



[PANOLA COLLEGE]

Vocational Nursing

Preparation for Application



The Vocational Nursing (VN) is a “closed” program and requires additional application and acceptance into the program. Admission to Panola College does not guarantee admission to specific courses or programs of study. The conditions for admission to the VN program are outlined online in the current *Panola College Catalog*. Because the nursing profession requires a high level of performance with a strong academic background and critical thinking, nursing students are held to a higher admission standard than students enrolled in general academic classes.

Vocational Nursing Program

Thank you for considering the Panola College Vocational Nursing program!

This program is a closed program in which you must apply during the application period to be considered. Enrollment is limited. Currently, we accept 40 students for the fall cohort (Carthage campus) and 40 students for the spring cohort (Center campus). We do not keep a “waiting list”, so if you are not accepted the first time, you will be required to apply again during the next application period. All documents of applicants who are not admitted are safely destroyed, so it is your responsibility to reproduce the required (and updated) documents when re-applying. The program, after being accepted, is a 3 semester program including summer.

This Preparation Packet outlines the requirements you need to complete before the application period. Please read the entire packet, as it will answer most, if not all, of your questions.

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Apply to Panola College

You must be fully accepted to Panola College before applying to the nursing program. The online application is found at [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding applying to Panola College, you may contact Admissions at admissions@panola.edu, or 903-693-2038.

After being accepted, you will receive your Panola College Student ID number and Panola College Student email address. Please memorize or keep these handy, as these are important items in the application process and throughout your nursing school experience.

Submit Official Transcripts

You must submit official transcripts from each college you have attended, even if the courses are not required for the nursing program. Please do this in plenty of time, as the official transcripts must be evaluated after they are received. The evaluation process can take up to two weeks during busy times. You will need to follow up with Admissions to request a copy of the transcript evaluation. The transcript evaluation is different from the transcript itself.

Visit with an Academic Advisor (optional)

If you are unsure if you have all the required courses and need to visit with someone face to face to go over your documents, you may schedule an appointment with an academic advisor ahead of time. Please give yourself plenty of time in case you need to take another class in order to qualify, as our admission period is after the semester has already started. To schedule an appointment, please call 903-693-2048.

Immunizations



The chart on the next page shows the immunizations and health requirements you must submit if you are selected for the program. There will be a deadline assigned and given to you in a packet once other preliminary requirements are met. We publish this list here so you will be aware in plenty of time to get records together and/or make appointments to get it done at your convenience. Be aware that the deadline is the deadline. No exceptions. Please know that some requirements take longer than others, for example, titers and TB skin tests. In the case of titers, the results are what needs to be submitted by the deadline, not just proof that you had it drawn. And if the result is negative, another shot is required as proof that another series has been started.

To qualify for an application, as far as immunizations are concerned, you only need to bring a copy of the positive titer results for Hepatitis B. If you are not complete with the series, or if the titer is negative, you will just need to show proof that you are currently in progress with the series of 3 shots, and that you are on time with them. You are expected to continue with the series of shots, followed up by the titer, in the time schedule listed on the chart. Be gathering, but do not submit, the other requirements until you are asked to do so.

Always keep a copy of your immunizations, as we will not return them to you.

If you are accepted into the program, you must keep your immunizations current in order to attend clinicals or simulation. If you do not understand a requirement, it is up to you to ask, as ignorance is no excuse. Periodically we may send a “friendly reminder” email of immunizations coming due/past due. **DO NOT DEPEND ON IT.** It is up to you to know when they are due.

Do not have a titer drawn early! We give you 5 additional days to allow time for the results to come back, and/or if the due date falls on a weekend or holiday. If the lab you go to takes more time than normal, please let us know and, as long as you had the titer drawn on the appropriate day, and you get a statement from the lab with an estimated date for the results, we will accommodate you.

complete?		date requirement was met	date emailed	titer result - circle one	if a 2nd series is needed:		
					date requirement was met	date emailed	titer result - circle one
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Tuberculosis (TB) Skin Test · negative skin test within 1 year (must include date administered, date read, and measurement in mm) <i>OR</i> · if positive results, either chest xray results or TB questionnaire signed off by HCP stating that patient shows no signs of TB						
	2. Flu vaccine: each fall · due by October 15 each year	year 1					
		year 2					
		(if applicable) year 3					
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Varicella antibody titer* if result is negative, a booster must be given immediately, and another titer 30 days after booster			pos / neg	2nd titer if needed		
	booster (if needed)						pos / neg
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Hepatitis B: this is a series of 3 shots, given as follows:				2nd series if needed:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	· dose #1						
<input type="checkbox"/>	· dose #2 one month after dose #1						
<input type="checkbox"/>	· dose #3 six months after dose #1						
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Hepatitis B antibody titer* drawn 30 days after dose #3. if result is negative, you must get another series of shots, and then another titer 30 days after #3 shot. If still negative, you are considered a non-converter.			pos / neg	2nd titer if needed		
							pos / neg
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) · two vaccines spaced 30 days apart <u>OR</u> · positive titers for Measles (Rubeola) and Mumps	shot #1 OR measles titer		pos / neg	(if applicable): 2nd titer if needed		
		shot #2 OR mumps titer		pos / neg			
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Rubella antibody titer* if result is negative, a booster must be given immediately, and another titer in 30 days			pos / neg	2nd titer if needed		
							pos / neg
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis): within 10 years						
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Physical Examination · within 6 months (please download and print the one page physical exam form from the online ADN Handbook on our website. It must be completed and signed by a medical professional.						

Prerequisite Course and How to Apply

The only prerequisite course needed for the VN program is BIOL 2404 – Intro to Anatomy and Physiology (Or BIOL 2401 – Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 2404 – Anatomy and Physiology II).

You must score a minimum of a “C” and all lab courses must have been taken in the same semester and at the same school as the lecture portion of the course.

To qualify for an application, you will need to be fully admitted to Panola College and have the following in hand (check off as you obtain them):

Official HESI A2 scores. Scores must be less than 5 years old. Test may only be taken twice.*
Minimum Scores are as follows: **Reading = 75** **Math = 75** **Grammar = 75**

Lab results for positive Hep B surface antibody titer, or, proof of series in progress.

(if applicable) Transfer Transcript Evaluation completed by Student Success office. This is different from an official or unofficial transcript. This is needed if you attended a college other than Panola, even if just one course, and even if it is not a course needed for the degree you are applying for.

(if applicable) Your Panola College unofficial transcript. You will print this out yourself, on white paper, from Campus Connect. If you cannot gain access, you may contact Student Services to find out your login information, but do not ask them to print it out for you. If you do not have a printer, you can use one at the Library.

(if applicable) If you have attended a professional nursing school, a Verification of Good Standing Form from the Chair or Dean of the Nursing Department.

Once you have all of the above, you are ready to apply. You can apply February 1 – March 1; start date the following August (for the Carthage campus). Contact Yvette Royal, 903-694-4026 for more information. You can apply September 1 – October 1; start date the following January (for the Center campus). Contact Rachel Paddie, 936-598-9543 ext 6006 for more information. Applications can be picked up and/or returned on the Carthage or Center campus. If you fail to bring everything, you will be asked to gather the items and return later for an application. Bring your list of questions about the program, as this is the time to get all the answers you need in order to be sure this program is a fit for you.

*A student can re-take HESI A2 if their test is over 2 years old. A student may re-take HESI A2 if their test is less than 2 years old only if they have earned their LVN AFTER the dates of the test. All three sections must be taken on the same test date. After taking the test twice and not earning the minimum scores, you may meet with the Chair of Nursing to complete a Performance Improvement Plan by contacting Katie Davis at 903-694-4019. After the plan is complete, permission may be granted to re-test earlier than 2 years.

How We Choose

We accept students using a points system. Only applicants who have met all of the requirements will be considered. We currently take 40 students each spring (Center campus) and each fall (Carthage campus). When the application deadline has passed, each application is reviewed by our Admissions Committee. The applications will be put in order from highest to lowest ranking score, and the top 40 will be offered a spot in the program. The next highest ranking applicants will be offered an alternate position. The number of alternates is always just our best guess as to how many will be needed based on past applications periods. Finally, the lowest ranking applicants will be denied for this application period. A low score has a lot to do with having anatomy and physiology in progress, and not scoring high on the Hesi A2. The following formula will be used to calculate your rank score:

- Points for HESI A² cumulative test score (minimum 75 required on Reading Comprehension, Grammar, and Math): points = 10% of total score (e.g. score of 79 earns 7.9 points)
- 2 points for having an active CNA license or 1 point for CNA course
- 1 point for having been employed as a CNA for one year
- 1 point for Med Aide, MLT or HIT; EMT, Paramedic or Military Medic
- 3 points for a C, 4 points for a B, or 5 points for an A in A&P (BIOL 2404 or BIOL 2401 & BIOL 2402); extra point for having BIOL 2401 & BIOL 2402
- 1 point for completing BIOL 2404 or BIOL 2401 & 2402, or CNA course at Panola College

Examples: Rank: $(10) + (2) + (1) + (1) + (6) + (1) = 21$ maximum number that can be achieved

Rank: $(7.9) + (2) + (0) + (5) + (1) = 15.9$

Criminal Background Check

At the same time applications are being reviewed, each applicants' information is sent to the Board of Nursing (BON) for them to check to see if you are already in their system for a criminal background check. They, or Identogo (the company that obtains the fingerprints and information), will then send an email to all applicants who are not in the system. This email will contain instructions for setting up your "fingerprints" appointment with Identogo. It is very important that you make this appointment as soon as possible, as you will be required to turn in the "blue card" or letter from the BON as part of the required documents needed to secure your spot in the program should you be selected or offered an alternate position. Waiting until you find out if you are accepted may be too late. If you get your criminal background check done, and it turns out that you were not accepted, or did not accept the position you were offered, the background check will already be in the BON's system, and you will not be required to do another one, unless the BON requires it.

If you were already in their system, be watching your mail for a blue card or letter from the BON if it has been over a year since you received one.

This is what the blue card will look like:



It is a postcard sized card, on light blue cardstock. Please keep this in a safe place until you are asked to submit it.