



SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

VOCATIONAL NURSING

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

2023-2024 Catalog
Revised 12/6/2022

PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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Applicants must satisfy all Specialized Admissions criteria to include, General requirements, ATI TEAS minimum composite scores, Mandatory courses and Pre-Program specifics to qualify for ranking. Once a completed applicant, 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=506>

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Specialized Admissions must satisfy all criteria in order to be eligible for consideration of ranking. The applicant is required to meet all the following:

- Acceptance by EPCC as an academic credit student
- Successful completion of ATI TEAS -The Test of Essential Academic Skills
- **Two mandatory orientations are required for the Nursing program**
 1. Complete a **Nursing Specialized Admissions Orientation** online.
Web link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/nursing-specialized-admissions-orientation>
 2. Complete an **on-line Health Careers Orientation**- to declare Nursing and/or Vocational Nursing as a secondary major
Web link: www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation
 - Pay application fee at cashier's window and **submit** the Health Careers Specialized Admissions Application to the Specialized Admissions Office for processing. Send application via email to: : specialized.adm@epcc.edu or in person to:
VV Campus, 919 Hunter, Enrollment Services Center; Admissions and Registration Office
- Completion with a **"C" or better** of all academic and specialized courses listed on the degree plan
- **Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required**
- Submit all previous college/university transcripts (transliteration of all foreign coursework required) **prior to ranking**
- **Must have a 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

*It is the student's responsibility to check with a **designated Nursing Counselor** for any program updates and/or revisions as they progress through the specialized admissions process and program progression. If hyperlinks do not open go to the Nursing website for documents at www.epcc.edu.*

ASSESSMENT SCORES

A minimum of 57% composite score is required on the ATI TEAS assessment for qualification and ranking into the Nursing programs. Official scores are **valid for two years** and **only the most recent composite scores** will be used for qualification and ranking. There is a **21-day** waiting period for re-testing with a maximum of **(4) four attempts**. Re-testing **prior** to the 21-day period will **invalidate** your ATI TEAS scores for EPCC Nursing qualification and ranking.

- *If the ATI TEAS exam is taken outside of EPCC, official scores of your ATI TEAS must be sent to the EPCC TESTING CENTER along with your Student Id.*
- *Additional costs will be charged by ATI to send official scores.*
- *Student is responsible to assure official ATI scores are received*

ATI-TEAS Assessment

- Minimum Composite score-57%
- Official composite scores must contain all four (4)-subject areas (English and Language Usage, Math, Reading, and Science).
- The ATI TEAS exam must be taken for qualification and ranking into the VN program.
- ATI TEAS composite scores are valid for 2 years
- Contact a Nursing Counselor for testing and re-testing guidelines
- If you are ranking June 2023 for Fall 2023 entry or ranking October 2023 for Spring 2024 entry you will take the ATI TEAS assessment
- You can purchase an ATI TEAS Study Guide at: 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 complete mandatory course work will not qualify eligibility to be ranked for a program.

NOTE: BIOL 1306 and BIOL 1106 are pre-requisites for BIOL 2401 and BIOL 2402. Prerequisite can be met through CLEP- (College Level Examination Program) or course completion.

- **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 Algebra and Geometry** or higher-level MATH

For qualification, BIOL 2401, BIOL 2402, and RNSG 1301 has a 10-year limit. Mandatory courses cannot be substituted with the exception of Math. All mandatory courses must be successfully completed with a minimum grade of "C" or better to qualify for ranking.

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

You may repeat a course, however only the MOST RECENT grades will be considered for ranking.

OTHER DEGREE PROGRAM COURSES

Check the 2023-2024 El Paso Community College Catalog for prerequisites.

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

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

DOCUMENTS and APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITY- All Pre- Program Specialized Admissions documentation is due ONE MONTH prior to 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. Pre-Program Specific clearance is issued by submitting all Pre-Program documentation along with a Transmittal form to:

nursingclearance@epcc.edu

Transmittal form Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Nursing_Pre-Clinical_Clearance_E-mail_Transmittal_Form.pdf

PRE-PROGRAM SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicants for specialized programs must meet all Pre-program Specialized Admissions requirements PRIOR to qualifying for ranking.
2. Everything must be current through the entire academic semester or summer you want to register.
3. Pre-Program Specialized Admissions documents should be turned into: nursingclearance@epcc.edu along with a Transmittal form. Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Nursing_Pre-Clinical_Clearance_E-mail_Transmittal_Form.pdf

Start a Clinical Nursing folder: For ranking, the Nursing Discipline creates a folder when you submit the Titer lab results with any other documents that you have at this point to review them and evaluate what you're pending.

Below are two orientations required for all applicants:

1. Health Careers Orientation-Online-Required to declare your intent to pursue EPCC Nursing programs--VN and/or RN
Web link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/health-careers-orientation>
 - o Submit the Health Careers Orientation application to the Specialized Admissions Office for processing to: specialized.adm@epcc.edu
 2. Nursing Specialized Admissions Orientation-Online
Web link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/nursing-specialized-admissions-orientation>
 - o Submit Nursing Specialized Admissions certificate to: nursingclearance@epcc.edu along with a Transmittal form.
Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Nursing_Pre-Clinical_Clearance_E-mail_Transmittal_Form.pdf
- **CURRENT CPR CERTIFICATE-** American Heart Association Healthcare Provider -accepted on-line with skills training or face to face
 - **FIRST AID CERTIFICATION** - National Safety Council Course or American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeon; (8 hr. course) accepted on-line with skills training or face to face
 - **IMMUNIZATIONS and TITERS – Immunizations and Blood titers must be completed prior to placement. Immunizations must be started now if you are selecting nursing.** Immunizations include Hepatitis B series, MMR, Tdap, Varicella, Influenza, Meningitis, or as directed by DSHS
 - o **POSITIVE TITER** 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)
 - o **POSITIVE TITER** required for Measles;
 - o **POSITIVE TITER** required for Mumps;
 - o **POSITIVE TITER** required for Rubella, (MMR) (If any negative, series must be repeated)
 - o **POSITIVE TITER** required for Varicella: (if negative, series must be repeated)

NOTE: After a vaccination is administered, you must wait 4-6 weeks for immunity to show up on the TITER.

- o **Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)** or as directed by DSHS-(Expires after 10 years)
 - o **Influenza** is required for **October placement but not for June placement**; renew every year
 - o **Meningitis** may be required by college, check with Registrar's office-(Good for 5 years) (**Monitored by the Admissions Office**)
- **PHYSICAL EXAM** completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the USA-valid for 6 months for ranking qualification Link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FFAA-1.pdf>
 - **PHYSICAL TECHNICAL STANDARD form (completed)** -form obtained through Nursing Counselor or Nursing Lab Supervisor
Link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FB-8.pdf>
 - **COVID 19 vaccines plus 1st booster is now required by all hospitals. Medical or religious exemption is allowed but proof of either is expected.**
 - **NURSING DISCLOSURE FORM-** Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Nursing_Disclosure_Form.pdf

A tracking system, American Databank COMPLIO, will assist students and coordinators to be compliant with immunizations, CPR, First Aid, physical, etc. Implementation is pending for the Nursing program. Students will be expected to pay all fees that are associated with the America Databank COMPLIO tracking system.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Official Ranking Dates:**
 - o June 1, 2023 for Fall 2023 entry- (**Clinical clearance documentation due One Month prior to ranking date**)
 - o October 2, 2023 for Spring 2024 entry - (**Clinical clearance documentation due One Month prior to ranking date**)
- **Program Begins –** Fall and Spring **Program Begins** - Fall and Spring
- **Program Hours –** 51 credit hours
- **Maximum Students Admitted:** 25 students in Fall and Spring (unless otherwise noted)
- Students must have successfully completed all required courses on the degree plan in order to graduate with a Vocational Nursing Certificate of Completion
- The Texas Board of Nursing allows a student three years to complete the Vocational Nurse Certificate of Completion after official enrollment in the first Vocational Nursing course.
- Students will be expected to pay the fees that are associated with ATI standardized testing.

Background Check and Substance Abuse Screening are **Post Specialized Admissions** requirements, see page 4 for additional information.

POST-SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for the following requirements **AFTER you are accepted into the program**. Everything must be current through the entire academic semester or summer you want to register. Along with a Transmittal form, Post Specialized Admissions documents should be turned into: nursingclearance@epcc.edu

- **PROGRAM ORIENTATION**-one day in person orientation-(Mandatory)
- **COMMUNITY WIDE ORIENTATION**-<https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation> (Renew every year)
- **HIPAA TRAINING** - <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa> (Renew every year)
- Uniforms, Specialized Equipment, Lab Supplies and Liability Insurance required for clinicals.
- **TUBERCULOSIS** –Two PPD’s to be completed after ranking. After initial immunization, second one must be completed within 7-21 days later. If before 7 days or after 21 days, must start series again. Timing is critical. After initial double PPD, it is to be done annually) or Chest x-ray (as needed) (or as requested by clinical facilities) or Quantiferon Blood Test or Tspot
- **TWO BACKGROUND CHECKS** will be completed by each student. **1st** – Upon qualification and placement into the program the student is required to complete an annual background check through the American Data Bank <http://www.elpasoex.com/> A positive background check from the Texas Board of Nursing , (BON) may prevent students from entering/staying in the program. The student will not be able to go to the clinical areas or health care facilities until cleared.
- **Students who fail to obtain clearance may be prohibited from admission or enrollment in specified programs/courses.**
- **SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING**–<http://www.elpasoex.com/> - American Data Bank - Students who cannot participate in clinical rotations due to adverse activities revealed through substance abuse testing cannot complete course or program requirements. **Students who fail to obtain clearance may be prohibited from admission or enrollment in specified programs/courses.**
- **PROVIDE PROOF OF PERSONAL MEDICAL INSURANCE TO MEET AFFILIATE REQUIREMENTS.**

2nd Background check. Upon accepting a seat into the program, your 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 IdentGO to get their fingerprinting completed. Fingerprinting with a background check from FBI is required by the BON for licensure requirements and must be completed prior to the end of the first semester of the program.

VOCATIONAL NURSING (CLINICAL) COURSES

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

FIRST SEMESTER	VNSG 1160	Clinical-Licensed Practical/ Vocational Nurse Training
	VNSG 1323	Basic Nursing Skills
	VNSG 1402	Applied Nursing Skills I
	VNSG 1260	Clinical-Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training
	VNSG 1227	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.

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

ATTENTION ADVANCED PLACEMENT STUDENTS: RNSG 1115- Health Assessment must be completed prior to admission as an Advanced Placement student into the LVN-RN Transition Nursing Program. **See a designated LVN-RN Transition program counselor to register for RNSG 1115.**

The Vocational Nursing Certificate program is accredited by the Texas Board of Nursing. Addresses are located in the current catalog.

Approved by Nursing Discipline

CLINICAL CLEARANCE FOR PRE-PROGRAM & POST SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

PRE-PROGRAM SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS-listed on page 3

Documentation needed to clear for qualification and ranking. All Pre-Program Specialized Admissions documentation needs to be submitted by:

- **May 1, 2023 for qualification and ranking for June 1, 2023**
- **September 1, 2023 for qualification and ranking for October 2, 2023**
- All Pre-Program Specialized Admissions documentation needs to be submitted to nursingclearance@epcc.edu
- Future correspondence, i.e. questions, without documents should include EPCC student Id and full name

PRE-PROGRAM SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FORMS, LINKS AND INFORMATION

- **Current CPR Certificate-(BLS)-** American Heart Association Healthcare Provider-(accepted on-line with skills training or face to face)
- **First Aid Certification** – National Safety Council Course or American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeon- (accepted on-line with skills training or face to face)
- **Positive Titers** – Immunizations and Blood titers must be completed prior to placement. **Immunizations MUST be started early** if you are selecting nursing. Immunizations include: Hepatitis B series, Tuberculin Test, MMR, Tdap, Varicella, Influenza, Meningitis, or as directed by DSHS
- Immunization and Blood Titer Requirements for Health students flow chart:
https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Immunization_and_Blood_Titer_Requirements_for_Health_Students.pdf
- **Immunizations**
 - **Tetanus/Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)** or as directed by DSHS-(Expires after 10 years)
 - **Influenza** is required for **October placement but not for June placement**; renew every year
 - **Meningitis** may be required by college if under 22 years of age; check with registrar's office -(Good for 5 years)
- **Physical Exam** completed by a Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant licensed in the USA-(valid for 6 months) Web Link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FFAA-1.pdf>
- **Physical Technical Standard form (completed)** -form obtained through Nursing website -(valid for 6 months) **complete with Physical exam**
Web Link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Administration/InstitutionalEffectiveness/PoliciesandProcedures/FB-8.pdf>
- **Nursing Disclosure Form-** Web Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Nursing_Disclosure_Form.pdf
- **COVID 19 vaccines plus 1st booster** is required by all hospitals. Medical or religious exemption is allowed but proof of either is expected.

POST SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Documentation needed to clear for full acceptance into Nursing Program and Nursing course registration clearance. Post Specialized Admissions requirements listed on page 4 of the Program Guide

- **New Nursing Student Program Orientation**-virtually
- **HIPAA Training** Web-Link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/hipaa>
- **Community Wide Orientation-** Web-Link: <https://www.epcc.edu/Admissions/Orientation/community-wide-orientation>
- **Substance Abuse Screening-** Web-Link: <http://www.elpasoex.com/> -American Data Bank
- **Provide proof of Personal Medical Insurance**
- **Tuberculosis-Two PPD's to be completed after ranking**
- **Two background checks-(1)-** Web-Link: <http://www.elpasoex.com/> -American Data Bank; **(2) Nursing discipline** will submit your name to the Texas Board of Nursing-BON

SUBMISSION OF PRE AND POST SPECIALIZED ADMISSIONS DOCUMENTS FOR CLINICAL CLEARANCE

- Submission for both Pre and Post Specialized Admissions documents will follow the same process.
 - Email subject will indicate June Registration Clearance or October Registration Clearance
 - Include a completed Transmittal Form along with your documents. Only select what documents you are submitting for review.
Web Link: https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/Health/Nursing/Documents/Nursing_Pre-Clinical_Clearance_Email_Transmittal_Form.pdf
- Documents **will not be accepted** or processed without a Transmittal form
- All Pre and Post Specialized Admissions documentation needs to be submitted to nursingclearance@epcc.edu

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- CPR and First Aid Courses are available through the EPCC Continuing Education Division. Please see the current Continuing Education Course Schedule or call 915-831-4116 for more information. <https://www.epcc.edu/Academics/ContinuingEducation>
- *CPR-and First Aid training is* accepted on-line with skills training or face to face-Must be two separate trainings and two separate cards.

Upon accepting a seat into the program, your name is submitted to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON). Fingerprinting with a background check from FBI is required by the BON for licensure requirements and must be completed prior to the end of the first semester of the program.

This document is for informational purpose only and is not to be construed as a binding offer or contract between the College and the student. This document was revised December 6, 2022 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.

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