

# NURSING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q. How can I apply to Nursing?**

- A.** Complete and submit a college application to Trenholm State Community College. Please note that admission to the College does not guarantee acceptance to the Nursing program.
- Official transcripts from all colleges attended must be submitted to the Registrar's Office.
  - Provide one form of state identification.

**TSSC Admission Application**



**Q. Do I have to take the ACCUPLACER test?**

- A.** The answer is yes, unless you qualify for exemption.

**Q. Do I qualify for exemption from the ACCUPLACER?**

- A.** In order to be exempt from the ACCUPLACER:
- <https://www.trenholmstate.edu/future-students/admissions-records/enrollment-process/accuplacer-placement-assessment/>

**Q. If I do have to take the ACCUPLACER, do I need to study for the ACCUPLACER?**

- A.** Yes! [CLICK HERE](#) for the link about ACCUPLACER assistance and scoring.

**Q. I have applied to the College, received my Trenholm student ID#, and accessed my transcript through the Trenholm portal, but I do not see my transfer credits. Can you help?**

- A.** The program faculty cannot assist with this. All questions regarding transfer of credits or potential transfer of credits should be discussed with Dr. Tennie McBryde, Director of Records, 334-420-4306 or [tmcbryde@trenholmstate.edu](mailto:tmcbryde@trenholmstate.edu).

## PREREQUISITES & TRANSFER CREDIT

**Q. Can the general education/prerequisite courses be taken at any other college or transferred?**

- A.** Yes (except for Orientation - ORI 101). ORI 101 must be taken at Trenholm. Please visit the [Admissions page regarding transfer of courses](#)

**Q. Are there any time limits on the prerequisite courses for nursing?**

- A.** Yes. The following courses must be current within FIVE years of application: Intermediate College Algebra (or higher level math - Pre-Cal, Finite Math, or Statistics) (MTH100), Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO201) & II (BIO202), Principles of Biology I (BIO103 which is a prerequisite for BIO220), Microbiology (BIO220), and Human Growth & Development (PSY210). There are no time limitations for writing and general education elective courses.

**Q. Does it increase my chances of getting in if I take the prerequisite/general courses at Trenholm State?**

- A.** No. Whether a student takes the prerequisite courses at Trenholm State, or not, will not increase the chance of being accepted into Nursing.

**Q.** Can I apply to Nursing if I am still taking prerequisite requirements?  
**A.** No. Beginning with the year 2020 new application periods, all pre-requisites must be completed at time of application.

**Q.** How do I know if my courses will transfer?  
**A.** The TSCC Office of Admissions evaluates all transcripts when you apply. Please refer to the [Transfer Student Guide](#) for additional information.

## American College Testing (ACT)

**Q.** I see that the ACT is required. If I already have a degree, do I still need to take the ACT? (Minimum requirement of an ACT of 18)

**A.** Yes. Regardless of prior educational achievements, the ACT score is a criteria utilized in determining admittance into Nursing. All applicants must provide documentation of an ACT score. There are no time constraints or expiration on ACT scores for Nursing. ACT Superscores are not accepted by the Nursing programs.

**Q.** Do I need to take the writing portion of the ACT?

**A.** No, the writing portion is not required.

**Q.** If I took my ACT a long time ago can I still use it?

**A.** Yes. There are no time constraints or expiration on ACT scores for Nursing.

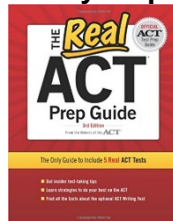
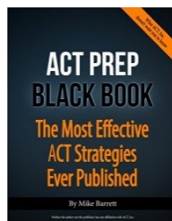
**Q.** I see that I need to have an official copy of my ACT for the Nursing application. How do I do that?

**A.** You will need to [contact ACT](#) and have them send an official copy to the College. Only official copies will be accepted. No student copies will be accepted.

**Q.** I want to try to improve my ACT score - are there materials out there that you suggest?

**A.** There are several local ACT tutoring services:  
[ACT Prep Montgomery](#) - 256-541-7888  
[Sylvan Learning Center](#) - 334-262-0043  
[Huntington Learning Center](#) - 334-277-9200

There are also books that may help:



\*\*\*These 2 books work together\*\*\*

[Kahn Academy](#) - ACT and SAT test similar skills but with different emphasis. Khan Academy has a whole test prep section devoted to SAT prep that may help.

## NURSING PROGRAM APPLICATION

**Q.** Is there a separate application for nursing?

**A.** Yes. A completed Trenholm State nursing application must be submitted electronically. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nursing has modified

its application process, students **can no longer** hand deliver or mail-in their nursing application.

**Q. When does the nursing application open?**

**A.** Nursing takes a new cohort once a year. The next nursing application period will be posted to the college's website.

**Q. When does the nursing application end?**

**A.** All deadlines will be posted on the website and will be strictly adhered to. No applications will be accepted after the deadline for submission. Please pay very close attention to the minimum qualifications for acceptance and deadlines. Applications that are received that do not meet the minimum qualifications and/or deadlines will not be considered.

**Q. How much does the program cost?**

**A.** The cost varies based on the cost of tuition. As of fall 2020, the tuition cost is \$159 per semester credit hour. [Click here](#) to view the tuition/fee sheet. It is the responsibility of the applicant to secure tuition/fees for the nursing program.

**Q. How do I apply for financial aid?**

**A.** You can complete a [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) application online. For more information on financial aid, please call 334-420-4321.

**Q. Are there scholarships available for nursing students?**

**A.** Yes! The College offers a limited number of institutional scholarships to qualified students. The types of scholarships awarded include Institutional, Achievement and Career Technical. For additional information, contact the Financial Aid Office at 334-420-4317.

**Q. How long is the Nursing program?**

**A.** The PN Certificate Option curriculum is designed to be completed in three semesters and the ADN/RN program is to be completed within five semesters. However, there are a number of prerequisites that must be completed before acceptance and additional general education courses required for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing.

**Q. Can I attend part-time in the Nursing program?**

**A.** No. The nursing program follows specific coursework per semester. Your schedule will be rigorous while in the program with various classwork, lab assignments, and clinicals while maintaining the required 75 average in all classes. Available clinical assignments may include evenings and/or weekends.

**Q. What courses can I take prior to entering the nursing program?**

**A.** All general education (non-nursing) pre-requisite courses must be completed prior to application to Nursing. A minimum 2.5 GPA is required on nursing academic core classes inclusive of:

- \*English Composition I (ENG101),
- \*Intermediate College Algebra (or higher-level math - Pre-Cal, Finite Math, or Statistics, MTH100)
- \*Anatomy & Physiology I (BIO201) & II (BIO202)
- \*Microbiology (BIO220) (Please note that BIO 103 Principles of Biology 1 is a prerequisite for BIO 220)
- \*Human Growth & Development (PSY210)  
Speech (SPH106 or 107)

\*Humanities elective (Art or Music Appreciation, Philosophy, Theater, Religion, or a foreign language).

\*Indicates PREREQUISITES that must be completed prior to applying

**Q. I applied to the program and was disqualified. Can I submit the missing documentation now?**

**A.** No. Your previous enrollment packet and documentation was not maintained by the college; therefore you must submit a new application packet.

**Q. Is there a wait list?**

**A.** No. Students must reapply for entrance the following year. Each application window is treated as a fresh start.

**Q. What degree will I earn?**

**A.** Certificate in Nursing (PN) and/or Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing (ADN)

**Q. Is the ADN program accredited?**

**A.** The Trenholm State Community College Associate Degree Nursing program is pursuing pre-accreditation candidacy status from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

**Q. Will I be a LPN/RN when I graduate?**

**A.** No, graduation from the nursing program entitles you to apply to the Alabama Board of Nursing to take the NCLEX-PN (National Council Licensure Examination-Practical Nursing) and/or the NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse), which is a standardized exam that the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) uses to determine whether or not a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing practice. When a graduate nursing student passes the NCLEX-PN and/or the NCLEX-RN, the Alabama Board of Nursing will issue a license to practice as a registered LPN/RN nurse, as long as you have met all the other requirements. (<https://www.abn.alabama.gov/>)

**Q. Will I be able to find a LPN/RN job after graduation?**

**A.** Job opportunities for nurses are expected to be good because of employment growth and the need to replace workers who retire over the coming decade. The demand for healthcare services will increase because of the aging population, given that older people typically have more medical problems than younger people. Nurses also will be needed to educate and care for patients with various chronic conditions, such as arthritis, dementia, diabetes, and obesity.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median salary for a practical nurse was \$22.23 per hour or \$46,240 per year. In addition, employment of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses is projected to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations.

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/licensed-practical-and-licensed-vocational-nurses.htm>

In addition, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that jobs for RN's the 2018 median pay was \$34.48 per hour or \$71,730 per year. The employment of registered nurses is projected to grow 12 percent from 2018 to 2028. Currently, there is a nursing shortage of about 100,000 nurses and this could grow to eight times that size by 2020. Review more information from the U.S. Department of Labor:

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.

## **ACCEPTANCE**

**Q. How do I increase my chances of getting into Nursing at Trenholm State?**

**A.** Complete the necessary requirements such as a completed application to both the college and Nursing, making sure all transcripts are on file, taken prerequisites, obtain a GPA of 2.5 or higher, and ACT score of 18 or higher. All applicants who meet the minimum qualification and who have submitted a completed application will be ranked according to ACT score.

**Q. How many students are admitted each year?**

**A.** It will vary from year to year. There are always more applicants than spaces available. We typically receive between 45-60 qualified applicants per year.

**Q. How will I find out if I am accepted into Nursing at Trenholm State?**

**A.** You will be notified by mail and/or email of acceptance. You must complete and return an acceptance after receiving notification. Letters will be sent to all applicants indicating acceptance or other.

**Q. Will I be required to complete criminal background screening?**

**A.** Yes, students are required to complete criminal background screening after admission. A criminal background check will be done on every applicant who is accepted into the Nursing Program.

**Q. Will I be required to take a drug test?**

**A.** Yes, students are required to comply with drug testing as part of their continued enrollment once accepted into the program.

**Q. Will I be required to get immunizations?**

**A.** Yes, nursing students must comply with the immunization requirements for students enrolled in clinical courses in institutions of higher education

**Q. What type of CPR certification is needed for the program, where can we get certified, and when do we have to obtain the certification?**

**A.** The Basic Life Support (BLS) Provider Course covering the adult, infant, child, and two-man CPR (two-year Hospital Level Provider coverage) is required. All new students must complete BLS classes prior to enrollment and obtain a copy of your BLS card. Classes must be taken through the American Heart Association. We prefer students to not obtain the BLS until after notified of acceptance due to expiration purposes.

## **ONLINE, EVENING, & WEEKEND OFFERINGS**

**Q. Are any of the Nursing classes online?**

**A.** No. The Nursing program is a full-time day program which requires a student to be present approximately 30-40 hours during the week. You should prepare to devote Monday – Friday 8 hour days to the program. Some of the general education prerequisite courses are offered online but this would be prior to entering the program.

**Q. Is Nursing offered at night or on the weekends?**

**A.** Not at this time. The Nursing program is a full-time day program which requires a student to be present approximately 30-40 hours during the week. You should prepare to devote Monday – Friday 8 hour days to the program.

## **JOB PLACEMENT**

**Q. How many people go on to get jobs after graduation?**

**A.** Over the last three (3) years job placement rates of practical nursing graduates range from 90% to 100% of our students who have gone on to work in the field. The expected levels of achievement for job placement rate is established by faculty is 95% of the graduates will be employed in field within six to twelve months of graduation. Graduates of the nursing program have a 90% to 100% employment rate for those seeking employment after graduation. Greater than 80% of graduates accept employment in long-term care facilities, while the remaining graduates accept employment in clinics, health-care provider offices and correctional facilities.

**Q. Do you offer job placement after graduation?**

**A.** We do not *place* students for jobs but we are the “go to” place that employers/facilities look to for their nursing staffing needs. Students participate in clinical/preceptorship rotations that will allow for hands-on experience. This provides an opportunity for the student and the facility to get to know one another and is a chance for the student to make a good impression as these are potential employers.

As part of the Student Services Division, the College has a Career Center that offers career planning assistance and job placement services that are available to all students and alumni. To schedule an appointment with a Career Consultant, please call 334-420-4499 or email [careers@trenholmstate.edu](mailto:careers@trenholmstate.edu).

## **WORK**

**Q. I have a job that requires I work during the day. Can I continue that job and still enter this program?**

**A.** We do not offer an evening, weekend, or online program at this time. The Nursing program is a full-time day program which requires a student to be present approximately 30-40 hours during the week You should prepare to devote Monday – Friday 8 hour days to the program. This does not include study time at home.

**Q. Can I continue to work while I am in the program?**

**A.** We have, and have had, numerous students work while in the program but we do not advise that you work. Since the Nursing program is a full-time, 30-40 hr/week commitment, some students find it difficult to balance course load, work load, and study time. Your schedule will be rigorous while in the program with various classwork and clinicals while maintaining the required 75 average in all classes. You should prepare to devote Monday – Friday 8 hour days to the program. This does not include study time at home.