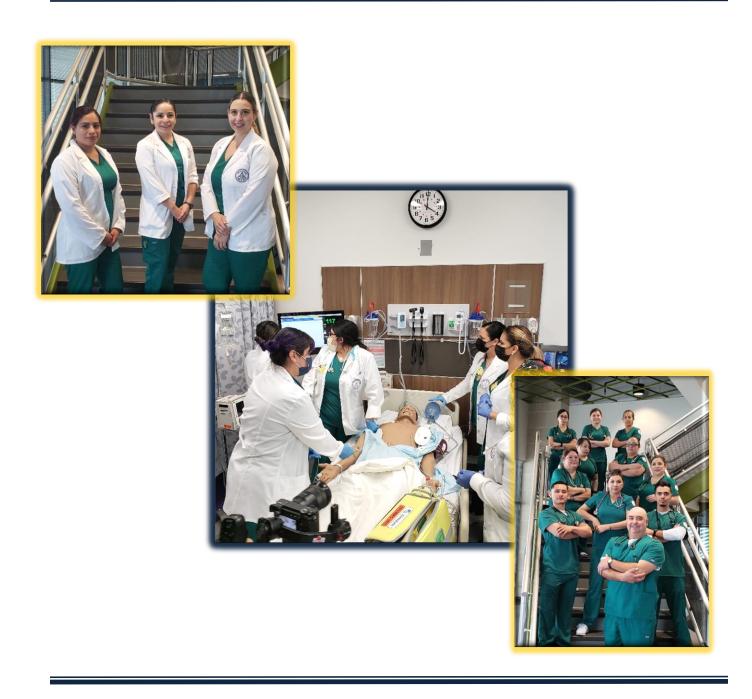
Prospective Student Guide RN-to-BSN Program

An educational pathway for Registered Nurses seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree



Bachelor of Science in Nursing

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Approval to Offer RN-to-BSN Online Program and Program Description

South Texas College is approved by the Texas Board of Nursing, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to offer the online Registered Nurse-to-Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-to-BSN) Program.

RN-to-BSN Program at South Texas College is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Program Description

The RN-to-BSN Online Program is designed to respond to the increased demand for baccalaureate-level nurses by providing increased access to the BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) degree to applicants who already possess a current, unencumbered RN license to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License. The program focuses on advancing competencies, skills, and values needed to meet the demands of the current healthcare system.

The degree consists of 42 credit hours of the core curriculum, 47 credit hours of lower-division coursework, and 31 credit hours of upper-division coursework for a total of 120 credit hours. Prospective students must have earned an Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing (AAS-ADN) and completed a minimum of 30 credit hours of the core curriculum. Therefore, to earn the BSN, a student will need to complete 42 core curriculum credit hours and 31 BSN course credit hours beyond the Associate Degree in Nursing, plus the 4 credit hours of BIOL 2420 or 2421. The upper-division coursework focuses on the BSN role in evidence-based nursing practice and research, interprofessional communication, professionalism, health promotion, community and population health, leadership for quality care and patient safety, management of information and patient care technology, and healthcare policy. The program coursework is deliverable in an online instructional model that includes online learning activities and clinicals.

Marketable Skills

After completing the BSN Program, students can increase their value to a hospital or healthcare organization, making them a more skilled asset to the healthcare team. A South Texas College BSN graduate will acquire the following skills making them more appealing to employers:

a. Strengthened Management Skills

Through targeted coursework, RN-to-BSN students are provided in-depth training in staffing, leadership and management skills, budgeting, and cost-effective day-to-day operations.

b. Effective Leadership Skills

In today's complex healthcare delivery system, RN-to-BSN students boost their leadership skills as they are expected to run departments efficiently, act as role models, and adapt to the pressures confronted in today's healthcare environment.

c. Proficient in Applying Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)

The RN-to-BSN Program is focused on applying the principles of EBP in the workplace. The RN-to-BSN degree plan has a separate capstone course on EBP where students must formulate a capstone project designed to yield better patient outcomes in the health care setting/department where the students work.

d. Foster an Attitude of Continuous (Continued) Learning

This is an effective trait rather than a skill that South Texas College has nurtured in the ADN (ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING) program. In today's ever-evolving and rapid-pace healthcare environment, students need to develop this trait to keep abreast with the latest trends in their field of

specialty and expand their knowledge to stay ahead.

e. Effective Financial Skills

The RN-to-BSN coursework provides a solid foundation of instruction in healthcare fiscal planning and accountability for costs and outcomes. This instruction is designed to produce a budget manager equipped with the knowledge, skills, and principles in financial management, as well as knowledge of the political, economic, and social factors that affect healthcare.

ADMISSION TO SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

Students are admitted to South Texas College through the provisions of <u>Board Policy 3200, Student Admissions</u>. General admission to the College does not imply admission to all programs of the College. The Nursing and Allied Health Division offers selective programs with application requirements. Prospective students must meet all program application requirements before being eligible to apply to selective programs.

New Students

South Texas College has developed a checklist to assist prospective students with the process of admission. Please follow the <u>Admission to South Texas College Checklist</u>. Please complete the admission process with the Office of Admissions & Records (OAR). For more information or assistance, contact the OAR at 956-872-8323 or email admissions@southtexascollege.edu and/or visit a South Texas College Admissions Office.

Transfer Students

Students transferring from another accredited college or university are eligible for admission and adhere to the same application requirements. Transfer students must also comply with <u>Board Policy 3200 and 3320</u>. For more information or assistance, contact the OAR at 956-872-8323 or email <u>admissions@southtexascollege.edu</u> and/or visit a <u>South Texas College Admissions Office</u>.

Note to transfer students: When transferring credits from former colleges/universities to South Texas College, only the course credits transfer, not the GPA. The GPA for core curriculum will be calculated and the GPA for the Associate Degree Nursing earned will be added to the application.

International Students

The College is authorized under federal law to enroll students who are valid F-1 or M-1 visa holders under the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and authorized by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Upon initial admission to the College, international students must comply with all federal regulations to obtain a student visa before enrollment and must remain in compliance throughout the duration of their study. For assistance, contact the Office of Admissions & Records, the Residency Specialist, at 956-872-2250. Website: https://studentservices.southtexascollege.edu/admissions/international.html

It is recommended that international students schedule their <u>TOEFL Exam</u> during the application process. For more information or assistance, contact the STC International Toll-Free number at 866-665-7822.

RN-to-BSN PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Program focuses on advancing competencies, skills, and values needed to meet the demands of the current healthcare system. The degree consists of 47 credit hours of lower-division courses accepted from the Associate Degree Nursing track, which includes BIOL2420 or BIOL2421, 42 state-required credit hours of the Core Curriculum, and 31 credit hours comprised of upper-division coursework to be offered at the Nursing and Allied Health Campus in McAllen, Texas. The upper-division coursework includes the BSN role in evidence-based nursing practice and research, interprofessional communication, professionalism, health promotion, community and population health, leadership for quality care and patient safety, management of information and patient care technology, and healthcare policy.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Program will prepare graduates for leadership and management positions in a healthcare facility. The Program will deliver a fully **online instructional model** through carefully planned online learning activities and **clinical coursework**.

Through the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, RN-to-BSN Program outcomes, the student will be able to:

- 1. Apply clinical judgment in decision-making based on the nursing program of study, evidenced-based practice outcomes, and research studies in the provision of comprehensive and safe patient and population care.
- 2. Deliver safety and quality improvement initiatives as an advocate and manager of nursing care rendered by the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
- 3. Demonstrate clinical inquiry in applying patient care technologies and information systems to support safe nursing practice and population risk reduction.
- 4. Examine the monitoring of institutional, professional, and public healthcare policies to maintain adherence to legal standards and regulatory frameworks of the professional nursing practice.
- 5. Manage care transitions across the healthcare continuum in populations with diverse communities in collaboration with members of the interdisciplinary healthcare team.
- 6. Demonstrate effective leadership that reflects the values, ethics, and continuing competence of the nursing profession.
- 7. Demonstrate leadership skills related to financial resources, human resources, clinical management, and professional issues in providing and evaluating comprehensive nursing care.

Prospective Student Advising

The RN-to-BSN Program offers **advising** for prospective students. Prospective students are **required** to complete an Advising meeting, either face-to-face or online, to learn about program information and requirements, program tracks, point system evaluation, application periods, and clinical requirements. Prospective students who complete the Advising meeting (face-to-face or online) will need to successfully complete the *Post Exam* and print the **Certificate of Completion.** This certificate must be submitted with the RN-to-BSN Program Application.

Student can schedule a virtual appointment through the web portal. The Academic Coach will either call or meet with the student virtually. During the session, the applicant will be able to ask questions regarding the RN-to-BSN Program.

Online Advising

An Online Advising meeting (https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html) is designed for those applicants who cannot attend face-to-face. Once the applicant has completed the advising meeting, the applicant can email the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach any questions he/she may have or can view the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) on the BSN website.

Certificate of Completion

Applicants who complete the Information Session, either face-to-face or online, and successfully complete the <u>Post Exam</u>, will be able to attain the Certificate of Completion online. This certificate is one of the required documents for applying to the RN-to-BSN Program. The certificate must be within the academic year of application submission.

BSN PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Registered Nurse (RN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) [RN-to-BSN] Program is a **selective admissions program** with program application requirements. Prospective students must meet all program application requirements before being eligible to apply to the program. To be considered for program admission, applications must be submitted during the application periods as published on the RN-to-BSN Program webpage. Due to limited resources, some applicants who meet all program application requirements may not be admitted to the program for the application period in which they apply. Applicants who are not admitted for the current period are encouraged to meet with the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach.

Application Timelines

See BSN Website for Application Timeline https://nah.southtexascollege.edu/bsn/index.html

Application Requirements

Students must meet all program application requirements to be eligible to apply to the RN- to-BSN Program. However, meeting the program application requirements is not a guarantee of program admission. Requirements are listed below. Use the Program Requirement Checklist to guide you through the process.

RN-to-BSN Program Application Requirements

- Current, unencumbered RN License to practice in Texas or an Enhanced Nurse Licensure
 Compact RN License from the <u>Texas Board of Nursing Website</u>
- o Conferred Associate of Applied Science Associate Degree Nursing (AAS-ADN) with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
 - If applicable, required courses have been transferred and are listed on the Official South Texas College transcript
- A minimum of 30 of 42 credit hours of the core curriculum credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale have been completed. (Remainder of the 12 credit hours may be taken during the program.)
- o Information Session Certificate of Completion
- Personal letter of intent and curriculum vitae detailing academic career and professional experience
- o Two Reference Forms from faculty members, employers, or professional colleague
- Immunization documentation
 - Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) within last 10 years
 - Hepatitis B complete 3 vaccine series or titer report proving immunity
 - MMR (Measles Mumps Rubella) 2 doses required or titer report proving immunity
 - Varicella (Chicken Pox) 2 doses required or titer report proving immunity
 - Meningitis (for entering students 21 years old and under)

Student Application Checklist

Prospective students must meet all application requirements to apply to the RN-to-BSN Program. Meeting the application requirements is not a guarantee of program admission. **Below is a list of items and documents required to submit a complete program application.**

Check Mark $()$	List of Requirements
	 I have received my Certificate of Completion for attending an Advising meeting Needed to upload to the online application I have a current unencumbered RN License to practice in Texas or Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License Copy of RN License from the Texas Board of Nursing Website to upload to the application I have earned an Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing (AAS- ADN) with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher
	 I have completed a minimum of 30 of 42 credit hours of the core curriculum credit hours with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (Remainder of the 12 credit hours may be taken during the program.) Personal letter of intent and curriculum vitae (résumé) detailing your academic career and professional experience
	Two (2) <u>Applicant Reference Forms</u> were completed and emailed to <u>BSNdept@southtexascollege.edu</u> from faculty members, employers, or professional colleagues.
	 Official transcripts of record that include the following: Conferred Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing (AAS-ADN) If applicable, all prerequisite courses have been transferred and are listed on the Official South Texas College transcript
	 Immunization documentation Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) - within last 10 years Hepatitis B complete 3 vaccine series or titer report proving immunity MMR (Measles Mumps Rubella) – 2 doses required or titer report proving immunity Varicella (Chicken Pox) - 2 doses required or titer report proving immunity Meningitis (for entering students 21 years old and under)

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria are used to assess the applicant's score. Points are given for the following selection criteria:

- 1. Cumulative GPA upon conferral of AAS-ADN degree
- 2. Cumulative GPA of State required core curriculum, and
- 3. Additional points as listed on the evaluation form.

Selection Process

The RN-to-BSN Program selection process **is Competitive Entry based on a Point System**. Points are given for the following selection criteria: cumulative GPA upon conferral of AAS-ADN, core curriculum cumulative GPA, and additional points as listed on the Application Form. A **Cutoff Score** is calculated for each application period based on the qualified applicant pool, the number of slots available, and may vary for each application period. Completed applications are ranked from highest to lowest points and admission is based solely on this ranking. Applicants with total points **equal** to the cutoff score will be designated as alternates. Should any of the admitted applicants decline admission, an alternate will be admitted to the program. A random draw (through a lottery system) of alternate applicants will be used as needed. Alternate applicants not selected for the application period must re-apply to be considered for the next application cycle.

Cumulative GPA Calculation Worksheet – Core Curriculum

This worksheet is provided to prospective students to calculate the cumulative GPA for core curriculum courses. First, using the grading system below for converting letter grades to points, enter your grade points for each course listed. Then multiply the grade points by the number of credit hours for each course and enter the total points. The last step will be to calculate your cumulative GPA by (1) adding the total points and (2) dividing that number by 42, enter result as your cumulative GPA.

Grading System:	A=4 points B=3 points C=2 points	ts					
CORE CURRICULUM COURSES			Letter Grade	Grade Points	X	Credit Hours	TOTAL POINTS
ENGL 1301	Composition I				X	3	
ENGL 1302	Composition II – Rhetoric				X	3	
BIOL 2401	•				X	4	
BIOL 2402	Anatomy and Physiology II				X	4	
HIST 1301 or HIST 2327	United States History I or Mexican-American History I				X	3	
HIST 1302 or HIST 2328	j				X	3	
GOVT 2305	Federal Government				X	3	
GOVT 2306	Texas Government				X	3	
PSYC 2301 or PSYC 2314	General Psychology or Lifespan Growth and Development				X	3	
MATH 1442	Elementary Statistical Methods+				X	3-4	
Creative Arts Elec	ctive*: Course Name				X	3	
Language, Philoso	ophy & Culture Elective*: Course Name				X	3	
	Component Area Option+*: Course Name					3-4	
•		'	TO	OTAL GR	ADE	POINTS	
	Calculate Total the points earned div	e cumulative Gl ided by 42 (tota					÷
				Cum	ulativ	ve GPA	
	Total number of credit hours completed	Percentage of divided by 42 (

+STUDENTS TAKING A 4 CREDIT CORE MATH CLASS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE 3 CREDIT HOURS IN THE CORE COMPONENT AREA. STUDENTS TAKING A 3 CREDIT CORE MATH CLASS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE 4 CREDITS IN CORE COMPONENT AREA.

^{*}see current FY Academic Catalog

Additional Points

The RN-to-BSN Program offers applicants the opportunity to earn **Additional Points**, which are not required for applying to the program; however, they will assist applicants to earn additional points towards the total score.

• A student can earn one (1) point on the application if he/she is a graduate of South Texas College with an Associate of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing

Point System Evaluation Form

Program Selection Process: The RN-to-BSN Program selection process is based on a Point System Evaluation. The following selection criteria are used to determine the applicant's points.

Point System Evaluation Form

	n Evaluation I offin		
Points Base	d on Academic Record	Points	Student Points
	tive GPA of conferred Associate of Applied – Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS-ADN)	4.00 - 3.50 = 3 points 3.49 - 3.00 = 2 points 2.90 - 2.50 = 1 point	
	tive GPA of Core Curriculum as calculated on lculation Worksheet	4.00 - 3.50 = 3 points 3.49 - 3.00 = 2 points 2.90 - 2.50 = 1 point	
_	ted Core Courses (percentage) As calculated on lculation Worksheet	100% (42 credits) = 6 50% (21 credits) = 2 25% (11 credits) = 1 Less than 25% = 0	
	exas College Graduates who completed the te of Applied Science – Associate Degree Nursing	1 point	
		Maximum Points: 13	

DEGREE PLANS

Full-Time Degree Plan

The full-time degree plan for the RN-to-BSN Program is designed for individuals who would like to pursue the program on a full-time basis.

		DEGREE PLAN	
	В	Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Degree Program Course Sequence: Full-Time Track	
	FIRST Semester – SPRING / FALL		
First Mini	mester		
NURS	3370	Professional Development & Interprofessional Collaboration	3
NURS	3302	Contemporary Issues in Nursing & Healthcare	3
Second Mi	nimester		
NURS	3304	Holistic Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
NURS	3310	Evidence-Based Nursing Practice and Research	3
		Second Semester	
First Mini	mester		
NURS	3401	Population Focused Community Health Care	4
NURS	3102	Population Focused Community Health Care - Clinical	1
Second Mi	nimester		
NURS	3312	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS	3320	Public and Global Health Policy	3
		Third Semester	
First Mini	mester		
NURS	3408	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing	4
NURS	3108	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing - Clinical	1
Second Mi	nimester		
NURS	3301	Nursing Capstone - Capstone	3
TOTAL C	REDIT H	OURS	31

Part-Time Degree Plan

The part-time degree plan for the RN-to-BSN Program is designed for individuals who would like to pursue the program on a part-time basis.

		DEGREE PLAN	
		Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN Degree Program	
		Course Sequence: Part-Time Track	
		FIRST SEMESTER – SPRING / FALL	Credit Hours
First Minir	nester		
NURS	3370	Professional Development & Interprofessional Collaboration	3
Second Min	nimester		
NURS	3310	Evidence-Based Nursing Practice and Research	3
NURS	3304	Holistic Assessment Across the Lifespan	3
		SECOND SEMESTER	
First Minir	nester		
NURS	3401	Population Focused Community Health Care	4
NURS	3102	Population Focused Community Health Care - Clinical	1
Second Mi	nimester		
NURS	3312	Nursing Informatics	3
		THIRD SEMESTER	
First Minir	nester		
NURS	3408	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing	4
NURS	3108	Leadership and Management in Professional Nursing – Clinical	1
Second Mi	nimester	Fourth Semester	
NURS	3320	Public and Global Health Policy	3
		FOURTH SEMESTER	
First Minir	nester		
NURS	3302	Contemporary Issues in Nursing and Healthcare	3
Second Mi	nimester		
NURS	3301	Nursing Capstone – Capstone	3
		TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	31

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS

Once a student is admitted into the RN-to-BSN Program, they will be required to fulfill immunizations and clinical requirements to attend the clinical courses and the capstone. The student will be required to submit the following to the COMPLIO system during the second semester of the program and before the student cannot attend clinical.

Students enrolled in the RN-BSN Program will be required to have clinical requirements for clinical and capstone.

- Student will be required to create a COMPLIO account. COMPLIO is the clinical tracking system used by the NAH (Nursing and Allied Health) Division. The student will scan and upload the listed documents below in the COMPLIO System.
 - ➤ COMPLIO Subscription \$15 for 14-months subscription
 - > Current CPR-American Heart Association for Healthcare Providers or BLS Provider certification
 - Immunizations
 - Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) within last 10 years
 - Hepatitis B complete 3 vaccine series or titer report proving immunity
 - MMR (Measles Mumps Rubella) 2 doses required or titer report proving immunity
 - Varicella (Chicken Pox) 2 doses required or titer report proving immunity
 - Meningitis (for entering students 21 years old and under)
 - Current TB/PPD
 - > Current and valid TX DL, Texas ID, Passport, or US Military ID with visible signature and photo
 - NAH Policy Form read, sign and upload
 - > Copy of current, unencumbered RN License or Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact RN License

Any student needing to request reasonable accommodations due to a documented disability must initiate the process by contacting an ADA representative from the <u>Student Accessibility Services</u> for information and procedures at 956-872-2173 or NAH Campus 956-872-3077.

PROGRAM COST

The total program cost for each RN-to-BSN Program track is provided below.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM COST 2023-2024								
	RN-to-BS	N Full-time T	Frack	RN-to-BSN Part-time Track				
		Semester			Sem	ester		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	
	(Credit Hours		Credit Hours				
	12	11	8	9	8	8	6	
		31		31				
Tuition	\$1,920.00	\$1,760.00	\$1,280.00	\$1,440.00	\$1,280.00	\$1,280.00	\$960.00	
Differential Tuition	\$900.00	\$825.00	\$600.00	\$675.00	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$450.00	
Student Activity Fee	\$48.00	\$44.00	\$32.00	\$36.00	\$32.00	\$32.00	\$24.00	
Books	\$485.00	\$315.00	\$95.00	\$390.00	\$210.00	\$200.00	\$95.00	
Supplies	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Equipment, Tools & Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Cost per semester	\$3,353.00	\$2,959.00	\$2,007.00	\$2,541.00	\$2,137.00	\$2,112.00	\$1,529.00	
Program Total Cost	\$8,319.00 \$8,319.00							

Source: South Texas College Student Financial Services and Division of Nursing & Allied Health

The Lippincott-Kluwer platform for all RN-to-BSN Program textbooks is \$895.00.

Please see website: https://lippincottdirect.lww.com/

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION STATUS

The South Texas College RN-to-BSN Program communicates via Jag email to inform all applicants of their admission status. Notification Letters will be emailed on the specified date listed of the Application Form. Applicants should make sure their Jag email account is working to receive notification of application status. Please contact the IT (Instructional Technology) Service Desk if you are not receiving Jag email or your account needs to be reset.

Email: isphelp@southtexascollege.edu Phone: 956-872-2111

requirements like immunizations, resources, and class registration.

Qualified applicants with total points **above** the cutoff score will be admitted and applicants with total points **below** the cutoff score will be denied. Applicants with total points **equal** to the cutoff score will be designated as alternates. Should any of the admitted applicants decline admission, an alternate will be admitted to the program. The program *does not* have a **waiting-list**. Applicants who are not admitted for the current period are encouraged to meet with the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach.

Admitted Status

Applicants with total points above the cutoff score will be accepted and notified of their application status through Jag email. Applicants must officially accept their admission to the program on or before the new student orientation date by submitting the acceptance form (emailed with the acceptance letter). The new student orientation will outline all the details of the program, including but not limited to additional

Alternate Status

Applicants with total points equal to the cutoff score will be designated as alternates and notified of their application status through Jag email. Should any of the accepted students decline, an alternate will be offered admissions to the program. A random draw (through a lottery system) of alternate applicants will be used as needed. Alternates will be given a date of when the final decision will be made in the Alternate Status letter. If the alternate student is not admitted, he/she must reapply next application pool to be considered.

Denied Status

Applicants with total points below the cutoff score will be denied admission to the RN-to-BSN Program and notified of their application status through Jag email. Denied applicants are encouraged to meet with the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach for improvement of points.

Upon the denied applicant's request, further consultation can be held to meet with the:

- ➤ RN-to-BSN Program Director
 - Applicant can meet with the RN-to-BSN Program Director after the applicant has met with the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach.
- ➤ NAH Division Dean
 - Applicant can meet with the NAH Division Dean after the applicant has met with the RN-to-BSN Program Academic Coach and RN-to-BSN Program Director.

WHAT'S NEXT...

Email

Your STC email is our form of communication in the program. You may also use Pronto, BB and of course telephone.

Once you are accepted into the BSN program, the Program personnel will be emailing regarding your next step, which would be the following:

- > Complete the acceptance form
- Make sure you are able to register for courses
- > Information regarding the books will be emailed
- ➤ Keep checking your Jag email for emails about the program

Registration

Registration is conduce by the BSN Program. You will be registered by your track preference selected; full-time or part-time. Once you are registered, you will be emailed that registration is complete and are able to make payments arrangements or pay your bill through your Jagnet Portal.

Start of the Semester

The courses for the BSN are entirely 100% online. At the beginning of the semester you will log on to your Learning Management System – Blackboard and be able to see your courses.