

Quick Guide to Applying to the Practical Nursing Program

Step 1: Take and pass the HESI® Entrance Exam.

- ☐ Schedule your exam early to make sure you find a date/location that works for you:
- ☐ **Be aware of the deadline for your preferred class time/location (see next page).**
- ☐ Even if you pass (all portions of the exam completed within the 2.5 hour time limit and at least a 70 on Reading AND 70 on Math), you may want to retake it twice within a trimester if your score is low. **Not everyone who meets the minimum qualifications is accepted into the class. Acceptance is based on the point system located on the next page.**



Scan here to
schedule your testing

Step 2: Upon passing the Entrance Exam, you will receive a packet with detailed directions for completing the required steps.

- ☐ Complete the **application packet** and return it to the Jackson Campus.
- ☐ Complete an **online application to TCAT Jackson** for the appropriate term/program.
- ☐ Complete the **FAFSA** to apply for financial aid.
- ☐ Submit current, **unexpired** state issued ID
- ☐ Submit an **OFFICIAL copy of your FINAL high school, GED®, or HiSet® transcript(s), along with any other transcripts/certifications noted on the next page (i.e. CNA certification).**
- ☐ Submit verification of immunity to the following:
 - **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)** – 2 vaccines or a positive titer
 - **Varicella** – 2 vaccines or a positive titer

Step 3: Decision letters will be sent out approximately 2 weeks after the deadline. Letters will be sent only to those who have completed their applications (see Step 2).

Step 4: IF you are accepted into the program, you will be given directions for completing the following:

- ☐ **Mandatory Orientation** – The date/time will be provided in the Acceptance Letter. This is a full day of MANDATORY orientation WITH HOMEWORK that will be due before class starts.
- ☐ **Acceptance (or declination) of your spot**
- ☐ **Background Check** – **If the background check shows a criminal history or other offenses, we cannot guarantee that you will be able to complete clinicals and, therefore, complete the program.**
- ☐ **Physical including**
 - ☐ **Additional Vaccination Documentation** (in addition to MMR and varicella):
Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) and/or Td booster within the last 10 years
Hepatitis B – full vaccine series or positive titer
Negative TB test within 6 months of program start date
Annual influenza vaccination will be due depending on program start date.

Point System for Practical Nursing Program Admission

REQUIRED HESI® EXAMS

Note: Reading, Math, and Critical Thinking portions must ALL be completed within the 2.5-hour time limit. Reading AND Math must be passed with a minimum score of 70 on each portion on the SAME attempt (no super-scoring) in order to be eligible to apply for the program.

HESI® Reading Score

POINTS EARNED

HESI® Math Score

BONUS POINTS

HESI® Critical Thinking Score

The Critical Thinking portion of the HESI® Exam is required.

Bonus points are awarded for scores ≥ 749 .

750-799 = 2 Points

800-849 = 4 Points

850-899 = 6 Points

900-949 = 8 Points

950-1000 = 10 Points

**Official Transcript Showing Diploma Awarded for Completion
of an Allied Health Program at TCAT within the past 3 years (5 Points)**

TOTAL POINTS EARNED: _____

Deadlines:

January start programs (Brownsville) November 14, 2025

May start programs (Jackson & Lexington) - March 20, 2026

September start programs (Henderson, Humboldt & Whiteville) - July 17, 2026