Admission Policy 3.1

Original Implementation: July 2011
Last Revision: September 2023

Minimum admission requirements for the various programs are established by the faculty of the DeWitt School of Nursing. The number of students admitted each semester is determined by availability of appropriate qualified faculty and/or clinical resources. Applicants are reviewed on an individual basis.

BSN STUDENTS

A. Admission Requirements

1. Acceptance to SFA.
2. Successful completion of entrance testing. Tests may be scheduled through the SFA Counseling and Career Services office. Only one attempt per admission cycle will be accepted. If the test has been taken more than once per cycle, the first attempt will be accepted.
3. Completion of required prerequisite courses. Program prerequisites include: BIOL 2401/2301 + 2101- Anatomy and Physiology I, BIOL 2402/2302 + 2102- Anatomy and Physiology II, BIOL 3420- Microbiology, CHEM 1405/1305 + 1105- Introductory Chemistry, NURS 3304- Pathophysiology, ENGL 1301- Rhetoric and Composition, ENGL 1302- Research and Argument, MATH 1342- Introduction to Probability and Statistics, PSYC 2031- General Psychology, PSYC 2314- Lifespan Development or HDFS 3336- Human Growth, Development and Aging in the Family- or TECA 1354- Child Growth and Development, NUTR 2339- Introductory to Nutrition or NUTR 3339- Nutrition, SOCI 1301- Introduction to Sociology or SOCI 2319- Race and Ethnic Relations or ANTH 2351- Cultural Anthropology, SPCH 1315- Public Speaking or SPCH 1318- Interpersonal Communication, Creative Arts course, and Language/Philosophy/Culture course. Equivalent courses taken at other institutions may be transferred in or substituted as appropriate.
4. Additional courses are required by the university for graduation. The DeWitt School of Nursing will follow University policy for BSN degree requirements. See the Course Catalog for more information.
5. GPA of 2.5 in all prerequisite courses, including transfer courses.
6. GPA of 2.75 in science courses (Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2, Chemistry, Microbiology, Pathophysiology, and accompanying labs), including transfer courses. Students are encouraged to take the science classes at SFA. Science classes must be taken within the last seven years.
7. If a course is taken more than once, all course grades will be calculated into the GPA calculation.
8. A grade of at least C is required in each of the following courses: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, Nutrition, A&P I, A&P II, Microbiology, Chemistry, Pathophysiology, and Child Development or Lifespan Development.

B. Admission Process - Students may be admitted each semester based on completion of prerequisites and attainment of admission criteria. To be considered for admission review,
the student must complete the following application steps:

1. Completed SFA application submitted to GoApplyTexas.
2. Complete, official transcripts submitted to the SFA Office of Admissions from all colleges attended.
3. Completed application submitted to NursingCAS, including official transcripts from all previous colleges and SFA transcript submitted to NursingCAS, grade forgiveness petitions relevant to application, and Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) results.
4. The Admissions Committee will review the BSN applications and make recommendations to the Director of the SON. The Director of the SON will make the final decision about acceptance of students.

C. Application Deadlines - The deadline for application for admission will be posted on the School of Nursing website. Applications received after these deadlines may be considered only if vacancies still exist in the incoming class. The School of Nursing recommends that applications be completed four to six weeks prior to the deadline. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that all application materials are received by NursingCAS prior to the stated deadline. Students applying for spring admission must have all prerequisites complete by the end of the preceding fall semester. Students applying for summer admission must have all prerequisites complete by the end of the preceding spring semester. Students applying for fall admission must have all science prerequisites complete by July 15th and all other prerequisites complete by the preceding summer 2 semester. Applications are not returned from semester to semester. For a student to re-apply, the student must request that NursingCAS roll over the application to the next period. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all application materials are received by the NursingCAS system and SFA, prior to the deadline.

D. Eligibility - Any applicant who is not in good standing at another nursing program and is not eligible to continue or return to that program will be ineligible for admission into the BSN program. If a student from another nursing program has failed two or more nursing courses, that student will not be considered for admission. Criminal background checks will be conducted on all nursing students upon being accepted into the program. A positive background check shows the student was arrested, charged and/or convicted of a crime. A positive background check may result in a student’s inability to attend clinical classes until a declaratory order is obtained from the Texas Board of Nursing. Resulting time delays could affect student progress. If a student knows of a possible problem, the student should seek a declaratory order from the Board of Nursing prior to or concurrent with application to the program. Any history or reports of unprofessional and/or unethical behavior could impact admission standing.

RN-BSN and SCHOOL OF NURSING INTEGRATED CURRICULUM (SONIC) STUDENTS

A. Admission Requirements
   1. Acceptance to SFA.
2. Successful completion of an Associate Degree Nursing program, or admitted to an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program with a partnership with SFA DeWitt School of Nursing, or approval from the Director of the student’s ADN program in Texas.

3. Applicants from other states will be considered on a state by state basis and must meet State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), Nurse Licensure Compact requirements, and their state of residence Board of Nursing requirements.

4. Completion of required prerequisite courses.

5. A grade of at least C is required in each of the following courses: ENGL 1301, ENGL 1302, Life Science courses (A&P I, A&P II, Microbiology, and science electives), and Child Development or Lifespan Development. A passing grade is required for other prerequisites.

6. If a course is taken more than once, only the passing grade will be considered.

7. HIST 1301, HIST 1302, GOVT 2305, and GOVT 2306 are not required for entrance into the nursing program. However, they are required by the university for graduation. Students are highly encouraged to complete all prerequisites including these prior to admission to the program due to the workload during the program.

8. The DeWitt School of Nursing will follow University policy for BSN degree requirements. See the Course Catalog for more information.

**B. Admission Process** - Students may be admitted based on completion of prerequisites and attainment of admission criteria. When spaces are limited, admission of qualified applicants will be processed in the order received. To be considered for admission, the student must complete the following:

1. Completed SFA application submitted to GoApplyTexas.
2. Complete, official transcripts submitted to the SFA Office of Admissions from all colleges attended.
3. Completed application to NursingCAS (nursingcas.org). If working directly with the RN-BSN Coordinator, applicants will be directed to bypass this step and submit the application provided to them.
4. Complete, official transcripts from all previous colleges and SFA transcript to be submitted to NursingCAS. If working directly with the RN-BSN Coordinator, applicants will be directed to bypass this step.
5. SONIC applicants should provide proof of acceptance into their ADN program. If there is not a partnership with the student’s ADN program, the student should request the Director of the ADN program email the RN-BSN Coordinator approving for the student to participate in the SONIC program.
6. Copies of accepted or denied petitions submitted to School of Nursing.
7. The RN-BSN Coordinator will review the RN-BSN applications and make recommendations to the Director of the SON. The Director of the SON will make the final decision about acceptance of students.

**C. Application Deadlines** - The deadline for application for admission will be posted on the
School of Nursing website. Applications received after these deadlines may be considered only if vacancies still exist in the incoming class. When students apply, prerequisites must be completed by the end of the semester in which the application is submitted. Applications are not retained from semester to semester. For a student to re-apply, the student must request that NursingCAS roll over the application to the next period. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all application materials are received by the NursingCAS system (unless working directly with the RN-BSN Coordinator) and SFA, prior to the deadline.

D. Eligibility - Any history or reports of unprofessional and/or unethical behavior could impact admission standing.

MSN STUDENTS

A. Admission Requirements

1. Acceptance to SFA’s Graduate School.
2. Hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from an accredited nursing program.
3. Nurse Educator applicants must meet State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and Nurse Licensure Compact requirements including a current, unencumbered license or have residency in Texas and hold current, unencumbered licensure to practice as a Registered nurse in the state of Texas.
4. Family Nurse Practitioner applicants must reside in the state of Texas and hold current, unencumbered licensure to practice as a Registered Nurse in the state of Texas.
5. Completion of one year of full-time clinical experience as a Registered Nurse is preferred.
6. Applicants must meet GPA criteria for SFA graduate school admission.
7. An applicant whose native language is not English must present satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Applicants need to score at least 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, 213 on the computer-based TOEFL, and 80 on the internet-based TOEFL or 6.0 on the IELTS with no test scores under 5.5.
8. The DeWitt School of Nursing will follow University policy for MSN degree requirements. See the Course Catalog for more information.

B. Admission Process - Students may be admitted based on the attainment of admission criteria. The application process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Admission and Scholarship Policies for Graduate and Professional Programs, which was adopted by the 77th Session of the Texas Legislature, and which amends Chapter 51 of the Texas Education Code. Recommendations and decisions are based on ranking of GPAs, letters of reference, nursing experience, and professional/scholarly activities. Applicants with the highest ranking (must meet criteria of GPA, etc.) and who meet all criteria will be offered full acceptance first on the first admission date until the program meets capacity. Applicants who have met some, but not all of the requirements may be accepted into the graduate
program on a conditional basis. After the successful completion of nine semester credit hours of coursework from the student's degree plan, full acceptance status will be granted. To be considered for admission, the student must complete the following:

1. Submit official transcripts to SFA from all colleges attended, at least 30 days prior to entering the program is preferred.
2. Submit proof of current licensure as an RN.
4. Submit 3 professional references.
5. Submit an essay describing philosophy on advanced practice nursing/philosophy of nursing education and personal/professional goals.
6. Applicants from countries other than the United States must also meet the admission requirements for international students seeking a graduate degree at Stephen F. Austin State University.
7. The MSN Coordinator will review the MSN applications and make recommendations to the Director of the SON. The Director of the SON will make the final decision about acceptance of students.

C. Application Deadline - The deadline for application for admission will be posted on the School of Nursing website. Applications received after these deadlines may be considered only if vacancies still exist in the incoming class. The School of Nursing recommends that applications be completed four to six weeks prior to the deadline. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that all application materials are received prior to the stated deadline. Applications are not retained from semester to semester. For a student to re-apply, the student must reapply to the SFA required application in the next application period. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all application materials are received by SFA, prior to the deadline.

D. Eligibility - Any applicant who is not in good standing at another graduate program and is not eligible to continue or return to that program will be ineligible for admission into the School of Nursing program. If a student from another program has failed two or more graduate nursing courses, that student will not be considered for admission. Any history or reports of unprofessional and/or unethical behavior could impact admission standing.

POST MASTER'S CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

A. Admission Requirements
   1. Acceptance to SFA’s Graduate School.
   2. Hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from an accredited nursing program.
   3. Nurse Educator applicants must meet State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) and Nurse Licensure Compact requirements including a current, unencumbered license or have residency in Texas and hold current, unencumbered licensure to practice as a Registered nurse in the state of Texas.
   4. Family Nurse Practitioner applicants must reside in the state of Texas and hold current, unencumbered licensure to practice as a Registered Nurse in the state of Texas.
Texas.
5. Completion of one year of full-time clinical experience as a Registered Nurse is preferred.
6. Applicants must meet GPA criteria for SFA graduate school admission.
7. An applicant whose native language is not English must present satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Applicants need to score at least 550 on the paper-based TOEFL, 213 on the computer-based TOEFL, and 80 on the internet-based TOEFL or 6.0 on the IELTS with no test scores under 5.5.
8. The DeWitt School of Nursing will follow University policy for MSN degree requirements. See the Course Catalog for more information.

B. Admission Process - Students may be admitted based on the attainment of admission criteria. The application process will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Admission and Scholarship Policies for Graduate and Professional Programs, which was adopted by the 77th Session of the Texas Legislature, and which amends Chapter 51 of the Texas Education Code. Recommendations and decisions are based on ranking of GPAs, letters of reference, nursing experience, and professional/scholarly activities. Applicants with the highest ranking (must meet criteria of GPA, etc.) and who meet all criteria will be offered full acceptance first on first admission date until program meets capacity. Applicants who have met some, but not all of the requirements may be accepted into the graduate program on a conditional basis. After the successful completion of nine semester credit hours of coursework from the student's degree plan, full acceptance status will be granted. To be considered for admission, the student must complete the following:

1. Completed SFA application.
2. Submit official transcripts to SFA from all colleges attended, at least 30 days prior to entering the program.
3. Submit proof of current licensure as an RN.
4. Submit proof of clinical experience to the SFA required application.
5. Submit 3 professional references.
6. Submit an essay describing philosophy on advanced practice nursing/philosophy of nursing education and personal/professional goals.
7. Applicants from countries other than the United States must also meet the admission requirements for international students seeking a graduate degree at Stephen F. Austin State University.
8. The MSN Coordinator will review the MSN applications and make recommendations to the Director of the SON. The Director of the SON will make the final decision about acceptance of students.

C. Application Deadline – Applications are accepted year-round.
D. **Eligibility** - Any applicant who is not in good standing at another graduate program and is not eligible to continue or return to that program will be ineligible for admission into the School of Nursing program. If a student from another program has failed two or more graduate nursing courses, that student will not be considered for admission. Any history or reports of unprofessional and/or unethical behavior could impact admission standing.