

UTEP BSN Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQ)

Nursing Phase 1 and 2 Questions:

What are the 3 phases of nursing?

Phase 1: Includes the [University Core Curriculum](#) and the pre-professional courses. The pre-professional courses includes Math 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111, BIOL 2313-2113, MICR 2330, CHEM 1307-1107 or CHEM 1305-1107, HSCI 2302, and PSYC 1301.

Phase 2: 1 semester of NURS 2303, NURS 2407, NURS 2502.

Phase 3: 4 semesters of the nursing professional upper-division courses.

Please refer to the BSN major flow chart [here](#)

As a Phase 1 nursing student, where do I get advised?

Students with 0-29 credit hours will be required to get advised in the [Academic Advising Center](#). Students with 30+ credit hours will be required to attend an information session and advising at the School of Nursing (HSSN room 200). Students must call (915) 747-8337 or visit the **Office of Student Affairs in HSSN room 200** to sign up for a session.

How do I apply to the Phase 2 nursing courses?

[Click here to visit the School of Nursing \(SoN\) application windows](#). This link will take you to the UTEP online application process for the School of Nursing where you will also find the deadlines for each application window. You can also find the applications through utep.edu/nursing and clicking on applications and deadlines on the left hand column.

Can I have someone in the SoN Office of Student Affairs review my transcript(s) before I apply to the Phase 2 nursing courses?

No. The School of Nursing does not offer transcript evaluation. However, after your credits have been officially evaluated by the [Office of Admissions](#), the School of Nursing will create a degree evaluation for you.

Do I need to take an admission examination to apply to Phase 2?

Yes. Students are required to take the [ATI-TEAS exam](#). This examination may be taken as many times as needed to pass with a composite score of 62% or better by the TEAS application deadline.

Do I need to pass the ATI-TEAS exam *before* I can submit an application for the Phase 2 nursing courses?

No. Please refer to the [Application Windows](#) for each TEAS deadline.

Do I have to disclose any criminal charges or arrests to the Texas Board of Nursing before I start Phase 3?

Yes. In Phase 2, you will be required to submit a Criminal Background Check (CBC) information form to the Office of Student Affairs. The School of Nursing will submit a roster to the Texas Board of Nursing and a criminal background check will be performed on all Phase 2 students. Blue cards will be sent to students whose CBC was clear and a letter will be sent to students with incident(s) in their record. Students who receive a letter from the Texas Board of Nursing will be required to submit a Declaratory Order along with a letter of explanation and necessary documentation specified on the letter. All students cleared by the Texas Board of Nursing will be eligible to rank for Phase 3.

Where do I get my fingerprints for my Criminal Background Check (CBC) done?

The Texas Board of Nursing has an exclusive contract with Identigo to provide nationwide electronic fingerprinting. The School of Nursing will provide instructions on how to complete your CBC form and fingerprints with Identigo.

What are the pre-requisites to apply to the Phase 2 nursing courses?

Students must complete the Phase 1 University Core Curriculum, the pre-professional courses, the TEAS exam, and provide proof of health insurance to be eligible to rank for the Phase 2 nursing courses. NOTE: Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee a seat in the Phase 2 nursing courses.

What is the ranking criteria to apply to the Phase 2 nursing courses?

1. Pre-professional courses GPA
2. Cumulative GPA (must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00)
3. TEAS exam (must meet minimum score of 62%)
4. Proof of health insurance

Are there any time limits on the Pre-professional courses for the nursing program?

There is no time limit on the pre-professional courses.

Can I take the Phase 1 pre-requisites at EPCC?

Yes. The Phase 1 pre-requisite courses may be taken at EPCC. However, we require students attend the last semester of Phase 1 at UTEP, due to the timing of the ranking. All courses must be accounted for on your UTEP transcript at the time your application is processed, including courses in progress at UTEP.

Can I repeat Pre-professional courses for higher grades?

Course failure: If a student earns a D or F in a 1000 or 2000 level course the student may "D/F repeat" that course. Students have only one opportunity per course to improve their original grades under the D/F repeat policy. The new grade becomes the grade that counts toward the student's cumulative GPA and credit hours for graduation, even if the repeated course grade is lower than the original grade in the course. The D/F repeat policy will be enacted any time an eligible course is repeated.

Course previously passed: If a student earns a "C" or better in a Pre-professional course and wishes to retake for a higher grade, they must get approval from the Nursing Office of Student Affairs. If they choose to repeat a "passed" course, both grades for the course will be posted on the transcript and will be used in the calculation of the cumulative GPA. Please see a nursing advisor for instructions on how to get permission to retake any pre-professional course at UTEP.

Please follow these guidelines for re-taking courses at UTEP:

- For MATH 1320, BIOL 1305-1107, BIOL 2311-2111, BIOL 2313-2113, CHEM 1307-1107, CHEM 1305-1105, MICR 2330, and PSYC 1301: can only be re-taken at UTEP if a student has a current grade of "C". Grades of "B" cannot be re-taken at UTEP. Limit of 2 attempts.
- Students must have a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 and a minimum PPC GPA of 3.20 to be eligible to retake a pre-professional science course in which a C was earned.
- For HSCI 2302, "B"s or "C"s are currently allowed to be re-taken at UTEP. Limit of 2 attempts.

The School of Nursing will accept *transferred* course grades (for example from EPCC) for re-takes, as well.

Please note that for ranking purposes only, the School of Nursing will use the *highest grade earned* per pre-professional course in the calculation of the pre-professional courses (PPC) GPA.

Do I get credit for my work or life experience?

No. UTEP does not award university credit for non-academic professional certificate or life experience.

Can I use graduate-level coursework for the BSN degree?

No. Graduate-level coursework is not transferrable as undergraduate credit.

There is a non-contributing course on my degree evaluation. What does that mean?

These course(s) are not a part of your approved degree plan and will not count towards financial aid eligibility. Click [here](#) for more information on non-contributing courses.

How can I determine what credits will transfer to UTEP?

Visit the Office of Admissions [online transfer credit equivalency](#) feature where students can have access to transfer equivalencies from various institutions in order to help them determine what transfer credit they can expect to receive upon entry to UTEP. The equivalencies listed are the most current articulations established and may be subject to change.

When does ranking take place for the Phase 2 nursing courses?

Please refer to the [application windows](#) on our website.

Why do I need health insurance to continue in the nursing program?

Health insurance is required by our clinical partners and is necessary to cover any emergency room visits at the clinical sites.

When should I do my blood titers?

Blood titers must be submitted during Phase 2 to the clinical compliance officer.

Can I take some of the requirements for Phase 1 online?

Yes. UTEP offers many of the requirements for Phase 1 100% online. In addition, students are permitted to choose online courses with UT institutions as an option to expand their educational opportunities. [You may click here to visit the University of Texas System Online Consortium.](#)

Do I have to attend an orientation for Phase 2?

Yes. All selected students are **required** to attend the Phase 2 Orientation before the start of the semester. Important information such as compliance, the UG student handbook, required supplies, and required coursework will be presented at the orientation.

What if I fail a Phase 2 nursing course? Can I take the course the following semester?

All students have a maximum of 2 attempts to take a Phase 2 nursing course. However, you must submit an application by the applicable deadline to be considered and ranked for the following semester. There are limited seats for repeaters.

Phase 3 Questions:

When does the nursing program begin?

The program begins three times a year (Fall, Spring, Summer) for the Traditional BSN and the RN to BSN options.

Is the undergraduate UTEP School of Nursing program accredited?

Yes. The nursing program is accredited by the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education \(CCNE\)](#) and approved by the [Texas Board of Nursing](#).

How long does it take to complete Phase 3?

After you are admitted to Phase 3, it will take 15 to 24 months to complete. Phase 3 is 4 semesters and attending the summer term is optional.

Can I enter directly into Phase 3?

No. You must first complete Phases 1 and 2 and be ranked into Phase 3. Meeting minimum criteria does not guarantee a seat in Phase 3.

When do you rank for Phase 3?

Please refer to the [application windows](#) on our website.

Do I have to attend an orientation for Phase 3?

Yes. All selected students are **required** to attend the Red Carpet Orientation before the start of the semester. Important information such as compliance, the UG student handbook, required uniform/supplies, clinicals and required coursework will be presented at the orientation.

What is the ranking criteria to apply to Phase 3?

1. Phase 2 nursing courses GPA (highest grade per course will be used to calculate the Phase 2 GPA)
2. Pre-professional courses GPA
3. Cumulative GPA (must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00)
4. Teas test (must meet minimum score of 62%)
5. Cleared criminal background check from the TX BON, proof of health insurance, and completed titer lab report

What if I decline my seat for Phase 3? Will my admission be valid for future semesters?

No. Each ranking is independent; if a student declines their acceptance, they must re-apply for a future semester and will be ranked with that applicant pool.

If I am not accepted, do I have to re-apply the next semester?

Yes. Applications are not transferrable to the next semester. You must resubmit a new nursing application by the applicable deadline if you wish to be considered for another semester.

What is a passing grade in Phases 2 and 3?

Students must pass nursing courses at a minimum of 75%. Per the School of Nursing policy, achieving less than 75% in the didactic portion of the course results in a course failure. There is no rounding of grades and fractional points will be dropped upon final course grade. For example, if you earn a 74.999 your final grade is 74.

What is required for an RN license?

To obtain a RN license, the individual must have graduated from a nursing program approved by a state board of nursing, meet all the requirements to sit for the licensure examination (including no felony convictions), and successfully pass the examination.

How do you specialize?

The decision to specialize and advance professionally is a commitment that generally requires a Master's degree in nursing. Click [here](#) to access the Masters of Science in Nursing & Post-graduate APRN Certification Student Handbook.

Do you accept nursing courses from other nursing programs?

No. All professional nursing courses must be taken at UTEP.

If I was dismissed from another nursing program, can I apply to the Traditional BSN program?

No. Students dismissed from another nursing program may not apply to the UTEP Traditional BSN Program.

Where can I go for more information?

You may visit our website at <https://www.utep.edu/nursing/> or you may sign up for an **Advising and Information Session** by calling (915) 747-8337.