Dona Ana Community College

Pre-Nursing Orientation
WELCOME!

The nursing program is pleased you have chosen to study nursing and is delighted to have the opportunity to assist you in achieving your academic and personal goals. The nursing program offers students the opportunity to become either a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or registered nurse (RN) upon successful completion of the program and licensure.

The program is currently designed for full-time attendance and program coursework includes theory, laboratory, and clinical learning experiences. Nursing courses are delivered face to face on the Las Cruces campus with clinical participation in the surrounding communities.
NURSING EDUCATION

- In New Mexico today, there are several ways to become a nurse:
  - **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**
    - Certificate program
  - **Registered Nurse (RN)**
    - Associate’s Degree
    - Bachelor’s Degree
WHAT IS THE NCLEX EXAM?

To ensure public protection, NCSBN Member Board jurisdictions require a candidate for licensure to pass an examination that measures the competencies needed to perform safely and effectively as a newly licensed entry-level nurse. NCSBN develops two licensure examinations, the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN), that are used by boards of nursing to assist in making licensure decisions.

Taking the NCLEX-PN or the NCLEX-RN is a capstone experience to your studies and so much more. Passing the exam demonstrates your competence so that you can launch your nursing career.\(^1\)

\(^1\)https://www.ncsbn.org/nclex.htm
**DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS**

Successfully complete core and related requirement courses:

- 18 Credits
- + Possible pre-requisite courses

**Nursing Courses:**

- LPN: 29 credits and AND: 44 credits
- + National Licensure Exam

*You cannot take nursing classes until you have been admitted to the nursing program.*
WHERE TO START?

Gain admission to DACC

Advising with pre-nursing advisor

Meet pre-requisite requirements

Minimum pre-requisite GPA 2.75

Apply

HESI Entrance Exam
Apply to attend DACC
- [http://dacc.nmsu.edu/admissions/](http://dacc.nmsu.edu/admissions/)
- Send over official transcripts from all previously attended colleges
- Pay application fee
- Declare major as Pre-Nursing

Visit Financial Aid
- [http://dacc.nmsu.edu/SS/FinAid/](http://dacc.nmsu.edu/SS/FinAid/)
- Complete your FAFSA by the priority deadline
- Learn about financial resources available
  - DACC Scholarships
  - Pell Grants
  - Loans
  - Work study
Pre-Nursing Advising...

- Advising is a *critical* part of successfully meeting the requirements to apply to the nursing program. An advisor can explain the curriculum sequence, help you monitor your GPA, and so much more!
- Pre-nursing advising is located in the Health and Public Services Division, DAHL 190.
- Walk-in advising or appointments are available.
- Bring a current STAR report with you.
- Advising can be conducted via:
  - Face to face
  - Phone call
  - Email
COMPLETE PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS

Core and related courses:
- Rhetoric and Composition (4.0)
- Introduction to Psychology (3.0)
- Intermediate Algebra (3.0)
- Human Growth & Behavior (3.0)
- Principles and Applications of Chemistry (4.0)
- Anatomy & Physiology I (4.0)
- Anatomy & Physiology II (4.0)
A student’s pre-requisite GPA is one of the application requirements for the nursing program. The current minimum pre-requisite GPA for program entrance is: **2.75**

**How to Calculate:**

1. Enter the credits and grades earned for each course.
2. Enter the point value for each grade (A = 4, B = 3, C = 2). *The program does not accept grades lower than a “C.”*
3. Multiply the credits by the point value to calculate each course points for each course.
4. Add up the total credits and total course points.
5. Total Points ÷ Total Credits = GPA

A GPA calculation sheet can be found on the nursing program application page.

**NOTE:**

- The first passing grade of “C” or better is used for calculation purposes.
- A & P I and A & P II courses older than 7 years must be repeated for credit.
For Traditional Track students, successful completion of the HESI Admission Assessment (A2) Exam is required for application. This exam is generally taken during the last semester of pre-requisite coursework.

Information is available online through the program application page for test dates, study guides, etc. A pre-nursing advisor can also help answer any questions regarding the exam.

It is recommended students start thinking about the exam the semester before they intend to take it.

The current HESI A2 review book can be found in the DACC bookstore or in the libraries on Central Campus or East Mesa.
NURSING PROGRAM APPLICATION

The semester a student is ready to apply to the nursing program usually brings about many questions. These can range from the following:

- Do I have all of the requirements to apply?
- When do I take the HESI exam?
- How much money will I need to pay out of pocket to meet application requirements?
- When will I find out if I’m accepted into the program?
- What classes do I register for next semester in case I don’t get in?

All of the application information is available to prospective students online through the nursing program’s application page. It is recommended that applicants review the information early and set up an appointment with a pre-nursing advisor to go over any questions.
Meeting the requirements to apply to the nursing program can be exciting and a little overwhelming at times. You are not alone! When you need help or do not understand something, all you have to do is ask.

*Here are a few tips to help ensure you are on the right track for application:*

- **Be proactive!** Communicate with your advisor at least once a semester to ensure you are aware of updates or changes to degree or application requirements.

- **Know when you register!** Dates and times are available on the DACC website the closer it gets to registration.
Register on time! Science courses for nursing tend to fill up quickly, so registering on time is important for a seamless curriculum sequence.

You can take BSN courses at DACC! Interested students can take courses for the BSN track while at DACC! A pre-nursing advisor can help you determine which classes are needed.

Develop GOOD study habits now! Successful students develop good habits. Many of the pre-requisite courses are building on information to be used later on in the program, so keep your books too.
Learn about resources available to you! DACC offers a wealth of resources to students from tutoring to financial aid advisors.

Maintain your background! As with most healthcare fields, a criminal background check is required to enter the program. Blemishes to your record could keep you from entering the program.

Monitor your GPA! A student’s cumulative GPA is tied to being in good standing at DACC while the pre-requisite GPA is tied to program entrance. Know the requirements for each and monitor it every semester.
Explore options for an alternative education path that’s right for you! For some students, they knew they always wanted to be a nurse, for others this isn’t true. Either way, it is important to know what other educational opportunities (non-nursing) are available to you. Advisors are available to help students explore the many educational paths at DACC or even a bachelor’s degree at NMSU.

For a list of programs in the Health and Public Services Division, visit Http://dacc.nmsu.edu/hps/.
QUESTIONS???

See a pre-nursing advisor TODAY!!!