



Applying to the Registered Nursing AAS

2024-2025 Application Cycle

Preparing to apply to the [Registered Nursing AAS](#) at Highline can take 1-2 years. Students must complete certain courses, earn a Nursing Assistant Certificate, and take the TEAS exam. It's important to understand that this AAS is a *selective admission* program—not everyone who applies is admitted.

Complete Required Coursework

Coursework required to apply amounts to 4-6 quarters, or 1-2 years of study. Except for MATH& 146, these courses *must* be passed with at least a 3.0 GPA, and students cannot attempt them more than 3 times.

- BIOL& 241 – Human Anatomy and Physiology I
- BIOL& 242 – Human Anatomy and Physiology II
- BIOL& 260 – Microbiology
- CHEM& 121 – Introduction to Chemistry
- ENGL& 101 – English Composition I
- PSYC& 200 – Lifespan Developmental Psychology
- MATH& 146 – Introduction to Statistics (*minimum grade is 2.7 GPA*)
- NUTR& 101 – Nutrition (*New requirement the 2024-2025 academic year*)
- CMST 200-Level or Above (*New requirement for the 2024-2025 academic year*)

Some of these courses have prerequisites students must complete first:

- BIOL& 160 – General Biology with Lab for Pre-Allied Health Students (*Prerequisite to BIOL& 241 and BIOL& 260, minimum grade is 2.0 GPA*)
- PSYC& 100 – General Psychology (*Prerequisite to PSYC& 200, minimum grade is 1.0 GPA*)
- If you do not have a math placement of MATH 107, 111, 146, 180, or 98, then you must take either:
 - MATH 91 – Intermediate Algebra (*Prerequisite to MATH& 146, minimum grade is 2.0 GPA*), or
 - MATHP 146 – Introduction to Statistics with Extra Support (*minimum grade is 2.7 GPA*)

Note: Financial aid won't typically fund classes taken outside a degree program. This includes classes taken to prepare for applying to a program like the Registered Nursing AAS. However, students may be able to receive funding through [Workforce Education Services \(WES\)](#).

Earn a Nursing Assistant Certificate

Students can earn a Nursing Assistant Certificate through [Highline's Certified Nursing Assistant Theory and Practicum Program](#). It's an intensive 4-week program that prepares students to take the WA State Licensure exam. Students spend 3 weeks learning in a classroom, and a 4th week learning hands-on skills at a clinical site. To enroll in the program, students must:

- Be at an ESL level of 4 or above
- Provide a negative tuberculosis (TB) test
- Pass a criminal background check

The program isn't covered by most financial aid sources. However, students may be able to receive funding through [Workforce Education Services \(WES\)](#).

TEAS Exam

Students must score a total of 75, with at least 70 in each category, on the [Test of Essential Academic Skills \(TEAS\) exam](#). The exam tests a student's reading, mathematics, science, and English language skills.

It's recommended that students start studying 6 months before they plan to apply to the AAS and take the exam 3 months before. This leaves time to retake the exam if needed. Highline has a [TEAS Exam Preparation Canvas course](#) to help students study. Students can retake the exam as many times as they like. Keep in mind that other colleges may not accept scores from retaken exams. The exam costs about \$120 each time it is taken.

Apply

Visit the [Registered Nursing AAS admissions page](#) to find the next application deadline and a link to the application form. There is a \$45 fee to apply. The application will need to include:

- Unofficial transcript showing the required courses
- Nursing Assistant Certificate of Completion
- TEAS exams results (total score of 75+, with 70+ in each category)
- Vaccination records (Hepatitis B, Td/Tdap, MMR, Varicella, Covid-19 with booster, Flu, and TB)

Next Steps

Even after completing every step of the application pathway, a student might not be accepted into the nursing program at Highline. Only 28 students are accepted each quarter. Students should know that they might still be selected within the next two quarters—they don't need to reapply to be considered. Students might also be added to a waitlist and then admitted if a new spot becomes available.

If a student ultimately isn't admitted, though, they still have healthcare career pathways open to them. Students can choose to apply to other nursing programs. Keep in mind that other colleges may have different admission requirements. Local colleges with nursing programs include:

- Bellevue College
- Pierce College
- Renton College
- Green River College
- Seattle Central
- Tacoma Community College

If a student prefers to continue at Highline, they could pursue a [BAS in Respiratory Care](#). After completing all the Registered Nursing AAS prerequisites, a student only needs to take ENGL& 102 or ENGL& 235 before they can apply to the BAS. Once admitted, they can complete the degree in 3 years of full-time study.

Or students can complete an [Associate in Pre-Nursing \(DTA/MRP\)](#). This is a pathway toward transferring into a BS in Nursing at a university. Local universities offering BSNs include Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, University of Washington, and Pacific Lutheran University. If a student has completed all the Registered Nursing AAS prerequisites, they will need to take 30 more credits to complete the AA-DTA:

- ENGL& 102, CHEM& 131, and PE 101
- 10 Credits from the Humanities Distribution
- 5 Credits from the Social Sciences Distribution

A student could also start immediately in a [Healthcare Professions program](#):

- The [Medical Assistant AAS](#) could be completed in 81 credits (about 2 years full-time)
- The [Community Health & Wellness AAS](#) could be completed in 67 credits (about 1 ½ years full-time)

Part-Time Pathway Map (10 Credits Per Quarter)

Note: Meet with an advisor to discuss the pre-nursing pathway before registering for classes.

Courses with Extra Support: Highline offers ENGLP 101 and MATHP 146, 10-credit versions of ENGL& 101 and MATH& 146 that provide extra support for student success. Students can take MATHP 146 without taking MATH 91 first. If this sounds helpful, meet with an advisor to build a plan with ENGLP 101 and/or MATHP 146.

1st Quarter

Courses: 5-10 credits	Credits	Complete?
ENGL& 101 – English Composition I	5	
MATH 91 – Intermediate Algebra (<i>Only if needed</i>)	5	

Action items/milestones

- Apply to [Highline's Certified Nursing Assistant Theory and Practicum Program](#)

2nd Quarter

Courses: 10 credits	Credits	Complete?
CHEM& 121 – Introduction to Chemistry	5	
MATH& 146 – Introduction to Statistics	5	

3rd Quarter

Courses: 10 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 160 - General Biology with Lab for Pre-Allied Health Students	5	
PSYC& 100 – General Psychology	5	

4th Quarter

Courses: 10 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 241 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I	5	
PSYC& 200 – Lifespan Developmental Psychology	5	

Action items/milestones

- Begin studying for TEAS exam

5th Quarter

Courses: 10 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 242 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I	5	
NUTR& 101 – Nutrition	5	

Action items/milestones

- Take the TEAS exam

6th Quarter

Courses: 10 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 260 – Microbiology	5	
CMST 200-Level or Above*	5	

Action items/milestones

- *Highline will accept any CMST 200-level or above. Tacoma Community College's nursing program requires CMST& 210; Green River College requires CMST& 101, 210, 220, 230, or 238; and Bellevue College requires CMST 200.
- Apply to the Registered Nursing AAS at Highline, and to any other programs of interest

Full-Time Pathway Map with MATHP 146 (15 Credits Per Quarter)

Note: Meet with an advisor to discuss the pre-nursing pathway before registering.

Courses with Extra Support: Highline offers ENGLP 101 and MATHP 146, 10-credit versions of ENGL& 101 and MATH& 146 that provide extra support for student success. Students can take MATHP 146 without taking MATH 91 first. If this sounds helpful, meet with an advisor to build a plan with ENGLP 101 and/or MATHP 146.

This pathway map includes MATHP 146. Starting with MATHP 146 as a full-time student does create an especially high workload. Consider taking MATHP 146 before starting the pathway. Students may also be able to use [Placement & Testing Center resources](#) to place directly into MATH& 146.

1st Quarter

Courses: 10-15 credits	Credits	Complete?
ENGL& 101 – English Composition I	5	
MATHP 146 - Intro to Statistics Plus Extra Support	10	

Action items/milestones

- Apply to [Highline's Certified Nursing Assistant Theory and Practicum Program](#)

2nd Quarter

Courses: 15 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 160 - General Biology with Lab for Pre-Allied Health Students	5	
CHEM& 121 – Introduction to Chemistry	5	
CMST 200-Level or Above*	5	

Action items/milestones

- Begin studying for the TEAS exam
- * Highline will accept any CMST 200-level or above. Tacoma Community College's nursing program requires CMST& 210; Green River College requires CMST& 101, 210, 220, 230, or 238; and Bellevue College requires CMST 200.

3rd Quarter

Courses: 15 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 241 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I	5	
PSYC& 100 – General Psychology	5	
NUTR& 101 – Nutrition	5	

Action items/milestones

- Schedule and take the TEAS exam

4th Quarter

Courses: 15 credits	Credits	Complete?
PSYC& 200 – Lifespan Developmental Psychology	5	
BIOL& 242 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	5	
BIOL& 260 – Microbiology*	5	

Action items/milestones

- * Taking BIOL& 242 and BIOL& 260 at the same time creates an extremely heavy workload. Students should discuss this with an advisor and plan accordingly.
- Apply to the Registered Nursing AAS at Highline, and to any other programs of interest

Full-Time Pathway Map (10-15 Credits Per Quarter)

Note: Meet with an advisor to discuss the pre-nursing pathway before registering for classes.

Courses with Extra Support: Highline offers ENGLP 101 and MATHP 146, 10-credit versions of ENGL& 101 and MATH& 146 that provide extra support for student success. Students can take MATHP 146 without taking MATH 91 first. If this sounds helpful, meet with an advisor to build a plan with ENGLP 101 and/or MATHP 146.

1st Quarter

Courses: 15 credits	Credits	Complete?
ENGL& 101 – English Composition I	5	
BIOL& 160 - General Biology with Lab for Pre-Allied Health Students	5	
CHEM& 121 – Introduction to Chemistry	5	

Action items/milestones

- Apply to [Highline's Certified Nursing Assistant Theory and Practicum Program](#)

2nd Quarter

Courses: 10 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 241 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I	5	
MATH& 146 – Introduction to Statistics	5	

Action items/milestones

- Begin studying for the TEAS exam

3rd Quarter

Courses: 15 credits	Credits	Complete?
BIOL& 242 – Human Anatomy & Physiology I	5	
PSYC& 100 – General Psychology	5	
NUTR& 101 – Nutrition	5	

Action items/milestones

- Schedule and take the TEAS exam

4th Quarter

Courses: 15 credits	Credits	Complete?
PSYC& 200 – Lifespan Developmental Psychology	5	
BIOL& 260 – Microbiology	5	
CMST 200-Level or Above*	5	

Action items/milestones

- Highline will accept any CMST 200-level or above. Tacoma Community College's nursing program requires CMST& 210; Green River College requires CMST& 101, 210, 220, 230, or 238; and Bellevue College requires CMST 200.
- Apply to the Registered Nursing AAS at Highline, and to any other programs of interest