



Wharton County Junior College

911 Boling Highway • Wharton, Texas 77488 • (979) 532-4560

Vocational Nursing Program – Wharton

APPLICATION DEADLINE April 20, 2023

PLEASE READ ALL SECTIONS OF THE APPLICATION PACKET TO ENSURE ELIGIBILITY BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Program Information

The Vocational Nursing Program at the Wharton Campus is a prescribed course of study with both classroom and clinical experience designed to prepare the graduate to function as a member of the nursing team by providing basic nursing care. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to make application to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) and the Jurisprudence Examination for the state of Texas.

Upon obtaining licensure as a Vocational Nurse in the state of Texas, graduates are likely to find career opportunities in settings such as nursing homes, hospitals, residential care facilities, physicians' offices, clinics, home health care, hospice care agencies, and schools.

The Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Program in Wharton is fully approved by the Texas Board of Nursing, 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 10-200, Austin, TX 78701.

Course of Study

The Vocational Nursing program is a fast-paced program of study requiring students to have study skills, test-taking skills, and time management skills when they begin the program. Classroom study covers basic nursing concepts and patient care-related subjects, including anatomy, physiology, medical-surgical nursing, pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric nursing, and the administration of medications. Students will need a computer with Internet access and a Webcam for several courses. Clinical practice takes place in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. The course of study is 12 months.

The first semester consists of 14 semester hours with 7 separate courses of study. Students will be in the classroom 5 days a week for eight hours per day.

The second semester consists of 16 semester hours with 6 separate courses.

The third and final term consists of 12 semester hours with 5 separate courses.

This intensive course structure covers 42 credit hours in a 12-month period. It is recommended that students, if possible, not work full time during the program as daily study time is encouraged and required in order to be a successful student.

For those applicants who have been out of school for several years, or who are unsure of their study skills, test-taking skills, or time management skills, we highly recommend that you take the course PSYC1300.

Admission Requirements

The Vocational Nursing Program in Wharton has limited enrollment. Because enrollment is limited, not all applicants meeting the admission requirements can be accepted. In addition to the admission requirements for the College, the following are requirements for admission to the VN Program in Wharton:

1. **Admission to WCJC:** Applicants must meet the admission requirements to Wharton County Junior College. Admission to WCJC is a separate process from admission to the nursing program. Applicants must be eligible to register for courses at WCJC in order to be considered for admission to the VN program. **Admission to the college does not ensure admission into the VN Program.**
2. **Texas Success Initiative (TSI):** Applicants must have all components of Texas Success Initiative satisfied before turning in VN application. If unsure if you are TSI complete, please contact the WCJC registrar office to find out.
3. **Application to the VN Program:** Applicants must complete the VN Program application. Applicants must sign and return the application to the VN department at the main campus in Wharton.
4. **Pre-Entrance Test:** TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) with a minimum score of 65% in reading, a minimum score of 65% in math, and taken within the last two years. Testing for TEAS can be arranged at www.ATItesting.com. IT is the sole responsibility of the applicant to arrange for, and complete the required pre-entrance testing and submit a paper copy of their scores to the Vocational Nursing program.
5. **Transcripts: Applicants** must provide an unofficial transcript or copy of official transcript from all colleges attended, including Wharton County Junior College with the application. **The Registrar's office will not fax or send test scores or transcripts to the individual Allied Health Programs.**
6. **Completed Applicant Questionnaire:** The applicant is required to respond to the questions on the Questionnaire Form.
7. **Proof of Completion of Hepatitis B Vaccine:** The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requires that all nursing students provide proof of completion of the Hepatitis B immunization series or provide proof of immunity to Hepatitis B before being allowed to administer patient care. It is required that all applicants provide proof of completion of at least the first two shots before Clinicals start in first semester. This proof must accompany the application. **The Hepatitis B vaccine is a series of three injections, which takes 6 months to complete.**
8. **Proof of Current CPR Certification:** Applicants must provide proof of current CPR certification by the **American Heart Association in BLS**. Any other CPR will not be accepted.
9. **Letter of Good Standing:** If you have previously enrolled in any nursing program, you must provide a letter from the program director stating that you are a student in good standing and eligible for readmission to that program.
10. **Conditions for Full Acceptance:** Upon acceptance, all admissions to the VN program are contingent upon the following:
 - Completion of a satisfactory criminal background check and drug screen
 - Providing a completed health data form and proof of immunizations, titer results, TB skin test results, and CPR certification to the specified online company by the specified date
 - Showing proof of required immunizations (diphtheria-tetanus, Hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, flu, and COVID)
 - Documentation of annual TB skin test (positive results will require follow-up)
 - Documentation of meningitis immunization (please see the WCJC website for information)

Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Program – Wharton

Application for Admission

Application Deadline is April 20, 2023

(Print in ink or type and fill in all sections)

1. Name: _____
 (Last) (First) (Middle) (Maiden)

2. Date of Birth _____ 3. Social Security Number _____

4. Address: _____
 (Mailing address) (City) (County) (State) (Zip)

5. Telephone – Home _____ 6. Telephone – Cell _____

7. E-mail _____

8. Were you in the military? Yes No What Branch? _____

9. Do you have previous experience/training in an Allied Health field? Yes No Field? _____

10. Have you previously attended any nursing program? Yes No

If yes, complete the following and submit a letter of good standing from the Head of that program:

Name of Nursing Program	City, State	Dates attended

11. Colleges/Universities Attended

Name of School/College	City and State	Dates Attended	Major/Degree Earned

12. Other Educational Programs Attended/Completed

Name of Program/School	City and State	Dates Attended	Course of Study

I CERTIFY that this application, the submitted transcripts and required test scores are complete and accurate. I understand that these documents are being used to make an academic decision regarding admission to the VN Program - Wharton. I understand that the inaccurate or omission of information will make me ineligible for admission to or progression through the VN Program – Wharton. I have also read and understand the conditions for full acceptance into the program.

Date _____ Legal Signature of Applicant _____

APPLICANT CHECKLIST FOR THE VN PROGRAM

This checklist is for your use. Do not include with your application.

Applicant Responsibility: It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to make sure all required paperwork and information is received in the Vocational Nursing Department before 4:00 p.m. on the April 20, 2023. Our office will not follow up on any information that is not in your file and the Registrar’s Office will not provide the program with any documentation. **Incomplete files will not be considered.**

Must meet WCJC college requirements for admission

TSI Complete

TEAS minimum score of 65% in reading and a minimum score of 65% in math
Test scores no older than two years

Completed application of admission to the Vocational Nursing program

Completed Applicant Questionnaire

Copies of official transcripts sent to Registrar Office and copy to VN Program

Proof of Current CPR certification **The American Heart Association in BLS**

Proof of Completion of at least 2 of the Hepatitis B Vaccine

VN Program Estimated Expenses

1. Tuition and Fees	In district - \$105/semester hour for 42 hours = \$4410. Out of District - \$161/semester hour for 42 hours = \$6762. Out of State – \$213/semester hour for 42 hours = \$8946.
2. Criminal background check/Drug Screen	\$175.00
3. Castle Branch (medical document online manager)	\$30.00
4. Skills Lab Supply Fee	\$145.00 Fall semester
5. Books	\$1200.00 (Around 75% of this amount is due the beginning of the first semester)
6. Student Liability Insurance	\$20.00
7. Student Incident Insurance	\$15.00
8. Supplies	\$550.00 (Stethoscope, bandage scissors, etc.) Student purchases
9. Uniform/scrubs, shoes, lab coat	\$200.00 Student purchases items.
10. Travel to clinical sites (parking, gas, mileage, meals)	\$500.00 – Varies depending on how far you reside from clinical site and price of gas.
11. NCLEX-PN Examination Fee	\$200.00 Registration Fee
12. Application for licensure	\$75.00
13. Technology Fees	\$1932.00
14. Student Fees	\$3,066.00
15. Testing Fees	\$120.00

Estimated Total

In district - \$12,638
Out of District - \$14,990
Out of State - \$17,174

Important Information Regarding Criminal Background Checks and Requirements for Initial VN Licensure by NCLEX-PN Examination

- Upon acceptance into the VN Program at Wharton, students will be required to complete a criminal background check and a drug screen with a company specified by Wharton County Junior College. If there is something in the background check that cannot be resolved quickly, the student will have to reapply to the nursing program after the problem has been resolved. A student with a positive criminal background screen is eligible to be considered for full acceptance and enrollment in the nursing program if: 1) the student has previously submitted a Declaratory Order to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) and 2) received BON verification of eligibility for future licensure as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. **A student may not attend class or clinicals without a copy of a blue card, operations outcome letter, enforcement outcome letter, or eligibility order from the Texas Board of Nursing on file with the Vocational Nursing program before the beginning date of the Fall semester.** The criminal background check and drug screen will be at the student's expense. The estimated cost of the criminal background check is \$125.00. The estimated cost of the drug screen is \$50.00.
- All individuals seeking licensure as a vocational nurse in the state of Texas must submit to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON), a set of fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history from the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If the background screen is positive, the applicant will be notified by the BON. The BON will supply instructions to the applicant on additional necessary steps.

If you answer yes to any of the eligibility questions listed below, you should gather any court documents related to the issue and await instructions from the BON.

BON Eligibility Questions:

1. Have you ever had any disciplinary action on a nursing license or a privilege to practice in any state, country, or province?
2. Do you have an investigation or complaint pending on a nursing license or a privilege to practice in any state, country, or province?
3. Have you, in the last 5 years*, been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?
4. For any criminal offense*, including those pending appeal, have you:

(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations or offenses previously disclosed to the Texas Board of Nursing on an initial or renewal application.)

- been arrested and have a pending criminal charge?
- been convicted of a misdemeanor?
- been convicted of a felony?
- pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
- received deferred adjudication?
- been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
- been sentenced to serve jail, prison time, or court-ordered confinement?
- been granted pre-trial diversion?
- been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
- been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses: While expunged or sealed offense, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office

with your application. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character. (See 22 TAC §213.27)

NOTE: Orders of Non-Disclosure: Pursuant to Tex. Gov't Code § 552.142(b), if you have criminal matters that are the subject of an order of non-disclosure you are not required to reveal those criminal matters. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to Gov't Code chapter 411, the Texas Nursing Board is entitled to access criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure. If the Board discovers a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure, even if you properly did not reveal that matter, the Board may require you to provide information about any conduct that raises issues of character and fitness.

5. Have you ever had any licensing (other than a nursing license) or regulatory authority in any state, jurisdiction, country, or province revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew or otherwise discipline any other professional or occupational license, certificate, nurse aide registration or multistate privilege to practice that you held?
6. Are you currently suffering from any condition for which you are not being appropriately treated that impairs your judgment or that would otherwise adversely affect your ability to practice nursing in a competent, ethical, and professional manner?
7. *Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?
8. *Are you currently a participant in an alternative to discipline, diversion, or a peer assistance program? (This includes all confidential programs)

NOTE: Any positive response will remain confidential and not subject to public disclosure unless required by law.

9. Have you ever been granted the authority to practice nursing in any country, state, province, or territory?

NOTE: This does not apply to any nursing license(s) issued by another US state or territory, excluding Puerto Rico. If you were licensed in Puerto Rico, you should be answering yes.

*Pursuant to the Texas Occupations Code §301.207, information, including diagnosis and treatment, regarding an individual's physical or mental condition, intemperate use of drugs or alcohol, or chemical dependency and information regarding an individual's criminal history is confidential to the same extent that information collected as part of an investigation is confidential under the Texas Occupations Code §301.466.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS
1801 Congress Avenue
Suite 10-200
Austin, Texas 78701
512-305-7400
www.bne.state.tx.us

**Wharton County Junior College-Vocational Nursing Program - Wharton
Policy on Essential Performance Standards and Activities for VN Students**

The following performance standards and activities have been identified as essential for successful admission, progression and completion of the Wharton VN program. Students with a diagnosed disability who are unable to meet the standards are advised to contact the ADA coordinator prior to program admission.

Performance	Standard	Essential Activity/Tasks (Examples are not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical decision-making.	Solve problems and make valid, rational decisions using logic, creativity, and reasoning Analyze and use assessment findings to plan care for clients and families Identify priorities of care based on analysis of data Evaluate the plan of care and revise as appropriate
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal, nonverbal, and written form.	Speak English in such manner to be understood by general public Communicate effectively in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures, describing patient conditions, and implementing health teaching for clients and / or families based on assessed needs, available resources, age, life style and cultural considerations
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	Establish rapport (relationship) with clients and colleagues through speech, touch, and hearing Work effectively in small groups as team members and as a team leader Function safely under stressful conditions with the ability to adapt to ever-changing environments inherent in clinical situations involving client care
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide nursing care in a safe and accurate manner.	Manual dexterity to maintain sterile technique when performing sterile procedures such as insertion of a catheter Manual dexterity to perform all steps required for medication administration (IV, PO, IM, etc) Be able to use a computer keyboard
Hearing	Hearing ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and provide safe nursing care.	Be able to hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells, and to answer telephones Distinguish changes in tone and pitch such as when using a stethoscope to hear a blood pressure, heart, lung, vascular, and abdominal sounds
Vision	Visual ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and provide safe nursing care.	Distinguish alterations in normal body activities such as absence of respiratory movement Identify changes in color, size and symmetry of body parts, such as development of cyanosis Read fine, small print on medication containers, physician's orders, monitors, thermometers, measuring cups, and equipment calibrations Visualize written words and a computer screen
Mobility	Physical abilities to move from room-to-room or maneuver in limited spaces, and to accommodate stairwell when necessary.	Perform physical activities necessary to do basic nursing skills such as putting on sterile gloves, performing health assessments Provide or assist with activities of daily living such as bed bath, oral hygiene, ambulation, and positioning Transport and transfer patients using equipment such as stretchers, wheelchairs, walkers, and commode chairs Respond quickly in an emergency Physical ability to stand for prolonged periods of time, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, lift patients and objects of 50 lbs. or more
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and provide safe nursing care.	Palpate for pulses, temperature, texture hardness or softness, landmarks, etc
Accountability and Responsibility	Demonstrate accountability and responsibility in all aspects of nursing practice.	Be able to distinguish right from wrong, legal from illegal and to act accordingly Accept responsibility for own actions Be able to comprehend ethical standards and agree to abide by them