

Dakota Nursing Program Prerequisites and Checklist for Admission to the Practical Nurse Program

Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program is on a competitive basis. The following are prerequisites for consideration for admission to the Certificate in Practical Nursing Program:

1. High School Diploma or GED Certificate
 - a. High School GPA of 2.5 or greater. If a student has completed 12 credits of college-level classes, the college GPA will be considered instead of the HS GPA.
2. Students must be 18 years of age by December 31st of the year they start the program.
3. Application and admission to the respective college is required before applying to the nursing program. There are two application processes – first to the college and then to the nursing program. When completing the DNP application online, be prepared to upload a Narrative Statement in 300-600 words summarizing your education/work experiences and how those experiences will help you progress through the nursing program. Also include why you want to be a nurse and why this is a good time in your life to pursue a nursing degree.
4. Current CPR Certification for BLS Provider (American Heart Association) or CPR/Healthcare Provider (Red Cross) and must be updated to remain current throughout the program.
 - a. **American Heart Association - Basic Life Support (BLS)** is designed for healthcare professionals, and this is the certification required for the nursing program.
 - The card will say: BLS Provider,
 - The CPR or Heartsaver courses will not be accepted.
 - b. **American Red Cross - Basic Life Support (BLS)** is the foundation of resuscitation training for healthcare professionals, and this is the certification required for the nursing program.
 - The card may say: CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers
 - The CPR or First Aid courses will not be accepted.
5. Proof of Math Skill Readiness.
 - a. Student must have completed **at minimum:**
 - b. The developmental math course (ASC 093 or other pre-requisite math course that would qualify a student to take Math 103) with a grade of Satisfactory or “C” or a higher-level math course (such as MATH 103 College Algebra) **or**
 - c. Equivalent scores for ACT/SAT and/or Accuplacer as listed below and taken within the past 2 years:

Test	Test Component	Minimum Score
Accuplacer	College Algebra	255
ACT	Math Subtest	21
ACT Aspire	Math Subtest	431
SAT	Math	530

6. Proof of Academic Readiness:
 - a. All applicants are required to complete the most current Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI), standardized **Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)** prior to application deadlines.
 - i. Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the TEAS exam with a minimum of 4 weeks (28 days) between attempts per application period.

- ii. A minimum TEAS composite score must be 45.0% or greater. Any applicant scoring below this number will not be accepted. The best score achieved, of two attempts, may be submitted. Last year the average TEAS score for all admitted applicants was within the Proficient level.
 - iii. TEAS scores are valid for up to two (2) years prior to March 5th of the year of application.
 - iv. It is to your advantage to double-check the other parts of your application to make sure you are qualified in the other areas before you attempt the TEAS exam.
 - v. It is recommended that you use the study materials on the TEAS website to score well on the exam. As noted above you may repeat the TEAS to better your chance of admission.
 - b. ACT composite score of 19, **or**
 - i. ACT/Accuplacer/SAT test(s) with an equivalent score, **or**
 - ii. Successful completion of 12 credits of college courses with a minimum GPA of 2.5
7. For any required college courses completed prior to admission, the grade in that course must be a 2.0 (C) or higher, and nursing GPA for all completed required nursing courses must be 2.75 or higher.
- a. Anatomy and Physiology I and II with Lab (A & P II must be taken within the last 7 years)
 - b. Introduction to Pharmacology (must be taken within the last 7 years)
 - c. Developmental Psychology
 - d. Introduction to Psychology
 - e. Composition I
 - f. Other: Microbiology (required for ADN program)
 - g. Other: Composition II, Communications, Technology, Humanities or Computer elective. Check with individual campuses for correct elective (required for ADN program).
8. Guidelines for approval include:
- a. High School GPA of 2.5 or greater **or**
 - b. If a student has completed 12 credits of college-level classes, the college GPA will be considered instead of the HS GPA. Nursing GPA for any completed required nursing program courses must be 2.75 or higher.
 - c. Overall cumulative GPA for all college courses completed must be 2.5 or higher.
 - d. No required course may have a grade lower than 2.0 (C).
 - e. If a student repeats a required science course or previous nursing course, a grade of 2.0 (C) or higher **must be obtained in the first repeat (A & P I and II, Microbiology)**. An appeal process may be sought if the student has failed science courses more than 2 times.
 - f. Critical courses completed more than 7 years prior to program application must be repeated: Anatomy and Physiology II, Developmental Psychology and Introduction to Pharmacology.
 - g. Experience working in a healthcare environment is encouraged before making an application to the nursing program. For example; Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Medical Assistant, Direct Support Professional (DSP), etc.
9. A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in nursing as well as for client safety. In addition to general college English proficiency requirements, all applicants born outside of the United States or Canada and applicants for whom English is not their native language (including International and/or U.S. residents) or who have not attended 4 years of U.S. high school and achieved a HS GPA of 3.0 or higher must meet additional language proficiency requirements for admission to the Dakota Nursing Program. These requirements must be met prior to consideration for admission.

Minimum TOEFL Scores for Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program

To be considered for admission to the pre-licensure program, English as a second language (ESL) applicants must achieve minimum scores on the TOEFL internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) of:

Minimum Cumulative Score of:

- 86 Combined

AND Minimum Individual Scores of:

- 26 in Speaking
 - 20 in Writing
 - 20 in Reading
 - 20 in Listening
- Complete information on the TOEFL iBT, including free test preparation materials, testing sites, and registration is available online at <https://www.ets.org/toefl>. Applicants may register for the TOEFL iBT by Internet, telephone (1-800-468-6335) or mail.
 - Request official TOEFL iBT scores to be sent to:
 - Bismarck State College – Enter Institution DI Code: 6041
 - Dakota College at Bottineau - Enter Institution DI 3398.
 - Lake Region State College - Enter Institution DI Code: 6163
 - Williston State College - Enter Institution DI Code: 6905
 - Only official score reports will be accepted. TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the test date.
 - The cost of any/all required testing is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
 - Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the TOEFL exam with a minimum of 4 weeks (28 days) between attempts per application period.

Minimum Duolingo English Test Scores for Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program

Minimum Overall Score of:

- 115

It is expected that the applicant reaches a content score (variation as determined by the admission and progression committee) of 90 in the following four areas:

- Literacy (Reading)
- Comprehension (Listening)
- Conversation (Speaking)
- Production (Writing)

Test Preparation and Registration

- Complete the registration process at <https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants>
- Request score be sent to your college. (BSC, DCB, LRSC, WSC)
- Only official score reports will be accepted. DET scores are valid for two years from the test date.
- The cost of any/all required testing is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
- Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the DET with a minimum of 30 days between attempts per application period.

Nursing students for whom English is not their native language should be aware that they may not be able to complete the program of study within the described time frame. Students are encouraged to consult the nursing advisor before submitting the nursing program application. This gives the opportunity to discuss requirements and arrange to either take the English proficiency exam (TOEFL or DET) if applicable or seek assistance to be successful on the English proficiency exam in the future.

Checklist for the Practical Nurse Program

1. _____ Complete an application for admission to your local college (BSC, DCB, LRSC or WSC)
2. _____ Complete the electronic application for the Dakota Nursing Program
3. _____ Submit copy of current CPR certification for BLS Provider
4. _____ Provide proof of math skill readiness (ACT, SAT, or transcript with math course)
5. _____ Provide proof of academic readiness (ACT, SAT, or transcript with 12 required credits)
6. _____ Submit TEAS test results
7. _____ If required by English as a second language (ESL) applicants, TOEFL/DuoLingo exam results

If your application is complete and you meet all requirements above, you may be invited to interview as a final step in the application process.

After you are accepted into the Program, your Nursing Administrator will be sending you information on how to enroll in CastleBranch which is a software program that will guide you through completing a Background Check and Drug Screen as well as keeping track of the required immunizations for the Nursing Program. The total cost is **\$145.00**.

Required Immunizations once you are admitted to the Dakota Nursing Program:

- **Measles, Mumps & Rubella** vaccine x2 or positive blood titer or repeat series
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** vaccine x2 or positive blood titer or repeat series
- **Hepatitis B** x3 or positive antiHBS titer or repeat series
- **Influenza (Flu)**
(to be administered between September 1st - November 1st of the current flu season)
- **Tuberculosis (TB)** Negative reading of 2-step tuberculosis test within the past 12 months or QuantiFERON Gold blood test or T-Spot blood test
- **Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap)** History of one Tdap. Tetanus within the last 10 years

All applicants who meet the March 5th deadline will be notified of status by June 15th

Incomplete applications are not able to be processed and will be declined