

Nursing - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How long does it take to complete TVCC's Nursing Program?

- A. The prerequisites required for application to the Nursing Program are dependent on the student's academic preparedness. On average a committed student can achieve required coursework in approximately two (2) years. Once admitted, the Nursing Program is two (2) years, and students attend every fall, winter, and spring term. Students have summer term off, holiday breaks, and spring break while in the program.

Q. When and how do I apply for TVCC's Nursing program?

- A. TVCC's Nursing application is located on the TVCC's Nursing webpage. (<https://www.tvcc.cc/nursing/rn/>) Nursing applications and required materials for the nursing program are due the first Friday in April.

Q. When and how will I know if I am invited to Phase II?

- A. Applicants invited to Phase II will receive an email to their TVCC email and a letter by mail to include instructions how to complete the required written submission. This information will be sent second Wednesday in April with a one (1) week deadline.

Q. When and how will I know if I am accepted into the program?

- A. Applicants will be notified of acceptance, alternate, or denial to the program by the first week of May. Notifications will be sent out via TVCC Student Email and standard mail. It is recommended applicants check their TVCC student email regularly. In addition, assure your mailing address is updated with TVCC, as all candidates will receive a mailed letter. If a deadline expires, the candidate's application becomes invalid.

Q. What type of transcript is required in order to complete the nursing application?

- A. If your pre-nursing and general education courses were completed at TVCC, then all TVCC transcripts will be assessed through the Registrar's office. Any associated coursework completed outside of TVCC will need to be reviewed by the TVCC Registrar. An official transcript from that college must be submitted to the TVCC Registrar's office when applying for admission to TVCC Nursing Program. All *unofficial transcripts must to be included in the Nursing application for GPA evaluation.*

Q. What is the five (5)-year science rule?

- A. Science courses such as Anatomy & Physiology and Microbiology must have been completed within five (5) years of this nursing application. Specific science coursework that is older than 5-years may need to be retaken.

Q. What is the minimum eligible grade/GPA for each prerequisite and General Education requirement for the Nursing Program?

- A. A minimum grade of C or 2.0 must be earned in each required prerequisite and general education requirement. However, a 3.0 overall is required for all nursing prerequisites.

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Q. What is the minimum eligible grade point average (GPA) requirement for the Nursing Program?

- A. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 for program eligibility will be calculated on all final completed degree requirement courses appearing on the transcript at the application deadline.

Q. What is the educational schedule in the TVCC Nursing Program?

- A. Once admitted into the Nursing Program, a student is enrolled in 9-12 credits each term. The curriculum is demanding and consists of didactic, skills, clinical, and required study time. Students can expect to be on campus a minimum of 4 days a week. Depending on the term and year, a student can spend up to 12 hours in lectures and lab per week and between 10 and 24 hours in clinicals each week.

Q. Is BLS/CPR part of the Nursing Curriculum? What CPR cards are accepted?

- A. Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Healthcare Professional certification is required prior to the start of the program. A current *American Heart Association* BLS/CPR certification is required throughout the duration of the nursing program, without a current certification there is a risk of exclusion from clinical experiences, missing clinical time could result in clinical failure.

Q. What are the clinical requirements? Where are clinical experiences located? Do I have a choice in placement?

- A. Clinical experiences are a requirement of all nursing education programs. Students will be caring for patients of all ages and in various stages of health and illness. Clinical experiences are scheduled for 8-hour, 10-hour, or 12-hour shifts per week. Clinical times will vary by term and are conducted at local health care agencies and agencies in Idaho and Oregon. The max radius of travel is 75 miles or 1 hour of travel time. In general, clinical sites are within a 20-40-mile radius of TVCC. Due to the competitive nature of clinical placements, students are not allowed to request clinical placement. However, students in their final quarter rank their desired clinical experiences.

Q. Can students work while in the Nursing Program?

- A. Once admitted to the program students have the greatest potential for success if they plan to focus solely on their education. Therefore, it is recommended that students not work while enrolled in TVCC's Nursing Program. If a student must work, they should limit hours to part time (max. 24 hours per week).

Q. What is the cost of the Nursing Program?

- A. Nursing students pay the same tuition rates as other students per credit hour. Each nursing course has fees attached which account for the additional cost of supplies, simulation equipment, subscriptions, and computer-based testing applications.

Q. Are scholarships offered or available for the Nursing Program?

- A. It is suggested that students who need financial aid complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), this can be accomplished online or via the TVCC Financial Aid Office.

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There are many scholarships available to students entering the nursing profession, requirements vary. Local organizations, hospital systems, healthcare agencies, and community foundations have scholarships available to nursing students. In addition, some of the local healthcare agencies may assist you with tuition reimbursement if you are currently their employee. TVCC's Foundation offers scholarships for students currently enrolled in the Nursing Program. Foundation applications are submitted during winter quarter.

Q. Does TVCC's Nursing Degree transfer to a college where I can earn my BSN?

- A. A TVCC graduate nurse is encouraged to enroll in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Students will need to contact preferred programs for specific information on BSN completion requirements in which they could enroll during or after the completion of their AAS and obtaining their RN License.

Q. Why do I have to have a Criminal Background Check?

- A. Oregon Law requires that any student obtaining a health professional degree completes specific administrative requirements. These requirements include a criminal background check to establish admission and to maintain eligibility for clinical placements. Applicants with felony or misdemeanor criminal records may not be able to complete the program of study or may not be eligible for licensure. Exclusion is the result of clinical partnerships patient safety, and Oregon Administrative Rule. Only the program approved criminal background check will be accepted. Instructions on how to complete the program approved criminal background check will be provided to admitted students.

Q. What does the drug screening check for? Recreational marijuana is legal in Oregon, is it a limiting factor?

- A. TVCC requires a 10-panel urinalysis, both prescription and illegal substances are screened. Marijuana is not a federally legal substance; therefore, it is cause for rejection to a healthcare education program. Substance use has significant negative effects on performance; serious injury could be inflicted upon patients if a student is under the influence of a performance inhibiting substance. The safety of the patient is the first priority. For more details, please refer to the Substance Abuse Policy in the Nursing Student Handbook.

Q. Can a student with disabilities enter the program?

- A. TVCC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to its programs. Provision of direct health care is required to meet the objectives of the core nursing courses. Some disabilities are easily accommodated, and others are more difficult. A minimum standard for physical, cognitive, and behavioral core competencies are available to applicants on https://resources.tvcc.cc/file_manager/download.cfm?file=7629

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Accessibility & Accommodation Services at: 541-881-5812 for accommodation requests

Q. Does the TVCC Nursing Program require the COVID-19 vaccine?

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- A.** TVCC relies on clinical partners to meet student learning outcomes, some of which have enacted policies regarding mandatory vaccinations for COVID-19. Decisions regarding requirements for various vaccinations are outside TVCC's control, TVCC has limited resources for clinical placement. Without the ability to meet the clinical requirements imposed by these valued partners. Although legal issues related to the federal and state government's mandates for COVID-19 vaccinations are pending, should facilities require the COVID-19 vaccination, TVCC's Nursing and Allied Health programs and colleges across the nation must comply.

