



# SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS PROGRAM VOCATIONAL NURSING CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION -TRADITIONAL TRACK 2024-2025 Catalog Revised 5-8-2025

## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Applicants must satisfy all Specialized Admissions criteria, including General requirements, ATI TEAS minimum composite scores, Mandatory courses, and Pre-Program Specifics to qualify for ranking. At ranking, points are derived from the most recent ATI TEAS composite score and the most recent G.P.A. of Ranking courses.

## PROGRAM MAP

Program Map provides additional information regarding salary projections, employment opportunities, licensure requirements, and Educational milestones. WEB LINK: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Catalog/program-map?programID=963>

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Admissions **must satisfy all criteria by the ranking date** in order to be eligible for consideration for ranking. The required criteria are:

- **Acceptance by EPCC** as an academic credit student
- A composite **score of at least 62%** in the ATI TEAS - The Test of Essential Academic Skills
- **Two mandatory orientations** required for the Nursing/Vocational Nursing program
  - **Online Health Careers Orientation** to declare Nursing and/or Vocational Nursing as a secondary major
    - Weblink: [www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation](http://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation)
  - **Paid application and submission of Health Careers Specialized Admissions Application:**
    - Pay the fee at the cashier's window and submit the application for processing via email to: [specialized.adm@epcc.edu](mailto:specialized.adm@epcc.edu) or hand carry it to VV Campus, 919 Hunter, Enrollment Services Center; Admissions and Registration Office
  - **Online Nursing Specialized Admissions Orientation**
    - Web link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/nursing-specialized-admissions-orientation>
    - **Submit Certificate of Completion** under Complo tracking account
- **Completion with a "C" or better** of all academic and specialized courses listed on the degree plan
- A minimum cumulative **EPCC GPA of 2.5**
  - Submission of **all previous college/university transcripts** (transliteration of all foreign coursework required)
- **Submission of High School Diploma or GED**
  - Request official transcripts be sent to: *EPCC Admissions Office, P. O. Box 20500, El Paso, Texas 79998* or [sendtranscripts2@epcc.edu](mailto:sendtranscripts2@epcc.edu); verify EPCC received transcripts
- **Advising session with a program-designated Nursing Counselor** no later than six (6) months prior to ranking

## TEAS ASSESSMENT SCORES

The ATI TEAS exam must be taken for qualification and ranking into the VN program. The following requirements must be met:

- Minimum Composite **score of 62%**
- Official composite scores must contain all four (4)-subject areas (English & Language Usage, Math, Reading, and Science)
- Official scores are **valid for two years**
- **Only the most recent composite scores** will be used for qualification and ranking
- **A 21-day waiting period for re-testing** must be observed, with a maximum of four (4) attempts; after four attempts, must wait 6 months before retesting. (Four attempts apply to only valid scores; within the 2-year validity date)
- Check the Testing website for ATI TEAS exam dates.
- If the ATI TEAS exam is taken outside of EPCC, **scores will not transfer to EPCC automatically**. The applicants must:
  - Contact ATI to request official scores be sent to the EPCC Testing Center
  - Then, contact the EPCC Testing Center (provide student ID) to verify they received your scores and uploaded them
  - Additional costs may be charged by ATI to send official scores

### PREPARATION TOOLS:

- Check with your Vocational Nursing counselor for free workshops available by the EPCC Tutorial Support Services
- ATI TEAS Study Guide offered for sale at [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com)

## MANDATORY COURSES

Mandatory courses are those courses that a student must have successfully completed prior to ranking. Applicants who do not satisfactorily (with a minimum grade of "C" or better) complete Mandatory Courses will not be eligible to be ranked in the Vocational Nursing program.

The following criteria should be considered:

- BIOL 1306 and BIOL 1106 are prerequisites for BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402. These prerequisites can be met through CLEP- (College Level Examination Program) or course completion
- For qualification, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, and RNSG 1301 have a **10-year limit**
- Mandatory courses cannot be substituted with the exception of Math

**If you are receiving Financial Aid or VA assistance, check with the FA or VA Office for funding eligibility for courses.**

### MANDATORY COURSES:

- **BIOL 2401** Anatomy & Physiology I
- **BIOL 2402** Anatomy & Physiology II
- **RNSG 1301** Pharmacology
- **MATH 1324** Mathematics for Business & Social Sciences or MATH 1314 College Algebra or MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods or higher-level Math course

## RANKING COURSES

Ranking courses cannot be substituted. The ranking GPA is calculated based on the following courses:

- **BIOL 2401** Anatomy & Physiology I
- **BIOL 2402** Anatomy & Physiology II
- **RNSG 1301** Pharmacology

Courses may be repeated but **only the most recent grades** will be considered for the ranking.

## OTHER DEGREE PROGRAM COURSES

Check the 2024-2025 El Paso Community College Catalog for prerequisites.

- **PSYC 2314** Lifespan Growth & Development (Prerequisite to VNSG 1234, VNSG 1262, VNSG 1230, VNSG 1263)
- **ENGL 1301** Composition I

## PRE-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for specialized programs **must meet all Pre-Specialized Admissions requirements by the due date to qualify** for ranking. All requirements must be current through the entire academic semester or summer term. These requirements include:

- **Two mandatory orientations:**
  - **Online Health Careers Orientation**
    - Weblink: [www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation](http://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation)
    - Submit the application for processing via email to: [specialized.adm@epcc.edu](mailto:specialized.adm@epcc.edu)

## PRE-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- **Online Nursing Specialized Admissions Orientation**
  - Web link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/nursing-specialized-admissions-orientation>
  - Submit Certificate of Completion under Complio tracking account
- **Current Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR Certificate** – Offered by an American Heart Association Healthcare Provider; an online course *with* a face-to-face skills training portion or a course offered entirely face-to-face is accepted (**course cannot be combined with First Aid certification**)
- **First Aid Certification** – Offered by the National Safety Council Course or American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeon; an online course *with* a face-to-face skills training portion or a course offered entirely face-to-face is accepted (**course cannot be combined with BLS certification**)
- **Immunizations and Titers** – Immunizations and serum (blood) titers must be completed. Be aware that **this requirement may take several weeks** to complete due to an extended turnaround time for titer results and the required intervals for vaccine series, titers, and re-titers; after a vaccination is administered, a 4-6 week waiting period should be observed for immunity to show on lab work. See Nursing Clinical Clearance staff or Vocational Nursing Counselor for complete information.
  - **Immunizations include:**
    - **Hepatitis B series**
    - **Mumps/Measles/Rubella (MMR)**
    - **Varicella**
    - **Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine** (booster after 10 years)
    - **Influenza vaccine** for the current season is required for October ranking only (renew each year)
    - **Meningitis vaccine** may be required by college, check with Registrar's office (booster after 5 years)
    - **Two COVID 19 vaccination series or one booster** is required (medical or religious exemption is allowed but proof of either is expected)
  - **Titers required include:**
    - **Positive titer is required for Hepatitis B**; if negative, repeat immunization series or Twinrix series or Heplisav-b immunization and repeat titer (ask your healthcare provider for information)
    - **Positive titer is required for Measles**
    - **Positive titer is required for Mumps or Rubella**; if any negative, repeat immunization series; re-titer is not needed
    - **Positive titer is required for Varicella**; if negative, repeat immunization series; re-titer not needed
- **Physical Exam** completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician's Assistant licensed in the USA; valid for twelve (12) months
- **Physical Technical Standards form (completed)**; form obtained through EPCC Nursing Website
- **Nursing Disclosure Form** - A criminal background may prevent an otherwise qualified applicant from ranking into the program. Dismissal from other nursing programs due to unsafe practices or unethical behavior may also disqualify an applicant from ranking. **Dishonesty in completing this form is of concern to the EPCC Nursing Programs and the Texas Board of Nursing and may disqualify an applicant from ranking**

A tracking system, **COMPLIO**, will assist students in obtaining and maintaining clinical compliance for initial and continuous enrollment. Students must pay all fees associated with the COMPLIO tracking system and must maintain an active account while enrolled in the Vocational Nursing Program. **Pre-Specialized Admissions documents should be submitted through COMPLIO:**

<https://americandatabank.com/coronavirus-passport-program/complio-login-screen/>

## DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING PRE-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

**All Pre-Program Specialized Admissions documentation is due ONE MONTH prior to the ranking date.** Processing can take place in a few days or weeks depending on document type and individual circumstances. If documents have been received, but not processed, a student will be coded as ineligible for that placement because sufficient time was not given for validating and processing the information. **It is ultimately the applicant's responsibility to submit all required documentation to allow for normal processing and VERIFY that all documents are coded in our banner system.**

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Official Ranking Dates:**
  - June 2, 2025, for Fall 2025 entry (**Clinical clearance due One Month prior to ranking date**)
  - October 1, 2025, for Spring 2026 entry (**Clinical clearance due One Month prior to ranking date**)
- The program begins in the Fall and Spring
- The program is 51 credit hours
- Maximum Students Admitted: 24 students in Fall and Spring (unless otherwise noted)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- All clinical clearance requirements must be current through the entire academic semester or summer term you want to register – **No requirement can expire during the semester/term.**
- Students must have successfully completed all required courses on the degree plan in order to graduate with a Vocational Nursing Certificate of Completion.
- **Students will be expected to pay the fees associated with ATI standardized testing, ATI Live NCLEX Review Course, Student Liability Insurance, and laboratory supply kits**
- The Texas Board of Nursing allows a student 3 years to complete the Vocational Nursing Certificate of Completion after official enrollment in the first vocational nursing course
- Students who rank into the Vocational Nursing Program and are offered a seat cannot defer their enrollment. If a student is unable to start the program in the intended semester and would like to start at a later time, the student must rank again for consideration.
- Questions concerning pre or post-admission requirements, and clinical clearance should be directed to **nursingclearance@epcc.edu** or by phone at 915-831-7133 or 915-831-4229; please include EPCC student ID and full name
- All Pre and Post-Specialized Admissions forms are located on the Nursing website
  - Weblink: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/documents>
- Basic Life Support (BLS) CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the EPCC Continuing Education Division. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-7820 or 915-831-7831 for more information
  - Weblink: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/ContinuingEducation>
- It is the student's responsibility to check with a designated Vocational Nursing Program Counselor for any program updates and/or revisions that may affect their eligibility for qualification and rank into the Vocational Nursing program. **Students should meet with a designated Vocational Nursing Program Counselor at least one (1) semester prior to ranking**
- If hyperlinks do not open, go to the Nursing website for documents at [www.epcc.edu](http://www.epcc.edu) >>>Nursing

## POST-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for the following requirements **after** they are accepted into the program. All requirements must be current through the entire academic semester or summer term. These requirements include:

- **New Nursing Student Orientation** – face-to-face, mandatory attendance
- **Community Wide Orientation (CWO)** (renew every year)
  - Weblink: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation>
- **HIPAA Training** (renew every year)
  - Weblink: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa>
- **Tuberculosis screening – Two Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) skin tests must be completed.** After the initial test, the second test must be completed within 7-21 days later. If before 7 days or after 21 days, the series must be restarted, timing is critical! After the initial double PPD series, a single test can be done annually (up to a year from the last test) or a chest x-ray if applicable. A blood Quantiferon Test or Tspot can be completed in place of PPD skin test(s)
- **Background checks – A positive background check may prevent a student from entering or continuing in the program.** Additionally, a criminal record revealed on any of these two background checks, but not previously disclosed in the Disclosure Form required for ranking may result in disqualification from the ranking process or refusal of a seat in the Vocational Nursing Program. Specific background check questions should be directed to the Dean of Nursing at 915-831-4220.
  - The Texas Board of Nursing and the Nursing Program are particularly concerned with a criminal record involving “**a felony directly related to the practice of nursing or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude that is directly related to the practice of nursing.** These crimes involve 1) Crimes involving theft or fraud, 2) Crimes involving sexual misconduct, 3) Crimes involving lying, falsification, and deception, 4) Crimes involving drugs or alcohol, and 5) Crimes involving violence or threatening behavior.” Refer to [https://www.bon.texas.gov/rr\\_current/213-28.asp.html](https://www.bon.texas.gov/rr_current/213-28.asp.html) for more information.
- **The Vocational Nursing Program requires two background checks:**
  - **First background check** – Upon qualification and placement into the program, the student is required to complete a background check through the American Data Bank
    - Weblink: <http://www.elpasoex.com/>
  - **Second background check** – Conducted by the Texas Board of Nursing (BON); upon accepting a seat in the program, the student name is submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). The BON will email the student the Texas Fingerprint Service Code Form which enables the student to make an appointment with IdentoGO to get their fingerprinting completed. Fingerprinting with a background check from the FBI is required by the BON for licensure **requirements and must be completed prior to the end of the first semester of the program for continuous enrollment**

## POST-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- **Substance Abuse Screening** – Upon ranking and enrollment in the Vocational Nursing Program, the student is required to complete a substance abuse screening through the American Data Bank. Additionally, students may be required to complete drug screening at any time during their enrollment in the nursing program. Substance use/abuse revealed through substance abuse screening may result in students being denied a seat in the Nursing Program, being dismissed from the program, and/or being reported to the Texas Board of Nursing
  - Weblink: <http://www.elpasoex.com/>
- **Proof of Personal Medical Insurance**
- **N95 Respirator Fitting** is required. Medical or religious exemption is allowed but proof of either is expected. Contact the Rio Grande Border Health Clinic (RG Room H105) at 915-831-4016 to make an appointment for a fitting or for evaluation of a current fitting performed in a healthcare institution in the USA

A tracking system, **COMPLIO**, will assist students in obtaining and maintaining clinical compliance for initial and continuous enrollment. Students must pay all fees associated with the COMPLIO tracking system and must maintain an active account while enrolled in the Vocational Nursing Program. **Post-specialized admissions documents should be submitted through COMPLIO:**

<https://americandatabank.com/coronavirus-passport-program/complio-login-screen/>

## DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING POST-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

**All Post-Program Specialized Admissions documentation is due on the date provided in the Admission Letter when a seat is offered to the student.** Processing can take place in a few days or weeks depending on document type and individual circumstances. If documents have been received, but not processed, a student will be coded as ineligible for registration. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to submit all required documentation to allow for normal processing and **VERIFY** that all documents are coded in our banner system. **Failure to comply with all post-specialized admission requirements in a timely manner can result in the loss of a student's seat in the program.**

## VOCATIONAL NURSING COURSES

Students must be formally admitted into the Vocational Nursing Program to enroll for these courses.

<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1160</b>	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1323</b>	Basic Nursing Skills
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1402</b>	Applied Nursing Skills I
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1260</b>	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1227</b>	Essentials of Medication Administration

**EXIT CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION:** Fundamentals of Vocational Nursing Students who successfully complete VNSG 1323, VNSG 1160 and VNSG 1260 (or RNSG 1413 and RNSG 1260) with a "C" or better may apply for a Nurse Aide Certificate of Completion and are eligible to become a Certified Nursing Assistant.

<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>2413</b>	Applied Nursing Skills II
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1161</b>	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>2214</b>	Applied Nursing Skills III
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1163</b>	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1166</b>	Practicum (or Field Experience) – Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training
<b>THIRD SEMESTER</b>	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1234</b>	Pediatrics
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1262</b>	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1230</b>	Maternal-Neonatal Nursing
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1263</b>	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	<b>VNSG</b>	<b>1219</b>	Leadership and Professional Development

The Vocational Nursing Program is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing. Address is located in the current catalog.

This document is for informational purposes only and is not to be construed as a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised on May 8, 2025, and is subject to change without prior notice. This document is intended to be used with the College Catalog, which provides complete information on courses as well as College regulations and procedures