?**

- A BSN is a bachelor's degree of science in nursing and is a four-year program for students who seek to become a registered nurse, or those who already are a registered nurse and have an associates degree in nursing. Many RNs will enroll in BSN programs to further their education in the nursing field from an associates degree to a bachelor's degree. A BSN program typically takes 4 years to complete and is the standard for entry-level jobs in the nursing field. Those who obtain a bachelor's degree of science in nursing are more likely to be hired for many nursing occupations over those who only have an associates degree, especially those who work in hospitals.

- <https://www.gmercyu.edu/academics/learn/rn-vs-bsn>

- **What jobs can the student get with a BSN?**

- **Registered Nurse at a Hospital**

- Legal mandate or not, more and more hospitals are already requiring RNs to have a BSN. Hospitals also continue to be the largest employers of nurses. There are pros and cons to working in a hospital, but the nurses who do, typically tend to work in an area of specialization, such as pediatrics, intensive care or emergency.
- So if you're an aspiring nurse who hopes to work at a hospital, earning a BSN may increase your hiring potential.
 - NICU Nurse
 - Trauma Nurse
 - Surgical Nurse
 - Pediatric Nurse
 - ICU Nurse
 - OB/GYN Nurse

- **Clinical Nurse Specialists**

- Clinical nurse specialists are a category of advanced nursing professionals who use their specific expertise in an area (i.e., pediatrics, oncology or critical care) to care for patients. Depending on state law, clinical nursing specialists can have an expanded scope of practice and may be able to prescribe drugs and durable medical equipment.
- If you have your sights set on eventually landing a clinical nursing specialist role, know that earning a BSN is only the

first step. You'll also need to complete a graduate-level Nursing program to be eligible.

■ Nurse Manager

- This leadership role in nursing is responsible for the overall operations of a nursing floor or unit. Most nurse managers work their way up from bedside care and then take on additional administrative duties as they reach a management role.
- This means nurse managers will need a strong blend of hands-on clinical skills and experience for training and development of staff as well as an ability to manage the “business” side by understanding budgeting, human resources practices and strategic planning principles.

■ Nursing Director

- The next step up from nurse management is the director of nursing role. This senior-level role places an even greater level of emphasis on the management and administration side of nursing. They are high-level representatives for nurses at hospitals and other healthcare facilities as executive decisions are made.
- As you might expect, the bar for qualifying for a nursing director position is high—a BSN with substantial leadership experience is a minimum, and most may prefer nurses with a Master’s degree to help round out their administrative and business proficiency.

■ Nurse Educator

- As a nurse educator, you typically need to have a degree above the level you are teaching. So in order to teach in a Nursing Diploma program, you would need a Bachelor’s degree. And for those looking to teach BSN nurses, a Master’s of Science in Nursing would be preferred. If you are passionate about the profession, becoming a nurse educator can be an extremely rewarding way to make an impression on the next generation of nurses.
- For those who are very passionate about their own nursing career, education can be an excellent opportunity to pass on that passion to inspire the next generation of nurses. There is also currently a major shortage of nursing faculty due to an aging workforce and increased competition with hospitals

and other clinical sites, making the role of nurse educators even more critical.

- **Clinical Research Nurse**
 - Clinical research nurses (CRNs) work with research patients during clinical trials of drugs or other medical treatments. This puts them in an exciting position to see potentially game-changing treatments in their early stages. CRNs are responsible for the patient safety, care coordination and documentation before, during and after any procedures. These specialized registered nurses may work for hospitals, specialized clinics or even pharmaceutical companies.
 - BSN curriculum provides the foundational knowledge needed to become a CRN, with certification programs available to acquire more specialized skills.
- **Public Health Nurse**
 - Public health nurses care for entire populations rather than individual patients. Instead of waiting for patients to seek treatment, they go out into communities to advocate for lifestyle improvements and disease prevention. They often work through healthcare programs and government services to educate the community and improve access for individuals.
- **Quality Assurance or Improvement Coordinator**
 - One of the components of the Affordable Care Act is using ratings to improve quality care. Nurses have an interesting perspective on the measurement and analysis of this data because of their knowledge of working with patients. These individuals are responsible for ensuring the nursing staff are in compliance with procedures in place to provide quality care. This is another opportunity for you to make a positive and lasting impact on the industry.
- **Case Management Nurse**
 - Case management nurses work primarily with patients dealing with long-term health issues like AIDS or cancer. This includes creating care plans designed to help coordinate several treatments across an extended period of time. Responsibilities can range from scheduling surgeries to advising the best course of action for the patient.

- <https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/nursing/blog/7-bsn-jobs-available-now-dont-wait-for-the-mandate/>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What is the BSN program at Texas A&M?**

- The Traditional BSN program is a two-year standard Bachelor of Science in nursing degree program offered at both the Bryan—College Station and Round Rock campuses. Prior to entry, students must complete prerequisite courses in the humanities and biological, physical and behavioral sciences to provide a foundation for growth in the nursing major.
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/bsn-traditional/index.html>
- Texas A&M offers other options besides the Traditional Track of the BSN Program:
 - *RN-BSN Degree*: pathway for students with an Associate Degree in Nursing and an RN license. Students are able to obtain a degree within a year and consists of 30 credit hours (9 courses).
 - *2nd Degree BSN*: pathway for students for students with a Bachelor degree in a non-nursing field who want to pursue a BSN degree at an accelerated pace. Students may finish this degree in 15 months (61 credit hours).

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the admission requirements for the program?**

- Admission to the Texas A&M College of Nursing is competitive. It is strongly recommended that applicants present a GPA above 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale).
- Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Prerequisite Coursework GPA
 - Nursing Science GPA from nutrition, anatomy & physiology, microbiology, chemistry, lifespan growth & development and Texas A&M University core equivalent math course
 - [HESI Admissions Assessment Exam](#) score
 - Personal statement
 - Community service
 - Leadership/involvement in extracurricular and/or professional activities

- TOEFL score, required of international applicants only
 - History of withdraws, repeats or failures will place applicant at a disadvantage
 - Criminal background checks are required of all applicants. Prior criminal convictions may cause one to be ineligible for licensure as a registered nurse.
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/additional-info/baccalaureate-degree-program.html#tab-panel-3>
- **Twelfth Grade**
 - **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, LVNs and 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

Want to learn more? Visit the Texas A&M BSN page here:

<https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/bsn-traditional/index.html#tab-panel-1>