

Nursing and Health Program Policies ***Prerequisite and Program Eligibility Policies***

This document refers only to the College of Nursing and Health Innovation's (the College) undergraduate Nursing and Health program.

It is each student's responsibility to read, understand, and comply with this document and UT Arlington's:

- ◆ [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- ◆ College of Nursing and Health Innovation (the College) Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Admission Brochures:
[Campus-Based Program](#); [Accelerated Online Program](#)

Supplemental Resources:

- ◆ [UT Arlington website](#)
- ◆ The College [Bachelor of Science in Nursing website](#)

An upper-division nursing student in the BSN Prelicensure Program must adhere to the College [BSN Student Handbook](#).

In addition to the resources listed above, each student is required to adhere to the following policies. These policies are specific to UT Arlington's College of Nursing and Health Innovation's Nursing and Health program and must be adhered to when different from UT Arlington policies.

Nursing and Health Program Eligibility Policies

You may use the links below to jump forward to a specific policy:

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Criminal Background Check and Declaratory Order

Applicants complete two criminal background checks (CBC) for the BSN Prelicensure program: Texas Board of Nursing (BON) and GroupOne. An applicant must complete the Texas BON CBC and receive their Blue Card or Declaratory Order by the BSN Prelicensure application deadline. GroupOne is completed after acceptance to the BSN Prelicensure program.

A student with a positive criminal background history is not eligible for the BSN Prelicensure program without a Declaratory Order from the Texas Board of Nursing stating that the individual has been granted eligibility for a Registered Nurse (RN) licensure. The College of Nursing recommends students with positive criminal background history self-report and contact the TX BON to initiate the Declaratory Order procedure prior to fingerprinting.

The Declaratory Order (DO) process permits the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) to make decisions regarding petitioner's eligibility for licensure prior to entering the nursing program. A student accepted to the BSN Prelicensure nursing program

must prove eligibility for Registered Nurse (RN) licensure before beginning the program. For additional information refer to the Texas Board of Nursing website: www.bon.state.tx.us

Upper-division nursing students currently enrolled in the BSN Prelicensure program that commit a criminal offense while enrolled in the program will be required to go through the DO process. Students must receive an eligibility letter stating the student is eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® to be eligible to return to the clinical setting and/or continue in the nursing program.

For the requirements in their entirety, refer to the [Texas Board of Nursing](http://www.bon.state.tx.us) website.
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Two-Attempt Policy

Policy applies to prerequisite courses marked with an asterisk (*) on the College admission brochures (excluding Pathophysiology, which fall under the “Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses” policy in this document). Courses without an asterisk (*) are exempt from the number of failed grades that can be earned.

This policy refers to two earned failed grades of D and/or F. This policy differs from the College’s “Improvement of Grades C or Above” policy in this document. This policy also differs from UT Arlington’s [Grade Replacement](#), [Exclusion](#), and [Forgiveness](#) policies. If awarded a UT Arlington Grade Replacement, Exclusion or Forgiveness, the College considers any failed grade an attempt.

A student has a maximum of two (2) attempts to earn a grade of “C” or better in each course that falls under this policy whether taken at UT Arlington or at an outside institution.

- Withdrawals (W) are exempt from this policy.
- Any failed grade is valid for a three (3) year time period. At the conclusion of three (3) years, a failed grade is **no** longer considered an attempt. Due to the three (3) year time limit, only valid grades are used in the selection process.
- If two attempts have been earned, a similar course meeting the course equivalency cannot be used to satisfy the requirement.
 - Example:

Course	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Status
CHEM 1451	D	D			Two Attempt policy used
CHEM 1441			B		Not a valid attempt

The grade used in the selection process is determined by the following guidelines:

- If the failed grade was earned within three (3) years, the failed grade is used in the selection process unless the course has been repeated and a passing grade is available by the BSN Prelicensure program application deadline.
- If the course was retaken prior to the BSN Prelicensure program application deadline, the higher of the two grades is used in the selection process.
- If the three (3) years has expired, the failed grade is not used in the selection process.

Example of the Two Attempt Policy:

Course	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Status
BIOL 2457	D	W	B	Not in violation of the Two Attempt policy
PSYC 1315	F	A		Not in violation of the Two Attempt policy
MATH 1308	W	F	D	In violation of the Two Attempt policy
CHEM 1451	D	W	D	In violation of the Two Attempt policy
HEED 1301	D	D		In violation of the Two Attempt policy

While in violation of the policy (3yrs):

- A student may not be classified as a Nursing and Health student at UT Arlington.
- A student may take Nursing and Health courses at UT Arlington; however, a different major will need to be selected. A student must be cleared to register for the two (2) nursing preparatory courses (NURS 2300/3364 Introduction to Professional Nursing and NURS 3366 Pathophysiology) by an academic advisor.
- A student may not apply to the BSN Program during this period.

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Improvement of Grades C or Above

Policy applies to all prerequisite courses on the College admission brochures.

This policy refers to the improvement of grades, when previously a grade of C or higher was earned.

This policy differs from the College "Two Attempt Policy" in this document. This policy also differs from UT Arlington's [Grade Replacement](#), [Exclusion](#), and [Forgiveness](#) policies.

- Grade improvements are for the College selection process only. The University will use the first passed grade earned to calculate the institution cumulative GPA. A course retaken to improve a grade for the College selection purposes will state "illegal" on the transcript.
- Financial Aid will not pay for a course to be repeated where previously a grade of "C" or higher was earned.

Regarding the two (2) nursing preparatory courses (NURS 2300/3364 Introduction to Professional Nursing and NURS 3366 Pathophysiology):

- If a passing grade was earned, the two (2) nursing preparatory courses may NOT be retaken for the purpose of improving a grade for the College selection process. The initial grade earned is used in the selection process. For Pathophysiology, if a failed grade was earned in the first attempt, refer to the "Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses Policy" in this document.
- Due to the three (3) year course time limit, only valid Pathophysiology grades are used in the selection process.
- The upper-division elective course grade is used in the selection process.

For the remainder of this policy, all prerequisite courses on the College admission brochures are included with the exception of the two (2) nursing preparatory courses (NURS 2300/3364 Introduction to Professional Clinical Concepts in Nursing and NURS 3366 Pathophysiology) and the two (2) upper-division electives.

Grades of C or above may be replaced to improve GPAs for the College selection process with the following limitations:

- All earned grades of C or higher are valid indefinitely; grades do not expire.
- A limit of four (4) courses may be retaken for the purpose of the College selection process as grade improvements. The first four (4) courses retaken are the grades used in the selection process. Any courses retaken thereafter are not used in the selection process.
- The higher of the two (2) grades (original grade and replaced grade) is used in the selection process.
- Once a grade of "C or higher" is earned, a course may be attempted a maximum of one (1) additional time, with the following conditions:
 - Attempt One: Grade of "C or higher earned"
 - Attempt Two: **Grade earned**, whether passed or failed.
 - Exception: If a grade of "W" is earned on the second attempt, one final attempt is allowable. On the final attempt, no matter what the outcome is, there are no more attempt options. Of the initial grade and the final attempt grade, whichever is higher, will be used in the selection process provided the final attempt grade is earned prior the BSN Prelicensure application deadline.

Example of the Improvement of Grade Policy:

Attempt 1	Attempt 2	Final Attempt	Grade used in selection process
C	W	A	A
C	B	--	B
B	D	---	B
C	W	W	C

- Once a passing grade is earned, any subsequent failing grade earned is valid indefinitely (as opposed to the Two Attempt policy where failed grades are valid for three (3) years).
- To be used in the selection process, improved grades must be earned by the BSN Prelicensure program application deadline.
- A course retaken, taken at the same institution or not, is considered a grade improvement.
- If a passing grade was earned on the second attempt, a similar course meeting the course equivalency cannot be used to grade improve.
 1. Example:

Course	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Status
CHEM 1451	C	C		Grade Improvement policy used
CHEM 1441			B	Not a valid grade improvement

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TEAS Exam

Policy applies to any student applying to the BSN Prelicensure program.

- Designated sections of the [TEAS exam](#) must be completed with a minimum required score (as indicated below) to be eligible to apply for admission to the BSN Prelicensure program (scores need to be uploaded to the BSN Prelicensure application deadline) by the following deadlines:
 Fall start: January 15
 Spring start: June 1
- Required TEAS exam sections are: Math, Science, Reading, and English/Language Usage
- Applicants must score at minimum in the proficient range of 58.7% - 77.3% **overall and in each section**.
- The actual TEAS exam scores earned are not used in the selection process but passing scores are required to be a viable candidate
- If the TEAS exam is repeated, all required scored sections must be re-taken. Submitted scores must be from the same test administration.
- The TEAS exam can be taken every 30 days with a maximum of 3 times a year. On the first attempt of the exam, the one-year period begins.
- The TEAS exam offers the exam in two versions. If re-taking, the second version is required. For each subsequent attempt, the versions must be alternated.
- Once a passing score is achieved and the other College admission criteria are met, a BSN Prelicensure application may be submitted.
- Passing TEAS exam scores are valid for a period of two (2) years.

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Active Duty Military Applicants

Policy applies to all full-time active-duty military applying only to the Campus-Based BSN Prelicensure program.

A student must contact their academic advisor to initiate the review process. Once accepted to the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP), a student must provide the College with proof of ECP acceptance.

Active-duty military eligible for the Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP) are guaranteed acceptance into the BSN Prelicensure program provided:

- all UT Arlington and the College requirements are met as stated on the [Campus-Based admission brochure](#); and
- based on space and funding availability with a program start date determined by the College.

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Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses

Policy refers to the nursing preparatory course, Pathophysiology (Patho), taken at UT Arlington or an outside institution. The Patho course has a three (3) year time limit.

Courses excluded from this policy are NURS 2300/3364 Introduction to Professional Nursing, the two (2) upper-division elective course requirements; or NURS 2232 (Campus only); NURS-SS 2232 (AO BSN only) Professional Nursing and Life Skills.

For information on failed grades in the upper-division nursing courses, refer to the [BSN Handbook](#).

Eligibility to Start the BSN Prelicensure Nursing Program

One (1) failed grade = probationary status with UT Arlington’s BSN Prelicensure program for a period of three (3) years.

Conditions of Probationary Status:

- A student who earned a failed grade (D or F) in the term prior to BSN Prelicensure program application deadline must re-take the course prior to starting the program, pass with a “C” or better and have not violated the UT Arlington or College policies to be considered a viable applicant. Note: If only a failed grade is earned prior to the application deadline, that grade is used in the selection process. If a failed grade is earned and the course is re-taken with a passing grade prior to the application deadline, both the failed and passing grades are used in the selection process.
- A student who earned a failed grade (D or F) in the term directly following the BSN Prelicensure program application deadline may **not** start the program, even if the course is retaken and passed during subsequent term. A student is eligible to re-apply for the following application period; however, the failed grade will be used in the selection process (see the *Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses table*).

Two (2) failed grades = inability to continue with UT Arlington’s College of Nursing and Health Innovation for a period of three (3) years. Upon return, a student is eligible to apply under the conditions of the College’s Re-entry Policy.

Additional requirements once accepted into the nursing program:

- during the Junior 1 term, a student **must** register and successfully complete a two-credit hour *Professional Nursing and Life Skills course*. Tuition costs are equal to that of the nursing courses ([campus tuition rates](#); [AO tuition rates](#)).
- a student **must** meet with a College Student Success Coordinator/Faculty to develop a success plan.
- a student **must** meet with a College Academic Advisor a minimum of once every semester.

Example of Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses

Application for	Non-passing term	Passing term	BSN Application Eligibility
Spring 2025	Spring 2024	Summer or Fall 2024	Spring 2025
Spring 2025	Summer 2024	Fall 2024	Fall 2025 (must re-apply)
Spring 2025	Fall 2024	Spring or Summer 2025	Fall 2025 (must re-apply)
Fall 2025	Fall 2024	Spring or Summer 2025	Fall 2025
Fall 2025	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Spring 2026 (must re-apply)
Fall 2025	Summer 2025	Fall 2025 or Spring 2026	Fall 2026 (must re-apply)

Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses Policy Summary

Pathophysiology	Passed or Failed Course	Process to determine eligibility to apply to UTA's BSN Prelicensure program
Nursing Preparatory	Failed Patho (prior to application deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses" policy applies; and May complete and submit an application to be ranked with other applicants to the BSN Prelicensure program.
Nursing Preparatory	Failed Patho (after application deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses" policy applies; and May not start program for current ranking period May re-apply for the following application period
Nursing Preparatory	Failed Patho twice (within a 3-year period)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In violation of the "Failure of Nursing Preparatory Courses" policy; and while in violation of the policy, a student is not eligible to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be coded at UTA as a Nursing and Health meta-major and/or apply to BSN Prelicensure program after three (3) years, eligible to apply under the conditions of the College's "Re-entry policy"

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Transfer Nursing Student Policy

Policy refers to students enrolled in an accredited Prelicensure BSN Program who have successfully completed prerequisite courses with a C or above including NURS 3366 Pathophysiology and Junior I courses for the BSN Prelicensure Program: Pharmacology, Holistic Health Assessment, and Clinical Nursing Foundations at another college or university.

Students must:

- Provide an academic standing letter from outside institution's nursing department
- Not have any Ds or Fs in Pathophysiology or any nursing course
- Submit a course syllabus and a content outline of the course(s). If the course is a clinical course, a list of nursing skills learned in the course(s) must also be submitted.
- Meet minimum requirements for admission to the BSN Prelicensure program
- Have completed courses within a year of starting the BSN Prelicensure program

If accepted:

- a student must attend a mandatory in-person orientation.

Students who have not completed the required courses or do not meet the requirements of the Transfer Nursing Student Policy must apply to the BSN Prelicensure program by the application deadline. Applicants will be ranked with the incoming junior class.

If not accepted:

- BSN level nursing courses can be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
 - Courses eligible for review must have been completed within a year of starting the BSN Program

If previously admitted to a nursing program at an institution outside of UT Arlington, the "Transfer Nursing Student Policy" must be adhered to.

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Re-entry Policy

Policy refers to a student who is ineligible to continue in a nursing program due to academic failure including a student who was accepted and has not completed an Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN) or Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. Academic failure includes 2 or more grades of "D" and/or "F".

Policy does not apply to a student who has:

- never been admitted to a nursing program; or
- been enrolled in a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Medical Assistant (MA), or Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) program.

A student must provide a letter from previous nursing school stating:

- program dismissal was for academic reasons. The official letter must be signed by a Dean or Chair and be provided to the [academic advisor](#) prior to any further action.

The self-reflection time requirement for failed nursing course grades (including Pathophysiology) are valid under this re-entry policy for three (3) years. The three (3) years are calculated from the term (fall, spring or summer) in which the first nursing grade failure was earned.

During the three (3) years, a student may take prerequisite courses at UT Arlington; however, a different major will need to be selected. During this time, a student is not eligible to apply to the BSN Prelicensure program under a different major.

Note: Pathophysiology and all nursing courses need to be re-taken. All general education courses previously passed with a grade of "C" or higher are valid indefinitely and are not required to be re-taken. If desired, a student can utilize the [Improvement of Grade policy](#) to improve the GPA's used in the selection process.

Eligibility to Return

To be eligible to apply to the BSN Prelicensure program, the three (3) years from the first nursing grade failure must have expired by the BSN Prelicensure program application deadline.

To be eligible to submit an application and be ranked with all other applicants (program acceptance is not guaranteed), a student must:

- meet the eligibility requirements as stated on the [Campus-Based](#) and [AO BSN](#) admission brochure(s); **and**
- meet with a BSN [academic advisor](#) each semester, once admitted into UT Arlington; and
- fill out and submit an application; **and**
- once accepted to the nursing program, adhere to the [BSN Student Handbook](#); **and**
- meet course requirements as stated below; **and**
- sign a College agreement acknowledging the conditions as stated in this policy. The agreement must be signed prior to being eligible to apply to the BSN Prelicensure program.

Timetable Example:

First failed nursing course:	fall 2024	spring 2025
Eligible to apply to the BSN Program:	spring 2028	fall 2028
BSN application deadline:	June 1, 2027	January 15, 2028

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Kinesiology/Public Health Additional Consideration Policy

The UT Arlington's College of Nursing and Health Innovation offers an additional consideration for eligible UTA Public Health/Kinesiology undergraduates interested in pursuing the BSN Prelicensure program.

Students who meet the following criteria will earn an additional consideration in the BSN Prelicensure program admission process. Students must:

1. have completed the BS in Public Health or BS in Exercise Science prior to the start of the BSN Prelicensure program;
2. meet all BSN Admission criteria as stated in the admissions brochure.
 - a. [Campus-Based BSN Admissions Brochure](#)

b. [Accelerated Online BSN Admissions Brochure](#); and

3. meet all criteria and be able to begin the BSN Prelicensure program by the third semester, including summer, after graduating with either the BS in Public Health or BS in Exercise Science degree.

Students must meet all eligibility/admissions criteria as indicated in the College admissions brochures.

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Maverick Nursing Scholars Program

The Maverick Nursing Scholars (MNS) is a special nursing entry program offered to select full-time freshman students. Selected students are identified as a Presidential Scholar or have received a Maverick Academic Scholarship (level as specified by the CONHI).

Minimum Program Requirements

- Maintain the scholarship requirements as outlined by the university:
 - Full-time enrollment (12 semester credit hours (SCH) at UTA) each fall and spring semester
 - Completion of a minimum number of semester credit hours (SCH) per year
 - SCH scholarship requirement is waived once a student is admitted to the UD program, but full-time enrollment of nursing courses is required.
 - Maintain GPA per scholarship requirement
- Maintain program eligibility to start the BSN Prelicensure Nursing Program as follows:
 - Complete three of the four required natural sciences (BIOL 2457, BIOL 2458, BIOL 2460, CHEM 1451) at UT Arlington prior to start of the upper-division program. The exception to this requirement is completion of any of these courses through AP, IB, or dual credit while in high school only.
 - Complete NURS 2300/3364, and NURS 3366 at UT Arlington.
 - Grading policies apply to all courses.
- Meet all admission requirements listed on the BSN Prelicensure [Admission Brochure](#).

Students who meet all the program requirements will earn the additional consideration. Failure to maintain the minimum program requirements leads to removal from MNS program. Students will be able to continue as a Nursing and Health meta-major and have the ability to apply for the BSN Prelicensure program.

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Freshman Nursing Scholars (FNS) (Fall 2018 – Fall 2022 Pilot Program)

The Freshman Nursing Scholars is a special nursing entry program offered to select full-time freshman students. Selected students are identified as a Presidential Scholar or have received a Maverick Academic Scholarship (level as specified by the CONHI).

Minimum Program Requirements

- Maintain status as a Presidential Scholar or Maverick Scholar
 - Full-time enrollment (12 UTA hours) each fall and spring semester
 - Completion of a minimum of 30 UTA hours by the end of the academic year (fall, spring, summer)
 - Minimum cumulative UTA GPA of 3.0
- Attend mandatory New Maverick Orientation in the summer prior to fall enrollment.
- Participate in special events with the nursing school
- Maintain program eligibility to start the BSN Prelicensure program as follows:
 - Complete all required natural sciences (BIOL 2457, BIOL 2458, BIOL 2460, CHEM 1451) at UT Arlington prior to start of the BSN program. The exception to this requirement is completion of any of these courses through AP, IB, or dual credit while in high school only.
 - Complete NURS 2200 at UT Arlington with a grade of C or higher prior to start of the BSN Prelicensure program and complete remaining required nursing preparatory courses (NURS 3365, NURS 3366) at UT Arlington with a grade of B or higher on the first attempt prior to start of the BSN Prelicensure program.
 - Any enrollment in the course on census day or after is considered an enrollment attempt. Enrolling in a course for a second time is considered an attempt. All drops including academic and non-academic drops are also considered an attempt. Compassionate withdrawals and withdrawal exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis by Undergraduate Nursing Appeals Committee.
 - UT Arlington grading policies apply to all other general education courses.
 - Earn the minimum GPAs as described on the admissions brochures.

- Take and pass the TEAS exam by the BSN Prelicensure Program application deadline of the anticipated BSN Prelicensure program start term. Each section of the TEAS must be passed with a minimum score in the proficient range.
- Complete the Criminal Background Check by the application deadline of the anticipated BSN Prelicensure Program start term. You will have the opportunity to complete this during your enrollment in NURS 2200/2300.
- Complete all required immunizations by the application deadline (recommended) but required by the acceptance deadline of the anticipated BSN Prelicensure program start term (1st full week in September for spring term starts or the 1st full week of March for fall term starts).
- Complete the BSN Prelicensure Program application by the application deadline of the anticipated BSN Prelicensure Program start term for tracking purposes.
- Meet once a month with an assigned Academic Advisor to discuss progression and college life.

Students that meet all program requirements are guaranteed admission into the BSN Prelicensure Program. Failure to maintain the minimum program requirements leads to removal from the FNS program. Students can continue as a Nursing and Health meta-major and can apply for the BSN Prelicensure program.

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Nursing Academies

The Early College High School Nursing Academy was created for exceptional high school students interested in pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at the University of Texas at Arlington. Students start this journey in **high school** and must adhere to the minimum program requirements to be considered for admission to the BSN Prelicensure program. Students meeting these requirements will receive **priority** placement as a partnered student in the BSN Prelicensure program.

Minimum Program Requirements

In order to receive admission to the nursing program, students must meet the following requirements:

- Meet requirements of UT Arlington's Dual Credit program as outlined here: [Dual Credit Qualifications - Division of Student Success - The University of Texas at Arlington \(uta.edu\)](#)
- Maintain program eligibility to start the BSN Prelicensure Nursing Program as follows:
 - Complete all required natural sciences (BIOL 2457, BIOL 2458, BIOL 2460, CHEM 1451) prior to start of the fall semester of enrollment.
 - Complete NURS 2300/NURS 3364, NURS 3366, and any Nursing Upper-Division Electives at UT Arlington.
 - Grading policies apply to all courses.
 - Adhere to all admission requirements as outlined on the BSN Prelicensure Program Admission Brochures:
 - Campus-Based BSN Admissions Brochure
 - Accelerated Online BSN Admissions Brochure
- Meet once a month with an assigned Academic Advisor to discuss progression and college life.

Failure to maintain the minimum program requirements leads to program removal. Removed students can continue as a traditional Nursing and Health meta-major and can apply for the BSN Prelicensure program.

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