



Wharton County Junior College

911 Boling Highway • Wharton, Texas 77488 • (979) 532-4560

Vocational Nursing Program - Wharton June 1, 2009 APPLICATION DEADLINE

Program Information

The Vocational Nursing Program at the Wharton Campus is a prescribed course of study with both classroom and clinical experience designed to prepare the graduate to function as a member of the nursing team by providing basic nursing care. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to make application to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) and the Jurisprudence Examination for the state of Texas.

Upon obtaining licensure as a Vocational Nurse in the state of Texas, graduates are likely to find career opportunities in settings such as nursing homes, hospitals, residential care facilities, physicians' offices, clinics, and schools.

The Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Program in Wharton is fully approved by the Texas Board of Nursing, 333 Guadalupe, Ste 3-460, Austin, TX, 78767-0430.

Course of Study

Classroom study covers basic nursing concepts and patient care-related subjects, including anatomy, physiology, medical-surgical nursing, pediatrics, obstetrics, psychiatric nursing, and the administration of medications. Clinical practice takes place in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. The course of study is 12 months.

The first semester consists of 22 semester hours with 8 separate courses of study. Students will be in the classroom 5 days a week for seven hours per day. Experience in the clinical setting starts in November and continues until the end of the semester.

The second semester consists of 21 semester hours with 5 separate courses. Three days a week will be spent at clinical facilities and the remaining two days are designated for classroom instruction.

The third and final term consists of 9 semester hours with 3 separate courses.

This intensive course structure covers 51 credit hours in a 12 month period. It is recommended that students, if at all possible, not work full time during the program as daily study time is encouraged and required in order to be a successful student.

Admission Requirements

The Vocational Nursing Program in Wharton has limited enrollment. Because enrollment is limited, not all applicants meeting the admission requirements can be accepted. The admission process established is designed to select those applicants with the highest qualifications. In addition to the admission requirements for the College the following are requirements for admission to the VN Program in Wharton:

1. **Admission to WCJC:** Applicants must meet the admission requirements to Wharton County Junior College. Admission to WCJC is a separate process from admission to the nursing program. Applicants must be eligible to register for courses at WCJC in order to be considered for admission to the VN program.

2. **Application to the VN Program:** Applicants must complete the VN Program application. Applicants must sign and return the application to the VN department at the main campus in Wharton.
3. **Pre-Entrance Test:** All students applying for the Vocational Nursing program are required to take the THEA (formerly TASP) or the ASSET test. No exceptions. The THEA or ASSET must be taken within five years of admission to the program. It is recommended you register for the testing at least one month in advance. Call 979-532-6386 (Wharton Campus), 281-239-1532 (Fort Bend Tech Center), or 281-243-8434 (Sugar Land Campus) for testing information or visit www.thea.nesinc.com. The THEA test is also available at other locations throughout the State of Texas. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to arrange for and complete the required pre-entrance testing.
4. **Transcripts:** Applicants must submit transcripts from all colleges attended, including Wharton County Junior College. Online copies of transcripts are not acceptable.
5. **References:** Three personal reference forms are to be filled out (**not by family members**) and returned by the evaluator (**not by the applicant**) to the Vocational Nursing Department.
6. **Completed Applicant Questionnaire:** The applicant is required to respond to the questions on the Questionnaire Form.
7. **Proof of Completion of Hepatitis B Vaccine:** The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) requires that all nursing students provide proof of completion of the Hepatitis B immunization series or provide proof of immunity to Hepatitis B before being allowed to administer patient care. Since students begin to administer patient care in November, it is required that all applicants provide proof of completion of at least the first two shots. This proof must accompany the application. The Hepatitis B vaccine is a series of three injections which takes 6 months to complete.
8. **Proof of Current CPR Certification.** Applicants must provide proof of current CPR certification by the American Heart Association in Healthcare Provider CPR.
9. **Conditions for Full Acceptance:** Upon acceptance, all admissions to the VN program are contingent upon the following:
 - completion of a satisfactory criminal background check and drug screen
 - providing a completed health data form by July 13, 2009
 - showing proof of required immunizations (diphtheria-tetanus, Hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella)
 - documentation of annual TB skin test (positive results will require follow-up)

Applicants will be notified by mid-June of an admission decision.

Admission to the college does not ensure admission into the VN Program.

Applications received after the June 1st deadline may be considered, but only if space is available.

Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Program – Wharton
Application for Admission for Fall 2009 - Application Deadline is June 1, 2009
(Print in ink or type)

1. Name: _____
(Last) (First) (Middle) (Maiden)

2. Date of Birth _____ 3. Social Security Number _____

4. Address: _____
(No. and Street or Box) (City) (County) (State) (Zip)

5. Telephone – Home _____ 6. Telephone – Work _____

7. Telephone – Cell _____ 8. E-mail _____

9. Have you ever been enrolled in courses at WCJC? Yes ___ No ___

10. Will you be enrolled in WCJC courses for spring 2008? Yes ___ No ___

11. THEA Test Date _____ or ASSET Test Date _____

12. Have you previously attended any nursing program? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, complete the following:

Name of Nursing Program	City, State	Dates attended

13. Colleges/Universities Attended

Name of School/College	City and State	Dates Attended	Major/Degree Earned

14. Other Educational Programs Attended/Completed

Name of Program/School	City and State	Dates Attended	Course of Study

15. Names, addresses, and occupations of three references (not relatives):

Name	Address	Occupation

I CERTIFY that this application, the submitted transcripts and THEA or ASSET scores are complete and accurate. I understand that these documents are being used to make an academic decision regarding admission to the VN Program - Wharton. I understand that inaccurate or omission of information will make me ineligible for admission to or progression through the VN Program – Wharton. I have also read and understand the conditions for full acceptance into the program.

Date _____ Legal Signature of Applicant _____



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VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

REFERENCE LETTER MUST BE RETURNED BY THE EVALUATOR TO ABOVE ADDRESS ATTN: VN PROGRAM

PERSONAL REFERENCE:

Name of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Of the following words in **BOLDFACE**, please write in which best describes the applicant's character and qualifications.
EXCELLENT, ABOVE AVERAGE, AVERAGE, BELOW AVERAGE, POOR, DO NOT KNOW

Character: _____

Communication: _____

Dependability: _____

Initiative: _____

Likelihood of career success: _____

Please describe the applicant in your own words.

Indicate your overall impression of the applicant by checking the appropriate statement:

_____ Highly recommend _____ Recommend

_____ Do not recommend _____ Recommend with reservation

How long have you known the applicant? _____ In what capacity? _____

Evaluator's name and address: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Phone: _____



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APPLICANT CHECKLIST FOR THE VN PROGRAM

This checklist is for your use. Do not include with your application.

Applicant Responsibility: It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to make sure all required paperwork and information is received in the Vocational Nursing Department before 8:00 a.m. on Monday June 1, 2009. Our office will not follow up on any information that is not in your file. Incomplete files will not be considered.

Date Submitted	Document	Send to	Contact phone number
	Application for admission to WCJC	Wharton County Junior College Registrar's Office 911 Boling Highway Wharton, TX 77488	979-532-6303

Date	Document	Send to	Contact phone number
	Application to the WCJC Vocational Nursing Program Wharton	Wharton County Junior College Vocational Nursing Department 911 Boling Highway Wharton, TX 77488	979-532-6391
	The following documentation must be received by June 1, 2009 in order for the application to be complete and eligible for consideration:		
	1. THEA or ASSET scores		
	2. Copies of official transcripts from all colleges attended, including WCJC		
	3. Applicant Questionnaire		
	4. Proof of completion of at least 2 of the hepatitis B shots		
	5. Proof of current CPR Certification		
	6. Three references - Sent by evaluator only – applicant may not submit		

VN Program Estimated Expenses 2008-2009

1. Tuition and Fees	In district - \$54/semester hour for 51 hours = \$2754. Out of District - \$100/semester hour for 51 hours = \$5100. Out of State - \$132/semester hour for 51 hours = \$6732.
2. Pre-admission Testing – THEA or ASSET	\$29.00
3. Pre acceptance criminal background check	\$52.00
4. Skills Lab Supply Fee	\$125 Fall semester
5. Books	\$1000.00 (Around 75% of this amount is due the beginning of the first semester)
6. Student Liability Insurance	\$20.00
7. Student Incident Insurance	\$15.00
8. Supplies	\$250.00 (Stethoscope, bandage scissors, etc.)
9. Uniform/scrubs, shoes, lab coat	\$150.00 Student purchases items.
10. Travel to clinical sites (parking, gas, mileage, meals)	\$500.00 – Will vary depending on how far you reside from clinical site.
11. Graduation Expenses: Lamp School Pin	\$10.00 \$40.00
12. NCLEX-PN Examination Fee	\$200.00 Registration Fee
13. ID Photos – Must be passport photo	\$15.00 Required to accompany the BNE application
14. BNE Application Fee	\$139.00
15. Texas Board of Nursing Jurisprudence Examination	\$100.00

Estimated Total

In district - \$5700
Out of District - \$8100
Out of State - \$9700

Important Information Regarding Criminal Background Checks and Requirements for Initial VN Licensure by NCLEX-PN Examination

- Upon acceptance into the VN Program at Wharton, students will be required to complete a criminal background check and a drug screen with a company specified by Wharton County Junior College. If there is something in the background check that cannot be resolved quickly, the student will have to reapply to the nursing program after the problem has been resolved. A student with a positive criminal background screen is eligible to be considered for full acceptance and enrollment in the nursing program if: 1) the student has previously submitted a Declaratory Order to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON) and 2) received BON verification of eligibility for future licensure as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. The criminal background check and drug screen will be at the student's expense. The estimated cost of the criminal background check is \$52.00. The estimated cost of the drug screen is \$40.00.
- All individuals seeking licensure as a vocational nurse in the state of Texas must submit to the Texas Board of Nursing (BON), a set of fingerprints for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history from the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

If you answer yes to any of the eligibility questions listed below, you must contact the BON and request a Petition for Declaratory Order. The Declaratory Order is available from the Texas BON website:

www.bne.state.tx.us. Review of applicants with eligibility issues by the BON can take three (3) to six (6) months to complete.

BON Eligibility Questions

1. Have you ever been convicted, placed on community supervision whether or not adjudicated guilty, sentenced to serve jail or prison time or granted pre-trial diversion, or plead guilty, no contest or nolo contendere to any crime in any state, territory or country, or received a court order whether or not a sentence was imposed, including any pending criminal charges or unresolved arrests whether or not on appeal (excluding minor Class C traffic violations)? This includes expunged offenses and deferred adjudications with or without a finding of guilt. Please note that DUIs, DWIs, and PIs must be reported and are not considered minor traffic violations. One time minor in possession [MIP] or minor in consumption [MIC] does not need to be disclosed; therefore, you may answer "No." If you have two or more MIPs or MICs, you must answer "Yes." You may answer "No" if you have previously disclosed a criminal matter otherwise responsive to this question in a renewal and/or licensure form.
2. Do you have any criminal charges pending, including unresolved arrests?
3. Has any licensing authority refused to issue you a license or ever revoked, annulled, cancelled, accepted surrender of, suspended, placed on probation, refused to renew a license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?
4. Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?*
5. Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?*

* If you are licensed as an LVN in the State of Texas and are currently participating in the Texas Peer Assistance Program for Nurses you may answer "NO" to questions #4 and #5.

BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

333 Guadalupe, Ste 3-460

Austin, Texas 78767-0430

512-305-6818

www.bne.state.tx.us

Wharton County Junior College-Vocational Nursing Program - Wharton Policy on Essential Performance Standards and Activities for VN Students

The following performance standards and activities have been identified as essential for successful admission, progression and completion of the Wharton VN program. Students with a diagnosed disability who are unable to meet the standards are advised to contact the ADA coordinator prior to program admission.

Performance	Standard	Essential Activity/Tasks (Examples are not all inclusive)
Critical Thinking	Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical decision making.	Solve problems and make valid, rational decisions using logic, creativity, and reasoning Analyze and use assessment findings to plan care for clients and families Identify priorities of care based on analysis of data Evaluate the plan of care and revise as appropriate
Communication	Communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal, nonverbal, and written form.	Speak English in such manner to be understood by general public Communicate effectively in verbal and written form by speaking clearly and succinctly when explaining treatment procedures, describing patient conditions, and implementing health teaching for clients and / or families based on assessed needs, available resources, age, life style and cultural considerations
Interpersonal Skills	Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from a variety of social, emotional, cultural, and intellectual backgrounds	Establish rapport (relationship) with clients and colleagues through speech, touch, and hearing Work effectively in small groups as team members and as a team leader Function safely under stressful conditions with the ability to adapt to ever-changing environments inherent in clinical situations involving client care
Motor Skills	Gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide nursing care in a safe and accurate manner.	Manual dexterity to maintain sterile technique when performing sterile procedures such as insertion of a catheter Manual dexterity to perform all steps required for medication administration (IV, PO, IM, etc) Be able to use a computer keyboard
Hearing	Hearing ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and provide safe nursing care.	Be able to hear monitor alarms, emergency signals, call bells, and to answer telephones Distinguish changes in tone and pitch such as when using a stethoscope to hear a blood pressure, heart, lung, vascular, and abdominal sounds
Vision	Visual ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and provide safe nursing care.	Distinguish alterations in normal body activities such as absence of respiratory movement Identify changes in color, size and symmetry of body parts, such as development of cyanosis Read fine, small print on medication containers, physician's orders, monitors, thermometers, measuring cups, and equipment calibrations Visualize written words and a computer screen
Mobility	Physical abilities to move from room-to-room or maneuver in limited spaces, and to accommodate stairwell when necessary.	Perform physical activities necessary to do basic nursing skills such as putting on sterile gloves, performing health assessments Provide or assist with activities of daily living such as bed bath, oral hygiene, ambulation, and positioning Transport and transfer patients using equipment such as stretchers, wheelchairs, walkers, and commode chairs Respond quickly in an emergency Physical ability to stand for prolonged periods of time, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, lift patients and objects of 35 lbs. or more
Tactile	Tactile ability sufficient to monitor, assess, and provide safe nursing care.	Palpate for pulses, temperature, texture hardness or softness, landmarks, etc
Accountability and Responsibility	Demonstrate accountability and responsibility in all aspects of nursing practice.	Be able to distinguish right from wrong, legal from illegal and to act accordingly Accept responsibility for own actions Be able to comprehend ethical standards and agree to abide by them

