**Admission Requirements**
1. Have a minimum 2.5 grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale in all prerequisite courses.
2. Complete all BSN prerequisites with a minimum grade of 'C' in each course.
3. Submit application to the BSN Program by March 1st.
4. Be admitted by the BSN Student Development Committee. After being rank-ordered according to prerequisite-GPA, students will be admitted on a space-available basis.

**Contact Info**

**School of Nursing Office**
Email: lourdes.sanchez@utrgv.edu
Brownsville campus: BLHSB 2.720
Phone: 956-882-5070
Edinburg campus: EHABE 2.201
Phone: 956-665-3491

**Assistant Director of Undergraduate Programs/BSN Coordinator**
Sandy Sanchez, PhD, RN
sandy.sanchez@utrgv.edu

**School of Nursing Director**
Carolina G. Huerta, EdD, RN, FAAN
carolina.huerta@utrgv.edu

**Degree Info**

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program is generic in nature with a pathway for registered nurses. The Program is designed to enable students to integrate knowledge from theory and research, high-level skills, and concepts of leadership into the practice of professional nursing care of individuals, families, groups, and communities. The BSN Program provides a foundation for graduate study. BSN generic graduates are eligible to apply to the Texas Board of Nursing to take the National Council Licensure Examination. After successfully completing this examination, the graduate is issued a license to practice as a registered nurse in the state of Texas.

**NURSING (BSN) Catalog: 2017-18**

**College of Health Affairs**

UTRio Grande Valley
MILESTONES

FIRST YEAR
- Complete your core English classes (section 010) during your first year.
- Complete at least 30 credit hours every year in order to graduate in 4 years.
- Shoot for a prerequisite-GPA of 4.0, but also learn the critical core course content, because it will serve as a great foundation for your major. In the BSN Program, it is vital that you learn your anatomy & physiology, microbiology, nutrition, lifespan growth & development.
- Take MATH 1342 or 1343 in your first year.
- Complete your non-English proficiency before you are accepted into the BSN Program.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you every semester.
- Choose a major with confidence! Visit my.UTRGV.edu and check out the Kuder Journey. Nursing is hard enough when you love it, so make sure you love it!
- Attend a student workshop or visit VLink (www.utrgv.edu/vlink)!

SECOND YEAR
- Complete major foundation classes, such as those listed as BSN prerequisites (66 hours). Learn their content well.
- Seek advisement from a BSN faculty when you complete 40 credit hours of BSN prerequisites and then every semester thereafter.
- Apply to the BSN Program. The deadline is March 1st before the desired Fall.
- Want to explore different careers? Check out Kuder WorkKeys.
- Come ready with course suggestions and questions when you visit your academic advisor or BSN faculty.
- Visit the Communication Hauser Lab for help with your speeches.
- Trouble making your tuition payment? The Financial Aid Office can help. Payment plans and emergency loans are also available.
- Balance your life (mind-body-spirit!)

THIRD YEAR
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attending the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Take an intensive writing course or become the secretary for your organization.
- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a positive difference.
- Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!

FOURTH YEAR
- Complete your BSN prerequisites, & learn them well.
- Have you landed an internship or acquired research experience? This is the year to make it happen.
- Seek out research opportunities within Nursing (or other professional health disciplines) and join a professional organization, such as the Student Nurse Organization.
- Check DweeWorks to make sure you are on track for graduation next year.
- Apply for internship and/or volunteering/job shadowing opportunities. Discuss these with your academic advisor, BSN faculty advisor, or Career Center.

LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
- Update your résumé in Career Connection?
- Visit the Career Center site to find a job fair to attend. At the event, approach a recruiter and discuss internships.
- Will a minor expand your career options? We recommend Medical Spanish/Spanish for Health Professionals.
- Explain to someone how your academic program aligns with your strengths and interests. Make sure it fits you and fulfills you! You will be doing it for at least a third of your day!

GLOBAL, CAMPUS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- Apply to an exchange or a campus-sponsored community service project, such as a health fair.
- Ask a student in class to study with you.
- Set up your profile on the Engagement Zone through my.UTRGV.edu.
- Attend a diversity-based campus or community event (e.g., MUK Day of Service).
- Attend a departmental program, such as a Research or Scholarship presentation or Community Health Fair.
- Join a student organization! Consider looking into the Student Nurse Organization or visit VLink (utrgv.edu/vlink)!
- Create a résumé and set up your profile on the Career Connection icon (My.UTRGV.edu).
- Got summer plans? Visit Career Center and ask about places to do some volunteering or job shadowing.
- Research shows that students who work on campus perform better than those who work off campus. Look for a job on the Career Center portal!
- Check your UTRGV email for the daily Messenger-loc -ate and attend one student workshop.

ADVICE & SUPPORT
- Shoot for a GPA of 4.0.
- Meet with your academic advisor and bring your orientation folder with you every semester.
- Consider looking into the School of Nursing website for postings on scholarships, graduate school, or professional opportunities.
- Think about three people you can ask for letters of recommendation (professors, mentors, advisors, supervisors, etc.). Give them at least two weeks’ advance notice & a résumé/CV of your activities & accomplishments!
- When is the deadline for your graduate school application? Visit the program admission webpage. Most do not accept late applicants!

APPLY WHAT YOU LEARN
- Shoot for a GPA of 4.0.
- Attend a student workshop or visit VLink (www.utrgv.edu/vlink)!
- To find undergraduate research opportunities, visit the Engaged Scholarship & Learning Office.
- Consider attending the Leadership Institute or attend the Engaged Scholar Symposium.
- Go show off your research, service-learning or creative works at the Engaged Scholar Symposium!
- Sharpen your writing skills! Take an intensive writing course or become the secretary for your organization.
- Consider serving on a campus life/community committee or become a student leader and make a positive difference.
- Visit VLink or speak with your Student Government Association for more information!

APPLY FOR GRADUATION
- Complete at least 30 credit hours to graduate.
- Submit your application(s) for graduate school, an apprenticeship, or for full-time employment.

CAREERS
- Specialties by work setting or type of treatment:
  - Perioperative (operating rooms)
  - Emergency/ Trauma
  - Critical care
  - Ambulatory care
  - Home health care
  - Hospice and palliative care
  - Occupational health
  - Radiology
  - Psychiatric- mental health
  - Holistic/Complementary care

FOR MORE INFORMATION
- Visit the Career Center website and check out “What Can I Do With This Major?”
- Have you received your acceptance for graduate school or an employment offer? If not, network, talk to faculty, the Career Center, and LinkedIn.
- Formulate and implement a strategy for life after graduation: attend career fairs, graduate fairs, apprentice fellowships, etc.
- Update your information with Alumni Relations. Enjoy alumni mixers, events, and continued access to Career Center services!
- Remember to do your exit loan counseling on studentloans.gov.