Dakota Nursing Program
Prerequisites and Checklist for Admission to the
Practical Nurse Program

Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program is on a competitive basis. The following are prerequisites for consideration for admission to the Certificate in Practical Nursing Program:

1. High School Diploma or GED Certificate
   a. High School GPA of 2.5 or greater. If a student has completed 12 credits of college level classes, the college GPA will be considered instead of the HS GPA.

2. Students must be 18 years of age by December 31st of the year they start the program.

3. Application and admission to the respective college is required before applying to the nursing program. There are two application processes – first to the college and then to the nursing program. When completing the DNP application online, be prepared to upload a Narrative Statement in 300-600 words summarizing your education/work experiences and how those experiences will help you progress through the nursing program. Also include why you want to be a nurse and why this is a good time in your life to pursue a nursing degree.

4. Current CPR Certification for BLS Provider (American Heart Association) or CPR/Healthcare Provider (Red Cross) and must be updated to remain current throughout program.

5. Proof of Math Skill Readiness.
   a. Student must have completed **at minimum:**
   b. The developmental math course (ASC 093 or other pre-requisite math course that would qualify a student to take Math 103) with a grade of Satisfactory or "C" or a higher level math course (such as MATH 103 College Algebra) **or**
   c. Equivalent scores for ACT/PLAN/SAT/COMPASS and/or Accuplacer as listed below and taken within the past 2 years:

Test	Test Component	Minimum Score	Comments
Accuplacer Next Generation	College Algebra	255	Accuplacer scores effective January 2, 2019
Accuplacer Classic	Elementary Algebra	76	Accuplacer scores effective October 12, 2016 – January 2, 2019. With the scores to the left, you would not need to take any ASC Math classes for admission to Nursing. This platform has been discontinued, but check with your college to see if they will still accept Classic scores for admission.
Accuplacer Classic	College Level Math	50	
ACT	Math Subtest	21	
ACT Aspire	Math Subtest	431	
ACT Compass	Algebra	49	This assessment will no longer be available after November 30, 2016 but scores will be accepted by the DNP until June 20, 2019.
ACT Plan	Math Subtest	19	The ACT Plan has been replaced with the ACT Aspire Assessment
SAT (old)	Reading & Math	990	SAT tests taken prior to March 5, 2016
SAT (new)	Math	530	SAT tests taken on March 5, 2016 or later

6. Proof of Academic Readiness:
    a. All applicants are required to complete the most current Assessment Technologies Institute (ATI), standardized **Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)** prior to application deadlines.
        i. Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the TEAS exam with a minimum of 4 weeks (28 days) between attempts per application period.
        ii. A minimum TEAS composite score must be 45.0% or greater. Any applicant scoring below this number will not be accepted. The best score achieved, of two attempts, may be submitted. Last year the average TEAS score for all admitted applicants was within the Proficient level.
        iii. TEAS scores are valid for up to two (2) years prior to March 5th of the year of application.
        iv. It is to your advantage to double check the other parts of your application to make sure you are qualified in the other areas before you attempt the TEAS exam.
        v. It is recommended that you use the study materials on the TEAS website to score well on the exam. As noted above you may repeat the TEAS to better your chance of admission.
    b. ACT composite score of 19, **or**
        i. ACT/COMPASS/ASSET/Accuplacer/SAT test(s) with an equivalent score, **or**
        ii. Successful completion of 12 credits of college courses with a minimum GPA of 2.5

7. For any required college courses completed prior to admission, the grade in that course must be a 2.0 (C) or higher, and nursing GPA for all completed required nursing courses must be 2.75 or higher.
    a. Anatomy and Physiology I and II with Lab (A & P II must be taken within the last 7 years)
    b. Introduction to Pharmacology (must be taken within the last 7 years)
    c. Developmental Psychology (must be taken within the last 7 years)
    d. Introduction to Psychology
    e. Composition I
    f. Other: Microbiology (required for ADN program)
    g. Other: Composition II, Communications, Technology, Humanities or Computer elective. Check with individual campuses for correct elective (required for ADN program).

8. Guidelines for approval include:
    a. High School GPA of 2.5 or greater **or**
    b. If a student has completed 12 credits of college level classes, the college GPA will be considered instead of the HS GPA. Nursing GPA for any completed required nursing program courses must be 2.75 or higher.
    c. Overall cumulative GPA for all college courses completed must be 2.5 or higher.
    d. No required course may have a grade lower than 2.0 (C).
    e. If a student repeats a required science course or previous nursing course, a grade of 2.0 (C) or higher **must be obtained in the first repeat (A & P I and II, Microbiology).** An appeal process may be sought if the student has failed science courses more than 2 times.
    f. Critical courses completed more than 7 years prior to program application must be repeated: Anatomy and Physiology II, Developmental Psychology, and Introduction to Pharmacology.
    g. Experience working in a health care environment is encouraged before making application to the nursing program. For example; Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Medical Assistant, Direct Support Professional (DSP), etc.

9. A certain level of English proficiency is necessary for academic success in nursing as well as for client safety. In addition to general college English proficiency requirements, all applicants born outside of the United States or Canada and applicants for whom English is not their native language (including International and/or U.S. residents) or who have not attended 4 years of U.S. high school and achieved a HS GPA of 3.0 or higher must meet additional language proficiency requirements for admission to the Dakota Nursing Program. These requirements must be met prior to consideration for admission.

Minimum TOEFL Scores for Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program
To be considered for admission to the pre-licensure program, English as a second language (ESL) applicants must achieve minimum scores on the TOEFL internet-based test (TOEFL iBT) of:

Minimum Cumulative Score of:
- 86 Combined

AND Minimum Individual Scores of:
- 26 in Speaking
- 20 in Writing
- 20 in Reading
- 20 in Listening

Test Preparation and Registration
   a. Complete information on the TOEFL iBT, including free test preparation materials, testing sites, and registration is available online at https://www.ets.org/toefl. Applicants may register for the TOEFL iBT by Internet, telephone (1-800-468-6335) or mail.
   b. Request official TOEFL iBT scores to be sent to:
   - Bismarck State College – Enter Institution DI Code: 6041
   - Dakota College at Bottineau - Enter Institution DI 3398.
   - Lake Region State College - Enter Institution DI Code: 6163
   - Williston State College - Enter Institution DI Code: 6905
   c. Only official score reports will be accepted. TOEFL scores are valid for two years from the test date.
   d. The cost of any/all required testing is the sole responsibility of the applicant.
   e. Applicants are allowed two (2) attempts at the TOEFL exam with a minimum of 4 weeks (28 days) between attempts per application period.

Nursing students for whom English is not their native language should be aware that they may not be able to complete the program of study within the described time frame. Students are encouraged to consult the nursing advisor before submitting the nursing program application. This gives the opportunity to discuss requirements and to make arrangements to either take the TOEFL exam if applicable or seek assistance to be successful on the TOEFL exam in the future.

Reference:
A Minimum English Proficiency Standard for The Test of English as a Foreign Language
Internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT) (2009). Retrieved July 12th, 2015 at
https://www.ncsbn.org/TOEFL_iBT_Proficiency_Standard_Process.pdf

- Students accepted into the nursing program must have access to reliable, high speed internet.
- Students must have transportation available to and from campus, clinical, etc.

Checklist for the Practical Nurse Program

1. _____Complete an application for admission to your local college (BSC, DCB, LRSC or WSC)
2. _____Complete the electronic application for the Dakota Nursing Program
3. _____Submit copy of current CPR certification for BLS Provider
4. _____Provide proof of math skill readiness (ACT, SAT or COMPASS, or transcript with math course)
5. _____Provide proof of academic readiness (ACT, SAT, or COMPASS, or transcript with 12 required credits)
6. _____Submit TEAS test results
7. _____If required by English as a second language (ESL) applicants, TOEFL exam results

If your application is complete and you meet all requirements above, you will be invited to interview as a final step in the application process.

After you are accepted into the Program, your Nursing Director will be sending you information on how to enroll in CastleBranch which is a software program that will guide you through completing a Background Check and Drug Screen as well as keeping track of the required immunizations for the Nursing Program. The total cost is $145.00.

Required Immunizations once you are admitted to the Dakota Nursing Program:
- **Measles, Mumps & Rubella** vaccine x2 or positive blood titer or repeat series
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox)** vaccine x2 or positive blood titer or repeat series
- **Hepatitis B** x3 or positive antiHBS titer or repeat series
- **Influenza (Flu)**
  (to be administered between September 1st - November 1st of the current flu season)
- **Tuberculosis (TB)** Negative reading of 2-step tuberculosis test within the past 12 months or QuantiFERON Gold blood test or T-Spot blood test
- **Tetanus, Diphtheria & Pertussis (Tdap)** History of one Tdap. Tetanus within the last 10 years
- **Other immunizations as may be required by the clinical agencies.**

All applicants who meet the March 5th deadline will be notified of status by June 15th

Incomplete applications are not able to be processed and will be refused