



Allied Health & Nursing Programs Application Quick Guide

This guide helps you apply to your chosen program and complete all requirements. Admission to Allied Health and Nursing programs is based on submitted requirements and a points system. Page 3 includes a points breakdown, scoring template, and requirements checklist for personal use.

Requirements – All items listed below are due by the term deadline to be considered for admission

- **Submit an Online Application** – Use the reference below to select the correct program and term. Applications submitted for the wrong term will be considered invalid and require resubmission. Access the application by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this page. Spring terms begin in January (deadline: 11/13/26), summer terms begin in May (deadline: 3/20/26), and fall terms begin in September (deadline: 7/17/26).

Practical Nursing

Brownsville: Spring 2027

Henderson: Fall 2026

Humboldt: Fall 2026

Jackson Main Campus: Summer 2026

Lexington: Summer 2026

West TN Healthcare: Spring 2027

Whiteville: Fall 2026

CMA to Practical Nursing Bridge

Brownsville: Summer 2026

Surgical Technology

Jackson Main Campus: Summer 2026

Central Sterile Processing

West TN Healthcare: Summer 2026

Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting

Brownsville: Summer or Fall 2026; Spring 2027

Lexington: Summer or Fall 2026; Spring 2027

- **Take Entrance Exam** – All applicants must take and pass the required entrance exam before or by the end of the day of the term deadline. Schedule your exam by scanning the QR code below and select the program you are applying for in Box 1 to ensure the correct exam is scheduled. See page 2 for more information.
- **Complete Applicant Information Form** – You will receive this form when you take your entrance exam. If you’ve already taken your exam, we will send this form to you after we receive your scores.
- **Submit Valid Photo ID** – Submit a clear copy of a non-expired photo ID.
- **Submit Vaccination Records** – Provide documentation showing 2 doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) and 2 doses of Varicella. If you do not have vaccination records for either or both, you may submit a titer showing immunity instead. All documentation must be clear and legible.
- **Submit Official High School Transcript or High School Equivalency** – Your transcript must be sent directly to us from the issuing institution. We do not accept photocopies or applicant submitted copies. Transcripts may only be submitted by the applicant if they are in a sealed envelope from the issuing institution. GED and HiSET transcripts can be requested at www.diplomasender.com.

Additional Requirement (Only for CMA to PN Bridge Program Applicants)

- **Submit CMA Certificate** – Submit a copy of your current CMA certificate

Submit requirements to healthprograms@tcatjackson.edu or fax to 731-424-0807 (ATTN: Allied Health)



Submit Online Application



Schedule Exam

Entrance Exam Options and Requirements

The HESI Entrance Exam is accepted for all Allied Health and Nursing programs. For the Patient Care Technology/Medical Assisting program, applicants may also use the TABE Entrance Exam or ACT scores in place of an entrance exam.

Required exam sections, minimum passing scores, and time limits vary by program and are listed in the chart below. All entrance exam and ACT scores must be dated within two years of the program start date. Scores older than two years require retesting. Applicants have two exam attempts per trimester.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to test at a TCAT Jackson testing center (our testing centers are located in Jackson, Brownsville, Lexington and Whiteville). If testing at another location, applicants are responsible for completing all required sections within the designated time limits and requesting that official scores be sent from the testing site.

Scan the QR code below to schedule an entrance exam.

HESI Entrance Exam

Program	Time Limit	Reading	Math	A&P	Critical Thinking
Practical Nursing	150 min	70	70	X	Bonus
CMA to Practical Nursing Bridge	180 min	70	70	70	Bonus
Surgical Technology	150 min	70	70	X	Bonus
Central Sterile Processing	150 min	60	40	X	X
PCT & Medical Assisting	120 min	60	50	X	X

TABE Entrance Exam

Program	Time Limit	Passing Score
PCT & Medical Assisting	180 min	Level 4

ACT Scores

Program	Reading	Math
PCT & Medical Assisting	20	19



Schedule Exam

Admissions Process

Once all required items are received, your application is considered complete and you are placed on the waitlist. Following the term deadline, applicants are ranked by total points, and those with the highest point totals are accepted. A small number of applicants with the next highest points are selected as alternates and may be offered a seat if an accepted applicant declines before the class begins. For example, if a class has 22 seats, the 22 highest scoring applicants will be accepted, and the next highest scoring applicants will be selected as alternates. See Page 3 for details on how points are earned. Decision emails are sent two weeks after the application deadline. Please note that meeting all minimum requirements does not guarantee admission.

Deadlines: Summer 3/20/26, Fall 7/17/26, Spring 11/13/26

Contact Bailey Magness at bailey.magness@tcatjackson.edu if you have any questions.

Points System for Allied Health and Nursing Programs

Admission is determined by the highest ranking applicants based on total points.

Points for all Allied Health and Nursing programs are earned from the required entrance exam. All required exam sections must be completed and passed within the designated time limits. Required sections, minimum scores, and time limits are listed in the chart on Page 2 of this guide. Entrance exam scores must be dated within two years of the program start date. Scores from multiple exams cannot be combined. Applicants may test up to two times per trimester, and the highest eligible score set will be used for consideration.

Applicants who completed an Allied Health program at any TCAT within the past three years and provide an official transcript showing a diploma awarded will receive bonus points. Additional bonus point opportunities are outlined in the scoring breakdown below.

After completing the entrance exam, applicants may use the guide below to calculate their estimated points for personal reference.

Required Scores

Reading

Your Score

Math

HESI Anatomy & Physiology

*only required for CMA to PN Bridge Program

Bonus Points

Official transcript showing completion of an Allied Health or Nursing program at any TCAT within the past 3 years = 5 Points

Additional HESI Bonus Points

*applies only to Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology and CMA to PN Bridge programs

HESI Critical Thinking

750-799 = 2 Points

800-849 = 4 Points

850-899 = 6 Points

900-949 = 8 Points

950-1000 = 10 Points

Total Points _____

Requirements Checklist for Personal Use

- Take and pass entrance exam
- Submit an online application
- Submit vaccination records
- Submit photo of unexpired state issued ID
- Have official high school transcript sent

Additional Requirements if applying for CMA to PN Bridge Program

- Submit a copy of your CMA certificate