



**Thank you for your interest in our Associate Degree Nursing Program.** The need for registered nurses in the community and nationwide has remained constant and average salaries for staff RNs in Florida range from \$40,000 to \$60,000 depending upon education, experience, and location.

Enclosed is the admission packet. It includes information you will need to read and forms you will need to complete and return if you would like to begin the application process. Current estimated expense sheets for the ADN program are available online by clicking on the cost sheet link at <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/current-students/academic-divisions/health-sciences/nursing/registered-nursing/index.html>. Applicants desiring admission into the RN program, who have failed to achieve a "C" or better in **ANY** two nursing courses, in any RN nursing program(s) attended, will not be considered for admission. Students who have been readmitted one time to **ANY** RN program are not eligible for admission.

The Gulf Coast State College Associate Degree Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc.\* As identified in the packet and brochure, it is a **72 credit hour** program that encompasses on-campus classroom and laboratory hours and clinical experience in a variety of local hospitals and facilities. Once selected, students should complete the fulltime nursing program in two years. General education courses can be completed on a part-time basis prior to entering the program. Upon graduation, students receive an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing (A.D.N.) and are eligible to sit for the national exam to obtain a Registered Nurse (R.N.) license.

An Associate in Science Degree in Nursing is the first step in professional nursing. Nurses may seek advanced education to progress in their profession with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (available here at GCSC or through university programs), a Master's Degree in Nursing, or a Doctoral Degree.

Please read through the attached information. Should questions arise, please contact **Craig Wise**, Assistant Coordinator for Health Sciences Admissions, at **(850) 913-3311** or via e-mail [cwise@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:cwise@gulfcoast.edu). Additional nursing program information is also available on our website at <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/academics/programs/nursing-as/index.html>.

**ADMISSION APPLICATION DEADLINES:** Two classes are admitted each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. The deadlines for applications to be complete with all checklist items completed are by the last working day in **FEBRUARY** (for fall class) and the last working day in **SEPTEMBER** (for spring class).

**Good luck with your educational plans.**

Coordinator of Nursing



\*Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. can be contacted at 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, or 1-404-975-5000.

(Updated November 7, 2017)

**Gulf Coast State College  
Associate Degree Nursing Program  
Tracks for Entering**

**ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING:**

The program is for the student who enters without prior nursing core courses and intends to complete all the required nursing core courses at Gulf Coast State College.

**LPN to ADN ARTICULATION – TRADITIONAL OPTION:**

The student is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and wishes to enter with advanced standing into the Associate Degree Nursing Program Weekday Option at Gulf Coast State College. Classes are full time, Monday through Thursday. (This option uses a different application packet.)

**LPN to ADN ARTICULATION – WEEKEND OPTION:**

The student is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and wishes to enter with advanced standing into the Associate Degree Nursing Program Weekend Option at the Gulf Coast State College Gulf Franklin campus. Classes are on Friday for 6 hours, and clinical meets Saturday OR Sunday for 12½ hours. (This option uses a different application packet.)

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT INTO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING PROGRAM:**

The program is for the student who has completed any portion of a Registered Nursing Program's core courses at another College or University and wishes to transfer credit into Gulf Coast State College's Associate Degree Nursing Program. Depending upon a transcript evaluation, the student may be allowed to enter the program with advanced placement if the course work in nursing is less than two years old. The student must complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours at Gulf Coast State College to be eligible for graduation.

(This option uses *this* packet as well as an additional checklist.)

# GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE - HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**  
5230 West U.S. Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401-1058  
(850) 872-3827 or 913-3311  
Fax: (850) 747-3246

## PLEASE SELECT ONE OPTION

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Degree Nursing  
\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Placement into Associate Degree Nursing

***Answer ALL Questions: Please TYPE or PRINT – (Please submit form as soon as possible)***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Maiden Name

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street & Number City State Zip County

Student ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Male  Female   
*(absolutely must have this!)*

Permanent or Mailing Address (If different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred e-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### **EDUCATION**

**OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT(s) must be received** by the Office of Admissions & Records.  
**ALL schools and colleges attended must be listed** for the application to be complete. **Use additional sheets if necessary**

Name of School	Location of School	From Month/ Year	To Month/ Year	Did you Receive Diploma, Degree or Certificate?	What was your Major/Minor?
High School or GED:					
Vocational / Other Technical Program					
College or University:					
College or University:					

### **LICENSES AND CERTIFICATION**

Type	Issued by Which State or Agency?	License Number	Date Issued

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Please provide information about three people who will always know where to locate you:

Name	Mailing Address	Telephone Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

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### HEALTH RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE and/or VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Use additional sheets if necessary

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**1. EMPLOYER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Street & Number           City                            State

Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates employed: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of your Job Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Mo./Yr.               Mo./Yr.

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Full-Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time \_\_\_\_\_

**2. EMPLOYER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Extension \_\_\_\_\_  
                  Street & Number           City                            State

Supervisor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates employed: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Nature of your Job Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
                                  Mo./Yr.               Mo./Yr.

Reason for Leaving \_\_\_\_\_ Full-Time \_\_\_\_\_ Part-Time \_\_\_\_\_

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### PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING

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I hereby certify that the information contained in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation, omission or falsification of information is cause for denial of admission to the program. I understand that illegal use, possession, and/or misuse of drugs are reasons for immediate dismissal from any of the programs in the Health Sciences Division. I further understand that background checks and drug screening are routinely required at most clinical facilities prior to the student being allowed clinical placement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**RETURN APPLICATION TO:**

Gulf Coast State College  
Health Sciences Division – Room 200  
5230 West. U.S. Highway 98  
Panama City, FL 32401-1058

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Gulf Coast State College does not discriminate against any person in its programs, activities, policies or procedures on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, marital status, religion, age, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, disability, or veteran status.**

All questions or inquiries regarding compliance with laws relating to non-discrimination and all complaints regarding sexual misconduct or discrimination, may be directed to the Executive Director of Human Resources/Title II/504/Title IX Coordinator and Employment Equity Officer, Gulf Coast State College, 5230 W. US Highway 98, Panama City, FL 32401; 850-872-3866.

# ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING

## CHECKLIST FOR ADMISSION TO THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN NURSING

**NOTE:** Students who have ever been admitted to any Registered Nursing Program previously must produce a Letter of Recommendation from the previous Nursing Dean / Director. A student who has failed to achieve a "C" or better in **ANY** two nursing core courses, in any RN nursing program(s) attended, will not be considered for admission. Students who have been readmitted one time to **ANY** RN program are not eligible for admission.

*Students should complete the following five checklist items as soon as possible to receive a permanent advisor assignment.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **APPLY FOR GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE COLLEGE - (Choose Planned Course of Study: AS Registered Nurse Applicant.** Failure to declare the correct major can result in lengthy evaluation delays.). Call or visit GCSC Enrollment Services to obtain information on the college admissions process. The numbers are (850) 872-3892 or 800-311-3685, ext. 3892. Applications are available on the GCSC website: [www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/](http://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/). **Students must pay the College application fee; failure to pay the college application fee at the time of submission can result in ineligibility for program consideration.**  
***Returning students who have not taken classes at GCSC in the last year must re-apply for admission.***
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION APPLICATION FOR NURSING**  
Preferably at the *beginning* of your academic career, the completed application from this package should be submitted to the Health Sciences Division Office, Health Sciences Building Room 200. Be sure to include your Lighthouse student ID number (beginning with "A") on your nursing application; this is a number assigned to you when you apply to be a student at GCSC.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **PROVIDE OFFICIAL HIGH SCHOOL, VOCATIONAL SCHOOL & COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS**  
Applicant must request that official transcripts showing completion of high school or GED (scores required) **and** all colleges attended be sent to **GCSC Enrollment Services** for evaluation. Evaluations can sometimes take weeks to be completed.  
Applicants should check their online GCSC academic transcript to see when the evaluation has been completed and to check courses for accuracy.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **DEMONSTRATE COLLEGE LEVEL COMPETENCY IN ENGLISH & READING\***  
Students must demonstrate competency using **ONE** of the following quantitative methods:

Subject	PERT	Accuplacer (old CPT)	ACT	SAT	College Course
English	≥ 103	≥83	≥17	Verbal ≥440	Completion of ENC 1101 with grade "C" or better
Reading	≥ 106	≥83	≥19		

**\*NOTE: Mixed scores from different types of tests will not be accepted.** For example, a reading CPT of 83 and an English ACT of 18 will not be accepted. Competency in BOTH subjects, from either CPT or ACT as specified above, must be demonstrated. **Computerized placement tests are available. Please see note below.\*\***

If the applicant wishes to use test scores to demonstrate competency for any of the above, and the test was not administered at Gulf Coast State College, the applicant must have an OFFICIAL score report sent to the GCSC testing office. Test scores that have been in the student's possession (regardless of whether they are "sealed," stamped, or in a sealed envelope) are not considered official and will not be accepted. All applicants are responsible for ensuring that their scores are received and posted to their GCSC computer record prior to the deadline.

\*\*Computerized placement tests are given in the **Student Union West, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**. The fee is \$5.00 (see Placement Testing Schedule for additional information or call the Testing Center at 769-1551, ext.2899). Study guides / tutorials are available on the testing page of the College website at: <http://www.gulfcoast.edu/admissions/testing-services/>.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **OBTAIN A NURSING FACULTY ADVISOR (Students should reach this point as quickly as possible).** **After ALL of the above criteria are met,** the student **MUST** contact Craig Wise, the Assistant Coordinator for Health Sciences Admissions, to request assignment to a nursing faculty advisor. Mr. Wise can be reached at (850) 913-3311 or [cwise@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:cwise@gulfcoast.edu).

**NOTE TO ALL STUDENTS:** It is the **RESPONSIBILITY** of the **STUDENT** to **MAINTAIN COMMUNICATION WITH** their **ADVISOR** to ensure that their application folder is complete and up-to-date with current admission requirements. Most faculty are not on campus on Tuesdays or Wednesdays or during summer months.

**Advanced Placement Students** will be considered for acceptance contingent upon successful completion of the Advanced Placement checklist (in addition to this application). Students' application folders will be considered at the first and last nursing faculty meeting of each semester.

<OVER>

To be considered for **ADMISSION** into the Nursing Program, the applicant's folder **MUST BE COMPLETED WITH ALL CHECKLIST REQUIREMENTS BY THE PUBLISHED DATES AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE.**

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION PROCESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. **APPOINTMENT WITH ASSIGNED NURSING FACULTY ADVISOR TO DISCUSS DESIRED START DATE AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The applicant **MUST** call to schedule an appointment with his / her assigned Advisor to review the application folder for completeness. Failure to communicate with your advisor may delay your start date. You can contact your advisor by phone or e-mail. Call 769-1551 and dial the appropriate extension listed below:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Collier ( <a href="mailto:jcollier@gulfcoast.edu">jcollier@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5838    | Leach ( <a href="mailto:rleach@gulfcoast.edu">rleach@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5840          |
| Gibson ( <a href="mailto:ngibson2@gulfcoast.edu">ngibson2@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5841     | Matheus ( <a href="mailto:kmatheus@gulfcoast.edu">kmatheus@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #3238    |
| Hannah ( <a href="mailto:ghannah@gulfcoast.edu">ghannah@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5843       | Page ( <a href="mailto:apage4@gulfcoast.edu">apage4@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5817           |
| Kirkland ( <a href="mailto:skirkland@gulfcoast.edu">skirkland@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #6102 | Ruder ( <a href="mailto:mruder@gulfcoast.edu">mruder@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #3314          |
| Kirksey ( <a href="mailto:jirksey@gulfcoast.edu">jirksey@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5833      | Thornton ( <a href="mailto:sthornto3@gulfcoast.edu">sthornto3@gulfcoast.edu</a> ) #5834 |

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. **COMPLETION OF BSC 2085 & 2085L ( ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY I WITH LAB).**

A minimum grade of "C" must be achieved prior to the desired application deadline.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **COMPLETION OF MATH REQUIREMENT**

Completion of a 3-credit math course with the prefix MAC, MGF, or STA with a minimum grade of "C" must be achieved prior to the desired application deadline.

**NOTE:** Students who desire to improve their probability of success in ALL NURSING COURSES may enroll in **MTB 1371 (previously MTB 0375) – Math for Health-Related Professions**. This course is designed to improve understanding of core nursing concepts, not to reduce the length or amount of credits in the Nursing Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) OF 2.5 (MINIMUM)**

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **COMPLETION OF THE HESI A2 ADMISSION ASSESSMENT TEST**

Applicants must successfully complete the HESI A2 Pre-Admission Exam for RN programs. The HESI A2 may be taken no more than twice. **A minimum score of seventy-five percent (75%) for each of the four components is required.** It is comprised of exams that are academically oriented, consisting of math, reading comprehension, grammar, and vocabulary. Included in this packet is information on the exam, the study guide, and how to apply to take it.

**ADMISSION APPLICATION DEADLINES:** Two classes are admitted each year, one in spring and one in fall. The initial deadlines for application to be complete (with all checklist requirements completed) are by the last working day in **FEBRUARY** (for fall class) and the last working day in **SEPTEMBER** (for spring class).

**NOTE TO ALL STUDENTS:** Admission to the program is competitive in nature and is not guaranteed. A selection committee ranks all applications and admission is granted to the most qualified applicants. Applicants can improve their chances of admission by maintaining a high GPA, completing pre & co-requisite courses and scoring high on the HESI A2 exam. **It should be understood that satisfactorily meeting minimum requirements does not automatically guarantee admission.**

**UPON ACCEPTANCE INTO THE NURSING PROGRAM, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE REQUIRED:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. **CURRENT PPD or TB TEST or DECLINATION WITH X-RAY RESULTS**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. **MEDICAL EXAMINATION - With Satisfactory Results**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. **SATISFACTORY FINGERPRINT / CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. **CURRENT CPR CARD - American Heart Association (BCLS-C) for Healthcare Provider (Basic Cardiac Life Support) is the only certification accepted.**
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. **10-PANEL DRUG SCREENING – With Satisfactory Results**

**Fall Deadline: Last working day of February; Spring Deadline: Last working day of September.**

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING  
COURSE REQUIREMENTS & CURRICULUM PLAN**

**Prerequisite Courses: Successfully completed with a grade of C or higher prior to acceptance into the Nursing Program**

BSC 2085	Human Anatomy & Physiology	3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course Before Entering the Program
BSC 2085L	Human Anatomy & Physiology I Lab	1 Credit	Pre-Requisite Course Before Entering the Program
<b>Math course with prefix: MAC, MGF, or STA</b>		3 Credits	Pre-Requisite Course Before Entering the Program

**Courses that may be taken prior to entering OR during the nursing program and must be completed with a grade of C or higher are indicated below. (Students are strongly encouraged to take as many of these courses as possible *prior* to entering the Nursing Program.)**

DEP 2004	Developmental Psychology	3 Credits	Before Entering Semester 2 of the Program
HUN 1201	Principles of Nutrition	3 Credits	Before Entering Semester 2 of the Program
BSC 2086	Human Anatomy & Physiology II	3 Credits	Before Entering Semester 2 of the Program
BSC 2086L	Human Anatomy & Physiology II Lab	1 Credit	Before Entering Semester 2 of the Program
MCB 2004	Microbiology	3 Credits	Before Entering Semester 4 of the Program
MCB 2004L	Microbiology Lab	1 Credit	Before Entering Semester 4 of the Program
PSY 2012	General Psychology	3 Credits	By the End of Semester 4 of the Program
Humanities	Humanities I, II, or III	3 Credits	By the End of Semester 4 of the Program
ENC 1101	English Composition I	3 Credits	By the End of Semester 4 of the Program

**NURSING CORE COURSES**

**The following required nursing courses are taken in sequence over 4 semesters (2 fall and 2 spring) after acceptance into the Nursing Program. Classes are held Monday through Thursday; class and clinical times vary semester-to-semester, and even within a semester.**

Semester	Course Number	Course Name	Credits
Semester 1:	NUR 1022C	Foundations of Nursing Practice*	3
	NUR 1142	Introduction to Pharmacology	2
	NUR 1210C	Basic Care of the Adult	4
Semester 2:	NUR 1213C	Intermediate Adult Care	10
Semester 3:	NUR 2420C	Maternal-Infant Nursing	4
	NUR 2310C	Nursing Care of the Child	4
	NUR 2520C	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	4
Semester 4:	NUR 2214C	Advanced Adult Care	11

**\*NOTE:** Students who desire to improve their probability of success in ALL NURSING COURSES may enroll in **HSC 1531 (previously OST 1257) - Medical Terminology**. This course is designed to improve understanding of core nursing concepts, not to reduce the length or amount of credits in the Nursing Program.

**Reminder:** Students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 to begin the nursing program. All courses must be completed with a C or higher, GPA 2.0, for continuation in the nursing program.

## GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE - ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION

ISSUE	STANDARD	EXAMPLES OF NECESSARY ACTIVITIES (Not All Inclusive)
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify cause-effect relationships in clinical situations</li> <li>• Develop nursing care plans</li> <li>• Make rapid decisions under pressure</li> <li>• Handle multiple priorities in stressful situations</li> <li>• Assist with problem solving</li> </ul>
<b>Interpersonal</b>	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, educational, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues</li> <li>• Cope effectively with high levels of stress</li> <li>• Cope with anger/fear/hostility of others in a calm manner</li> <li>• Cope with confrontation</li> <li>• Demonstrate high degree of patience</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain treatment procedures</li> <li>• Initiate client education</li> <li>• Document and interpret nursing actions and patient/client responses</li> </ul>
<b>Mobility</b>	Physical abilities sufficient to move from room to room, to maneuver in small spaces and to perform procedures necessary for emergency intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move around in patient's rooms, workspaces, and treatment areas</li> <li>• Administer cardio-pulmonary resuscitation procedures</li> <li>• Walk the equivalent of 5 miles per day</li> <li>• Remain on one's feet in upright position at a workstation without moving about</li> <li>• Climb stairs</li> <li>• Remain in seated position</li> </ul>
<b>Motor Skills</b>	Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calibrate and use equipment</li> <li>• Position patients/clients</li> <li>• Perform repetitive tasks</li> <li>• Able to grip</li> <li>• Bend at knee and squat.</li> <li>• Reach above shoulder level</li> <li>• Lift and carry 25 pounds</li> <li>• Exert 20-50 pounds of force (pushing/pulling)</li> </ul>
<b>Hearing</b>	Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, auscultatory sounds, and cries for help</li> <li>• Hear tape recorded transcriptions</li> <li>• Hear telephone interactions</li> </ul>
<b>Visual</b>	Visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe patient/client responses</li> <li>• Identify and distinguish colors</li> </ul>
<b>Tactile</b>	Tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform palpation, functions of physical examination and/or those related to therapeutic intervention, e.g., insertion of a catheter</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental</b>	Ability to tolerate environmental stressors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adapt to shift work</li> <li>• Work with chemicals and detergents</li> <li>• Tolerate exposure to fumes and odors</li> <li>• Work in areas that are close and crowded</li> </ul>

### **SOURCES:**

1. Red Alert: The Americans With Disabilities Act Implications for Nursing Education Core Performance Standards for Admission and Progression Framework. Southern Regional Education Board, Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing, March 1993.
2. Dictionary of Occupations and Professions, Vol. II, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 1991, Nurse, General Duty.



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR BACKGROUND**

Applicants to the Nursing Programs in the Health Sciences Division of Gulf Coast State College work very hard to meet the entry requirements for selection. Our programs make every effort to accept as many academically qualified students as possible. In addition to meeting basic entry requirements, however, applicants must also consider how their personal history and background may affect their ability to meet admission and clinical requirements, sit for various state licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment.

Health Sciences Programs require students to submit to a background screening and/or drug screening before being officially accepted into the offered program. The health sciences program/s must follow state mandated laws for professional practice which will extend to admission and acceptance. State laws may mandate that student/s who have an unfavorable background screening (certain felonies) must have a clean record for 15 years or more past the initial incident before being allowed to take state licensure exam/s. Certain clinical sites may require a clean background screening in order for students to attend clinical and work with their patients. Students who cannot produce a favorable background check and/or drug screening may not be able to meet their program's admission requirements and clinical obligations, which would jeopardize their ability to successfully complete that program.

Students who graduate from our programs must also pass state licensure exam/s in order to be employable in their program of study. The various state entities that provide testing and licenses for Health Professionals, oftentimes, require background checks / drug screening prior to sitting for the exams and applying for licensure. State laws may mandate that student/s who have an unfavorable background screening (certain felonies) must have a clean record for 15 years or more past the initial incident before being allowed to take state licensure exam/s. It is possible to have successfully graduated from a health science program but be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check and/or drug screening.

Employers of licensed health professionals can also have a variety of requirements that must be met prior to the granting of employment. These can include background checks of varying depths, and/or drug screenings. It is possible to graduate from a program and obtain the health professional license, but be denied some employment options due to an unfavorable background check or drug screen.

We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision concerning making application to one of our programs.

### **Criminal Background Checks**

Gulf Coast State College (GCSC) students that are granted conditional acceptance into a Health Sciences program must receive a satisfactory criminal background check prior to final acceptance into the program. The background check will be scheduled and performed at the discretion of the Division of Health Sciences at GCSC. Information and instructions on how to complete the background check will be sent by the program coordinator. Criminal background checks performed through other agencies will not be accepted. The student must also be aware that clinical agencies may require an additional background check prior to clinical access. It is possible to graduate from a program at GCSC and be denied the opportunity for licensure because of an unfavorable background check. An applicant must consider how his/her personal history may affect the ability to meet clinical requirements, sit for various licensure exams, and ultimately gain employment. Most healthcare boards in the State of Florida make decisions about licensure on an individual basis. You may visit the Florida Department of Health website ([www.doh.state.fl.us/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/)) for more information regarding licensure. We offer this information so that you can make an informed decision regarding your future.

**Please read the following information carefully:** Any student who has been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or entered a plea of nolo contendere, or guilty to, any offense under the provision of 456.0635 (see below) may be **disqualified** from admission to any Health Sciences program. In addition to these specific convictions, there are other crimes which may disqualify applicants from entering into the Health Sciences programs and/or clinical rotations. The statute listed below can also be found online: [http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&Search\\_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0400-0499/0456/Sections/0456.0635.html)

### **456.0635 Health care fraud; disqualification for license, certificate, or registration.—**

- (1) Health care fraud in the practice of a health care profession is prohibited.
- (2) Each board within the jurisdiction of the department, or the department if there is no board, shall refuse to admit a candidate to any examination and refuse to issue a license, certificate, or registration to any applicant if the candidate or applicant or any principal, officer, agent, managing employee, or affiliated person of the applicant:
  - (a) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under chapter 409, chapter 817, or chapter 893, or a similar felony offense committed in another state or jurisdiction, unless the candidate or applicant has successfully completed a drug court program for that felony and provides proof that the plea has been withdrawn or the charges have been dismissed. Any such conviction or plea shall exclude the applicant or candidate from licensure, examination, certification, or registration unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended:
    1. For felonies of the first or second degree, more than 15 years before the date of application.
    2. For felonies of the third degree, more than 10 years before the date of application, except for felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a).
    3. For felonies of the third degree under s. 893.13(6)(a), more than 5 years before the date of application;
  - (b) Has been convicted of, or entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, a felony under 21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970, or 42 U.S.C. ss. 1395-1396, unless the sentence and any subsequent period of probation for such conviction or plea ended more than 15 years before the date of the application;
  - (c) Has been terminated for cause from the Florida Medicaid program pursuant to s. 409.913, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with the Florida Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years;
  - (d) Has been terminated for cause, pursuant to the appeals procedures established by the state, from any other state Medicaid program, unless the candidate or applicant has been in good standing with a state Medicaid program for the most recent 5 years and the termination occurred at least 20 years before the date of the application; or
  - (e) Is currently listed on the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's List of Excluded Individuals and Entities.

July 1, 2012

Individuals who are considering entering the nursing profession and who have a criminal history often ask about potential barriers to licensure following successful completion of an approved nursing program. While it would be nice to know this prior to making a decision to enter the program, obtaining that information is not possible under current Florida law.

The Board of Nursing makes decisions about licensure based upon a number of questions on the application and on an individual basis. The application (or the background screening) that indicates a criminal history is considered a non-routine application and must be reviewed by the board staff and possibly referred to the Board of Nursing for action.

Each application is reviewed on its own merit. The Board of Nursing has created guidelines for specific offenses to be cleared in the board office; however, the staff cannot make determinations in advance as laws and rules change over time. Applications that involve violent crimes and repeat offenses are required to be presented to the Board of Nursing for review. Evidence of rehabilitation is important to the Board Members when making licensure decisions.

The Board may issue a license under conditions such as placing the license on probation with supervision, requiring additional education, or the Board may deny your application. If drugs or alcohol are a concern, the board may require the applicant to undergo an evaluation and possibly to sign a contract with the Intervention Project for Nurses (800-840-2720).

Each nursing program makes independent decisions about admissions into the program and may require a criminal background screening as part of that process. Clinical facilities may limit or prohibit students with criminal histories from participating in clinical experiences. Other options may not exist for students to complete the required clinical hours in order to obtain a nursing degree; therefore making such a student ineligible for licensure in Florida.

The licensure application requires disclosure of any criminal history and the disposition of all cases prior to board review. Entry into the nursing education program is the prospective student's decision based upon the knowledge that he/she may, or may not, be granted a nursing license. All of the above factors should be taken into consideration prior to making a decision about a nursing career.

**Important Notice for Initial Licensure Applicants and Renewals:**

Pursuant to [Section 456.0635](#), Florida Statutes, you are being notified that effective July 1, 2012, health care boards or the department shall refuse to renew a license, certificate or registration, issue a license, certificate or registration and shall refuse to admit a candidate for examination if the applicant has been:

1. Convicted or plead guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication, to a felony violation of: chapters [409](#), [817](#), or [893](#), Florida Statutes; or [21 U.S.C. ss. 801-970](#) or [42 U.S.C. ss 1395-1396](#), or similar offenses in other state. unless the sentence and any probation or pleas ended more than 15 years prior to the application for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony; 10 years prior to the application for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony; and 5 years prior to the application for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony under Section 893.13(6)(a).
2. Terminated for cause from Florida Medicaid Program (unless the applicant has been in good standing for the most recent 5 years).
3. Terminated for cause by any other State Medicaid Program or the Medicare Program (unless the termination was at least 20 years prior to the date of the application and the applicant has been in good standing with the program for the most recent 5 years).

**The Florida Board of Nursing receives numerous questions from applicants regarding prior criminal offenses. The following are the most frequently asked questions:**

- Question:** What types of crimes must be reported on the application?  
**Answer:** All convictions, guilty pleas and nolo contendere pleas must be reported, except for minor traffic violations not related to the use of drugs or alcohol. This includes misdemeanors, felonies, “driving while intoxicated (DWI)” and “driving under the influence “(DUI).” Crimes must be reported even if they are a suspended sentence.
- Question:** Can a person obtain a license as a nurse if they have a misdemeanor or felony crime on their record?  
**Answer:** Each application is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Board of Nursing considers the nature, severity, and recency of offenses, rehabilitation and other factors. The Board cannot make a determination for approval or denial of licensure without evaluating the entire application and supporting documentation.
- Question:** Do I have to report charges if I completed a period of probation and the charges were dismissed or closed?  
**Answer:** Yes. Offenses must be reported to the Board even if you received a suspended sentence and the record is now considered closed.
- Question:** What types of documentation do I need to submit in support of my application if I have a prior criminal record or license discipline?  
**Answer:**
- Official court document(s) regarding each of your criminal offenses, showing the date(s) and circumstance(s) surrounding your arrest(s), sections of the law violated, and disposition of the case. This includes the complaint or indictment, the judgment, order of probation, docket sheet or other documents showing the disposition of your case(s). You may obtain these documents at the clerk of court where the offense(s) occurred.
  - Copies of documents regarding disciplinary action taken against any healthcare license. The documents must come from the agency that took the disciplinary action.
  - A detailed description in your own words of the circumstances surrounding your criminal record or disciplinary action. Include a description of the changes in your lifestyle since the time of the offense(s) which would enable you to avoid future incidents. List factors in your life, which you feel, may have contributed to your crime or disciplinary action and what you have learned.

**Note:** The burden of proof lies with the applicant to demonstrate evidence of positive lifestyle changes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Documented evidence of professional treatment and counseling you have completed. Provide a discharge summary, if available.
- Letters of professional recommendation on official letterhead from employers, nursing program administrators, nursing instructors, health professionals, professional counselors, support group sponsors, parole or probation officers, or other individuals in positions of authority.
- Proof of community service, education and self-improvement.
- Court-issued certificate(s) of expungement, proof of compliance with criminal probation or parole.

**Applicants with previous arrest(s) or disciplinary action on a license will not be authorized to practice nursing until all documentation is cleared by staff or reviewed by the Board.**



## **PROCEDURE TO APPLY FOR THE HESI ADMISSION ASSESSMENT (A2):**

- Go to the Business Office window on the first floor of the Administration Building. Inform them you are paying for the HESI A2 exam and the date you choose to take it.
- Pay the exam fee (**\$45**) with cash, check, or credit card. The Business Office will give you two copies of your transaction receipt; one is to be attached with the registration form and the other is required at the time of exam. To register after the published deadline, an additional \$10 fee will be applied; refer to the Test Schedule for deadlines.
- Come to the Health Sciences Building – Room 229 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Registration forms are located outside the door (on left side). Complete and return the form to the Administrative Assistant, along with one copy of the receipt, between the hours of 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, **before** the test application date deadline. Refer to instructions posted outside the door if the Administrative Assistant is out.
- **Prior to your coming for the test, you must set up an account with Evolve** – there is no charge. Follow this link <https://evolve.elsevier.com/cs/product/9781455728916?role=student> and click on the shopping cart box that says “register for this now.” On the next screen, you will click on the box that says “redeem checkout” which will lead you to further screens for information you will provide to fully set up your account. ***You must come to the test knowing your user name and password.***
- Arrive at the testing site fifteen minutes before the scheduled testing time.
- You **MUST** bring a copy of your receipt and **TWO forms of identification**; one must be a current photo ID.
- If you cannot take the exam at the scheduled time, please notify the administrative assistant at (850) 872-3829; however, the fees already paid will be forfeited.
- After completion of the exam, you will receive a copy of your test results. The official copy of the results will be forwarded to the nursing department.

### **IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL STUDENTS:**

- GCSC requires four components of the exam including: **Math, Reading Comprehension, Grammar, and Vocabulary**. A score of 75% or higher in each category must be reached in order to be eligible for the Nursing Program. **You are allowed to take the exam only twice**. Failure to pass the exam on the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt will disqualify the student for consideration for admission to the Nursing Program at GCSC.
- An Admission Assessment Study Guide is available for preparation for this exam. It can be purchased at the campus bookstore. A reserve copy with a 3-7 day check out is available in the GCSC Library.

**Admission Assessment Study Guide** by HESI Elsevier Title – 4<sup>th</sup> Edition

ISBN-13: 978-0-323-35378-6 also available at <http://www.us.elsevierhealth.com>

### **STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN ALL OR PART OF HESI-A2 EXAM AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS:**

- Students transferring in HESI A2 exams scores from other institutions are allowed only two total testing attempts. If there is a portion of the HESI A2 exam that has not been completed, the student must pay for the entire HESI A2 Exam and complete the required section(s).
- To request HESI A2 official results from another institution: Log on to <https://evolve.elsevier.com>; click: HESI EXAMS, HESI Transcripts, and then REGISTER to make your \$15 payment. You will receive a payment confirmation; download the HESI Transcript Request form and fill it out completely. Please indicate on the request form that transcripts may be delivered via **e-mail** to [toswalt@gulfcoast.edu](mailto:toswalt@gulfcoast.edu). **The completed transcript request form and the Payment Confirmation page must both be sent via email to [transcripts@elsevier.com](mailto:transcripts@elsevier.com) in order to be processed.**
- **Note:** If you wish to send multiple exam results, you will need to fill out two separate request forms; the \$15 fee will apply to each.

**Test scores sent directly from another institution will not be accepted.**

## HESI A2 TEST SCHEDULE 2017 – 2018

Applicants to the Associate Degree Nursing program must complete a computer - based entrance exam called the **HESI Admission Assessment (A2)**. The HESI A2 may be taken no more than twice. It is comprised of exams that are academically oriented, consisting of **math, reading comprehension, grammar and vocabulary**. The exam is one component utilized to determine an applicant's eligibility for admission into the nursing program. The average score of seventy-five percent (75%) for each of the four components or higher is required. Testing will be conducted at Gulf Coast State College as follows:

EXAM DATE	TIME	LOCATION	APPLICATION DEADLINE cost is \$45	LATE APPLICATION DEADLINE (additional \$10)
Friday Sept.08.2017	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Aug.25.2017	Sept.01.2017
Friday Sept.22.2017	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Sept.08.2017	Sept.15.2017
Friday Jan.05.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Dec.15.2017	Dec.21.2017
Friday Feb.02.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Jan.19.2018	Jan.26.2018
Friday March.02.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Feb.16.2018	Feb.23.2018
Friday April.06.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	March.23.2018	March.30.2018
Friday June.01.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	May.18.2018	May.25.2018
Friday Aug.03.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	July.20.2018	July.27.2018
Friday Sept.07.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Aug.24.2018	Aug.31.2018
Friday Oct.05.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Sept.21.2018	Sept.28.2018
Friday Nov.02.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Oct.19.2018	Oct.26.2018
Friday Dec.07.2018	8:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Health Sciences Room 118	Nov.21.2018	Nov.30.2018

Application materials are available in the Health Sciences office, Room 229, in the Health Sciences Building. The HESI A2 application process is explained on the reverse side of this page. **NOTE:** The HESI A2 begins **promptly** at **8:30 AM**; please be at the testing site 15 minutes before the scheduled time to allow for registration.