

DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM PREREQUISITES & CHECKLIST FOR ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

[reviewed annually]

Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program is on a competitive basis. The following are prerequisites for consideration for Admission to the Certificate in Practical Nursing Program:

1. High School Diploma or GED Certificate
 - High School GPA of 2.5 or greater. If a student has completed 12 credits of college-level classes, the college GPA will be considered instead of the HS GPA.
2. Students must be 18 years of age by December 31st of the year they start the program.
3. Application and admission to the respective college is required before applying to the nursing program. There are two application processes – first to the college and then to the nursing program. When completing the DNP application online, be prepared to upload a Narrative Statement in 300-600 words summarizing your education/work experiences and how those experiences will help you progress through the nursing program. Also include why you want to be a nurse and why this is a good time in your life to pursue a nursing degree.
4. Current CPR Certification for BLS Provider (American Heart Association) or CPR/Healthcare Provider (Red Cross) and must be updated to remain current throughout the program.
 - **American Heart Association - Basic Life Support (BLS)** is designed for healthcare professionals, and this is the certification required for the nursing program.
 - The card will say: **BLS Provider**
 - The CPR or Heartsaver courses will not be accepted.
 - **American Red Cross - Basic Life Support (BLS)** is the foundation of resuscitation training for healthcare professionals, and this is the certification required for the nursing program.
 - The card may say: **CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers**
 - The CPR or First Aid courses will not be accepted.
5. Proof of Math Skill Readiness.
 - Student must have completed at minimum:
 - The developmental math course (ASC 093 or other pre-requisite math course other pre-requisite math courses that would qualify a student to take Math 103) with a grade of Satisfactory or “C” or a higher-level math course (such as MATH 103 College Algebra) or
 - Equivalent scores for ACT/SAT and/or Accuplacer as listed below and taken within the past 2 years:

Test	Test Component	Minimum Score
Accuplacer	College Algebra	255
ACT	Math Subject	21
ACT Aspire	Math Subject	431
SAT	Math	530

6. Proof of Academic Readiness:
 - All applicants are required to complete the most current Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI), standardized Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) prior to application deadlines.
 - Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the TEAS exam with a minimum of 4 weeks (28 days) between attempts per application period.
 - A minimum TEAS composite score must be 55.0% or greater. Any applicant scoring below this number will not be accepted. A TEAS composite score between 55.0% and 58.0% will be required to successfully complete the ATI Launch! course prior to admission. The best score achieved, of two attempts, may be submitted. Last year the average TEAS score for all admitted applicants was within the Proficient level.
 - TEAS scores are valid for up to two (2) years prior to March 5th of the year of application.
 - It is to your advantage to double-check the other parts of your application to make sure you are qualified in the other areas before you attempt the TEAS exam.
 - It is recommended that you use the study materials on the TEAS website to score well on the exam. As noted above you may repeat the TEAS to better your chance of admission.
 - ACT composite score of 19, or
 - ACT/Accuplacer/SAT test(s) with an equivalent score, or
 - Successful completion of 12 credits of college courses with a minimum GPA of 2.5

7. For any required college courses completed prior to admission, the grade in that course must be a 2.0 (C) or higher, and nursing GPA for all completed required nursing courses must be 2.75 or higher.
- Anatomy and Physiology I and II with Lab (A & P II must be taken within the last 7 years)
 - Introduction to Pharmacology (must be taken within the last 7 years)
 - Developmental Psychology
 - Introduction to Psychology
 - Composition I
 - Other: Microbiology (required for ADN program)
 - Other: Composition II, Communications, Technology, Humanities or Computer elective. Check with individual campuses for the correct elective (required for ADN program).
 - NURS 120 Fundamentals of Nursing
 - If a student takes this course before they are accepted into the nursing program, it is valid for completion of the nursing program for four years. If the course was taken more than four years before the student is accepted into the nursing program, the course must be retaken.
8. Guidelines for approval include:
- High School GPA of 2.5 or greater **or**
 - If a student has completed 12 credits of college-level classes, the college GPA will be considered instead of the HS GPA. Nursing GPA for any completed required nursing program courses must be 2.75 or higher.
 - Overall cumulative GPA for all college courses completed must be 2.5 or higher.
 - No required course may have a grade lower than 2.0 (C).
 - If a student repeats a required science course or previous nursing course, a grade of 2.0 (C) or higher must be obtained in the first repeat (A & P I and II, Microbiology and Pharmacology). An appeal process may be sought if the student has failed science courses more than 2 times.
 - Critical courses completed more than 7 years prior to program application must be repeated: Anatomy and Physiology II, and Introduction to Pharmacology.
 - Experience working in a healthcare environment is encouraged before making an application to the nursing program. For example; Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Medical Assistant, Direct Support Professional (DSP), etc.
9. A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in nursing as well as for client safety. In addition to general college English proficiency requirements, all applicants born outside of the United States or Canada and applicants for whom English is not their native language (including International and/or U.S. residents) or who have not attended 4 years of U.S. high school and achieved a HS GPA of 3.0 or higher must meet additional language proficiency requirements for admission to the Dakota Nursing Program. These requirements must be met prior to consideration for admission.
- DNP English Proficiency Policy.
10. Every applicant will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined below. It is important to acknowledge that an interview may not be applicable for each campus.

Healthcare Experience	Admit Cum. GPA	Admit Nursing GPA	Points for required Gen Ed credits	TEAS	Points for 2nd qualified application	Narrative Score	Interview Score
Y = 2 N = 0	Minimum of 2.50	C or better & min. of 2.75	<8 = 0 8-12 = 1 12 or > = 2	Composite score of 55 or greater, divided by 10	Y = 1 N = 0	0-5	0-5



Checklist for the Practical Nursing Program

- ☐ 1. Complete an application for admission to your local college (BSC, DCB, LRSC or WSC)
- ☐ 2. Complete the electronic application for the Dakota Nursing Program
- ☐ 3. Provide a copy of current CPR certification for BLS Provider
- ☐ 4. Provide proof of math skill readiness (ACT, SAT, or transcript with math course)
- ☐ 5. Provide proof of academic readiness (ACT, SAT, or transcript with 12 required credits)
- ☐ 6. Submit TEAS results
- ☐ 7. If required by English as a Second Language (ESL) applicants, TOEFL/DuoLingo exam results

If your application is complete and you meet all requirements above, you may be invited to interview as a final step in the application process. Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be declined.

After you are accepted into the Program, your Nursing Administrator will be sending you information on how to enroll in CastleBranch which is a software program that will guide you through completing a Background Check and Drug Screen as well as keeping track of the required immunizations for the Nursing Program. The total cost is **\$210.00**.

Required Immunizations once you are admitted to the Dakota Nursing Program:

- **Measles, Mumps & Rubella** vaccine x2 or positive blood titer or repeat series
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** vaccine x2 or positive blood titer or repeat series
- **Hepatitis B** x3 or positive anti-HBS titer or repeat series
- Influenza (Flu) (to be administered between September 1st - November 1st of the current flu season)
- **Tuberculosis (TB)** Negative reading of 2-step tuberculosis test within the past 12 months or QuantiFERON Gold blood test or T-Spot blood test
- **Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap)** History of one Tdap. Tetanus within the last 10 years
- Other immunizations as may be required by the clinical agencies.

All applicants who meet the March 5th deadline will be notified of status by June 15th

