

NURSING - FAQ

1. **Is there a website with information?**
<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/nursing/nursing-universal.html>
2. **Who can I talk to about the program?**
Academic Advisor, Marlene Alvarado, DAHL 190E/(575) 528-7249
Academic Advisor, Kelly Briarton, DASP 104A/(575) 874-7786
3. **In a nutshell, what does a student need in order to apply?**
3.0 minimum GPA on pre-requisite classes and successful completion of an entrance exam.
4. **How does repeating prerequisites apply to this program?**
 - a. If a student earns a grade of F in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the F? What if the student repeats the course a second time?
The new grade will replace the F as long as the student receives a grade of C- or higher. The first passing grade is counted.
 - b. If a student earns a grade of D in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the D? What if the student repeats the course a second time?
To be considered, the grade must be a C- or better and the first passing grade is counted. The new grade will replace the D as long as the student receives a grade of C- or higher.
 - c. If a student earns a grade of C in a prerequisite course and repeats the course, how is the new grade used toward consideration of acceptance into the program? Does the new grade replace the previous grade or is it averaged in with the C? What if the student repeats the course a second time?

Prerequisite courses may be retaken one time only for a higher grade. Cumulative GPA will not change, and retaking a prerequisite course for a higher grade is solely for ranking GPA purposes.
- d. **Is there a cap on the number of times a student can repeat a course before the student will no longer be considered?**
Not at this time.
9. **Does having a felony//misdemeanor prevent students from applying?**
Prospective students are required to complete and pass a security background check in order to take clinical courses. Past criminal violations may prevent a student from completing the degree and gaining a nursing license or employment in the field.
10. **Is there an application deadline?**
Student applications are accepted March 15 for the Summer semester, June 15 for the Fall semester, and October 15 for the Spring semester and March 15th
11. **How many students apply? How many are admitted?**
Approximately 75+ students apply each semester. The number of students admitted varies and is based on space availability to maintain an adequate instructor to student ratio.
12. **What is the average GPA of students accepted?**
Generally students admitted have a 3.5 GPA or higher.
13. **Is the program approved?**
Please refer to the nursing program website for current information regarding state approval and national accreditation.
<http://dacc.nmsu.edu/academics/programs/nursing/index.html>
14. **Are there additional program costs?**
See department.
15. **Are there any special proficiencies students need to have?**
English language (written and oral) and computer literacy. For a list of additional considerations students must be aware of related to entry, such as ability to stand for long periods of time, ability to lift 50+ with assistance, etc., refer to the comprehensive list of "Categories of Essential Functions", listed under the Nursing program description in the current DACC Catalog.
16. **Which campuses offer the nursing classes?**
All nursing courses are offered at either the Espina Campus or the Sunland Park Center. Students are placed at the Espina Campus or Sunland Park Center based on their home address on file. Changing an assigned campus is not allowed once accepted to the program.
- e. **Do any prerequisites or other courses have a time expiration? If so, what are these courses and how do the new grade(s) work into the selection process?**
There is no time limit on prerequisite courses.
- f. **How is transfer credit treated? Do you use the grade from the transcript where they previously attended and consider those grades or just take into consideration the CR, CD, or GR?**
The department uses the grade from the transcript where the student previously attended and those grades are considered for the ranking GPA only.
- g. **Are students selected based on their prerequisite GPA alone, or a combination of their prerequisite and cumulative GPA?**
Selection is based upon the prerequisite course GPA & entrance exam score. The prerequisite GPA must be a 3.0 or higher. Cumulative GPA is only reviewed to ensure the student is not on academic probation.
5. **How does exercising the Adjusted Credit Option (ACO), affect student's application?**
Some selective admission programs add or deduct points for exercising the ACO. This program does not. Students and advisors should, however, be aware of the overall consequences of exercising the ACO. The policy is outlined under the Academic Regulations section of the current DACC catalog.
6. **What kind of a salary do graduates earn?**
RN: \$32 - \$37/hr. LPN/LVN: \$18 - \$24/hr.
7. **What grades are needed in order to graduate?**
The Nursing program does not use a traditional grading scale so students should refer to the program handbook for information regarding the current scale. Students must also have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better in all courses taken at DACC/NMSU.
8. **Are there any special exams that my be taken upon completion of the program?**

NCLEX-PN or NCLEX-RN licensure exams to become licensed Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses anywhere in the United States.
17. **Can I complete the program online?**
No, We are a Hy-flex program. All Orientations, Check-offs, Simulations, Exams, and Success meetings will be in person at your assigned campus and clinical rotations will be every week on-site at facilities in Las Cruces or El Paso. Only lectures for theory courses may be attended virtually in real time, which means you must be logged in on the scheduled day and time. These lectures are live and not self-paced or recorded.
18. **How does application and ranking work?**
Completion of prerequisites DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE into the program. Students are given points for their prerequisite GPA and entrance exam scores. Those points are added together to give a student a ranking score. Students are then placed in order from highest ranking score to lowest and those at the top are selected for admission to the program based on open spaces. Traditional students may obtain extra points for: location of prerequisite courses, evidence of current U.S. Certified or Licensed Human Health Care Provider and/or second time applications.