

Guide to Applying to the Practical Nursing Program

- Step 1:** Schedule to attend an Information Session, and complete all assignments by the given deadline.
Schedule an Information Session here: <https://engage.tbr.edu/portal/jacksonall?tab=backjx>
Select a campus, select Practical Nursing, and then find a date/time/location that works for you.
- Step 2:** Take and pass the HESI® Entrance Exam.
- Schedule your exam early to make sure you find a date/location that works for you:
<https://www2.registerblast.com/tcatjackson/Exam/List>
 - Be aware of the deadline for your preferred class time/location (see next page).**
 - Even if you pass (all portions of the exam completed within the 2.5 hour time limit and at least a 70 on Reading AND 70 on Math), you may want to retake it if your score is low. **Not everyone who meets the minimum qualifications is accepted into the class. Acceptance is based on the point system located on the next page.**
- Step 3:** Upon passing the Entrance Exam, you will receive a packet with detailed directions for completing the required steps. **Final deadline is two weeks following the Entrance Exam/Early Bird Deadline.**
- Submit ALL documentation by the Early Bird Deadline to get 15 bonus points.**
 - Complete the **application packet** and return it to the Jackson Campus.
 - Complete an **online application to TCAT Jackson** for the appropriate term/program.
 - Complete the **FAFSA** to apply for financial aid.
 - Submit an **OFFICIAL copy of your FINAL high school, GED®, or HiSet® transcript(s), along with any other transcripts/certifications noted on the next page (i.e. CNA certification).**
 - Submit verification of immunity to the following:
 - **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** – 2 vaccines or a positive titer
 - **Varicella** – 2 vaccines or a positive titer
- Step 4:** **Anxiously wait to see if you get into the program.**
- For programs that start in January, expect to find out in November.
 - For programs that start in May, expect to find out in March.
 - For programs that start in September, expect to find out in July.
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- Step 5:** IF you are accepted into the program, you will be given directions for completing the following:
- Mandatory Orientation** – The date/time will be provided in the Acceptance Letter. This is a full day of MANDATORY orientation WITH HOMEWORK that will be due before class starts.
 - Acceptance (or declination) of your spot**
 - Background Check** – **If the background check shows a criminal history or other problems, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to complete clinicals and, therefore, complete the program.**
 - Physical**
 - Additional Vaccination Documentation** (in addition to MMR and varicella):
 - **Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)** and/or Td booster within the last 10 years
 - **Hepatitis B** – full vaccine series or positive titer
 - **Negative TB test** within 6 months of program start date
 - **COVID vaccination** – Currently, most clinical sites are requiring this. Without COVID vaccination, you will still be able to start the program, but we cannot guarantee that you will be able to complete clinicals and/or complete the program.
 - **Annual influenza vaccination** will be due in October while enrolled in the program.

Point System for Practical Nursing Program Admission

REQUIRED HESI® EXAMS

Note: Reading, Math, and Critical Thinking portions must ALL be completed within the 2.5-hour time limit. Reading AND Math must be passed with a minimum score of 70 on each portion on the SAME attempt (no super-scoring) in order to be eligible to apply for the program.

HESI® Reading Score _____

HESI® Math Score _____

BONUS POINTS

HESI® Critical Thinking Score _____

The Critical Thinking portion of the HESI® Exam is required.

Bonus points are awarded for scores ≥ 800 .

800-849 = 2 Points

850-899 = 3 Points

900-949 = 4 Points

≥ 950 = 5 Points

Official Transcript from an Accredited Community College or University Showing Anatomy and Physiology I & II within the last 5 years (A or B in both courses) _____

A in Both Courses = 5 Points

A in One Course, B in the Other Course = 4 Points

B in Both Courses = 3 Points

Attended a PN Information Session and Completed All Follow-Up Assignments within the last year _____

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BEFORE taking the Entrance Exam

15 Points

Submitted all required documents (app, transcripts, vaccine documentation, etc.) by the Early-Bird Deadline _____

15 Points

Note: The candidate is not considered for selection if all required documents are not submitted by the final deadline.

Copy of Current, Unexpired CNA (or other medical) Certification _____

5 Points (no additional points awarded for multiple certifications)

Official Transcript Showing Diploma Awarded for Completion of an Allied Health Program at TCAT within the past 3 years (Max 10 Points) _____

TCAT Jackson = 10 Points

Other TCAT = 5 Points

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: _____

POINTS EARNED

TIP:

Be sure to read and follow all instructions carefully to maximize your points and increase your chance of admission into the class of your choice!

Entrance Exam/ Early Bird Deadlines:

January-Start Programs (Brownsville)
– last Friday in September

May-Start Programs (Jackson & Lexington)
– last Friday in January

September-Start Programs (Henderson, Humboldt, & Whiteville) – last Friday in May

Final Deadline is two weeks after the Early Bird Deadline.