

## FAQs for Accelerated BSN Track

### 1. What is the purpose of this program?

*This program is intended to prepare previously degreed individuals for rapid entry into professional nursing practice without compromising educational standards or the quality of Nursing graduates. TCU's Accelerated BSN Track is designed specifically for individuals with degrees in other fields and a proven record of academic success. The program is sequenced so that its graduates can segue seamlessly into the Online Master of Science in Nursing Program.*

### 2. How long will the program take to complete?

*Baccalaureate programs usually require five long semesters of study once you enter the major. Ideally, a BSN (the professional nursing degree) can be earned in four (4) academic years. Most students take longer. Start to finish, TCU's Accelerated BSN Track takes 15 months to complete. (Prerequisite courses must be completed prior to program admission.) For example, if you begin the program in May 2009 and successfully complete all coursework, you'll graduate with a BSN in August 2010—ready for employment, graduate school, or both.*

### 3. How many semester hours are required for completion?

*You will complete 58 hours in four semesters (summer-fall-spring-summer). You take many of Harris College, Nursing's regular courses with traditional students. You have the same number of clinical hours (i.e., 1,035) as a traditional student, but clinical experiences will be arranged differently to maximize reflective practice opportunities and professional role transition.*

### 4. Why does a BSN matter? Why not an associate degree in nursing?

*A Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is the entry-level to professional nursing practice. Although an associate's degree prepares one for licensure as a registered nurse, a BSN-prepared nurse enjoys more career opportunities. The BSN is required for admission to graduate school, which will prepare you for advanced practice roles.*

### 5. Who is eligible for admission?

*Applicants must hold a previous baccalaureate degree and possess a GPA of 3.00 or higher to meet eligibility. Admission is competitive; it is based on academic record, entrance exam scores, and completion of all prerequisite courses. Graduates of accelerated programs are highly successful on NCLEX (which is the test required for licensure as an RN) and in practice after graduation.*

### 6. What are the prerequisite courses required for admission?

*These courses (or their equivalents) must be completed prior to admission. If you graduated from TCU, then you will have met many of these requirements in your previous undergraduate degree. [Click here to view the prerequisites.](#)*

## **7. How much will it cost? Is financial aid available?**

*TCU is an affordable private university. Tuition and fees for long semesters will total \$13,402\* per semester. Tuition and fees for summer semesters are calculated per semester hour (\$864\* x 13 = \$11,232). In addition, you can expect a lab fee for each clinical course and a \$100 fee for each online course.*

*Additional fees are outlined in the TCU Nursing Programs Student Handbook available*

*\*Based on 2008-2009 tuition rates.*

*Financial aid is available through scholarships and loans. You may qualify for financial aid based upon documented need. A FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form is the basis of all financial aid awards. You should fill one out when you apply to TCU and use TCU's school code. Information and an application form can be found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Several state and federal programs and many employers provide Loan Repayment plans.*

*ATTENTION TCU ALUMNI: If you earned an undergraduate degree from TCU, then you are eligible for one-half tuition for up to seven hours per semester. You do not need to apply for financial aid to receive this.*

## **8. Is the program approved?**

*In 2004, TCU's accelerated BSN track was fully approved by the Board of Nursing for the State of Texas (BON).*