

Attendance Policy

Students are required to adhere to attendance policies as outlined in the college catalog and clinical handbook.

Graduation Requirements

Radiologic Technology students will be eligible for graduation upon satisfactory completion of all program didactic and clinical requirements. All courses must be completed with a grade of “C” or higher to qualify for graduation. Students who qualify for graduation are eligible to attend the May commencement ceremony. An associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.) will be conferred.

Students in the Radiologic Technology program are expected to adhere to program specific policies and procedures as outlined in the Radiologic Technology Program Student Handbook which can be found on the program’s web page at www.swtjc.edu.

SCHOOL OF REGISTERED NURSING

Uvalde Campus

Purpose

This program is designed to provide: dynamic, interactive classroom information; simulation experiences to enhance clinical capabilities; simulation scenarios to evaluate clinical expertise; and supervised clinical experiences to complete the Associate Degree Nursing Curriculum requirements necessary to become a Registered Nurse (RN) in the State of Texas. This program is designed to prepare graduates to practice in a complex and ever-changing health care environment. Preparation for practice will be concept-based theoretical knowledge followed by structured supervised clinical practice. This educational process will develop the student as an active participant and through the use of innovative teaching approaches, foster a safe, collaborative, and interactive educational environment that serve patients across the life span.

The Texas Nurse Practice Act and Professional Standards of Care in Nursing provide the guidelines for development of clinical reasoning, clinical knowledge and skills, individualized patient care, ethical reasoning, and therapeutic communication skills. Designated curriculum, integrated with global issues and pathophysiological concepts, will ensure that graduates will be able to actively participate in society as educated, culturally astute, and socially responsible individuals. Functioning with a multi-disciplinary health care team requires diversity and compassion in traditional and/or non-traditional health care environments.

The program leads to an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Degree and can be completed in two calendar years. Upon successful completion of the program curriculum and meeting standards identified by the Nursing Faculty, the graduate is eligible to apply to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

Program Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will function within the roles and responsibilities of the Associate Degree nurse and be able to:

1. Implement the standards of care as designated by the Nurse Practice Act for the State of Texas in a variety of health care settings.
2. Utilize critical reasoning, evidence-based practice and cultural diversity knowledge and skill when assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating patient care across the life-span.

3. Engage in continuous improvement of cognitive, psychomotor and psychotherapeutic abilities necessary to comprehensively assess and provide safe and effective nursing care.
4. Demonstrate caring behaviors and utilize teaching strategies that promote wellness, a healthy life style and recovery from illness.
5. Communicate and work effectively with patients, family members and the multidisciplinary health care team.
6. Demonstrate ethical and legal principles as a member of the multi-disciplinary health care team when caring for patients across the life-span.
7. Maintain competence upon becoming a Registered Nurse through self evaluation, peer review and continued education.
8. Continue to develop as an accountable and responsible member of the nursing profession.

Accreditation

Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Associate Degree Nursing Program currently has full accreditation from the Texas Board of Nursing and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program is also approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Approval from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) will be sought when eligibility requirements utilizing the concept-based curriculum are met.

Admission Requirements

Students are admitted to this program through regular college admission procedures and by satisfying the following additional requirements:

Phase I: All Applicants

1. Fulfill admission requirements of and be admitted to SWTJC. This includes assessment and placement in basic courses as guided by the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment.
2. Complete or be enrolled in prerequisite courses identified in the degree plan by August 1st.
3. Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. Consideration will be given to Science and English grades. Sciences courses taken more than five years prior to the program application will be evaluated on an individual basis and recommendations made by the faculty.
4. Complete and return the 'Application for Admission' form by March 1st.
5. An **unofficial** copy of all transcripts must be submitted to the ADN Program before April 1st. **Official** transcripts from all high schools/colleges/universities attended must be on file with the SWTJC Admissions and Records Office by August 1st.
6. Successfully complete the required examinations necessary to enroll in the ADN Program prior to May 1st. These include the Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI) Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) V examination and the Weaver Instructional assessment.
7. Submit three letters of reference by April 1st.
8. Complete the Point System included in the application packet, to be reviewed during personal interview.
9. Complete an interview with assigned faculty advisor prior to May 1st.
10. Complete all designated prerequisite courses with a grade of C or above before starting Nursing courses.
11. The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requires English proficiency of all individuals admitted to nursing programs. SWTJC AND Program uses the Weaver Instructional System (Weaver) assessment to determine the reading level of each applicant. If Weaver assessment determines that the applicant is not reading at the 12th grade level, applicant will be required to complete reading comprehension, vocabulary, and medical terminology prior to August 1st. If there are additional concerns identified by the faculty regarding the applicant's reading ability, applicants may be required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as designated by the BON.
12. A Criminal Background Check performed by the Texas Board of Nursing is required for all SWTJC ADN applicants prior to final admission into the ADN program. Upon application to the AND program, required data will be submitted to the BON so a criminal background check

can be performed. A copy of all correspondence received from the BON must be submitted to the ADN office. If a Declaratory Order is required by the BON (213.30), this process must be addressed immediately upon notification. Written communication from the BON must be submitted to the Administrative Assistant prior to the first day of class. Payment must be made directly to the BON upon notification.

13. Eligibility requirements to meet BON regulations, including issues identified in the criminal background check, must be met. Guidelines related to eligibility are addressed in the following paragraphs.

The BON has identified certain circumstances that may render a potential candidate ineligible for licensure as a Registered Nurse. The BON provides individuals with the opportunity to petition for a Declaratory Order as to their eligibility in accordance with Article 301.257 of the Nursing Practice Act. The BON website, www.bon.state.tx.us, contains eligibility questions and the declaratory order. In addition, each applicant must review the following documents in the BON Rules and Regulations:

- 213.27** Good Professional Conduct
- 213.28** Licensure of Persons with Criminal Offenses
- 213.29** Criteria and Procedure Regarding Intemperate Use and Lack of Fitness and Eligibility and Disciplinary Matters
- 213.30** Declaratory Order of Eligibility for Licensure

To review this information online, go to www.bon.state.tx.us. From the homepage, scroll down to “Nursing Law and Rules” located on the left side of the page. Then click on “Rules and Regulations.” From that page, click “BON Rules and Regulations”. This will lead you to a page entitled “Texas Administrative Code”. Scroll down this page and click on Chapter 213. The signed Licensure Eligibility form that verifies you meet eligible requirements designated by the BON must be in your student file in the Associate Degree Nursing Office.

If you are required to answer “yes” to any of the following questions, please submit a request for a Declaratory Order Petition to the Board of Nursing for the State of Texas (**Depending on your individual circumstances, processing your petition may take 6 to 24 months, or longer, after you provide all required documentation**):

- a. Have you ever been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
- b. Do you have any criminal charges pending, including unresolved arrests?
- c. 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 plead 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 guilty. Please note that DUI’s (driving under the influence), DWI’s (driving while intoxicated), and PI’s (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 MIP’s or MIC’s, you must answer “Yes.”
- d. Have you been the subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation, or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?
- e. Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a professional license or certificate held by you now previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?
- f. In the past five (5) years, have you been addicted to or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?
- g. 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?

You must begin the Declaratory Oder (DO) Petition immediately if you answered any of the above with a “yes”. This process is part of the criminal background check. If you are required to submit a

DO and do not do so at the time of application, the Texas Board of Nursing will notify you requesting you submit a Declaratory Order.

Notification of successful completion of the Phase I requirements will be made through email or telephone so the applicant can proceed to Phase II.

Phase II: Completed by Successful Phase I Applicants

1. Current Basic Cardiac Life support (BCLS) certification from the American Heart Association or American Red Cross with practicum (class "C") for Health Care Providers.
2. Evidence of mental and physical health as documented in a physical examination performed by a primary care provider within 30 days of acceptance to the program.
3. Evidence of all immunizations or acceptable titer levels, in writing, as required by the Texas Department of Health (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, (MMR); Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTap); Varicella; Meningitis; and Hepatitis "B" series). Annual flu immunizations are required by the clinical facilities and must be obtained during the appropriate time of year.
4. Written evidence of negative Tuberculin screen or negative chest X-ray. Documentation must be current, within 12 months.
5. Negative drug urine screen documented within 30 days of notification of acceptance.
6. Purchase of the approved school uniform, logo, lab coat and equipment for direct patient care is required.
7. Health Insurance coverage must be obtained prior to the beginning of clinical experiences and continue throughout the length of the program. A break in enrollment of health insurance will result in the student's inability to attend required clinical experience. Evidence of health insurance must be in your file three weeks prior to scheduled clinical activities. Coverage should include emergent and long term care. For information regarding companies that provide health insurance to college students, see the Vice President of Student Services.
8. Basic computer skills must be evident by a course grade or ability to demonstrate computer competence.
9. Continuous access to a computer and Internet is **required**.
10. Liability insurance is required throughout the program. This fee is included in the admission fees.
11. An applicant that does not meet the Weaver Instruction System or TOEFL benchmark set forth by the Associate Degree Nursing Program may be required to complete remedial work prior to final acceptance in the program. This activity is directed to enhance successful completion of the program curriculum, passing NCLEX-RN and becoming a successful professional nurse. Additional remedial work may be required in courses throughout the program as deemed necessary by the faculty of record. Failure to participate and complete these required activities will prevent the student from progressing in the program.

*Phase II must be completed and all documentation submitted by August 1st. Applicants will be registered for classes when all data has been received in the Associate Degree Nursing Office.