



*The Center for Allied Health
and Nursing*

El Centro College

LVN-RN Advanced Placement

- Revised for Fall 2019 Application -

A Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN) may complete the Associate Degree Nursing program via the LVN to RN Advanced Placement (“Bridge”) program at El Centro College. The Associate Degree Nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (Address: 3343 Peachtree Road, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326; Telephone: 404-975-5000; Fax: 404-975-5020; Email: info@acenursing.org; Website: www.acenursing.org;) and approved by the Texas Board of Nursing (Address: 333 Guadalupe St., Suite 3-460, Austin, TX 78701-3944; Telephone: 512-305-7400; Fax: 512-305-7401; Email: webmaster@bon.texas.gov; Website: www.bon.texas.gov).

Admission to the LVN to RN Advanced Placement Program is open to applicants who have not previously been enrolled in an Associate Degree Nursing program; however, such an applicant may petition the Dean for admission consideration. Applicants must complete all entrance requirements outlined in this information packet and must possess current Texas LVN licensure. The expected skill level of the program requires applicants to have had at least six months recent work experience as an LVN prior to admission.

Acceptance to the LVN to RN Advanced Placement Program is via a **competitive ranking process for selection based on a point award system for designated criteria.**

LVN’s who are accepted to the Advanced Placement program enroll into three advanced placement or “bridge” courses: a three-credit-hour lecture course (RNSG 1324), a one-credit-hour skills component (RNSG 1118), and a one-credit-hour nursing competencies component (RNSG 1126) which involve 2-3 full days of classes for the first semester of the Advanced Placement program. After successful completion of the “bridge” semester courses, the student transitions into the third semester of the Associate Degree curriculum to complete the final two semesters of the traditional Associate Degree Nursing program. At the completion of the program, 13 additional credit hours are awarded for a selected courses from the first two semesters of the traditional Associate Degree Nursing program.

This information packet contains specific application guidelines and requirements. By submitting an application packet, an individual verifies that they have 1) read the packet thoroughly, 2) obtained all necessary documents from designated website addresses, and 3) understood the policies and procedures for application and acceptance to the program.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Educational opportunities are offered by El Centro College without regard to race, color, age, national origin, religion, sex, disability, or sexual orientation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS TO THE LVN TO RN ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

Application to the LVN to RN Advanced Placement Program requires the following steps:

- Application and current admission to a Dallas County Community college.
- Viewing the LVN-RN Advanced Placement online information session in order to receive bridge application forms.

- Completion of the four prerequisite courses with a minimum grade of “C” or higher and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 or higher on those specific courses.
- Completion of designated sections of the HESI A² Test with a minimum score of 80% on each of the required sections.
- Submission of complete documentation of a current physical exam, tuberculosis screening, required immunizations, and CPR certification to Castle Branch.
- Submission of complete application materials to the Health Occupations Admissions Office during a designated filing period.

A. General Admission Requirements to the College

Applicants to the LVN to RN Advanced Placement program must meet college admission requirements for El Centro College as outlined in the official college catalog at <https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/apply-reg>. Applicants must have earned either a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) certificate in addition to complying with Texas Success Initiative (TSI) requirements. Students should consult the college counseling office to determine their TSI status prior to application to a Health Occupations program.

All students applying or enrolled at a Dallas County Community college are required to submit their Social Security number to the Registrar’s Office. Students who do not possess a Social Security number must complete a form obtained at the Registrar’s Office. For more information, consult a Registrar/Admissions Office at any Dallas County Community college.

Official College Transcripts

Prior to application to a health occupations program, potential applicants must have submitted to the Registrar/Admissions Office at one of the seven Dallas County Community colleges **official transcripts from all colleges and universities the applicant has attended whether or not the coursework is relevant to the program application.** The transcripts must be current with the **print date no earlier than three years** prior to the applicant’s anticipated admission to a health occupations program. If the official transcripts have not been submitted, the individual’s application to a health occupations program will be voided.

Initial Advisement

Students who are beginning college for the first time or who need assistance with placement testing, TSI issues, and/or registration for prerequisite courses must visit with an academic advisor in the College Counseling Center as their first step toward future application to a health occupations program. The student who has not completed college coursework should request a general Associate Degree plan from the Counseling Center as a starting point toward application to a health occupations program. **NOTE: Additional assessment testing in computer literacy and learning frameworks courses may be required for certain students. See an Academic Advisor for more information.**

Program Information Sessions

Potential applicants are now required to view the LVN-RN Advanced Placement “bridge” program online information session where the program, application procedures, and acceptance policies are discussed in detail. The LVN-RN Advanced Placement “bridge” online information session is available at the following link:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/Health-Sessions>.

B. Program Prerequisite Courses

Application to the LVN to RN Advanced Placement program requires a total of 13 credit hours of prerequisite coursework. **An applicant must complete the following four prerequisite courses with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 or higher on these specific courses:**

			<u>Credit Hrs.</u>
BIOL	2401*	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4
ENGL	1301	Composition I	3
PSYC	2301	Introduction to Psychology	3
PSYC	2314	Lifespan Growth and Development	<u>3</u>
			13

Applicants must also achieve an overall minimum GPA of 2.00 or higher on a 4.0 system to be eligible for program acceptance. Developmental course grades are not included in the overall GPA calculation.

* **IMPORTANT NOTE:** BIOL 2401 is now the required prerequisite course for anatomy/physiology. BIOL 1406 is the required prerequisite for enrollment into BIOL 2401. A CLEP test is also available for BIOL 1406. BIOL 2401 must be completed less than 5 years prior to a student's anticipated program start date. For example, if the course is completed in fall 2014 or afterwards, it is still valid for application to the program which begins fall 2019. If completed in summer 2014 or before, it will exceed the five year time limit before the start date of the program.

If completed before Fall 2015, SCIT 1407 – Applied Anatomy & Physiology I will be accepted for the BIOL 2401 prerequisite up to the five year time limit for the course.

ATTENTION

Although math has been removed as a prerequisite course, applicants must still meet Texas Success Initiative requirements in math in order to apply to the program. This may involve assessment testing and developmental math courses. See an academic advisor for guidance and more information regarding TSI requirements.

C. Evaluation of Previous Coursework

To insure the transferability of previous coursework completed at colleges and universities other than Dallas County Community colleges, potential applicants to health occupations programs should have their coursework evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office at least one semester prior to a program application filing deadline if possible. **This procedure is especially important for students with coursework from colleges and universities outside the state of Texas.**

NOTE: Previous coursework is evaluated toward the program degree plan and does not include evaluation of additional courses toward BSN programs.

Transcripts and accompanying course descriptions will first be evaluated by the Health Occupations Admissions Office and, if necessary, be reviewed by respective college faculty for that course discipline. When all courses have been reviewed, an Educational Plan will be prepared for the student. The Educational Plan is accepted as a preliminary "degree plan" for student advisement purposes.

Educational Plans are usually completed within 4-6 weeks. **The evaluation process is not completed during individual appointments or on an "as you wait" basis.** During peak times such as registration or after the close of the semester when faculty are unavailable, an evaluation

may take longer to review. Therefore, it is to the applicant's advantage to request the Educational Plan at their earliest convenience well in advance of anticipated application to the program.

The El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office and the Health Sciences Division reserves the right to accept or reject any coursework completed at other colleges presented for transfer evaluation toward Health Occupations programs.

For more information on requesting evaluation of your previous coursework and the Educational Plan, download the guidelines and Request for Educational Plan form at the following link:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

Five-Year Time Limit on Science coursework

All science coursework which appears in a health occupations program curriculum either as a prerequisite or a support course (e.g. anatomy/physiology and microbiology) must have been completed less than five years prior to the anticipated program start date of a Health Occupations program. For example, a BIOL 2401 course completed in Fall 2013 would be valid only up to application for a program which begins in Fall 2018; if completed in Summer 2013, it would exceed the five year time limit prior to the program start date and be invalid. NOTE: Waivers are not considered for CHEM 1411 toward BSN programs.

A student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Health Occupations Admissions Office under one of the following considerations:

1. The student has **current work** experience in a healthcare setting utilizing their related science knowledge.
2. The student has successfully completed **advanced courses** in a related science area with a grade of "C" or higher.
3. The student's first course of the two course anatomy/physiology sequence (BIOL 2401) has exceeded the five year time limit but the second course of the sequence (BIOL 2402) is within the five year time limit prior to the anticipated program start date.

The student may petition for a waiver of the time limit through the Health Occupations Admissions Office as a separate review, in conjunction with an educational plan request, or with their application materials.

NOTE: In order for a science course taken at other colleges to be considered for a five-year time limit waiver, the course must first be approved for transferability. Information on the five-year time limit waiver is found under the "Resources for Potential Applicants" link at:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

Coursework from Foreign Universities

Only courses such as anatomy, physiology, and microbiology may be considered for transfer to Health Occupations programs from colleges or universities outside the United States. No other courses will be considered. Science courses must be within the five-year time limit.

For more information regarding the evaluation of foreign coursework for transfer credit, see the following link:

<https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.

Credit by Examination, CLEP, and Advanced Placement Credit

Credit through CLEP, High School Advanced Placement Exams and Credit by Examination may be awarded for a limited number of courses toward Health Occupations programs.

Advanced Placement (“AP”) credit for ENGL 1301 is acceptable if the credit appears on a college transcript as ENGL 1301 equivalency. A letter grade is not awarded for “AP” credit.

NOTE: An applicant to the LVN-RN Advanced Placement “bridge” program may present credit by exam, CLEP, or “AP” credit for only one of the four prerequisite courses and one of the support courses. Credit will be acknowledged but not calculated with the grade point average.

Detailed information regarding Advanced Placement, CLEP, and Credit by Examination can be found at:

<https://www.EICentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

D. HESI A² Test – Minimum Scores Required

The HESI A² test is a timed, computerized test which is usually completed in 3-4 hours. In addition to completing the five prerequisites courses, applicants to the LVN-RN Advanced Placement “bridge” program must also earn **a minimum score of 80 or higher** on the following sections of the HESI A² test: **Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary/General Knowledge, Math, and Anatomy/Physiology**. Students must also complete the **Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections** and submit those results with their application materials. The Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections are not graded.

HESI A² scores are considered in the point award ranking process. Scores on the math and anatomy/physiology sections are considered separately. Scores on the Reading Comprehension, Grammar, and Vocabulary/General Knowledge are combined and the average score (referred to as the “English” score in the sample ranking table on page 9) is considered for points.

The following is an example of points awarded for a sample applicant’s HESI A² scores:

<u>HESI A² section</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Points Awarded</u>
Math	94	5
Anatomy/Physiology	96	7
Grammar	88	
Vocabulary/General Knowledge	92	
Reading Comprehension	<u>87.23</u>	
	$267.23 \div 3 = \mathbf{89.08}$ (“English” score)	3

Please note the following important information regarding the HESI A²:

- Test scores are valid for **two years** from the date of testing to the application filing deadline date.

- Applicants may take the HESI A² at any approved testing site including the assessment centers at El Centro and Northlake Colleges. The approximate cost of the HESI test at El Centro College (Paramount Building) is \$40.00.
- **Applicants are responsible for securing their own testing appointment at the location of their choice.** The procedure for making testing appointments and payment varies among testing sites. **Applicants are responsible for submitting their score sheet with their program application materials.**
- HESI A² testing appointments at El Centro College fill quickly. Applicants are encouraged to schedule their HESI A² several weeks prior to an application filing deadline. **NOTE: Score sheets may not be available for download from the Elsevier website for 2-3 days. Do not assume that you will have your score sheet to submit with application materials if you test on the application deadline date.**
- The **HESI A² Study Guide** is available at various bookstores including the Follett Bookstores at El Centro and Northlake Colleges. A **HESI A² Prep** course is periodically offered by the El Centro College Continuing Education Division. Contact that office at 214-860-2147 for dates and times of the prep course.
- **There is no limit on the number of times an applicant may take the HESI A² test for application to the LVN-RN Advanced Placement “bridge” program.** If the applicant desires to retake the HESI A², **ALL FIVE SECTIONS** must be retaken. Only one score sheet should be submitted with scores of 80 or higher on each of the five required sections. Scores on individual test sections which are printed on separate score sheets cannot be combined. If more than one score sheet is submitted, the scores from the latest HESI testing attempt will be the scores of record. It is not necessary to repeat the Learning Styles and Personality Profile sections on retests. The printout of these sections can be submitted from one testing attempt.
- Before retesting, the applicant is encouraged to review the study guide and/or enroll in the HESI A² prep course to prepare for the retest opportunity.

More information on the HESI A² and the process for scheduling a testing appointment to take the HESI A² at El Centro College is available at:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

E. Castle Branch

Applicants to health occupations programs are required to have a current physical examination, specific immunizations, a tuberculosis screening, and certification in Basic Life Support (“BLS” formerly known as Healthcare Provider level) CPR. The El Centro College Health Sciences Division utilizes Castle Branch, a medical record management company, to verify these requirements. Applicants submit this documentation directly to Castle Branch which will verify whether the records are complete. See the “Immunization Requirements” guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

If the applicant has personal healthcare coverage at the time of application, that documentation may also be submitted to Castle Branch. If accepted to the program, the applicant must submit proof of coverage to Castle Branch prior to attending clinical. For more information, see item 7 on page 13 of this packet.

F. Application Packet Submission

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY. Applicants must submit complete nursing application materials to the El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office either in person or by mail on or before the application filing deadline.

Application packets with incomplete materials will be disqualified and will be returned to the applicant.

The LVN to RN Advanced Placement program application materials must be submitted in a 9x12 inch envelope and include the following items to be considered complete and valid:

1. A completed **LVN to RN Advanced Placement program Application form** (included in this information packet) and the signed **Statement of Student's Responsibility form** (also included in this information packet).
2. **Official transcript** verifying completion of a Vocational Nursing program.
3. **An original letter from the LVN's supervisor/employer on official letterhead with an ink signature verifying at least 6 months employment** at that facility with a detailed outline of responsibilities and duties.
4. The original **HESI A² score sheet** indicating achievement of a **minimum score of 80 or higher on each of the five required sections and the Personality Profile and Learning Style results.**
5. **Documentation of a current Texas L.V.N. license.**

NOTE: Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring that their current official transcripts from ALL PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (excluding Dallas County Community colleges) are submitted to a Registrar/Admissions Office at a Dallas County Community college prior to applying to an El Centro College health occupations program. Official transcripts must have a print date no earlier than three years prior to the anticipated entry to a health occupations program.

Submitting incomplete application materials will disqualify the application and the student will not be considered further in the application process. Students are advised to retain a photocopy of all materials submitted as their application packet and to Castle Branch.

ONCE AN APPLICATION PACKET IS SUBMITTED TO THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ADMISSIONS OFFICE, ADDITIONAL MATERIALS CANNOT BE ADDED TO THE PACKET. THE PACKET CANNOT BE RETRIEVED BY THE APPLICANT UNTIL AFTER THE FILING PERIOD ENDS.

G. Application Filing Periods

There are two official filing periods per calendar year for entry into the LVN to RN Advanced Placement program:

Official application filing period for Fall semester (late August) admission:

November 1 – January 31

Notification letters are mailed by April 30th.

Official application filing period for Spring semester (mid-January) admission:

May 1 – July 15

Notification letters are mailed by October 15th.

Complete application packets may be presented in person at the Health Occupations Admissions Office during regular hours of operation or submitted in the drop box adjacent to the office door. An application packet may also be mailed providing it is postmarked no later than an application filing deadline date.

NOTE: In the event that the last day of a filing period falls on a holiday or a Sunday when the college is closed or when the post office does not postmark mail, complete application packets may be presented to the El Centro College Health Occupations Admissions Office ***in person by 5:00 p.m. on the next regular business day.***

When submitting your application by mail, address your envelope containing complete application materials to:

Nursing Bridge Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions
El Centro College/Paramount
801 Main Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

When submitting your application in person, bring your envelope containing complete application materials to:

Nursing Bridge Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions Office Room P-101
Center for Allied Health and Nursing (Paramount Building)
301 North Market Street
Dallas TX 75202

Late Application Guidelines

In the event that all applicants on the ranked list for a specific application filing period are accepted and space still remains in that LVN to RN Advanced Placement class, late applications may be considered at the discretion of the Dean of Nursing. **Applicants should not assume that late applications will be considered for each fall or spring LVN to RN Advanced Placement class.**

LATE filing for Fall semester admission (if necessary):

May 1 – June 15

Notification emails are sent by June 30th.

LATE filing for Spring semester admission (if necessary):

August 1 – September 30

Notification emails are sent by October 15th.

H. Selection Process

Applicants are ranked for acceptance selection via a point award system*. Point award totals for applicants may range from a minimum of 9 points to a maximum of 50 points on the designated criteria below:

<u>POINT AWARD CRITERIA</u>	<u>POTENTIAL POINTS PER CRITERIA</u>
Prerequisite Course Cumulative GPA (2.5 minimum required)	5 points
2.50 – 2.99 =	3 points
3.00 – 3.49 =	4 points
3.50 – 4.00 =	5 points
Support Courses completed with a minimum grade of “C” (BIOL 2402, BIOL 2420 or 2421, and humanities elective)	4 points
1 – 4 credit hours =	2 points
5 – 8 credit hours =	3 points
9 – 11 credit hours =	4 points
HESI A² Test – Points awarded for each of the following sections: Math, Anatomy/Physiology, and combined “English” sections:	21 points
80 – 84 =	1 points
85 – 89 =	3 points
90 – 95 =	5 points
96 – 100 =	7 points
Optional Pharmacology and Pathophysiology courses + completed with a minimum grade of “C”	6 points
RNSG 1301 or HPRS 2300 =	3 points
RNSG 1311 or HPRS 2201 =	3 points
Courses# toward various RN to BSN transition program – 1 point per course:	14 points
ARTS 1301 - Art Appreciation	
BIOL 1322 - Principles of Nutrition	
CHEM 1411 - Chemistry I (subject to the five year time limit; no waiver considered)	
ENGL 1302 - Composition II	
ENGL 2311 - Technical Writing	
GOVT 2301/2305 - Government I (U.S.)	
GOVT 2302 /2306 - Government II (State & Local)	
HIST 1301 - US History I	
HIST 1302 - US History II	
MATH 1314/1314 - College Algebra	
MATH 2342/2442 - Statistics	
SOCI 1301 - Intro to Sociology	
SPCH 1311/1321 - Speech	
2000 or above ENGL literature course	
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS	50 points

* In the event that two or more applicants with the same point award total, the cumulative score on all five required sections of the HESI A² will be used to break the tie.

+ Pharmacology and Pathophysiology courses are not required in the curriculum; however, extra points area awarded if one or both of these courses are completed.

Points will be awarded for these courses only if the course numbers match exactly on an official transcript or on an El Centro College advising report as evaluated by the Transcript Evaluation Center. This consideration does not guarantee transferability of the courses toward any RN-BSN program.

The table below illustrates the ranking process for a sample group of applicants:

EXAMPLE OF POINT AWARD RANKING PROCESS

	Cumulative GPA on 3 Prerequisite Courses (Max. 5 pts.)	Support Course Credit Hours (Max. 4 pts.)	Completed RNSG 1301/HPRS 2300 (Pharmacology) RNSG 1311/HPRS 2201 (Pathophysiology) (Max. 6 pts.)	HESI A ² Scores on English*, Math, and Anatomy/Physiology sections (Max. 21 pts.)	Other Courses toward BSN Articulation programs (Max. 14 pts.)	Total Points (Max. 50 pts.)	Cumulative Score on all five required sections of HESI A ² (tiebreaker)
Applicant #1	3.77 = 5 pts.	11 cr hrs = 4 pts	RNSG 1301 = 3 pts. HPRS 2201 = 3 pts.	English 97.26 = 7 pts. Math 98 = 7 pts. A/P 96 = <u>7 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 21 pts.	14 courses from the list on page 9	50	455.26
Applicant #2	3.60 = 5 pts.	9 cr hrs = 4 pts.	RNSG 1311 = 3 pts. RNSG 1301 = 3 pts.	English 96.89 = 7 pts. Math 98 = 7 pts. A/P 95 = <u>5 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 19 pts.	12 courses	46	458.89
Applicant #3	4.00 = 5 pts.	9 cr hrs = 4 pts.	None	English 96.74 = 7 pts. Math 99 = 7 pts. A/P 97 = <u>7 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 21pts.	10 courses	40	451.74
Applicant #4	3.40 = 4 pts.	8 cr hrs = 3 pts.	HPRS 2300 = 3 pts.	English 98.74 = 7 pts. Math 96 = 7 pts. A/P 98 = <u>7 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 21 pts.	6 courses	37	468.74
Applicant #5	3.87 = 5 pts.	11 cr hrs = 4 pts	None	English 96.89 = 7 pts. Math 95 = 5 pts. A/P 92 = <u>5 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 17 pts.	10 courses	36	436.89
Applicant #6	2.93 = 3 pts.	0 cr hrs = 0 pts.	RNSG 1301 = 3 pts. RNSG 1311 = 3 pts.	English 93.26 = 5 pts. Math 97 = 7 pts. A/P 99 = <u>7 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 19 pts.	8 courses	36	422.26
Applicant #7	4.00 = 5 pts.	11 cr hrs = 4 pts	HPRS 2201 = 3 pts. HPRS 2300 = 3 pts.	English 89.26 = 3 pts. Math 88 = 3 pts. A/P 95 = <u>7 pts.</u> TOTAL HESI PTS. 13 pts.	6 courses	33	415.26

* "English" score is derived from averaging the Reading Comprehension, Grammar, and Vocabulary/General Knowledge sections of the HESI A2.

The shaded columns reflect the total point award calculation and the final tie breaker which is the combined scores on the five required sections of the HESI A². **You will note that no single ranking criterion determines competitiveness in the applicant pool.** All six ranking criteria (GPA on the four prerequisite courses, support course credit hours completed with a grade of "C" or higher, completion of the optional pharmacology and pathophysiology courses, additional courses toward BSN programs, and the three designated HESI A2 scores factor into the point award ranking process.

For example, Applicant #1 has a cumulative HESI A² score of 455.26 on all five sections combined, has a GPA of 3.77 on the four prerequisite courses, has completed all 11 credit hours of support courses with a grade of "C" or higher in each, has completed both optional pharmacology and pathophysiology courses, and has completed all 14 of the additional courses toward the various BSN programs for a point total of 50. You will note that Applicants #5 and #6 have the same final point total of 36; however, Applicant #5 has a higher combined HESI A2 score of 436.89 as opposed to Applicant #6's combined HESI A² score of 422.26 which breaks the tie between them.

Therefore, if there were only six spaces in the LVN to RN Advanced Placement program, Applicants 1-6 would be accepted to the program.

Applicants may improve their points ranking by: 1) repeating one or more of the four prerequisite courses to earn a higher GPA (the last grade earned will be the grade of record); 2) completing one or more of the support courses with a grade of “C” or higher; 3) completing the pharmacology and pathophysiology courses; 4) repeating one or more sections of the HESI A² to earn a higher score and subsequently additional points; and 5) completing one or more of the fourteen extra courses toward to various BSN programs. **NOTE:** The decision to repeat a successfully completed course (any prerequisite or support course completed with a grade of “C” or higher) in order to improve an applicant’s competitiveness in the ranking process rests solely with the applicant.

Notification Letters

Using the point award ranking process, a ranked list is generated from those applications received during an official filing period and both acceptance and non-acceptance notification letters are mailed out.

A student who applies during an official filing period and who receives an acceptance letter is required to return a confirmation form within a specified timeframe to verify their intent to accept a space in the class. **Applications submitted during an official filing period are not “held over” to the next official filing period.**

Students who are not selected for admission the semester for which they apply or students who decline their acceptance for that semester must retrieve and resubmit their application packet by a specified date to reapply during the next application filing period.

Program information packets are revised September 1st of each year and also at other times throughout the academic year as needed. Program guidelines are subject to change. Students are responsible for insuring they have the latest program information packet from the website below:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

Visit the Associate Degree Nursing Program webpage at
<https://www.elcentrocollege.edu/programs/associate-degree-nursing>

Health Occupations webpage:
<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthCareers>

Health Occupations Admissions Office webpage:
<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

Like us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ECC.AlliedHealthandNursing>

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – LVN to RN ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM

<u>Prerequisites to Program Admission</u>		Lec	Lab	Ext	Cont	Cr
		Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs	Hrs
BIOL 2401*	Human Anatomy & Physiology I	3	3	0	96	4
ENGL 1301	Composition I	3	0	0	48	3
PSYC 2301	Introduction to Psychology	3	0	0	48	3
PSYC 2314	Lifespan Growth and Development	3	0	0	48	3
		<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>SEMESTER I – Fall</u>						
BIOL 2402*	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3	3	0	96	4
BIOL 2420*	General Microbiology OR	3	4	0	96	4
BIOL 2421	Microbiology					
RNSG 1324	Concept-based Trans. to Prof. Nurs.Prac.	3	0	0	48	3
RNSG 1118	Professional Nursing Competencies	0	4	0	64	1
RNSG 1126	Professional Nursing Concepts II	1	0	0	16	1
		<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>320</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>SEMESTER II – Spring</u>						
RNSG 1538	Health Care Concepts III	5	0	0	80	5
RNSG 1137	Professional Nursing Concepts III	1	0	0	16	1
RNSG 2363	Clinical III	0	0	12	192	3
Elective #	Humanities area	3	0	0	48	3
		<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>SEMESTER IV – Second Year</u>						
RNSG 2539+	Health Care Concepts IV	5	0	0	80	5
RNSG 2138 +	Professional Nursing Concepts IV	1	0	0	32	1
RNSG 2360	Clinical IV	0	0	12	192	3
		<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS +					1200	47 +

* Science courses (BIOL 2401, BIOL /2402, and BIOL 2420 or BIOL 2421) must be completed less than 5 years prior to the anticipated date of program entry. BIOL 1406 is required prerequisite for BIOL 2401.

Humanities elective must be chosen from the Humanity, Creativity and Aesthetic Experience section of the general Associate Degree of Arts/Sciences degree plan. See the current El Centro College catalog for a full list of accepted courses. **Suggested courses include: ARTS 1301, DANC 2303, DRAM 1310, HUMA 1315, MUSI 1306, PHIL 1301, PHIL 1304, selected ENGL literature courses at the 2000 level or higher, sophomore level foreign languages such as SPAN 2311.**

+ Upon successful completion of SEMESTER I, the student will be awarded an additional 13 hours of equivalency (articulated) credit for RNSG1430, RNSG 1161, RNSG 1533, and RNSG 2362 to complete the 60 credit hours of the Associate Degree Nursing program curriculum.

A minimum grade of “C” is required in all courses. Support courses may be completed **before but not after** semester indicated.

RNSG 2539 – Health Concepts IV, RNSG 2138 Professional Nursing Concepts IV, and an Exit Program Competency Exam represent the Capstone experience for the Associate Degree Nursing Program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The LVN to RN Advanced Placement program accepts a class of approximately 30* students each Fall and Spring semester.

* The El Centro College Health Sciences Division reserve the right to make changes in program enrollment capacity and to determine the minimum enrollment to offer the class each fall or semester.

2. The LVN to RN Advanced Placement (“bridge”) courses are completed in one, 16-week semester which involves a total of 4 hours of lecture and 4 hours of skills lab each week, usually during daytime hours. Students should plan 2-3 hours of study and preparation time for each hour of class and clinical experience. After successfully completing the advanced placement courses, the student continues into the sophomore year of the traditional Associate Degree Nursing program for two, additional 16-week semesters. In the traditional nursing program a student can expect to have clinical rotations involving both day and evening hours. Hospital assignments are determined by a lottery system. Students should be aware that the high demand on their time will not allow for full-time employment while enrolled in the nursing program.
3. Students enrolled in the LVN to RN Advanced Placement program must be physically able to care for patients that will involve lifting an adult patient of average size, moving, bathing, and transferring patients into and out of bed. Students will be on their feet for at least eight hours each clinical day. Students must be able to read fine print for medication administration purposes and be able to hear heart and breath sounds. Manual dexterity is required for skills such as starting IV’s, administering injections, etc. In the event that a student has a medical condition that may compromise their ability to care for patients, a medical release from their physician may be required. Students will be exposed to infectious diseases.
4. Students must comply with class and clinical attendance requirements according to nursing student handbook guidelines that are published annually. Students who are absent from clinical for physical or mental illness, surgery or pregnancy reasons must present a written release from a physician before being allowed to return to the clinical setting. Students who are anticipating surgery or delivery of a baby during an academic semester are advised to wait until the following semester to apply to the nursing program.
5. Applicants to the health occupations programs at El Centro College must submit physical examination and immunization documentation to Castle Branch no later than the program application deadline. To download the physical form and immunization requirements, see the “Immunization Requirements” link at <https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>.
6. All nursing applicants must be certified in Basic Life Support (“BLS” formerly known as “Healthcare Provider” level) cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as designated by the American Heart Association and a photocopy of the front and back of the card must be submitted to Castle Branch no later than the program application deadline. The CPR certification must not expire prior to the anticipated program entry date and must not expire during a semester when enrolled in the program. CPR classes are available through the El Centro College Continuing Education Division, the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, various hospitals, independent instructors, etc. **Totally online CPR certification classes including those offered by the Red Cross are not valid for application to health occupations programs.**
7. Proof of current personal healthcare insurance coverage is required for all health occupations students. **If documentation of coverage is not submitted to Castle Branch with immunization records, proof of coverage must be submitted by the first day of the semester if a student is accepted to the program.** Students must secure their own coverage and the insurance policy must cover the student at any hospital facility for the entire program.

Information on college student policies and rates can be found at the following link: <https://www.healthcare.gov>. The National Student Nurses' Association also partners with United Healthcare which offers a student policy for their members. See the following link for more information: <https://www.uhcsr.com/NSNA>

8. Clinical opportunities may be limited for students without Social Security numbers. If accepted to the program, a student must contact the El Centro College Multicultural Center Office (Room A-140, telephone 214-860-2090) regarding eligibility to apply for a Social Security number before graduation from the program.
9. Many of the nursing prerequisite and support courses are offered online. Students without prior experience with Internet courses should take the Smarter Measure – Learning Readiness Indicator (READI) test to see if they are a good candidate for online learning. Go to <http://ecc.smartermeasure.com/> and log in as a New User. The current User Name is **choose el centro** and the Password is **student**.
10. *Criminal Background Check / Drug Screening*

All students enrolled in Health Occupations programs are required by the Dallas/Fort Worth Hospital Council member facilities to undergo a criminal background check and drug testing prior to beginning their clinical experience. Students are responsible for all charges incurred (approximately \$86.00) for these screenings. **This procedure is conducted after a student has been accepted to their respective program.**

Results of these screenings are forwarded to the El Centro College Health Sciences Division for review and verification that a student is eligible to attend clinical rotation. All background check and drug screening results become the property of the Health Sciences Division and will not be released to the student or any other third party.

A clinical agency reserves the right to remove a student from the facility for suspicion of substance use or abuse including alcohol. The clinical agency reserves the right to request that a student submit to a repeat drug screening at the student's expense on the same day that the student is removed from the clinical facility. Failure to comply will result in the student's immediate expulsion from the clinical facility. Furthermore, regardless of testing or testing results, a clinical agency reserves the right to expel a student from their facility.

NOTE: Should a student who has been accepted to a Health Occupations program be prohibited from attending a clinical rotation experience due to findings of a criminal background check and/or drug screening, the student may be dismissed from the Health Occupations program.

More information regarding the Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening procedure is found at:

<https://www.ElCentroCollege.edu/HealthOccAdmissions>

11. El Centro College students who are enrolled in 6 credit hours or more during a fall or spring semester and 3 credit hours or more during a summer semester are entitled to a free DART train/bus pass for that semester. DART passes are available at the Cashier's Office two weeks after the semester begins.
12. Individuals who were first-time college freshman students in Fall 2007 or after are subject to the guidelines of section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code which prohibits a student from dropping more than six (6) college level credit courses during their entire undergraduate career. For more information on the 6 Drop rule, see the official college catalog online at:

<https://www.1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/GradesTranscripts/dw.cfm?loc=ECC>.

13. El Centro College charges a higher tuition rate for courses in which a student registers for the third or more times. The “Third Attempt” policy includes courses taken at any of the Dallas County Community colleges since the Fall 2002 semester. Developmental courses are not considered in this policy. For more information regarding the “Third Attempt” policy, please visit the following website:

https://www1.dcccd.edu/catalog/GeneralInfo/GradesTranscripts/Third_Attempt.cfm?loc=ECC

14. Students are responsible for their own transportation arrangements to the college and their assigned health care facilities for clinical experience. Clinical assignments from the list below vary from semester to semester:

Baylor Scott and White Medical Center–Carrollton	Medical City Dallas Hospital
Baylor Scott and White – Dallas	Methodist Charlton Hospital
Brentwood Healthcare	Methodist Richardson Medical Center
Children’s Medical Center	Methodist Dallas Medical Center
City Hospital at White Rock	North TX Veterans’ Affairs Healthcare System
Dallas Regional Medical Center	Parkland Memorial Hospital
Green Oaks Behavioral Health Care Services	Terrell State Hospital
Head Start	Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children
Heritage Manor	William P. Clements, Jr. University Hospital
Las Colinas Medical Center	Zale Lipshy University Hospital
Life Care of Dallas and Plano	

15. A student may apply to more than one El Centro College Health Occupations program during a given filing period. However, if the student receives an acceptance letter to a specific program, confirms their intent to enter that program, and registers for program courses, their application to any other Health Occupations program that may share that filing period will be null and void.

Further, an individual accepted for admission and currently enrolled in an El Centro College Health Occupations program may not apply or be considered for admission selection for another El Centro College Health Occupations program unless their current program of study will complete before the second program curriculum begins.

16. Students are required to answer certain questions on the Texas Board of Nursing application for Registration by Examination to become licensed as a Registered Nurse. These questions are in regard to criminal convictions, mental illness or chemical dependency, or prior disciplinary action by a licensing authority for nurses. Students answering “yes” to those questions must submit the required documents with an explanation to the Texas Board of Nursing at least eighteen (18) months prior to graduation. The Texas Board of Nursing will consider these documents and reach a decision regarding eligibility to write the licensing examination. An applicant may request a Declaratory Order (a decision by the Texas Board of Nursing regarding an applicant’s eligibility to take the licensing exam) prior to entering a program of nursing. More information on this issue is found on the Texas Board of Nursing website at www.bon.texas.gov. For further information, contact Ms. Joan Becker, Director of Nursing at 972-860-5098.

17. Financial Aid

Students should apply for Financial Aid Office well in advance of program application. Information on filing procedures and deadlines is found at <https://www.dcccd.edu/PC/FA>.

The Health Sciences Division Office located in Room P-712 at 301 North Market Street also has information regarding scholarships and other financial assistance for health occupations students. Contact the Health Sciences Division at 972-860-5095 for more information.

18. The El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing program has partnered with the University of Texas at Arlington nursing program to provide a seamless transition for graduates who plan to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN). A student accepted into the El Centro Associate Degree Nursing program who expresses interest in the **UTA Professional Nursing Pathways RN to BSN transition program** is automatically accepted into the UTA program providing they complete the general courses required by UTA and have graduated from the El Centro nursing program. These general courses include such classes as additional English composition and literature courses, history, government, statistics, etc.

The El Centro College Associate Degree Nursing program has also collaborated with BSN nursing programs at several Texas universities including Texas Tech University, Texas Woman's University, Midwestern State University, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Tyler to form the Consortium for Advancement of Baccalaureate Nursing Education in Texas (CABNET) for RN to BSN articulation programs. Students in the El Centro Associate Degree Nursing program will graduate as "core complete with 54 credits hours plus nursing credits. Completion of the El Centro 60 credit hour nursing program coupled with 60 additional credits in a BSN program will result in a true 120 credit hour Bachelor Degree in Nursing. All RN to BSN articulation programs included in the CABNET are online, have no local residency requirement, and offer automatic acceptance to El Centro College nursing graduates.

For more information on the UTA Pathways program and other RN to BSN programs, please see the following link:

https://dcccd.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id= 15563_1&content_id= 2549173_1

20. Please contact the individuals below for assistance:

Joan Becker, M.A., R.N.
Dean of Nursing
Room P-715
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas, TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5098
E-mail: JBecker@dcccd.edu

Jesse Elizardo, Bridge Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions Office
Room P-101
El Centro College/Paramount
301 North Market Street
Dallas TX 75202
Telephone: 972-860-5007
E-mail: JElizardo@dcccd.edu

The official mailing address for all application materials and correspondence is:

Nursing Bridge Admissions
Health Occupations Admissions
El Centro College/Paramount
801 Main Street
Dallas TX 75202-3604

Official transcripts must be sent to:

Registrar
El Centro College
801 Main Street
Dallas, TX 75202-3604

EScript transcripts must be sent directly to:

Registrar-ECC@dcccd.edu

ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR THE LVN-RN ADVANCED PLACEMENT “BRIDGE” PROGRAM *

	Dallas County Resident	Out of County Texas Resident	Out of State/ Country Resident
Prerequisite Tuition (13 credit hours)	\$ 767.00	\$ 1,443.00	\$ 2,262.00
Textbooks, Lab Manuals	866.30	866.30	866.30
CPR Certification	65.00	65.00	65.00
Physical Exam and Immunizations**	225.00	225.00	225.00
HESI A ²	40.00	40.00	40.00
Castle Branch	25.00	25.00	25.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,988.30</u>	<u>\$ 2,664.30</u>	<u>\$ 3,483.30</u>
SEMESTER I			
Tuition (13 credit hours)	\$ 767.00	\$ 1,443.00	\$ 2,262.00
Nursing Textbooks – Electronic only #	1,742.51	1,742.51	1,742.51
Support Course Textbooks	351.65	351.65	351.65
Nurse Pac (Skills Lab practice materials)	250.00	250.00	250.00
HESI Testing Fees	55.00	55.00	55.00
Board of Nurse Examiners screening fee	100.00	100.00	100.00
Background Check/Drug Screen	86.00	86.00	86.00
Exam Soft	27.50	27.50	27.50
Uniforms (approx.. cost of 2 sets/lab coat)	250.00	250.00	250.00
Name Tag (2)	20.00	20.00	20.00
Shoes (approximate cost)	60.00	60.00	60.00
Stethoscope (approximate cost)	35.00	35.00	35.00
Bandage scissors (approximate cost)	8.00	8.00	8.00
Watch with second hand (approximate cost)	40.00	40.00	40.00
Total	<u>\$ 3,792.66</u>	<u>\$ 4,468.66</u>	<u>\$ 5,287.66</u>
SEMESTER II			
Tuition (12 credit hours)	\$ 708.00	\$ 1,332.00	\$ 2,088.00
Elective Course Textbook	90.00	90.00	90.00
HESI Final Exam	55.00	55.00	55.00
Professional Liability Insurance##	8.00	8.00	8.00
Exam Soft	27.50	27.50	27.50
Total	<u>\$ 888.50</u>	<u>\$ 1,512.50</u>	<u>\$ 2,268.50</u>
SEMESTER III			
Tuition (9 credit hours)	\$ 531.00	\$ 999.00	\$ 1,566.00
HESI Testing Fees	47.00	47.00	47.00
Exam Soft	27.50	27.50	27.50
Professional Liability Insurance##	11.70	11.70	11.70
Pearson Vue NCLEX	200.00	200.00	200.00
NCLEX Review of your choice	275.00	275.00	275.00
NCLEX-RN License Fee	139.00	139.00	139.00
Total	<u>\$ 1,231.20</u>	<u>\$ 1,699.20</u>	<u>\$ 2,266.20</u>
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROGRAM EXPENSE	\$ 7,900.66	\$ 10,344.66	\$ 13,305.66

* Tuition and other fees are subject to change. See official catalog for tuition table. Tuition above is current for January 2016.

** Estimated cost of physical exam and immunizations.

Hard copies of nursing textbooks are also available at an additional cost.

Liability insurance is assessed each fall at \$11.70 to cover fall and spring semesters. Fee is prorated to \$8.00 for a spring entry to program.

See Accounting Office for Tuition Payment Plan option. Other costs to consider: Personal health care insurance coverage, transportation and Parking Fees to El Centro and hospital clinical sites.

