

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AT TEXAS A&M

The healthcare industry is advancing rapidly as the population increases and ages, and as a result, healthcare careers are expected to have higher than average job projections well into the future. The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics continues to predict, of the fastest growing occupations in the entire labor market, about half are jobs in the allied health fields. Think of the job opportunities there will be. Texas A&M University stands ready to prepare students in a variety of health-related careers.

The College of Nursing and the College of Education & Human Development work together to assist students in their pursuit of degrees in either Health or Nursing. Pathways to a career in nursing are listed below.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) Degree

Students who wish to major in nursing begin their studies by taking prerequisite courses. Upon completion of these 58 semester hours, students may apply for admission to the College of Nursing through a competitive application process where they will earn 62 semester credits and receive the B.S.N. degree. Students admitted to the professional, upper-division nursing sequence historically present very strong academic records of a 3.5 overall GPR or higher. The College admits 50 traditional students and 50 second degree (those who have completed a bachelor's degree in another field of study) once each year. Students not admitted to the professional sequence have the option of: 1) meeting with an advisor to discuss the student's academic credentials, 2) applying to other Texas nursing programs (33 programs currently available in Texas), 3) completing the first degree and obtaining B.S.N. through a Second Degree accelerated track.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Bachelor of Science in Health Degree

A Health Degree is an excellent option for future nurses. Nurses deal with critical physical and mental health issues on a daily basis; however, a first degree in health helps nurses work with patients in a more meaningful way. Health courses introduce critical health issues as well as skills that help individuals and communities understand and address their health concerns. Students may enter one of two programs in the Health Division before applying to the nursing program. The Allied Health Program allows students to study health topics and health education skills while completing all nursing prerequisites. The Community Health Option introduces health issues, but students also acquire health education competencies at a deeper level and apply them in an internship. In the Community Health Option, students take 6 extra hours of coursework, which broadens their opportunities for successful careers.

Keep in mind that all nursing schools are competitive. It is imperative that all students have a degree that will provide a viable and exciting career, in case they do not enter a nursing program.

Other Texas A&M majors for pre-nursing, first time college students:

For traditional college students seeking a degree in nursing, Texas A&M University offers a variety of choices that supplement the education required for admission. Depending on the student's interests, it is recommended that students consider the following majors during the first two years of college. Students will be required to complete requirements of these programs while working on the nursing prerequisites. Major options in addition to Health include:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Foreign Language
- Forensic & Investigative Sciences
- Genetics
- Information Systems
- Kinesiology
- Management
- Nutritional Sciences
- Psychology
- Sociology
- University Studies

The above major fields prepare nursing students by broadening their education, building critical thinking skills, and expanding their options for the future. Due to the competitiveness of admission to the 2+2 traditional track in nursing, many students complete the four year degree before pursuing the B.S.N. Texas A&M students interested in nursing are encouraged to attend an advising session offered through the College of Nursing in the spring of their freshmen year to prepare for the admission process and learn more about the career itself.