

Policy Title: International Student Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program

Policy

- I. International students who apply for admission for a graduate degree program must meet all requirements for international students at the University Of Texas School Of Nursing at Houston (SON). International students should contact the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHSC-H) Office of International affairs. (See below for contact information.)
- II. In addition to the criteria for conditional admission to the Graduate Program, international students must meet the following criteria:
 - A. International students (non-U.S. citizens) from countries where English is not the native language or International students who did not graduate from a U.S. high school or university, must take the Test of English as an International Language (TOEFL) given by the Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. A minimum score of 550 on the paper TOEFL exam, or a minimum score of 213 on the computer-based TOEFL exam, is required within the last 2 years. Students scoring less than the minimum score shall not be considered for admission.
 - B. A course-by-course transcript evaluation by Educational Credentialing Evaluators Inc.
 - C. Obtaining a Texas nursing license prior to admission is strongly encouraged. To obtain this license write to:

Texas Board of Nursing
333 Guadalupe, Suite 3.460
Austin, Texas 78701

- III. Before beginning course work, the student must:
 - A. Be certified in basic cardiovascular life support (Student Policy S1110);
 - B. Complete all immunizations and health requirements (Student Policy S2850) ;
 - C. Obtain a University-issued identity badge identifying their status as student;

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- D. Submit to background security checks (cleared through UTHSC-H Office of International Affairs– checked by the U.S. Department of State at the time of visa application through U.S. Embassies, and cleared and received stamps on student visa at the time of entry into U.S.), and other screening tests required at UTHSC-H (see Student Policy S1870).
- IV. Any course/program requiring patient involvement as defined in the Nurse Practice Act of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas must take place only under the supervision of the appropriate faculty member.
- V. When involved in clinical course work, the student, if not licensed as a Registered Nurse in Texas, must not:
 - A. Represent him/herself as a Registered Nurse;
 - B. Receive monetary compensation for specific listings under Texas Nurse Practice Act, including administering treatment or rendering services to patients, nor engaging in practice as defined in the Nurse Practice Act of the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas, to:

Sec 301.002. Definitions

“(2) "Professional nursing" means the performance for compensation of an act that requires substantial specialized judgment and skill, the proper performance of which is based on knowledge and application of the principles of biological, physical, and social science as acquired by a completed course in an approved school of professional nursing. The term does not include acts of medical diagnosis or prescription of therapeutic or corrective measures. Professional nursing involves:

(A) the observation, assessment, intervention, evaluation, rehabilitation, care and counsel, or health teachings of a person who is ill, injured, infirm, or experiencing a change in normal health processes;

(B) the maintenance of health or prevention of illness;

(C) the administration of a medication or treatment as ordered by a physician, podiatrist, or dentist;



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- (D) the supervision or teaching of nursing;
- (E) the administration, supervision, and evaluation of nursing practices, policies, and procedures;
- (F) the requesting, receiving, signing for, and distribution of prescription drug samples to patients at sites in which a registered nurse is authorized to sign prescription drug orders as provided by Subchapter B, Chapter 157; and
- (G) the performance of an act delegated by a physician under Section 157.052, 157.053, 157.054, 157.0541, 157.0542, 157.058, or 157.059..”

[formerly V.A.C.S. Art. 4518, Sec. 5 (part); Section (G) amended by Acts 2001 (S.B. 1166), 77th Leg., eff. Sept. 1, 2001.]

- C. Abide by all UTHSC-H policies and procedures regarding patient confidentiality and information security.

International students should write the International Student Advisor in the Office of International Affairs (www.uth.tmc.edu/intlaffairs), The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, 7000 Fannin, Suite 130, Houston, Texas 77030, for further information or contact them by email at utoiahouston@uth.tmc.edu (Telephone 713.500.3176; FAX 713.500.3189)

