



UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON

COLLEGE OF NURSING
AND HEALTH INNOVATION

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Policies (pre-licensure)
Lower-Division Prerequisite and Upper-Division Nursing Program Eligibility Policies

This document refers only to the College of Nursing and Health Innovation (**the College**) undergraduate pre-licensure nursing 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) Admission Brochures:
[Campus-Based Program](#); [Accelerated Online Program](#) (**AO BSN**)

Supplemental Resources:

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

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

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

Prerequisite and Upper-Division Nursing Program Eligibility Policies

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

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Declaratory Order

The Declaratory Order (DO) process permits the Texas Board of Nursing (TX BON) to make decisions regarding petitioner's eligibility for licensure prior to entering the nursing program. All admitted UTA College of Nursing and Health Innovation (CONHI) students are required to complete two criminal background checks (CBCs) **before** applying to the upper-division nursing program at UTA. This includes the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) CBC and the GroupOne CBC.

Students currently enrolled in the upper-level nursing 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 upper-division nursing program.

For the requirements in their entirety, refer to the [Texas Board of Nursing](#) website.
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Two Attempt Policy

Policy applies to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) lower-division prerequisite courses marked with an asterisk (*) on the College admission brochures (excluding Pathophysiology and Pharmacology, which fall under the "Failure of Pre-Nursing 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 "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.
- A course equivalent (i.e. CHEM 1451, CHEM 1441) is considered an attempt for the same lower-division prerequisite requirement.

Due to the three (3) year time limit, only valid grades are used in the selection process. 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 application deadline.
- If the course was retaken prior to the BSN 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 2020	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	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
ENGL 2338	D	D		In violation of the Two Attempt policy

While in violation of the policy (3yrs):

- A student may not be classified as a pre-nursing student at UT Arlington.
- A campus-based student may take BSN lower-division prerequisite courses at UT Arlington; however, a different major will need to be selected. A student must be cleared to register for the three (3) pre-nursing courses (NURS 2300 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NURS 3366 Pathophysiology and NURS 3365 Pharmacology) by a College of Nursing academic advisor.
- An AO BSN student may not take BSN lower-division prerequisite courses at UT Arlington via the AO BSN format. A student may switch to the campus-based format and select a different major.
- A student may not apply to the upper-division nursing program during this period.

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Improvement of Grades C or Above

Policy applies to all BSN lower-division 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 three (3) pre-nursing courses (NURS 2300 Introduction to Professional Nursing, NURS 3366 Pathophysiology and NURS 3365 Pharmacology):

- If a passing grade was earned, the three (3) pre-nursing 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 and Pharmacology, if a failed grade was earned in the first attempt, refer to the “Failure of Pre-Nursing Policy” in this document.
- Due to the three (3) year course time limit, only valid Pathophysiology and Pharmacology 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 BSN lower-division prerequisite courses on the College admission brochures are included with the exception of the three (3) pre-nursing courses (NURS 2300 Introduction to Professional Clinical Concepts in Nursing, NURS 3366 Pathophysiology and NURS 3365 Pharmacology) and the upper-division elective.

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 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).
- A course equivalent (i.e. MATH 1301 Contemporary Mathematics, MATH 1302 College Algebra; CHEM 1451, CHEM 1441) is considered a grade improvement for the same lower-division prerequisite requirement.
- To be used in the selection process, improved grades must be earned by the BSN application deadline.
- A course retaken, taken at the same institution or not, is considered a grade improvement.

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English Language Requirement (ELR)

Policy applies to students born outside of the United States or whose native language is not English. The College’s policy is more stringent than UT Arlington’s requirement. The College of Nursing and Health Innovation has identified

clear communication in English, both verbally and in writing, in person or by phone, as an essential function for admission and progression in the BSN program.

The English Language Requirement must be satisfied prior to admission into the College of Nursing pre-nursing and upper-division programs.

A student is exempt from this policy if s/he:

- was born **in** the United States and earned a high school diploma or GED from the United States; and/or
- was born **outside** the United States and earned a high diploma in the United States. If born outside of the United States and earned a GED from the United States, English language documentation must be provided; and/or
- earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited United States institution of higher education; and/or
- graduated from secondary schools or colleges in the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada (except Quebec), Cayman Islands, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Grand Cayman, Guyana, Ireland, Jamaica, Liberia, Montserrat, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad/Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and United Kingdom.

A student may submit documentation to satisfy this policy. Acceptable documentation may include:

- A letter from the high school or Embassy - written on the high school or Embassy's letterhead – confirming that "all curriculum was taught in English".
- TOEFL exam scores or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam scores. Acceptable scores can be located on the College's ELR document located on the College of Nursing website.

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TEAS Exam

Policy applies to any College of Nursing undergraduate pre-licensure student applying to the upper-division BSN and AO BSN programs.

- 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 upper-division nursing program (scores need to be uploaded to the [BSN application](#)) 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.
- 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 application](#) to the upper-division nursing program 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 to the Campus-Based upper-division nursing program ONLY.

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 upper-division nursing program provided:

- all UT Arlington and the College requirements are met as stated on the [Campus-Based admission brochure](#); and

- based on availability with a program start date determined by the College.

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Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses

Policy refers to the two (2) BSN lower-division prerequisite pre-nursing courses Pathophysiology (Patho) or Pharmacology (Pharm) taken at UT Arlington or an outside institution approved for transfer. Both Patho and Pharm courses have a three (3) year time limit.

Courses excluded from this policy are NURS 2300 Introduction to Professional; Nursing NURS 3309 Medical Terminology or NURS 3352 Legacy of the Family, which satisfy the upper-division elective course requirement; 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 Upper-Division Nursing Program

One (1) failed grade = probationary status with UT Arlington's College of Nursing indefinitely.

Conditions of Probationary Status:

- A student who earned a failed grade (D or F) in the term prior to BSN application deadline must re-take the course prior to starting the upper-division 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 BSN 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 BSN 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 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 Pre-Nursing Courses table*).

Two (2) failed grades = inability to continue with UT Arlington's College of Nursing 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 upper-division 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 Pre-Nursing Courses

Application for	Non-passing term	Passing term	BSN Application Eligibility
Fall 2020	Fall 2019	Spring or Summer 2020	Fall 2020
Fall 2020	Spring 2020	Summer 2020	Spring 2021 (must re-apply)
Fall 2020	Summer 2020	Fall 2020 or Spring 2021	Fall 2021
Spring 2021	Spring 2020	Summer or Fall 2020	Spring 2021
Spring 2021	Summer 2020	Fall 2020	Fall 2021 (must re-apply)
Spring 2021	Fall 2020	Spring or Summer 2021	Fall 2021

Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses Policy Summary

Pathophysiology and/or Pharmacology	Passed or Failed Course	Process to determine eligibility to apply to UTA's upper-division nursing program
Pre-nursing	Failed either Patho OR Pharm (prior to application deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "<i>Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses</i>" policy applies; and May complete and submit a BSN application to be ranked with other applicants to the College upper-division nursing program.
Pre-nursing	Failed either Patho OR Pharm (after application deadline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "<i>Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses</i>" policy applies; and May not start program for current ranking period May re-apply for the following application period
Pre-nursing	Any combination of two failed Course Patho AND/OR Pharm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In violation of the "<i>Failure of Pre-Nursing Courses</i>" 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 pre-nursing major and/or apply to upper-division nursing program after three (3) years, eligible to apply under the conditions of the College's "<i>Re-entry policy</i>".

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Transfer Nursing Student Policy

Policy refers to students who have successfully completed prerequisite courses with a C or above including NURS 3366 Pathophysiology and NURS 3365 Pharmacology and Junior I courses for the BSN Program: Holistic Health Assessment and Clinical Nursing Foundations at another college or university.

Students must:

- Provide a "good standing" letter from outside institution's nursing department
- Completed minimum required standardized entrance exam scores as stated on the admission brochure
- 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.

If accepted:

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

Students who have not completed the required courses will be ranked with the incoming junior class.

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.

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 letter must be provided to the [academic advisor](#) prior to any further action.

The self-reflection time requirement for failed nursing course grades (including Pathophysiology and Pharmacology) 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 last nursing grade failure was earned.

During the three (3) years, a campus-based student may take BSN lower-division prerequisite courses at UT Arlington; however, a different major will need to be selected. An AO BSN student may not take BSN lower-division prerequisite courses at UT Arlington via the AO BSN format. A student may switch to the campus-based format and select a different major.

During this time, a student is not eligible to apply to the upper-division nursing program under a different major.

Note: Pathophysiology, Pharmacology (valid 3 years) and the upper-division nursing courses need to be re-taken. All other 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 BSN selection process.

To be eligible to apply to the upper-division nursing program, the three (3) years from the last nursing grade failure must have expired by the [BSN application](#) deadline.

BSN Application Eligibility Requirements (Re-Entry Continued)

To be eligible to submit a BSN 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 (campus students must meet in person; online (AO) students can meet in person or phone); **and**
- successfully complete the [TEAS Exam](#);
- fill out and submit a [BSN application](#); **and**
- previously earned Pathophysiology and Pharmacology grades will **not** be used in the ranking process; **and**
- once accepted to the upper-division nursing program, adhere to the [BSN Student Handbook](#); **and**
- meet course requirements as stated below; **and**
- sign a College contract agreeing to the conditions as stated in this policy. The contract must be signed prior to being eligible to apply to the BSN program.

Course Requirements:

Introduction to Professional and Clinical Concepts in Nursing (NURS 2300):

- A student previously in a nursing program outside of UT Arlington must successfully complete UT Arlington’s course prior to starting the upper-division nursing program; or
- A former UT Arlington BSN student, if the course was previously successfully completed (grade of C or higher), is required to meet with a College Student Success Coordinator between the BSN application deadline and the upper-division program start.

Nursing Courses

- Once accepted into the BSN program, all upper-division nursing courses must be completed at UT Arlington.

Time Table Example:

Last failed nursing course:	fall 2020	spring 2021
Eligible to apply to the Upper-Division Nursing Program:	spring 2024	fall 2024
BSN application deadline:	June 1, 2023	January 15, 2024

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Kinesiology/Public Health Wrap Around Policy

The UT Arlington College of Nursing and Health Innovation offers an option for eligible students interested in pursuing the BS in Nursing an alternative route to acceptance into the Upper-Division Nursing Program.

Students who meet the following criteria are guaranteed acceptance to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Upper-Division Program. Students must:

1. have previously applied to the Upper-Division Nursing program;
2. have completed the BS in Public Health or BS in Exercise Science with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 prior to the start of the Upper-Division Nursing Program;
3. meet all BS in Nursing Admission criteria as stated in the Admissions Brochure.
 - a. [Campus-Based BSN Admissions Brochure](#)
 - b. [Accelerated Online BSN Admissions Brochure](#); and
4. meet all criteria and be able to begin the Upper-Division Nursing Program by the third semester, including summer, after graduating with either the BS in Public Health or BS in Exercise Science degree.

Public Health and Exercise Science Prepares Students for Health Professions. Grounded in science and the study of human health, the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program will provide students multiple coursework and practice-based learning opportunities to explore the effects of urbanization on population health. Earning your Bachelor's degree in Public Health is the foundation you need to pursue public health careers that serve to improve health for all community populations. Public Health professionals work in a wide range of health-related settings including epidemiology research, biostatistics, consumer advocacy, policy consulting, community health education, non-profit advocacy and leadership, healthcare administration, occupational health and safety, emergency management, and local and state public health agencies.

The discipline of Exercise Science examines the body's physiological responses to exercise, the role of regular physical activity in maintaining health and wellness, and the chronic health conditions that are associated with physical inactivity (i.e., heart disease, diabetes, obesity). Exercise Science professionals work in a variety of health-related settings, including cardiac rehabilitation, commercial and corporate fitness and wellness centers, health clubs, and research centers.

Additional Information and Policies

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

1. TEAS Scores: may not be older than two years at the application deadline of the desired start date of the Upper-Division Program and minimum scores must be achieved. Students may retake the exam prior to the application deadline of the desired start date of the Upper-Division Nursing Program. Refer to the admission brochure for policies related to TEAS.
2. NURS 3365 Pathophysiology and NURS 3366 Pharmacology: grades may not be older than three years prior to starting the Upper-Division Program. Students must retake expired courses prior to starting the Upper-Division Program.
3. Immunizations and Criminal Background Check: must be completed by the application deadline of the term associated with the Upper-Division Nursing Program.

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Freshman Nursing Scholars (FNS)

This special nursing entry program, Freshman Nursing Scholars, promises selected full-time freshman students guaranteed admittance to the highly-competitive upper-division nursing program. Students invited to the program have exceptional credentials and have earned a designation as a Presidential Scholar or Maverick Scholar (certain levels only) through the University. Students who accept the invitation and maintain their status as a Presidential Scholar or Maverick Scholar will participate in special events with the nursing school and would be guaranteed a place in the junior year nursing major courses.

Minimum Program Requirements

In order to stay an active member of FNS, students must meet the following requirements:

- Maintain your scholarship requirements as follows:

- 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.
- Maintain program eligibility to start the Upper-Division Nursing Program as follows:
 - Complete all 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 all required pre-nursing courses (NURS 2200, NURS 3365, NURS 3366) at UT Arlington with a grade of B or higher on the first attempt prior to start of the upper-division program.
 - 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 application deadline of the anticipated upper-division 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 upper-division program start term. You will have the opportunity to complete this during your enrollment in NURS 2200.
- Complete all required immunizations by the application deadline (recommended) but required by the acceptance deadline of the anticipated upper-division 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 upper-division application by the application deadline of the anticipated upper-division program start term for tracking purposes.
- Meet once a month with an assigned Academic Advisor to discuss progression and college life.
- Attend special FNS sessions or events.

Failure to maintain the minimum program requirements will lead to removal from the FNS program. Students will be able to continue as a Nursing Intended major and will have the ability to apply for the Upper-Division program.

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