

BISHOP STATE NURSING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- 1. When does the Fall Nursing application open?** The Nursing Applications for Fall semester will open MARCH 15 and close MAY 15.
- 2. When does the Spring Nursing application open?** The Nursing Applications for Spring semester will open SEPTEMBER 1 and close OCTOBER 31.
- 3. Is there a Summer Nursing application?** No, nursing programs only begin in Spring and Fall semesters. You can apply to Bishop State for summer term to take non-NUR courses.
- 4. What programs are available to apply for Fall semester start?**
 - [Nursing AAS Program \(5 semesters\)](#)
 - [Practical Nursing Stand Alone Program \(3 semesters\)](#)
 - [Career Mobility \(LPN to RN\) Program \(3 semesters\)](#)
 - [Transfer Alabama CC \(LPN to RN\) Program \(2 semesters\)](#)
- 5. What programs are available to apply for Spring semester start?**
 - Nursing AAS Program (5 semesters)
 - Practical Nursing Stand Alone Program (3 semesters)
 - Transfer from Alabama CC (LPN to RN) Program (2 semesters)
- 6. Where can I find the applications for nursing?** On the [Bishop State Nursing website](#) after the application opens. There will be a yellow link button to apply to the Nursing AAS and Career Mobility (PN to RN) program, a separate yellow link button for the Practical Nursing Stand-Alone Night and Weekend program, and a green link button to apply as a Reinstatement or Transfer student.
- 7. How do I get points towards admission for the Nursing Programs?** Review the [POINTS FOR ADMISSIONS](#) criteria sheet. This is how applicants are selected to each program. You will gain points for completed courses, your ACT score, CNA or EMT employment, and semesters attended at Bishop State. You must also meet all the requirements for Bishop State and GPA standards.
- 8. If I apply first, do I get more points?** No, the application is not first come, first serve. Every applicant has until the final day of the application cycle to get everything submitted. The application will close promptly at 11:59pm on the last day.

- 9. Can I apply to the nursing program without any of the core courses completed yet?**
Yes, you can apply to the RN or PN nursing program at any time with a valid ACT score. However, your points may be low for not having completed any of the core courses.
- 10. What courses are required or recommended before beginning any Bishop State Nursing Program? (NOTE: You must have a 2.5 GPA in these courses for admissions)**
PN Program - recommended ENG101, MTH100 or equivalent, BIO201, & BIO202
RN Program - recommended ENG101, MTH100 or equivalent, BIO201, & BIO202, PSY210
Career Mobility - required ENG101, MTH100 or equivalent, BIO201, & BIO202, PSY210, & SPH106/107
- 11. Do I need to know my CORE COURSE grades for the nursing application?** Yes, you will need your unofficial transcripts or grades in front of you when applying. You will mark the grade on the application for: English I, Intermediate Algebra or higher, Human Growth & Development, Speech, Anatomy & Physiology I & II, Microbiology, and a Humanities course. If you have not taken the course yet, select "NOT TAKEN YET" from the drop-down menu.
- 12. What if I have two grades for one of the core courses, should I put the last grade I have for the class?** You may use your highest grade for each core course for points for admission.
- 13. Do I get points if I am currently enrolled in class(es) this semester or during the summer?** If you do not know your grade for a course, you will not get any points. You should wait to submit your application until you know your final grade(s) for the current semester. Completed course grades and in-progress courses should be noted on your application. If you are currently taking a class, select "CURRENTLY ENROLLED" from the drop-down menu.
- 14. Do I have to have an ACT score if I am applying to the PN Program?** Yes, EVERY APPLICANT MUST have an ACT score on file with the Bishop State Office of Admissions & Records. For the application, you will need your residual or national ACT Composite Score, the date of your ACT exam, and where you took it. If you are taking the ACT before the nursing application closes, you should wait until you know your exam score before submitting it. Residual Scores are only allowed from Bishop State Testing Center (which does not currently offer Residual exams) or another Alabama Community College Nursing Program.
- 15. What is the difference between a Residual ACT and a National ACT exam?** The Residual ACT Exam is accepted only if it was taken for admissions into a nursing program

or other health science program at an Alabama Community College. The National ACT Exam is the exam you register to take through your high school or through the act.org website and chose your location to test. This score will have an official Composite ACT score on file with act.org. Those scores should always be sent to Bishop State Community College from act.org - under [Sending Your Scores](#). Residual ACT Scores are usually sent directly to the student, via email, from the Alabama Community College's testing center or nursing program. Those tests can be forwarded to nursing@bishop.edu with your name and ACT in the heading of the email.

16. What if I have 18 points or higher on my ACT exam, can I apply to both programs? Yes, if you have an ACT score of 18 points or higher, you can apply to both the PN and the RN program. A score of 18 points is required for ALL Nursing AAS (RN) & Career Mobility program applicants. There is no minimum score required to apply to the PN Program.

17. Is the writing portion required on the ACT? No, the writing portion is not required for nursing admissions.

18. Where should I get study material for the ACT?

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>

19. What if I have a CNA or EMT license but do not work as a CNA or EMT currently? You will only get points for a CNA or EMT license if you are actively employed as a CNA or EMT. Expired licenses or previous employment do not count for points.

20. Do I have to apply to Bishop State and to the Nursing Program separately? Yes, you must [APPLY TO BISHOP STATE](#) and be accepted or be a current student in good standing to apply to the Nursing Programs. A separate Nursing Application is always required.

21. What if my Bishop State GPA is below a 2.0? You may not apply to any nursing program at Bishop State if your current Bishop State GPA is below a 2.0. You must take or retake classes (at BISHOP STATE) to raise your GPA before applying to any Nursing program. Transfer courses will NOT improve your Bishop State GPA.

22. Do I need a Letter of Good Standing if I was previously in a Nursing Program somewhere else? Yes, you need to have your previous nursing program send a letter of good standing for you to nursing@bishop.edu before the application term deadline.

23. What are Bishop State Community College's hours of operation?

Monday to Thursday: 8am – 5pm

Friday: 8am – 2pm

- 24. Who should I contact about my Bishop State admissions application or transfer coursework sent in to Bishop State?** You may contact The Office of Admissions & Records at admiss@bishop.edu or records@bishop.edu. Please include your first and last name, student A-number and contact information, along with your application or transfer coursework question.
- 25. Who should I contact about my Bishop State Nursing Program application?** You may contact the Nursing Department at nursing@bishop.edu. Please include your first and last name, student A-number and contact information, along with your application question.
- 26. When will I find out if I was accepted into the Nursing Program?** Acceptance offer letters will begin to be sent about 4-6 weeks after the application closes. Please be patient as emailing or contacting the department about your offer letter will only slow down the application notification process.
- 27. How will I be notified if I am accepted or not?** You will be emailed a DOCUSIGN acceptance or denial letter from the Nursing Department. The personal email that you provide on your nursing application will be used for this correspondence. Please open your letter and read or respond by the noted deadline in the email.
- 28. Does Bishop State have other health-related programs that I can pursue if I am not accepted into the Nursing Program?** Yes, you may pursue an [Associate in Arts \(AA\)](#) degree or an [Associate in Science \(AS\)](#) degree, an Associate in [Health Information Technology \(AAS\)](#) degree, a [Medical Coding Short-Certificate](#), or programs in [Health or Physical Education, Exercise Science, and Sport](#). You may apply through Bishop State's [Adult Education Career Pathways](#) program. Programs include: CNA, MAC, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Technician, and others. Please refer to the [Career Pathways course search](#) for available classes/waitlists.
- 29. What is the Transfer Policy for the Nursing Program?** Students wishing to transfer from another Alabama Community College's Nursing Program must:
- a. Meet minimum admission standards for the nursing program
 - b. Possess a grade of C or better in all nursing program required courses taken at another institution and possess a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative GPA at time of transfer
 - c. Provide a letter of eligibility for progression from the Dean/Director in previous nursing program
 - d. Comply with all program policy requirements at accepting institution
 - e. Complete at least 25% of the nursing program required courses for degree / certificate at the accepting institution