



CONGRATULATIONS!

You're going to college!

Nursing is a challenging but highly rewarding role. Here is a checklist to get you started in preparation for your first semester to help you prepare for Day 1. Check with your school for any other items, requirements or prerequisites that may need to be completed before the first day of class.

- Background Check & Drug Screening:** One of the most important items to check off your list. The Texas Board of Nursing requires that a background check is completed before classes begin in order to ensure that you are qualified and fit for a healthcare setting. Drug screenings are required for all clinical settings.
- Get Up to Date on Immunizations:** Make sure you're healthy mentally and physically before starting school. Go to your doctor for a checkup and make sure you're up to date on all immunizations. Mandatory immunizations for nursing school may include hepatitis B, chickenpox, meningitis, rubella, tetanus, etc.
- Earn Required Certifications:** Every prospective nursing student must obtain a Basic Life Support (BLS) certification before beginning their nursing program. Check with your school for any other certifications which must be completed before the first day of your first semester.
- Determine Your Work-School-Life Balance:** Maintaining your professional and personal commitments can be difficult. If you're working while attending school, make sure your current job knows your plans and that there is enough flexibility to maintain your schedule. If you're a parent, consider your childcare options for time you are in class, as well as time to study without too many distractions.
- Get the Right Gear:** Quality scrubs and footwear will last longer and fit more comfortably during those long days on your feet. Check in with your school to find out what color scrubs and what type of footwear are required, and whether they should be purchased from a specific vendor.
- Stock Up on Supplies:** Essential nursing school supplies include badge clips, lanyards, a watch with a second hand, a planner, highlighters, pens, markers, post-it notes, notebooks and clipboards.
- Set Goals for Each Semester:** Write down and track your goals. What do you want to achieve in your first semester? What experiences do you wish to gain? What specialization do you wish to pursue? What classes do you wish to take? What personal connections with instructors or fellow students do you wish to make? These are just some of the questions to ask yourself that can help you stay on a clear path to your future career in nursing.

