

ADMISSION AND TRANSFER INTO PL-BSN PROGRAM POLICY

The Admission and Transfer Policy accompanies an application for nursing admission. This Policy includes eligibility; admission and transfer requirements; Testing requirements; and, selection process.

The AMC PL-BSN program admission and transfer criteria are detailed in the most current *Anna Maria College Academic Catalog*, along with the *Anna Maria PL-BSN Nursing Student handbook* that also includes policies specific to admitted and enrolled students in the program.

Nursing Program Requirements

Students accepted into the nursing major will be required to:

- take and pass a criminal background check,
- provide documentation of immunizations recommended for healthcare workers in Massachusetts, undergo drug screening; and,
- meet core performance (Essential Functions) standards for nursing students.

According to the Board Licensure Policy 00-01, any individual convicted of a felony or misdemeanor conviction, and/or who has been disciplined by a licensure/certification body must be evaluated by the Board to determine an applicant's compliance with the "good moral character" licensure requirements established at Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 112, section 74 and 74A. Individuals convicted of certain criminal convictions are permanently excluded from nurse licensure in Massachusetts. Further information may be found on the Massachusetts Division of Health Profession Licensure's website (<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/dhpl/>).

College Health Immunization Policy

In accordance with Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing regulations, candidates for admission to the nursing education program must provide satisfactory evidence of compliance to the Anna Maria College Health Office with the immunization requirements specified by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Failure to provide all required documentation may exclude the nursing student from clinical practice. Clinical immunizations are listed within the AMC Nursing Student handbook. (See, Nursing Program Clinical Health and Immunization Requirements)

In compliance with policies of the Massachusetts State Board of Nursing, nursing applicants must be aware that completion of the BSN degree does not guarantee admittance to the registered nurse licensure examination (NCLEX-RN).

The satisfaction of all the above does not guarantee admission.

Admission and Transfer

All courses in the PL-BSN curriculum plan must be taken as scheduled in the published plan; therefore, students will need to take additional courses or semesters if an evaluation of their transcript indicates that they are not in compliance with the published curriculum plan. Students must complete the PL-BSN program within six (6) consecutive academic years.

All candidates for admission or transfer into the Anna Maria College Pre-licensure BSN (PL-BSN) program (direct admission freshmen, internal and external transfers) will be evaluated by the Admission Office to validate that they are in full compliance with the following *AMC PL-BSN Admission and Transfer Policy* requirements.

To be considered for admission to the PL-BSN Nursing Program, the following documents must be submitted to the College Admission Office:

ADMISSION (Freshman Admission)

1. Satisfactory evidence of graduating from high school or having earned a GED or HiSET certificate. High school seniors may apply to the nursing program by submitting all other required documents; letter of recommendation, and an Essay. Although a preliminary acceptance may be offered, the student cannot matriculate into the College for the nursing major until proof of high school graduation has been received.
2. An official high school transcript that validates that the candidate has completed the following:
 - 4 units in English;
 - 3 units in mathematics;
 - 2 units in social science;
 - 2 units in laboratory science;
 - 2 units in a language other than English, is recommended.
3. Official score results from either the ACT exam, SAT exam or the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills, (most current edition of the TEAS exam). The required scores to be considered for admission to the PL-BSN program are:
 - a. ACT Composite score 19 or higher.
 - b. SAT Scores:
 - i. The minimum required scores for the SAT taken prior to March 2016 are:
 - Critical reading: 450
 - Writing: 450
 - Mathematics: 450
 - ii. The minimum required scores for the SAT taken March 2016 and onward are:
 - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section: 500
 - Math Section: 490
 - c. ATI TEAS exam score of proficient (58.7% minimum) or higher in the ATI Preparedness Category on the TEAS exam.

Students are only allowed two (2) attempts on the TEAS exam within one year from the date of the first TEAS attempt. A third and final attempt is allowed after one year of the initial attempt of TEAS the exam, to achieve the required minimum score; this includes any ATI TEAS exam taken at another location.

It is strongly suggested that an applicant wait 45 days between TEAS exams. The TEAS test is administered at Anna Maria College (fee required). More information can be found on the College website at

<https://www.annamaria.edu/admission-process/teas-test>. Information about the test content and resources to prepare for the exam can be found at <https://www.atitesting.com/Solutions/PreNursingSchool/TEAS.aspx>

Students who have either an ACT Composite score or SAT section score below the minimum acceptable scores must take and score proficient (58.7% minimum) or higher in the ATI Preparedness Category on the TEAS exam.

International Candidates for Admission

In addition to meeting the admission criteria for admission into the AMC PL-BSN program the following policy applies:

1. International students will need to meet the College's requirement for English proficiency, as described in the College *International Student Application process*:
2. International students whose first language is not English, will need to meet the College's requirement for English proficiency. There are multiple ways to satisfy this requirement. Applicants can submit the results of one of the following standardized tests: SAT or ACT test results, TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge Advanced English Exam (CAE) or the Pearson Test of English (PTE) exam. The recommended English scores for direct admission into undergraduate degree programs are as follows. TOEFL 72, IELTS 6.0, PTE 50 or higher. CAE 58.
3. Students applying for direct admission into the nursing program that have taken the SAT after March 2016 are required to achieve a minimum SAT score of 500 on the Evidence Based Reading section and 490 on the Math section of the SAT for students taking the test from March 2016 or direct entry in the Anna Maria College nursing program. Minimum test scores for students that have taken the SAT test prior to March 2016: 450 Reading, 450 Math, 450 Writing. The minimum ACT score for consideration of direct admission into the nursing program is a composite score of 19. The minimum TEAS test score result for consideration of direct admission in the nursing program is (58.7% minimum) or higher in the ATI Preparedness Category on the TEAS exam.

TRANSFER Admission (Internal and External)

1. Satisfactory evidence of graduating from high school or having earned a GED or HiSET certificate to validate the above units of English, mathematics, social science, laboratory science; and, language requirements.
Official transcripts of all colleges or universities attended. **Please note:** Only one science course may be repeated once, and a withdrawal is considered as one unsuccessful attempt to pass a course.
2. If transferring from another nursing program, a letter from the former Director/Dean of Nursing stating compliance to the alignment of the MA Board of Registration good moral conduct <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/good-moral-character-requirements-for-nursing-licensure>
3. Official score results from either the ACT exam, SAT exam or the ATI Test of Essential Academic Skills, (most current edition of the TEAS exam). The required scores to be considered for admission to the PL-BSN program are:
 - a. ACT Composite score 19 or higher.
 - b. SAT Scores:
 - i. The minimum required scores for the SAT taken prior to March 2016 are:
 - Critical reading: 450; Writing: 450; Mathematics: 450
 - ii. The minimum required scores for the SAT taken March 2016 and onward are:
 - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Section: 500
 - Math Section: 490

- c. ATI TEAS exam score of proficient (58.7% minimum) or higher in the ATI Preparedness Category on the TEAS exam.

Students are only allowed two (2) attempts on the TEAS exam within one year. A third and final attempt is allowed after one year of the initial attempt of TEAS the exam, to achieve the required minimum score; this includes any ATI TEAS exam taken at another location.

It is strongly suggested that an applicant wait 45 days between TEAS exams. The TEAS test is administered at Anna Maria College (fee required). More information can be found at

<https://www.atitesting.com/Solutions/PreNursingSchool/TEAS.aspx>. Information about the test content and resources to prepare for the exam can be found at <https://www.atitesting.com/Solutions/PreNursing School/TEAS.aspx>

Students who have either an ACT Composite score or SAT section score below the minimum acceptable scores must take and score proficient (58.7% minimum) or higher in the ATI Preparedness Category on the TEAS exam.

Course Exemption and Transfer of Credit Policy

General Education Course Exemption

The general education course exemption policy can be found in the most current *Anna Maria College Academic Catalog*, the information states that Transfer students with 30 or greater transferrable college credits (as evaluated by the Anna Maria College Registrar's Office) but fewer than 60 transferrable college credits may be eligible for first year General Education exemptions. Transfer students with fewer than 12 credits in transfer will be required to take AMC100. Students with an earned Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution who are pursuing a second Bachelor's degree may transfer in up to 90 credits. Regardless of the number of transfer credits, all major requirements will need to be satisfied.

Students are required to complete the following courses with a grade of C or higher. Course Exemptions for nursing majors will NOT be granted, they are:

- General Psychology (**3 credits**)
- Freshman Composition (**3 credits**)
- Writing through Literature (**3 credits**)
- Human Lifespan Development (**3 credits**)
- Introduction to Sociology (**3 credits**)
- Applied Statistics/Quantitative Analysis (**3 credits**)

Students granted course exemptions will be required to complete the total number of program credits for the degree.

Transfer of Credit

Anna Maria College generally grants transfer credit for courses taken at other colleges or universities that correspond to or are comparable to those offered at Anna Maria College. Courses taken at the remedial level, usually designated by a course number that is less than at the 100 level (e.g. 090 level) will not be accepted in transfer. AMC reserves the right to require transfer students to successfully complete ENG103 and/or ENG 104 and any additional first and second year General Education course(s), if needed for the major.

A grade of C- or better must be earned to be considered for transfer (exceptions include C or better in courses deemed equivalent to AMC100, ENG103, and ENG104) unless the applicant has an earned Associate's Degree and/or completed 60 credits or more elsewhere. In such cases credit will be granted for courses completed for which a passing grade was earned. Anna Maria College does award transfer credits for College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.

Courses beyond those that are currently in progress at the time of acceptance will not be accepted in transfer. All courses taken after an applicant has been accepted can only be taken at Anna Maria College or must have prior approval from the respective Program Dean or Chairperson.

Nursing Program Criteria for Acceptance of Transfer Courses

The official transcript and the course description applicable to the time the student took will be reviewed by the Admission Office to validate course equivalency to the Anna Maria College course(s). In order to be approved for transfer credit the following criteria must be met:

1. The course must have been completed at a regionally accredited College or University.
2. The course description, course content, and syllabi (if needed) for the course must be equivalent to the Anna Maria College courses.
3. The AMC PL-BSN nursing program has minimum acceptable grades for all science and select general education courses. The official transcript must validate that the student meets the criteria:

a. Science Courses:

The AMC PL-BSN program requires that to be accepted for transfer by the nursing program a minimum grade of "C+" is required. **Only one science course may be repeated once, and a withdrawal is considered as one unsuccessful attempt to pass a course.**

The following science courses taken at another regionally accredited college or university that will be reviewed for acceptance are:

- Anatomy & Physiology I (4 credits with a lab)
- Anatomy & Physiology II (4 credits with a lab)
- Microbiology (4 credits with a lab)
- Introduction to Chemistry I (4 credits with a lab)

To be accepted for transfer, science course grades cannot be older than 7 years and less than a "C+" grade.

b. General Education Courses:

The AMC PL-BSN program requires that to be **accepted** for transfer by the nursing program a minimum grade of "C" is required for the following **general education courses taken at another regionally accredited college or university:**

- General Psychology (**3 credits**)
- Human Lifespan Development (**3 credits**)
- Introduction to Sociology (**3 credits**)
- Applied Statistics/Quantitative Analysis (**3 credits**)

Nursing Course Exemption

There are NO nursing course exemptions for nursing courses within the PL-BSN program. Students transferring from other pre-licensure nursing programs must take all nursing courses at Anna Maria College.

Licensed practical nurses applying for advanced placement can apply for limited nursing course exemption, as defined in the AMC PL-BSN Advanced Placement Policy.

Advanced Placement

As part of the Anna Maria College Nursing Program commitment to educational mobility in nursing, licensed practical nurses, with a current unrestricted license in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, who meet the defined criteria for advanced placement in the PL-BSN program to pursue a curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing and eligibility to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN®).

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs Applying for Advanced Placement Admission into the PL-BSN Program):

Applicants for Advanced Placement Admission into the PL-BSN Program must meet the general requirements for admission to Health and Science programs, as well as the specific nursing program admission requirements.

Nursing students are required to complete a minimum of 61 nursing credits at Anna Maria College for the Pre-Licensure Bachelor in Science (PL-BSN) Degree in Nursing, if not exempt.

Transfer of Science and General Education course credits must be from a regionally accredited college or university.

LPN candidates that have been approved for advanced placement admission to the Anna Maria College Pre-Licensure BSN program may also be required to complete additional pre-entrance requirements, i.e., complete assigned ATI tutorial program(s), competencies, and entrance exams.

LPN students seeking advanced admission into the PL-BSN nursing program must have:

1. A letter of recommendation from the Dean/Director of the nursing program where they obtained their LPN diploma or current nursing supervisor.
2. Current valid LPN license.
3. An official transcript from the LPN program with an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher
4. An official transcript indicating successful completion of the first two years of the published Anna Maria College PL-BSN curriculum college courses. The seven (7) year course expiration for science courses, taken at the college level, will be waived for LPN candidates who have been in active nursing employment during the last five (5) years.
5. A score of Level 2 or higher on the ATI RN Fundamentals exam for NUS300: Fundamentals of Nursing course with a clinical experience and a successful score (6 cr. awarded) on the National League of Nursing (NLN) Physical Assessment Exam for the NUS305: Nursing Health Assessment will be required (3 cr. Awarded). A Level 1 or higher on the ATI RN Pharmacology for the NUS309: Pharmacology for Nursing, or transfer credit approval for a 3-credit pharmacology course. All ATI and/or NLN testing will be administered at Anna Maria College.
6. If unsuccessful on the ATI exam and/or NLN exam, the student will have to take the required nursing course(s) and achieve a grade of C+ or higher at Anna Maria College.