

## **NURSING PROGRAM ADMISSION POLICY**

### **Transfer & LPN Applicants Seeking Entrance to the Upper Division BSN Program**

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Students seeking admission to the upper division of the nursing program must be admitted to Hesston College and also apply for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Please note that acceptance to the college does not automatically ensure admission to the nursing program.

The Nursing Admissions Committee reviews all applications for students with an educational interest in nursing. The committee determines admission eligibility for the BSN nursing program.

The Kansas State Board of Nursing approves the number of applicants admitted each year, guided by the student/faculty ratio and the availability of clinical facilities. The nursing program grants admission once a year, with a maximum of 56 applicants accepted to the first level (junior year) each fall. Transfer and readmission students will be considered based on available space.

#### **STEP ONE: THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

In order to be admitted to the college for the BSN program, an applicant must be a high school graduate or have passed the GED examination. The first steps in the admission process follow. All information must be submitted to the Hesston College Admissions Office. For priority consideration, applications and other required materials are due by March 1.

- 1) Complete and submit the Hesston College Application for Admission.
- 2) Complete and submit the Hesston College BSN Nursing Application.
- 3) Provide two references. If employed in health care, one reference must be from current employer. References may also come from other employers, supervisors, teachers, coaches, pastors, etc. References from personal friends or relatives are not accepted. Please list references with email addresses on the BSN Nursing Application.
- 4) Submit official high school or GED transcripts.
- 5) Submit official ACT, SAT or ACCUPLACER Next-Generation Exam test scores.
- 6) Submit official transcripts from all colleges, universities and other schools attended.

#### **STEP TWO: DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must meet academic, technical, legal and social character standards to qualify for admission.

##### **ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

###### Standards for All Applicants:

- 1) Have an academic plan to complete 50 of the 60 liberal education/support credit hours required for the BSN prior to entering nursing coursework. The 10 remaining hours may only include the humanities requirement, Biblical Literature and elective hours;

- 2) Achieve grades of C or above in all required liberal education/support courses and an overall GPA of 2.50 in required courses based on a minimum of 30 college credits; and
- 3) Have an ACT composite score of 19, or combined SAT score of 1000 (1365 if taken prior to March 2016), or ACCUPLACER Next-Generation Exam score of 255 in Reading and 255 in Writing (only one ACCUPLACER retake provided).

Additional Academic Standards for Applicants Whose Native Language is not English:

Provide one of the following:

- A high school diploma or GED earned in the United States; or
- An iBT with minimum scores of 19 in Reading, and 20 in Listening, Speaking and Writing; or
- Evidence of English language proficiency from an LPN program to be evaluated by the Nursing Admissions Committee.

Additional Academic Standards for LPN-to-BSN Applicants:

- 1) Evidence of a current LPN license allowing practice in Kansas and meet Kansas Statewide Nursing Articulation Plan criteria or validate currency of nursing knowledge base; and
- 2) GPA of 2.75 in practical nursing education program.

Additional Academic Standards for Applicants Previously Enrolled in an ADN or BSN Program:

- 1) Submit an official transcript and reference from the nursing director at each nursing program previously attended.
- 2) If difficulties were previously encountered within nursing coursework, submit a personal statement describing how these difficulties have been remediated.
- 3) By policy, students who have not been enrolled in nursing coursework for more than two semesters may be required to validate all previously-earned nursing credit (if course re-enrollment is not desired). A standardized assessment will be administered to validate an adequate nursing knowledge base in each course for which the applicant is seeking advanced standing. Failure to achieve the required standards will require reenrollment in these courses. Nursing credits older than three years will not be eligible for validation; course reenrollment is required.
- 4) Thirty-two (32) of the final credit hours must be earned at Hesston College.

## TECHNICAL STANDARDS

To qualify for entry into the clinical setting, successfully progress through the nursing curriculum, and function as a practicing nurse upon graduation, an individual must be able to perform certain physical and mental activities. Technical standards address the following:

- 1) Visual acuity;
- 2) Hearing, olfactory and tactile ability;
- 3) Fine motor skills;
- 4) Strength, mobility and physical endurance;
- 5) Ability to speak, comprehend and write English;
- 6) Emotional stability; and
- 7) Cognitive ability.

A document describing in detail the Nursing Technical Standards adopted by the program is available from the Admissions Office and on the nursing web site.

## LEGAL STANDARDS

Legal infractions may negatively affect admission to the nursing program, as well as the eligibility for RN licensure following graduation. Therefore, applicants are asked to report any convictions (misdemeanors or felonies) as part of the application process. Legal qualifications for licensure in the state of Kansas are available from the Admissions Office and on the nursing web site.

## SOCIAL CHARACTER

References and/or interviews reflect the following:

- 1) Appropriate interpersonal relationships/employment interactions;
- 2) Appropriate choice of language and personal appearance;
- 3) Professional behaviors and attitude; and
- 4) Willingness to uphold campus lifestyle expectations.

## STEP THREE: SELECTION PROCESS

- 1) Priority for admission will be given to currently-enrolled Hesston College students who meet the program's admission criteria and/or progression standards.
- 2) Admission files for transfer applicants are reviewed and candidates accepted to the BSN program on an ongoing basis as space is available. The Nursing Admissions Committee meets monthly to review applicant materials. Beginning September 1, a select number of applicants, who exceed eligibility standards, may be accepted prior to March 1. All applicants are encouraged to complete file materials as early as possible. Files completed after March 1 will be reviewed for space-available admission or ranked and placed on a waiting list.
- 3) Selection criteria which are considered in the ranking and selection of applicants follow, and are supported by the Hesston College Admission Policy which states, "Hesston College admits those students who will benefit from the educational environment and who will contribute to the shared life of the campus community .... Admission is granted after careful review of the candidate's academic promise, social character, and potential for success at Hesston College."
  - College GPA (overall and in courses that meet program requirements, including recent academic trend in GPA);
  - Number of liberal education and support courses successfully completed;
  - Standardized test scores (ACT, SAT or ACCUPLACER);
  - English language proficiency, if applicable;
  - Nursing program technical standards and legal standards for RN licensure;
  - References;
  - Social character; and
  - Applicant's interactions and communication skills throughout the application process which reflect potential for success in the nursing program.
- 4) All applicants on the waiting list will be selected for an opening according to the selection criteria, and not by date of application.

## STEP FOUR: NOTIFICATION OF ADMISSION DECISION

All selected and non-selected applicants who complete their admissions files will be notified in writing by the Hesston College Nursing Program. Admitted students will also be informed regarding any admission contingencies (i.e., successful completion of a prerequisite course). Any applicant placed on a waiting list for an available position will also be notified of this status.

## **REAPPLICATION:**

Applicants who are placed on a waiting list and are not selected for admission will be required to reapply should future nursing admission be desired. Waiting list status does not guarantee any priority for a position in subsequent nursing classes. To be considered for a future academic year, the Admissions Office should be contacted to reactivate the admissions process.

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