DAKOTA NURSING PROGRAM
PREREQUISITES & CHECKLIST FOR ADMISSION TO THE PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM

[reviewed annually]

Admission to the Dakota Nursing Program (DNP) Certificate in Practical Nursing is competitive. Applicants must meet the following prerequisites to be considered:

1. **Education & GPA:** High school diploma or GED with a minimum 2.50 GPA. (If you have completed 12+ college-level credits, your college GPA is used instead of your high school GPA.)
2. **Age:** Must be 18 years old by December 31 of the program start year.
3. **Two-Step Application & Narrative:** Apply and be admitted to your home college before submitting the online DNP application. The DNP application requires uploading a 300–600 word Narrative Statement covering:
   - Your education/work experience and how it prepares you for nursing school.
   - Why you want to become a nurse and why now is the right time to pursue it.
4. **CPR Certification:** Must hold and maintain current healthcare-level Basic Life Support (BLS) certification through the program:
   - **Accepted:** American Heart Association (BLS Provider) or American Red Cross (Basic Life Support or CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers).
   - **Not Accepted:** Standard CPR, Heartsaver, or First Aid courses.
5. **Math Skill Readiness:** Complete ASC 093 (or equivalent prerequisite qualifying you for MATH 103) with a grade of "C" / Satisfactory or higher (or complete a higher-level math course such as MATH 103), OR achieve a qualifying score within the past 2 years:

Test	Test Component	Minimum Score
Accuplacer	College Algebra	255
ACT	Math Subject	21
ACT Aspire	Math Subject	431
SAT	Math	530

6. Academic Readiness (ATI TEAS & General Readiness):
   - **ATI TEAS:** Complete the current ATI TEAS prior to the application deadline (scores are valid for 2 years prior to March 5 of the application year).
     - **Attempts:** Up to 2 attempts per application period, spaced at least 4 weeks (28 days) apart. The highest score is recorded.
     - **Minimum Score:** 55.0% or higher required (scores below 55.0% are ineligible). Applicants scoring 55.0%–58.0% must complete the ATI Launch! course prior to admission.
   - **Additional Readiness Requirement:** Meet at least one of the following:
     - **ACT:** Composite score of 19 (or equivalent Accuplacer/SAT score).
     - **College Credit:** Completion of 12+ college credits with a minimum 2.50 GPA.
7. **Required College Courses & Grade Standards:** All completed required courses must earn a "C" (2.0) or higher, with a minimum 2.75 Nursing GPA across completed required courses and a 2.50 cumulative college GPA.
   - **Core PN Courses:**
     - Anatomy & Physiology I and II with Lab (A&P II must be completed within the last 7 years)
     - Introduction to Pharmacology (must be completed within the last 7 years)
     - Introduction to Psychology & Developmental Psychology
     - Composition I
     - NURS 120 (Fundamentals of Nursing): Valid for 4 years prior to program acceptance; courses older than 4 years must be retaken.
   - **Additional Courses (Required for ADN Progression):**
     - Microbiology
     - Elective: Composition II, Communications, Technology, Humanities, or Computer elective (check with your campus for approved options).
     - Course Repeats: Repeated science or nursing courses (A&P I & II, Microbiology, Pharmacology) must earn a "C" (2.0) or higher on the first repeat. An appeal is required if failed more than twice.

8. **Healthcare Experience:** Direct patient care experience (e.g., CNA, EMT, Medical Assistant, DSP) is strongly encouraged prior to applying and earns additional admission points.
9. **English Proficiency:** Applicants born outside the U.S. or Canada, non-native English speakers, or those without 4 years of U.S. high school with a 3.0+ GPA must meet the DNP English Proficiency Policy prior to admission consideration.
10. **Applicant Evaluation:** All applicants are scored using the rubric below. (Note: Interviews may not be required at every campus.)

Practical Nursing Admission Scoring Rubric

Admission Criteria	Eligibility & Scoring	Min. Points	Max Points
ATI TEAS Score	• 54.99 & Below: Not eligible (0 pts) • 55.0–58.0: 3 pts* • 59.0+: 5 pts	3	5
Cumulative GPA	Minimum 2.50 required Exact GPA = points (e.g. 3.50 GPA = 3.5 points)	2.5	4
Nursing GPA	Minimum 2.75 required Exact GPA = points (e.g. 3.64 GPA = 3.64 points)	2.75	4
Required Course Grades	Courses: NURS 120, Comp 1, Comp 2 Public Speaking, A&P 1, A&P 2, Intro to Pharm, Intro to Psych, Intro to Developmental Psych A= 4 pts | B= 3pts | C = 2pts Not Yet Taken =0pts	0	32
Healthcare Experience (direct patient care)	• Yes = 2 pts • No = 0 pts	0	2
Veteran Status	• Yes = 2 pts • No = 0 pts	0	2
2nd Qualified Application	• Yes = 1 pts • No = 0 pts	0	1
Previous Degree	• Bachelors = 2pts • Associates = 1 pt • N/A = 0 pt	0	2
Narrative Score	Scored 0-5 pts	0	5
Total Possible Score		**8.25**	**62**

Checklist for the Practical Nursing Program

- ☐ Apply for and gain admission to your home college (BSC, DCB, LRSC, or WSC)
- ☐ Complete the electronic Dakota Nursing Program application, including your 300–600 word Narrative Statement.
- ☐ Submit proof of current healthcare-level BLS Provider CPR certification.
- ☐ Submit proof of math readiness (qualifying ACT, SAT, Accuplacer, or completed prerequisite math course).
- ☐ Submit proof of general academic readiness (qualifying ACT/SAT/Accuplacer or 12+ college credits with a 2.50+ GPA).
- ☐ Submit ATI TEAS scores (scores below 55% are not accepted; scores of 55–58% require completing ATI Launch).
- ☐ Submit English proficiency documentation (TOEFL, Duolingo, or other approved proof), if required.

Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be declined.

Once accepted into the program, your Nursing Administrator will provide instructions to enroll in CastleBranch ($210.00 total cost) to complete your background check, drug screen, and immunization tracking.

Required Immunizations After Admission:

- **MMR:** 2 doses, positive blood titer, or repeat series
- **Varicella (Chicken Pox):** 2 doses, positive blood titer, or repeat series
- **Hepatitis B:** 3 doses, positive anti-HBs titer, or repeat series
- **Influenza (Flu):** Administered September 1 – November 1 of the current flu season
- **Tuberculosis (TB):** Negative 2-step TB test within the past 12 months, or a QuantiFERON Gold / T-Spot blood test
- **Tdap:** History of one Tdap, with tetanus within the last 10 years
- **Additional Requirements:** Any other immunizations required by clinical sites

Applicants who meet the March 5th deadline will be notified of their status by June 15th.

(Conditionally accepted applicants must complete ATI Launch by August 1st.)