

Fall 2009

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Lamar State College-Port Arthur Vocational Nursing Program. The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates as beginning practitioners who are competent, and self-directed. At the completion of the program, the student is eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN/VN) to be a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN). LVNs practice under the supervision of a registered nurse and/or licensed physician.

This advisement packet is designed to answer common questions, outline the program requirements, and provide you with the following items:

1. Application form and procedure for gaining admission to Lamar State College-Port Arthur.
2. Admission application with mandatory program criteria.
3. Information about the required health exam.
4. Guidance to obtain financial aid.
5. Program of study with nursing course descriptions.

Please review the enclosed information carefully. If you have any questions, please call the Allied Health Secretary in Port Arthur 984-6356 (1-800-477-5872 ext. 6356). I am available at Lamar State College-Port Arthur by calling 984-6364 (1-800-477-5872 ext. 6364). We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Mulliner, RN, BSN  
Coordinator - Vocational Nursing Program

## LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR Vocational Nursing Program

The Vocational Nursing Program at Lamar State College-Port Arthur (LSC-PA) is a competency based program designed to prepare its graduates to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN/VN) to become Licensed Vocational Nurses. LVNs function under the direction of a registered nurse and/or licensed physician to provide nursing care to people who are in need of medical diagnostic evaluation and are experiencing acute or chronic illness. Graduates of the Lamar State College-Port Arthur VN Program are currently employed in hospitals, physicians' offices, outpatient medical centers, long-term care facilities, and home health agencies. The Vocational Nursing Program is ideal for those who desire a career in nursing but, who do not wish to spend two or more years in an educational program.

The Vocational Nursing Program is the foundation on which the Associate of Applied Science Upward Mobility Nursing Program is built. The Upward Mobility Nursing Program is a competency-based program whose graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) to become Registered Nurses (RN).

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Vocational Nursing Program at Lamar State College-Port Arthur is a two-phase process. During Phase I, the student must complete the following steps:

- I. Complete the application process for general admission to Lamar State College-Port Arthur.
- II. Complete the application process for the Vocational Nursing Program.
  - A. Step One: Complete the application packet. The following forms should be completed and mailed with the required documentation to:

Vocational Nursing Program  
Standards Committee  
Lamar State College-Port Arthur  
P O Box 310  
Port Arthur TX 77641-0310

1. Application to the Vocational Nursing Program
2. Record of Course Completion - **Copies** of official transcripts to include:
  - a) Transcript of high school completion or GED.
  - b) Transcript(s) of all college work completedCopies of these transcripts must be attached to your Vocational Nursing Program application **before** you submit your Vocational Nursing Program application to the Allied Health Department for review by the faculty. **No application will be reviewed unless all transcripts and transcript evaluations are submitted.**
3. Report verifying that the student has satisfied the THEA requirements (unless the student is exempt prior to admission)

The new name for the TASP Test is the THEA Test. The content of the THEA Test is the same as the former TASP Test. The THEA Test has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, under Senate Bill 286, Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062: Texas Success Initiative, for use by Texas institutions of higher education as an assessment instrument for entering students. The THEA Test provides the diagnostic data required by this legislation.

- The THEA Test must be taken before enrolling in any college-level coursework.
- WHO IS EXEMPT FROM TAKING THE TEST? There are exemptions. It is important that you check with the advising office before you register for the THEA Test.
- For further information about whether and when you must be tested, please contact the

advising office at 984-6183, 984-6184 or 984-6185.

4. Copy of Nursing Assistant Certification – **only if you are a CNA**
  5. Evidence of current CPR certification
  6. Survey
- B. Step Two: Successfully complete BIOL 2401 and 2402 (BIO 143 and 144), HECO 1322, and \*NURA 1301 and 1160 with a minimum grade of C.

**\*NOTE:** Lamar State College-Port Arthur Allied Health Department offers a two-part exemption exam for those students who are Certified Nurse's Aides and have a current CNA card with the Texas Certified Nurse's Aide Registry. The exemption exam is given once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Students take the same comprehensive final as those students currently enrolled in NURA 1301 and NURA 1160. The exemption exam is a two-part process. The first part is a written exam. A student must score at least 80 percent on the written exam. If the student is successful, then he/she must complete the skills portion of the exam. Upon successful completion of both parts of the exemption exam, a student will be exempted from taking NURA 1301 - Nurse Aide for Health Care Organizations I and NURA 1160 - Clinical for Nursing Assistant/Aide on the LSC-PA campus.

Again, the Allied Health Department will administer this exam twice a year – once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Please contact the Allied Health Department at 984-6356 for exact exam dates and times.

The student must maintain a "C" or better in **ALL** courses that apply to the Vocational Nursing Program and an overall 2.0 Grade Point Average to graduate and be eligible to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN/VN). Please note that all vocational nursing courses (VNSG) require a minimum score of 75 for a grade of "C".

During Phase II of the admission process, students who have completed Phase I are ranked according to their scores on the 10-item Admission Rating Scale (see below). This scale has been developed by the Vocational Nursing Standards Committee composed of nursing faculty. The goal of the Vocational Nursing Standards Committee is the selection of the best qualified applicants. The applicants with the highest scores will be admitted to the program. Lamar State College-Port Arthur is an open access institution. All slots will be filled with the most qualified applicants available in any given admission period.

**NOTE: Applicants who have never attended the LSC-PA Vocational Nursing Program have priority over those who previously attended.**

**ADMISSION RATING SCALE**  
**(NOTE: THIS SCALE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION.**  
**PLEASE DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE IN WITH YOUR APPLICATION.)**

CRITERIA	Semester	Grade	Points
BIOL 2401 (BIO143) Human Anatomy & Physiology A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
BIOL 2402 (BIO 144) Human Anatomy & Physiology A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
VN 1410 Basic Nursing or NURA 1301 Nurse Aide for Health Care Organizations I /NURA 1160 Clinical - Nursing Assistant/Aide A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
HECO 1322 Principles of Nutrition A = 12 B = 9 C = 6			
*COSC 1301 Micro-Computers or ITSC 1401 Intro to Computers A = 12/16 B = 9/12 C = 6/8 (must be within last 4 years)			
**BIOL 2420 Introductory Microbiology A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
Number of Courses completed applicable to the Upward Mobility Nursing Program			
Grade Point Average for previous 4 years			
Second time considered for VN Program (2 pts)			
Third time considered for VN Program (2 pts)			
Repeated science course(s) – Subtract 5 points			
Repeated NURA course(s) – Subtract 5 points			
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>			

\* Computer class taken within the last four years

\*\* BIOL 2420 Introductory Microbiology is **NOT** required for the VN Program. However, students who have completed Microbiology have a better chance of success in the VN

Program.

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# APPLICATION DEADLINE

## July 1, 2009

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All applicants who have complete files are notified of acceptance or rejection by August 1, 2009. If you do not receive a letter, please contact the Allied Health Department. Please, **DO NOT CALL BEFORE August 1, 2009**. Every time we have to answer the phone delays getting the letters in the mail.

### HEALTH EXAM

After acceptance into the Vocational Nursing Program, students are required to have a **physical examination at their own expense** by the physician of their choice. Immunizations are available at the Port Arthur Health Department. The exam and any required immunizations must be completed before students begin their clinical.

**A new regulation of the Texas Department of Health requires that each student complete the Hepatitis B vaccination series prior to contact with patients. It takes six months to complete the series so students who have not had the vaccinations should get them as soon as possible.**

### STUDENT POLICY REGARDING HIV STATUS

Effective September 1, 1991, the State of Texas bill, HB 7, imposed on all Texas health care professionals various requirements designed to prevent the transmission of HIV from health care workers to their clients. Under this law, health care workers include "individuals in the course of training or educational program in the health professions." Thus, the law applies to all the nursing students at Lamar State College - Port Arthur during the time they are involved in client care.

It is each Lamar State College - Port Arthur's student's responsibility to understand the legal and professional/ethical ramifications of the law and to comply with the law's requirements. In general, the law requires that all health care workers adhere to Standard Precautions and that individuals with exudative lesions (draining sores) or weeping dermatitis (reddened areas that leak clear fluid) refrain from direct client care and the handling of client equipment and devices used in invasive procedures until the condition resolves. To insure that all students are familiar with Standard Precautions, a course in Standard Precautions is included for all students in the nursing program.

### BACKGROUND CHECKS

**At the time of acceptance** into the LSC-PA Vocational Nursing Program a student must undergo a FBI background check. The cost is approximately \$49.00. The report is sent to the Board of Nursing. The school will be notified if a student must complete a Declaratory Order petition.

Live scan of fingerprints for the background check are done through L-1 Identity Solutions which is located at 2295 Delaware in the Region V building in Beaumont. Additional information is sent to students upon acceptance into the Vocational Nursing program.

This background check is required by the clinical facilities which provide direct patient care experience to LSC-PA students. This ensures uniform compliance with Joint Commission standards pertaining to human resource management. Successful completion of a background check does not guarantee licensure or employment after graduation. Full acceptance into the nursing program is contingent upon satisfactory results.

### MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

Students are required to maintain malpractice insurance during the nursing program. At the time of acceptance a student must submit the required fee (currently \$18.13 money order) along with the acceptance reply form.

## FINANCIAL AID

Financial Aid consists of several programs funded by federal and state governments to help college students defray expenses while attending college. The types of financial aid available at Lamar State College-Port Arthur are:

**Grants** - Money awarded that is not repayable

**Work Study** - Money the student earns through employment at the college

Out-of-state students, please note that **guaranteed student loans** are **NOT available at Lamar State College-Port Arthur!** To **apply** for financial aid you must complete and mail the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** provided by the College Scholarship Service to determine if you are eligible for aid. The form is available in the Office of Student Financial Aid.

Anyone who will need financial aid should obtain application forms from the Financial Aid Office at Lamar State College-Port Arthur and **APPLY** for it **NOW**. It takes approximately eight weeks to process the financial aid application so you should **APPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!** Do not wait until you are accepted into the program or your money will not arrive in time for registration.

Students are expected to meet established standards for academic progress to remain eligible for financial aid. Complete information about those standards is available from the Financial Aid Office.

# STOP!!!

**Completion of the Vocational Nursing Program does NOT guarantee that a graduate may take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN/VN). Texas Board of Nursing may disqualify an applicant from obtaining Licensure.**

Please be advised the following questions will be presented to the licensure candidate upon completion of the vocational nursing program. These questions are included as part of the application/eligibility packet for taking the state board license exam and must be answered truthfully.

- For any criminal offense, including those pending appeal, have you:
  - A. been convicted of a misdemeanor?
  - B. been convicted of a felony?
  - C. pled nolo contendere, no contest, or guilty?
  - D. received deferred adjudication?
  - E. been placed on community supervision or court-ordered probation, whether or not adjudicated guilty?
  - F. been sentenced to serve jail or prison time? court-ordered confinement?
  - G. been granted pre-trial diversion?
  - H. been arrested or any pending criminal charges?
  - I. been cited or charged with any violation of the law?
  - J. been subject of a court-martial; Article 15 violation; or received any form of military judgment/punishment/action?(You may only exclude Class C misdemeanor traffic violations.)

**NOTE: Expunged and Sealed Offenses:** While expunged or sealed offenses, arrests, tickets, or citations need not be disclosed, it is your responsibility to ensure the offense, arrest, ticket or

citation has, in fact, been expunged or sealed. It is recommended that you submit a copy of the Court Order expunging or sealing the record in question to our office with your application. Failure to reveal an offense, arrest, ticket, or citation that is not in fact expunged or sealed, will at a minimum, subject your license to a disciplinary fine. Non-disclosure of relevant offenses raises questions related to truthfulness and character.

**NOTE: Orders of Non-Disclosure:** Pursuant to Tex. Gov't. Code § 552.142(b), if you have criminal matters that are the subject of an order of non-disclosure you are not required to reveal those criminal matters on this form. However, a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure may become a character and fitness issue. Pursuant to other sections of the Gov't. Code chapter 411, the Texas Nursing Board is entitled to access criminal history record information that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure. If the Board discovers a criminal matter that is the subject of an order of non-disclosure, even if you properly did not reveal that matter, the Board may require you to provide information about that criminal matter.

- Are you currently the target or subject of a grand jury or governmental agency investigation?
- 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 professional license, certificate or multi-state privilege held by you now or previously, or ever fined, censured, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined you?
- Within the past five (5) years have you been addicted to and/or treated for the use of alcohol or any other drug?
- Within the past five (5) years have you been diagnosed with, treated, or hospitalized for schizophrenia and/or psychotic disorder, bipolar disorder, paranoid personality disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or borderline personality disorder?

If you must answer “**Yes**” to any of the above questions, you should apply for a Declaratory Order from the Texas Board of Nursing. A petition for Declaratory Order is a formal disclosure to the Board of an outstanding eligibility issue that may prevent an applicant from taking the NCLEX examination upon completion of a nursing program. Complete information about the process is available at the following website: [www.bon.state.tx.us](http://www.bon.state.tx.us). The Board **will not** approve an applicant to take the NCLEX-PN® or issue a temporary license to practice until an eligibility decision has been rendered. **If eligibility issues arise, the eligibility process takes a minimum of 3-6 months.**

## PERTINENT PROGRAM INFORMATION

- 1) Program is 12 months in length. (3 consecutive \*semesters)  
\*The Summer I and Summer II semesters are combined to form one full semester for those students in the Vocational Nursing Program
- 2) Classes meet Monday through Friday each week.
  - a) Two days per week - Class: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Port Arthur campus.  
Three days per week – Clinical (hospital experience): 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
  - b) Note: 3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. may be necessary clinical hours.
- 3) Sites for clinical experiences are assigned according to availability.
- 4) In addition, rotations at non-hospital facilities (i.e. nursing homes, health clinics, Physician office, Prison, etc.) may be required during the 12 month program.
- 5) Students are required to maintain class grades of "C" (75%) and meet performance criteria in clinical practice satisfactorily to graduate and be eligible to take the computerized National Council Licensure Examination for Practical/Vocational Nurses (NCLEX-PN/VN).

**LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR**  
**Vocational Nursing**  
**ESTIMATED PROGRAM FEES**

Expenses are subject to change due to action by the State Legislature or Board of Regents.

ITEM	APPROXIMATE COST
<b>PRE-REQUISITES</b>	
Registration fees	\$2,300.00
<b>FIRST SEMESTER (Level 1)</b>	
Registration fees	\$2,100.00
Books	1,500.00
Physical	200.00
Liability insurance	18.13
Uniform	250.00
Supplies and workshops	100.00
NLN Exams (Required)	50.00
Background Check	50.00
<b>TOTAL APPROXIMATE SEMESTER COST \$4,268.13</b>	
<b>SECOND SEMESTER (Level 2)</b>	
Registration fees	\$2,200.00
Books	500.00
Supplies and Workshops	100.00
NLN Exams (Required)	50.00
<b>TOTAL APPROXIMATE SEMESTER COST \$2,850.00</b>	
<b>THIRD SEMESTER (Level 3)</b>	
Registration fees	\$1,800.00
Books	200.00
State Board Fee and Pictures	500.00
Capstone Exam	50.00
Graduation Filing Fee	50.00
Supplies and Workshops	50.00
<b>TOTAL APPROXIMATE SEMESTER COST \$2,650.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL APPROXIMATE PROGRAM COST \$12,068.13</b>	

**LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR  
VOCATIONAL NURSING \*PROGRAM SEQUENCE**

<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	<b>COURSE NAME</b>	<b>CREDIT HOURS</b>
<b>PRE-REQUISITES</b>		
NURA 1301	Nurse Aide for Health Care Organizations I	3
NURA 1160	Clinical - Nursing Assistant/Aide	1
HECO 1322	Principles of Nutrition	3
BIOL 2401	Human Anatomy & Physiology	4
BIOL 2402	Human Anatomy & Physiology	4
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>FIRST SEMESTER (Level 1)</b>		
VNSG 1500	Nursing In Health and Illness I	5
VNSG 1227	Essentials of Medication Administration	2
VNSG 1331	Pharmacology	3
VNSG 1304	Foundations of Nursing	3
VNSG 1261	Clinical - Practice Nurse (LPN)	2
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>15</b>
<b>SECOND SEMESTER (Level 2)</b>		
VNSG 1509	Nursing in Health and Illness II	5
VNSG 1334	Pediatrics	3
VNSG 1462	Clinical - Practice Nurse (LPN)	4
COSC 1301 or ITSC 1401	Micro - Computers I or Introduction to Computers	3-4
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>15-16</b>
<b>THIRD SEMESTER (Level 3)</b>		
VNSG 1510	Nursing in Health and Illness III	5
VNSG 1330	Maternal - Neonatal Nursing	3
VNSG 1463	Clinical - Practice Nurse (LPN)	4
<b>TOTAL CREDIT HOURS</b>		<b>12</b>

**Lamar State College -Port Arthur is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age, handicap, or national origin.**



**All applicants must attach a copy of written documentation from a physician or health department for:**

- Proof of Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunity as shown by (a) physician documented history of the disease or (b) documentation of immunization or (c) a serum titer indicating immunity.

**AND**

- Proof of (a) a complete (3 injection series) Hepatitis B Vaccination or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity.

**AND**

- Proof of (a) one Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccination (MMR) or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity to each disease or (c) proof the student was born prior to January 1, 1957.

**AND**

- Proof of (a) a second Measles Vaccination (may be part of a second MMR) or (b) a serum titer confirming immunity or (c) proof the student was born prior to January 1, 1957.

**AND**

- Proof of Tetanus vaccination within the last 10 years.

**\*\*NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED**

- \*\* Annual Influenza vaccination

I certify that the above statements are true.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

**DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH COPIES OF YOUR SHOT RECORDS AND TRANSCRIPTS TO THIS APPLICATION!**

## RECORD OF COURSE COMPLETION

**(You (the student) must complete this form and attach copies of supporting transcripts.)**

**Please name the college, the semester you took the course, and the grade you made in each of the following courses.**

**NOTE: For each course you have completed, you (the student) must attach a transcript that documents your grade and course completion. This does include transcripts documenting the courses you took on the Lamar State College - Port Arthur campus.**

NAME:	S.S.#		
COURSE	COLLEGE	SEMESTER	GRADE
BIOL 2401 (BIO 143) Human Anatomy & Physiology A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
BIOL 2402 (BIO 144) Human Anatomy & Physiology A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
*COSC 1301 Micro-Computers I or ITSC 1401 Introduction to Computers A = 12/16 B = 9/12 C = 6/8 (0 points if > 4 years)			
**BIOL 2420 (BIO 245) Introductory Microbiology A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
NURA 1301 Nurse Aide for Healthcare Organizations I/NURA 1160 Clinical – Nursing Assistant/Aide (VN 1410 Basic Nursing) A = 16 B = 12 C = 8			
HECO 1322 (HEC 138) Principles of Nutrition A = 12 B = 9 C = 6			
Number of Courses completed applicable to the Upward Mobility Nursing Program (one point for each course)			
➤ Biol 2401 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I			
➤ Biol 2402 – Human Anatomy & Physiology II			
➤ Biol 2420 – Intro to Microbiology			
➤ Cosc 1301/Itsc 1401 – Intro Computer Course			
➤ Heco 1322 – Principles of Nutrition			
➤ Engl 1301 – Composition			
➤ Psyc 2308 – Child Psychology			
➤ Psyc 2312 – Adult Aging and Development			
➤ Spch 1315 – Public Speaking			
➤ Elective (Fine Arts or Humanities)			

\* Computer class taken within the last four years

\*\*Biol 2420 Intro to Microbiology is NOT required for the VN Program. However, students who have completed Microbiology have a better chance of success in the VN Program.

# LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR

## VOLUNTARY SURVEY

Government agencies **require** periodic reports on the sex, ethnicity, handicap, veteran and other protected status of applicants. This data is for analysis and possible affirmative action only.

### Check one:

Male\_\_\_\_\_ Female\_\_\_\_\_

Age\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Check one of the following:

Race/Ethnicity Group:

White\_\_\_\_\_ Black\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic\_\_\_\_\_

American Indian/Alaska Native\_\_\_\_\_

Asian/Pacific Islander\_\_\_\_\_ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

### Check if any one of the following are applicable:

Vietnam Era Veteran\_\_\_\_\_ Disabled Veteran\_\_\_\_\_ Handicapped\_\_\_\_\_