

Admission Policy 3.1

Original Implementation: July 2011

Last Revision: May 2019

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

1. Acceptance to SFA
2. Overall GPA of 2.5 in college work, including transfer courses
3. Science GPA of 2.75 in college work, including transfer courses. Students are encouraged to take the science classes at SFA.
4. Successful completion of the entrance testing. Scores to be submitted to School of Nursing. Tests may be scheduled through the SFA Counseling and Career Services office.
5. Grades for repeated courses will be averaged
6. Completion of the following academic courses:
7. Core Curriculum Requirements Met (42 hours)
8. Applicant must submit official transcripts from all colleges to SFA admissions office and to NursingCAS.
9. Applications are submitted to [NursingCAS](#).

Additional Requirements

- A. Courses required in addition to SFA Core Curriculum must include [BIO 238L - Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab](#); [CHE 111L - Intro to Chemistry I Lab](#); [BIO 239 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II](#) and [BIO 239L - Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab](#); [BIO 308 - Pre-nursing Microbiology](#); three hours from [PSY 376](#), [HMS 336](#), or [HMS 236](#); [NUR 304 - Pathophysiology](#); three hours from [HMS 239](#); and three hours from [SOC 137 - Introduction to Sociology](#), [SOC 139 - Race and Ethnic Relations](#) or [ANT 231 - Cultural Anthropology](#).
- B. A nursing major of at least 51 to 55 hours, including three hours of nursing electives
- C. Enough additional hours to make a total of at least 120 semester hours of acceptable credit
- D. A minimum of 42 hours of residence work on SFA campus, of which 36 semester hours must be 300- to 400-level courses

- E. A maximum of 66 hours may be transferred from a junior college.
- F. A grade of at least C in each freshman English course, a C average in coursework completed at SFA, a minimum of C in each course in the major field and specified cognates. These required averages are based upon those courses in each category included in the student's official degree plan.
- G. Computer science, component area course, [HIS 133](#) and [HIS 134](#), and [PSC 141](#) a [PSC 142](#), are not required for entrance into the nursing program. However, they are required by the university for graduation.
- A. **Admission Process** - Students may be admitted each fall and spring semester based on completion of prerequisites and attainment of admission criteria. Admission is competitive based upon the applicant's overall and science GPAs, as well as the nursing entrance exam. To be considered for admission review, the student must be admitted to the university and complete the following application steps:
- Completed application to [NursingCAS](#)
 - Complete, official copies of transcripts from all previous colleges and SFA transcript to be submitted to [NursingCAS](#)
 - Copies of accepted or denied petitions or petitions being submitted to be sent to School of Nursing
 - Copy of nursing entrance test (Test of Essential Academic Skills, scheduled through the testing office) to be sent to the School of Nursing
 - Student essay submitted to [NursingCAS](#)
 - All science courses must be taken within the past seven years prior to admission to the nursing school.
- B. **Application Deadlines** - The deadline for application for admission to the fall class is Feb. 1 each year. The deadline for the spring class is Aug. 15 each year. 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. 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.
- C. **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 School of Nursing program. If a student from another 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.

RN-BSN Students

1. Acceptance to SFA.
2. Current licensure to practice as a registered nurse and working as a registered nurse.
3. Overall GPA of 2.5 in prerequisite courses, including transfer courses.
4. Completed application to NursingCAS RN-BSN track (nursingcas.org).
5. The following academic courses must be completed prior to admission to the RN-BSN track of the SON:
 - a. Core Curriculum Requirements Met (42 hours)

Additional Requirements

1. Courses required in addition to SFA Core Curriculum must include BIO 238L - Human Anatomy and Physiology I Lab; CHE 111L - Intro to Chemistry I Lab; BIO 239L - Human Anatomy and Physiology II Lab and BIO 239 - Human Anatomy and Physiology II; BIO 308 - Pre-nursing Microbiology; three or four hours from PSY 376, HMS 336, or HMS 236/236P (Child Development); NUR 304 - Pathophysiology or NUR 438 - RN-BSN Pathophysiology (Web-based); three hours from HMS 239 - Introductory Nutrition.
2. Enough additional hours to make a total of at least 120 semester hours of acceptable credit.
3. A minimum of 30 hours of residence work on the SFA campus, all of which must be advanced 300- to 400-level courses.
4. A grade of at least C in each freshman English course, a C average in coursework completed at SFA, a minimum of C in each course in the major field and specified cognates. These required averages are based upon those courses in each category included in the student's official degree plan.

History and political science courses are not required for entrance into the nursing program. However, they are required by the university for graduation.

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:

- Completed application to NursingCAS (nursingcas.org)
- Complete, official copies of transcripts from all previous colleges and SFA transcript to be submitted to NursingCAS
- Copies of accepted or denied petitions or petitions being submitted to be sent to School of Nursing;
- Copy of current licensure to practice as a registered nurse.

Application Deadline - The deadline for application for admission is July 15 for fall admission, Nov. 15 for spring admission, and April 15 for summer admission. Applications received after this deadline will be considered only if vacancies still exist in the incoming class. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure all application materials are received by the NursingCAS system and the School of Nursing prior to the deadline.

Students who have completed courses at other collegiate institutions may transfer credits under the policies of SFA. A maximum of 66 academic semester hours may be transferred from a junior college. There is no limit to the number of senior college hours that may be transferred; however, 30 hours, all of which are advanced (300-499 level), must be completed in residence at SFA. Advanced placement credit does not count as hours toward residency.

MSN Students

Graduate applications for admission are available online at www.applytexas.org. Official transcripts from each college/university attended must be sent to the Graduate Office at least 30 days prior to entering the program. Stephen F. Austin State University will accept credit or recognize degrees only from institutions accredited by one of the regional accrediting bodies. 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.

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

Admission requirements for the SON Graduate Program are as follows:

1. Application deadline - April 1 for Fall admission.
2. Transcripts - Official transcripts must be submitted with the application to both the Nursing CAS system and the Graduate School.
3. Grade Point Average - An applicant must have a GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale on courses taken in the last 60 hours of their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, exclusive of freshman/sophomore level courses. If a transition program was taken in order to obtain a BSN, the GPA will include courses taken at the Diploma or Associate Degree Nursing program.
4. Hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from an accredited nursing program.
5. Prior to enrollment the student must have completed the equivalent of one year of full-time clinical experience as a Registered Nurse. Submit proof of clinical experience with the application.
6. Show proof of current licensure as a Registered Nurse in the state(s) where clinical practicum will occur.
7. Submit 3 reference (2 professional, 1 academic).
8. Submit a 2-3 minute video of the student describing philosophy on advanced practice nursing and personal/professional goals.
9. 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.

10. Students must demonstrate proficiency in the use of the English language. If a student's verbal score on the admission examination is below an acceptable minimum, the student must pass an English proficiency test during the first semester in the program. 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.

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. Criteria used to make recommendations and decisions are as follows:

1. Ranking of GPAs
2. Submitted video
3. Letters of reference
4. Nursing Experience
5. Professional/Scholarly activities

Applicants with the highest ranking (must meet criteria of GPA, etc) and who meet all criteria will be offered full acceptance. Application who have met some, but not all of the requirements listed above may be accepted into the graduate program on a conditional basis. Conditional status may be granted when the applicant:

1. Meets Conditional level, even when entrance score below required score.
2. Is below Conditional level, but entrance exam score meets required score.

After the successful completion of nine semester credit hours of coursework from the student's degree plan, full acceptance status will be granted.