SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Admission Requirements for BSN Track

Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas offers a pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program/track to this remote area of the Texas-Mexico border. Program graduates possess the potential for evidence-informed clinical judgment, ethical comportment, assessment skills, direct patient care, nursing leadership, and management potential in a community setting as they assume leadership roles on the health-care team.

Students interested in applying for admission the BSN program must:

1. Be admitted to Sul Ross State University (SRSU);
2. Complete 42 semester credit hours of required core courses at SRSU or transferable from a university or college with “core complete” on the transcript;
3. Complete 22 semester credit hours to meet University and Major requirements as specified in the BSN Degree Plan;
4. Successfully complete the latest version of the TEAS examination provided by the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) with:
   a. A cumulative score of at least 75 or higher,
   b. Achieve scores in individual areas of the TEAS that meet the national mean:
      
      English (grammar-64
      Reading-70
      Math-69
      Science-54;
      
      5. Have a cumulative college GPA of 2.5 on a 4-point scale, with a “B” average for science and English course’s;
6. An individual course grade lower than a C will NOT be accepted as a pre-requisite.
7. Submit all transcripts from colleges and universities previously attended to the Office of Admissions at SRSU;
8. Demonstrate English proficiency with a comprehensive score equal to the 14th grade or higher on the Weaver Readability Assessment Test;
9. The requirement for English proficiency at the 14th grade level is not a requirement for admission to the nursing program, but must be achieved before enrollment in nursing
courses by completing the required computer programs available with the Weaver Readability Assessment;

10. Meet designated performance standards; and

11. Be in good academic standing at previously attended institutions.

Following successful completion of the stated admission requirements, potential students will be provided an Application Form for the SRSU BSN program. All requirements on the admission form must be completed and returned to the Department of Nursing on or before the specified date to be considered for final admission to the nursing program.

Application Requirements

Completion of all documents must be submitted to the Department of Nursing including notification from the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) that you have been cleared to enter the nursing education program. After the following criteria are submitted, an interview will be scheduled with a designated faculty member. Guidelines and forms for selected references, health status complete with current immunizations, and references to TBON expectations will accompany the application. The following requirements included in the application packet require the applicant to provide:

1. A written summary of the reasons the applicant chose the profession of nursing.
2. Three letters of reference and completed forms from individuals chosen by the applicant.
3. Completed Health Status forms containing dates and types of immunizations.
4. Completed Licensure Eligibility Form and completion of activities designated by the TBON.

Texas Board of Nursing Requirements

To understand the role the Texas Board of Nursing plays in the admission process, you must read the following Texas Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations Related to the Education, Licensure and Practice of Nursing:

§213.27 (relating to Good Professional Character),
§213.28 (relating to Licensure of Individuals with Criminal History), and

213.29 (relating to Fitness to Practice) of this chapter, as applicable. See the Rules and Regulations for the Practice of Nursing at:

Confirmation of Eligibility: For admission to the SRSU Baccalaureate Nursing Program and subsequent licensure in Texas upon graduation, applicants must provide information demonstrating that they meet requirements identified in the following rules of the Texas Board of Nursing, Rules and Regulations for the Practice of Nursing. Following is the current process for such activities:
1. Following completion of previously stated requirements, the Nursing Program Director will submit a Student Roster to the TBON.
2. Following review, the Board of Nursing will notify the applicant to submit a request for fingerprinting.
3. When the applicant is notified by the Board of Nursing, he/she will complete the request for fingerprints following instructions found at: https://www.bon.texas.gov/forms/web-requests.asp.pdf.
4. The required Criminal Background Check and fingerprinting are completed by the TBON. The steps to this process are outlined at: https://www.bon.texas.gov/students_new_accept_student.asp. Specific information regarding student requirements related to criminal background checks, fingerprinting, and required PDF documents are available at: https://www.bon.texas.gov/students.asp.
   a. Review the frequently asked questions and answers posed at: https://www.bon.texas.gov/faq_new_and_accept_student_STUDENT2.asp.
   b. Applicants whose background checks are cleared will receive a “BLUE CARD” from the Board of Nursing and must sign and submit a copy of this card with the application to the Nursing program to be placed in the student’s permanent file.
5. Petitions for Declaratory Order:
   a. Applicants whose background checks are not cleared will receive an email from the TBON notifying them of this outcome. These applicants must complete and submit a petition for a Declaratory Order to the Texas Board of Nursing. Information and required fees related to submitting a petition for a Declaratory Order is available at: https://www.bon.texas.gov/rr_current/213-30.asp.
   b. The form to be completed and submitted to the TBON is available at: https://www.bon.texas.gov/forms_declaratory_order.asp.
   c. Results of the investigation must be submitted with the student’s application indicating whether the applicant is eligible for licensure.
6. The Nursing Program will maintain the results of the Criminal Background Check and, if submitted, the Declaratory Order throughout the student’s tenure in the Nursing Program.
LICENSURE ELIGIBILITY

The Texas Board of Nurses determines eligibility requirements for applicants for the initial licensure by examination. All candidates for licensure will be required to answer the following questions:

Y  N

☐ 1. Have you ever been cited or charged with any violation of the law?

☐ 2. Do you have any criminal charges pending, including unresolved arrests?

☐ 3. Have you been convicted; placed on community supervision, whether or not adjudged guilty; sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion; or pled guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country; or received a court order, whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrest whether or not on appeal (excluding minor Class C traffic violation)? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without a finding of guilt. Please note that DUls (driving under the influence), DWls (driving while intoxicated), and PIs (public intoxication) must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. One-time minor in possession (MIP) or minor in consumption (MIC) does not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer “No.” If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer “Yes.”

☐ 4. Have you been the subject of a court–martial, Article 15 violation, or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?

☐ 5. Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, or refused to renew a professional license or certificate held by you now previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?

☐ 6. In the past five (5) years, have you been addicted to or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?

☐ 7. In the past five (5) years, have you been diagnosed with or treated or hospitalized for schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?

If your response is yes to any of these questions, you are strongly encouraged to submit a petition for “Declaratory Order” to the Texas Board of Nurses prior to acceptance or within the first notification of acceptance. For information or guidance in this process to determine eligibility for licensure by examination, contact the Texas Board of Nurses at 512-305-7400 or go to the web site: www.bon.state.tx.us. The “Declaratory Order” form can be accessed at http://www.bon.texas.gov/olv/pdfs/DOapp.pdf

____________________________________  ________________
Student’s Signature            Date
Admission Process for Transfer Students

Completion of all documents must be submitted to the Department of Nursing including notification from the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) that you have been cleared to enter the nursing education program. After the following criteria are submitted, an interview will be scheduled with a designated faculty member. Guidelines and forms for selected references, health status complete with current immunizations, and references to TBON expectations will accompany the application. The following requirements included in the application packet require the applicant to provide:

1. A written summary of the reasons the applicant chose the profession of nursing.
2. Three letters of reference and completed forms from individuals chosen by the applicant.
3. Completed Health Status forms containing dates and types of immunizations.
4. Completed Licensure Eligibility Form and completion of activities designated by the TBON.

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTED APPLICANTS

Selected applicants will be notified of their acceptance in writing via e-mail or phone. All decision regarding student selection rests with the Admission Committee. Students who are selected for the Nursing Program will be required to attend an orientation session at a time designated by the Nursing Program. The program director or assigned counselor will advise the student regarding planning for the program of study.

Applicants who are not selected will be notified in writing and be given a meeting time to discuss the selection process with the Director of the Program. This is an opportunity to enhance individual data and build a higher competitive level for the future.

REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT IN NURSING COURSES

Prior to enrollment in nursing courses, evidence of the following requirements must be on file in the Department of Nursing Office:

1. Completion of all core curriculum and departmental requirements prior to enrollment in nursing courses.
2. Evidence of current health insurance coverage. The student must be covered with health insurance upon admission to the nursing program. Insurance coverage must be maintained for the duration of the nursing program.
3. Submission of a health report from primary-care provider completed within 30 days of registering for the course (Form is provided). The health report must include a submission in writing of a record of all immunizations, vaccinations, or acceptable titer levels, as required by the Texas Department of Health and Texas Education Code Sec 515.933 [Measles, Mumps, Rubella, (MMR); Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTap); Varicella; Meningitis; and Hepatitis “B” series] (Form is provided).
4. Current CPR certification from the American Heart Association class “C” for Health Care
Providers. A current CPR card must be obtained before the applicant will be allowed to register.

5. Negative drug urine screen documented within 30 days of enrollment in nursing courses. Notification for the drug screen will come from the Department of Nursing Office.

6. Proof of liability insurance. Liability insurance is required from the beginning of clinical practice until the time of graduation. The fee for coverage is included in each semester's tuition and negotiated by the Department of Nursing.

References:
SRSU 2018-2019 Catalog - Student Health Form
https://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook
Texas Education Code Sec. 51.933
https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.51.htm

Class and Clinical Performance Standards

The following performance standards and activities are based on the core performance standards of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Council of Collegiate Education. Applicants to the program and students enrolled in the nursing program must meet the following performance standards, including abilities and skills in cognitive, sensory, affective, and psychomotor performance. Each standard is accompanied by examples of an activity that a student would be required to perform in the nursing-education program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functional Ability</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Examples of Required Activities: Students must be able to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observation</td>
<td>Ability to actively participate in all demonstrations, laboratory exercises, and clinical experiences in the professional program component and to assess him/her for examination, diagnosis, and treatment. Such observations require functional use of visual, auditory, tactile and olfactory perceptions.</td>
<td>Visually discriminate incremental reading on syringes Read Sphygmomanometers and other various medical equipment Visually discriminate between different colored objects Discriminate between auditory stimuli Perform a comprehensive assessment on patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Motor Skills</td>
<td>Gross motor skills sufficient to provide the full range of safe and effective patient-care activities</td>
<td>Move within confined spaces such as treatment room or operating suite Assist with turning and lifting patients Administer CPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Motor Skills</td>
<td>Fine motor skills sufficient to perform manual psychomotor skills</td>
<td>Pick up and grasp small objects with fingers such as insulin syringe, pills Perform tracheotomy suctioning Insert urinary catheter Catheter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Endurance</td>
<td>Physical stamina sufficient to remain continuously on task for up to a 12-hour clinical shift while standing, sitting, moving, lifting, and bending to perform patient-care activities</td>
<td>Perform client care for an entire length of a clinical experience, 8-12 hours Walk/stand for extended periods of time Turn, position, and transfer patients Manually resuscitate patients in emergency situations according to professional standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Strength</td>
<td>Physical strength sufficient to perform full range of required patient-care activities</td>
<td>Push and pull 200 pounds Transfer/position/lift clients up to 150 pounds with assistance without causing harm to self or others Lift/move heavy objects from 35 – 50 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility</td>
<td>Physical ability sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces; full range of motion to twist/bend, stoop/squat, reach above shoulders and below waist and move quickly; manual and finger dexterity; and hand-eye coordination to perform nursing activities</td>
<td>Move around in work area and treatment areas Position oneself in the environment to render care without obstructing the position of other team members or equipment Stoop, bend, squat, reach overhead as required to deliver care in non-emergent and emergent situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing</td>
<td>Auditory ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of patient health-care needs</td>
<td>Hear normal speaking-level sounds Hear auscultatory sounds Hear auditory alarms (monitors, fire alarms, call bells) Hear cries for help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual</td>
<td>Normal or corrected visual ability sufficient for accurate observation and performance of nursing care</td>
<td>See objects up to 20 feet away Read calibrations on 1 ml syringe Assess skin color (cyanosis, pallor)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tactile | Tactile ability sufficient for physical monitoring and assessment of health-care needs | Feel vibrations (pulses)  
Detect temperature changes  
Palpate veins for cannulation |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Smell | Olfactory ability sufficient to detect significant environmental and patient odors | Detect odors from patient (foul smelling drainage, alcohol breath)  
Detect smoke |
| Cognitive/Quantitative Abilities | Reading comprehension skills and mathematical ability enough to understand written documents in English and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis | Calculate appropriate medication dosage given specific patient parameters  
Analyze and synthesize data to develop a plan of care  
Collect data, prioritize needs, and anticipate reactions  
Transfer knowledge from one situation to another  
Accurately process information on medication container and physicians’ orders, monitor and equipment calibrations, printed documents, flow sheets, graphic sheets, medication-administration records, other medical records, and policy and procedure manuals |
| Emotional/Behavioral Professional Attitudes and Interpersonal Skills | Emotional stability and appropriate behavior sufficient to assume responsibility / accountability for actions  
Professional appearance and demeanor; demonstrable ability to communicate with patients, supervisors, and co-workers to achieve a positive and safe work environment  
Interpersonal abilities sufficient for interaction with a diverse population of individuals, families, and groups  
Ability to follow instructions and safety protocols  
Exhibition of honesty and integrity beyond reproach | Establish rapport with patients, instructors and colleagues.  
Respect and care for persons whose appearance, condition, beliefs and values may be in conflict with their own  
Deliver nursing care regardless of patient’s race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or diagnosis  
Conduct oneself in a composed, respectful manner in all situations and with all persons  
Work with teams and workgroups  
Establish and maintain therapeutic boundaries  
Demonstrate emotional skills to remain calm and maintain professional decorum in an emergency/stressful situation  
Exhibit capacity to engage in successful conflict resolution  
Engage in peer accountability  
Tolerate physically taxing workloads  
Demonstrate prompt and safe completion of all patient-care responsibilities  
Adapt rapidly to changing environment/stress  
Exhibit ethical behaviors and exercise good judgment  
Function effectively and respond appropriately during stressful and emergency situations (physically, emotionally, and mentally |
| Conceptual/Spatial Abilities | Conceptual/spatial ability sufficient to comprehend three-dimensional and spatial relationships | Comprehend spatial relationships in order to properly administer injections, start intravenous lines, assess wounds of varying depths, etc. |
| Clinical Reasoning | Critical-thinking ability for effective clinical reasoning and clinical judgment consistent with the level of educational preparation to reason across time about a patient’s changing condition and/or changes in the clinician’s understanding | Identify cause/effect relationships in clinical situations  
Maintain client’s physical and emotional safety  
Demonstrate competence in administration of meds, treatments, and procedures  
Use scientific method in the development of patient-care plans  
Evaluate effectiveness of nursing interventions  
Evaluate patient or instrument responses, synthesize data, and draw sound conclusions |
Communication

Communication adeptness sufficient for verbal and written professional interactions

Oral communication skills sufficient to communicate in English with accuracy, clarity and efficiency with patients, their families and other members of the healthcare team, including non-verbal communication, such as interpretation of facial expressions, affect and body language

Written communication skills

Explain treatment procedures
Speak clearly and directly
Give verbal directions to or follows verbal directions from other members of the healthcare team and participate in health-care-team discussions of patient care
Elicit and record information about health history, current health state, and responses to treatment from patients or family members
Practice Therapeutic Communication
Convey information to patients and others as necessary to teach, direct, and counsel individuals in an accurate, effective, and timely manner
Communicate effectively with physicians, staff, patients, and patient's family members
Recognize and report critical patient information to other caregivers

Flexibility

Adaptation to Nursing Department course-scheduling policy

Make oneself available to work the hours of an assigned schedule which could include any shift and day of the week

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https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/ED/htm/ED.51.htm