SON OP 60.087 – Accelerated BSN Degree Admissions Policy

PURPOSE
Based on this policy, the Programmatic Council makes determinations about student admissions and placement within the curriculum.

REVIEW
The OP shall be reviewed by the Associate Academic Dean of Education Support Services and Student Affairs, in collaboration with the programmatic council, by October 1st of each even numbered year (ENY), with recommendation for revision forwarded to the Dean of the School of Nursing. Final approval of the OP is provided by the Dean.

POLICY/PROCEDURE
All applicants to the Accelerated BSN Degree Program must complete an online application as directed on the School of Nursing website. All applicants must meet requirements listed below for admission consideration for the specific track to which they are applying:

ACCELERATED SECOND DEGREE BSN TRACK ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- Cumulative and Science GPA minimums must be met at the time of application and maintained once all required nursing prerequisite courses have been completed.
- A Bachelor’s degree in Science or Arts from an accredited college or university. (BA or BS)
- Prior to admission offer, applicants must have either completed all 55 credit hours (SCH) of lower-division general education courses as outlined in the School of Nursing Catalog and posted on the SON Accelerated Degree BSN website or have completed at least 40 credit hours of non-nursing prerequisites with proof of enrollment for the remaining prerequisites.
- Prior to admission offer, applicants must have completed at least three of the five required science prerequisite classes, which include Pathophysiology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Chemistry. All prerequisites must be completed prior to the first day of class, with a passing grade of ‘C’ or better.
- Minimum Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher of all grades earned, at all schools attended are calculated in the admission grade point average
- Minimum Science GPA of 3.00 in courses including Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology I &II, Microbiology, and Pathophysiology. Completion of 3 of the 5 lab Sciences is required by application close date;
- All general education requirements (core curriculum) and pre-requisites must be documented on official transcript prior to the first day of class;
- TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) requirements:
  - Proficient level or higher required in all the following areas: Reading, Math, Science, English and Language Usage;
  - Preference will be given to applicants whose TEAS scores are at the exemplary level;
  - Applicants seeking admission can take the TEAS no more than two (2) times per year (both attempts must occur within the one year period prior to application submission deadline). If two sets of scores are submitted the scores will be averaged for the sections in which the student did not meet the Proficient level on the first attempt. Averaged scores must meet Proficiency level in each category.
Completion of a medical terminology course (can be for credit or certificate of completion); Preference given for those who have completed this course at time of admission consideration.

Completion of certified nursing assistant training. Preference for those certified at time of admission consideration.

American Heart Association BLS certification prior to first day of class. Preference given for those certified at time of admission consideration.

A face-to-face interview. For those invited for an interview, a written essay will be required. Professional attire is also required for the interview.

NON-ACADEMIC ADMISSION CONSIDERATIONS
The order of the following considerations does not indicate any given priority of consideration in the admission decision. All factors are considered relevant.

- Rationale for interest in nursing as a professional career choice.
- Work history and experience.
- Permanent resident of TTUHSC service area county
- First generation college student
- One page resume
- Prior enrollment at Texas Tech University
- Diversity of experience, including proficiency in other languages, knowledge of other cultures, and/or study abroad.
- Military service and/or training

Applicants are reviewed by the Accelerated BSN Admission and Progression Committee and are evaluated individually and holistically, not allowing any single attribute to be the determining attribute in the admission decision. The actual number of students offered admission is dependent upon a variety of attributes, such as financial resources, classroom space, and available clinical experiences.

VETERAN to BSN (VBSN) TRACK ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Health Care Specialist Rating (i.e. medic, corpsman, vocational/practical nurse) while in the service. Veteran applicants must submit a DD214 to provide proof of health care training in the military prior to application deadline. Active duty, reservists, and veterans are required to submit either a Joint Services Transcript (JST) or Community College of the Air Force Transcripts. To order your DD214 please go to the following link: http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/
- Prior to admission offer, applicants must have either completed all 59 credit hours (SCH) of lower-division general education courses as outlined in the School of Nursing Catalog and posted on the SON VBSN website or have completed at least 40 of non-nursing prerequisites with proof of enrollment for the remaining prerequisites. Prior to admission offer, applicants must have completed at least three of the five required sciences classes, which include Pathophysiology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Chemistry. All prerequisites must be completed prior to the first day of classes
- Minimum overall cumulative GPA of 2.5; preference for overall cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Preference for science GPA of 3.0 or higher in core courses including Chemistry, Anatomy and Physiology I & II, Microbiology, and Pathophysiology. Completion of 3 of the 5 lab sciences is required by application close date
- Submission of TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) exam requirements scores:

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- Proficient level or higher required in all the following areas: Reading, Math, Science, English and Language Usage;
- Preference will be given to applicants whose TEAS scores are at the exemplary level;
- Applicants seeking admission can take the TEAS no more than two (2) times per year (both attempts must occur within the one year period prior to application submission deadline). If two sets of scores are submitted the scores will be averaged for the sections in which the student did not meet the Proficient level on the first attempt. Averaged scores must meet Proficiency level in each category.
- Submission of current American Heart Association BLS Certification prior to first day of class
- Based upon fulfillment of all VBSN application eligibility requirements as outlined in the School of Nursing Catalog and posted on the VBSN website, a determination will be made on an offer of an interview
- A face-to-face interview. For those invited for an interview, a written essay will be required. Professional attire is also required for the interview

**NON-ACADEMIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The order of the following considerations does not indicate any given priority of consideration in the admission decision. All factors are considered relevant.

- Documentation of recent health care experience (within the past three years), either in the military or as a healthcare professional;
- Submission of current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) certification prior to first day of class
- Rationale for interest in nursing as a professional career choice;
- Work history and experience;
- Permanent resident of a TTUHSC service area
- Active reservists must provide signed letter from reserve commanding officer indicating allowance to participate in program with completion of two-week annual training prior to and after VBSN track.
  - [VBSN Reservist Agreement](#)
  - [VBSN Active Military Agreement](#)
- First generation college student;
- One-page resume;
- Prior enrollment at Texas Tech University;
- Diversity of experience, including proficiency in other languages, knowledge of other cultures, and/or study abroad;
- A face-to-face interview – Based upon fulfillment of all eligibility requirements as outlined in the School of Nursing Catalog and posted on the SON website, a determination will be made on an offer of an interview. For those invited for an interview, an essay will be required. Professional attire is expected for the interview.

**ADDITIONAL NON-ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS**

- Rationale for interest in nursing as a professional career choice;
- Work history and experience;
- Permanent resident of TTUHSC service area;
- First generation college student;
- One-page resume;
- Prior enrollment at Texas Tech University;
- Diversity of experience, including proficiency in other languages, knowledge of other cultures, and/or study abroad, etc.; and

Applicants are reviewed by the Accelerated BSN Admission and Progression Committee and are evaluated individually. **Acceptance is based upon a competitive ranking process for**
selection based on a point award system of academic and nonacademic requirements and considerations. Administration reserves the right to adjust the number of offers based upon faculty availability and clinical capacity.

**Student Criminal Background Checks**
In compliance with TTUHSC policy, all applicants who have received offers of admission will be required to consent to a criminal background check before being allowed to matriculate. A history of criminal conduct or convictions may result in withdrawal of the admission offer. See the “Criminal Background Checks” section of the SON Student Handbook for the SON policy. The Health Sciences Center policy may be found at HSC OP 10.20. No student will be allowed to matriculate into the program without completing and receiving clearance from the Texas Board of Nursing with either a BON Blue Card or a Declaratory Order with No Stipulations. The cost of a criminal background check(s) is the responsibility of the student.

**Drug Screenings**
Drug screenings may be required if required by the clinical institution site. If a student is requested to complete a required drug screening, this request must be completed within three days of receipt of notification. All results are confidential and are managed by the Office of Student Affairs. The cost of all drug screens is the responsibility of the student.

**Initial Screening**
Prior to the start of clinical placement, student must pass a mandatory drug screening analysis in order to begin the clinical course. The students will not be made aware in advance when they are being tested.

**Random Screening**
Random periodic drug screening will occur on campus/site as determined by the TTUHSC SON administration throughout the academic year for Traditional and Accelerated BSN students. Failure of drug screen and/or refusal for drug screening will subject the student to actions described under Consequences.

**Deferment on Admission**
Accelerated BSN students who have been admitted to the School of Nursing but wish to defer the start date to a later semester will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Admissions and Progressions Committee. Deferments may be granted for reasons including, but not limited to, personal illness or illness of immediate family member, military service, humanitarian or religious service, or financial hardship. Deferments will be granted for no more than one academic year from the time of initial offer of admission and supporting documentation must be provided by the student if deferment is requested.

**Readmission**
All requests for readmission must be made no later than two months prior to the first day of the semester in which readmission is being sought. The minimum cumulative GPA for readmission consideration is 3.0. A student seeking re-enrollment completes an online application showing the expected entry point. The Accelerated BSN Degree Program Council will review all such requests and may take one of the following actions regarding readmission of a student who withdrew:

- Eligible and readmit
- Eligible pending space available in nursing courses and in sequence to date of action in relation to other readmission applicants
- Not eligible

The Accelerated BSN Degree Program Council may assign requirements to be met as a condition
of enrollment, i.e. successful completion of a comprehensive examination. A student who is dismissed from the Accelerated BSN Degree Program as a result of a Complaint of Misconduct may not request readmission.

Transfer Admission
All requests for transfer to TTUHSC School of Nursing from a different School of Nursing must be made no later than two months prior to the first day of the semester in which transfer admission is requested. The minimum cumulative GPA for transfer admission consideration is 3.0. A student seeking transfer completes an online application showing the expected entry point. The criteria considered for transfer are the same as those criteria considered for a new admission. In addition, the transfer student must submit a letter of standing from the dean or department chair of the School of Nursing previously attended.

Special Student Enrollment
Under certain circumstances, it may be appropriate for an individual to seek admission as a special non-degree seeking student. This admission is for the purpose of taking a limited number of courses for one semester only. It is not an avenue for seeking a degree. The individual must receive approval from the Accelerated BSN Degree Program Council for enrollment.

Enrollment without Credit/Course Audit
Students who wish to audit a course for no grade must obtain approval from the Department Chair. Students who audit a course will not be listed on the class roll, and no notation of the audit will be made on the student's transcript. Students who are enrolled for 12 semester credit hours or more may audit a course without paying an additional fee.

Offers of Admission
Offers of admission will be made from the Accelerated BSN Admissions and Progression Chair approximately eight weeks following the application deadline. Applicants are required to respond to the offer of admission no later than the deadline stated in the letter offering admission by returning a $100 non-refundable placement guarantee fee, as well as a signed response form accepting the offer. Failure to respond by the deadline results in withdrawal of the offer of admission.

Other Admission Information:

**Computer:** All students admitted will be required to have a computer & Personal Digital Assistants (PDA).