



# Get The Facts

What you need to know about  
Parkland's Selective  
Admission Process for Health  
Profession Programs

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# Health Profession Programs

- Which programs require Selective Admissions?
  - Dental Hygiene
  - Dietary Manager
  - Emergency Medical Services: Paramedic
  - Massage Therapy
  - Medical Assisting
  - Nursing
  - LPN Advanced Placement into ADN program
  - Occupational Therapy Assistant
  - Practical Nursing
  - Radiologic Technology
  - Respiratory Care
  - Surgical Technology
  - Veterinary Technology

# What does Selective Admissions mean?

- Each program has specific admission criteria – including minimum requirements
- Students must specifically apply and be accepted into the program before taking “program” classes
- Once selected, students are “conditionally” admitted until all “other” program requirements are completed.
- Application deadlines are specific:
  - March 1 for programs that begin in the Fall (August).
  - October 1 for certain programs that admit new students in Spring (January).
- Admissions are competitive – even though minimum requirements are met you may not be accepted

# Where Do I Start?

- Apply and be accepted to Parkland College
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/getStarted/stepstoapply.aspx>
- When applying, you may:
  - use the general studies code: YGSU AGS **OR**
  - specify the health profession program & submit \$20
- Send all official transcripts to Parkland
  - High School, GED, ACT, and/or ALL Colleges other than Parkland you have attended
- Refer to the website above as you progress through the application process

# I've been accepted to Parkland - Now What?

- **Assessment testing** for English, Reading, and Math must be completed **if** applicable. The following website provides great information as well as great resources to help you prepare and do your best:  
<http://www.parkland.edu/assessment/placement.aspx>
- Each program has specific assessment scores that must be met before applying to the program so you want to do your very best on your assessment tests.
- If you are new to Parkland, please attend the SOAR orientation. It is only required for those who enter Parkland with fewer than 15 college credit hours but you will be happy you took the time to attend:  
<http://www.parkland.edu/fye/soar.aspx>
- **LOG IN TO YOUR STUDENT EMAIL AND CHECK IT DAILY – THIS IS YOUR LINK TO ALL FACULTY/ COLLEGE CORRESPONDENCE!!!! NO OTHER EMAIL ADDRESS WILL BE USED.**

# For those who have a degree or previous College credits

- Make sure all your transcripts from past College(s) have been sent and received at Parkland
- THEN – call Admissions at 217-351-2482 to determine if you need to take an assessment
- If no assessments are needed, make an appointment with an Academic Advisor. They can help you determine which courses you need to enroll in.

# What next?

- **MEET WITH AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR**
- Advising and Counseling (A251):
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/counseling/default.aspx>
  - An advisor will meet with you and review your assessment scores and help you develop a plan of study to attain your goal
  - An advisor can answer many of your questions and refer you to other people or places to get more information
  - It is easy to get confused in this process so it is absolutely imperative to see an advisor now and in the future as well.

# What else should I know?

- All **biology** courses required must be less than 5 years old at the time of admission to any program
- BIO 121 requires **chemistry** which expires after 3 years
- If you took Anatomy and Physiology at a different college and they did not have a cadaver lab, you will need to take the lab portion **only** here at Parkland
- **Math** assessment and/or pre-college math courses are only good for 2 years. If you have taken College level math it is good for 5 years
- Students for whom **English is a second language** are required to take TOEFL and meet the requirements for the specific program as listed in the catalog



# Are there non-academic requirements?

- Yes – each program has “**Clinical Eligibility Requirements**”
- **Technical Ability Standards** are listed for each program that address *minimum* physical, emotional, and mental requirements
- You may need to pass a **background check, drug screen, physical**, and provide evidence of:
  - Current immunizations and TB test
  - CPR specifically for healthcare providers
- Make sure to **read through everything** and honestly assess yourself – **is this the right field for me?**
- **Visit the Career Center:**
  - <http://www2.parkland.edu/careercenter/index.html>
  - Talk to Michele Spading, L 122, to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the career of your choice

# Let's talk about specifics

- The next few slides will provide websites and basic information for each selective admission program in Health Professions
- **Scores** – most of the programs refer to a minimum admission “score”. Here is **basically** how it is calculated: 
$$\frac{\text{Cumulative GPA} + \text{Science GPA}}{2}$$
divided by:
- **Example:**  $3.0 \text{ GPA} + 2.0 \text{ science GPA} / 2 = 2.5 \text{ score}$
- Students must meet a minimum score before being “ranked” in the program for possible admission
- **IMPORTANT:** some programs utilize a scoring rubric where students can earn more points and be more competitive by completing certain courses or earning certain grades. Refer to each specific program!

# Is this the only way to be scored?

- No. There are other ways to be scored but you should **always** talk to an advisor for the details.
- Coming from high school? We will use:
  - High School grades
  - ACT scores – Composite and Science
- Past College grades not so good?
  - Use the Program Grade Point Average – PGPA
  - Instead of using your Cumulative GPA we can use your PGPA – only those classes required for the program you are applying for, such as, general education and science required courses
- Confused? Don't guess – ask an advisor!

# Dental Hygiene

- Hygienists provide clinical services such as:
  - oral exams, oral hygiene instruction, radiographs, dental cleanings, pit and fissure sealants, teeth bleaching, infection control and sterilization, and local anesthesia & nitrous oxide sedation
- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/dental.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore the role of the Dental Hygienists visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website:
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dental-hygienists.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful**

# Dietary Manager

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/dietmanager.aspx>
- One year program with 150 hours of internship
- After successful completion of the program you are eligible to sit for the Dietary Manager exam
- Students become qualified to work as food service managers in many institutional settings, such as
  - Schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities and long term care settings
- The Dietary Manager assists the Registered Dietician in providing good nutrition to the residents in these settings
- For more information about Dietary Managers:
  - [www.ANFPonline.org](http://www.ANFPonline.org)
  - <http://www.anfponline.org/Docs/salarySurvey.pdf>

# Emergency Medical Services

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/ems.aspx>
- **Basic-EMT certificate** (not selective admissions)
  - One semester; 5 hour course; first-responder care
  - Prepares student to take State of IL EMT-Basic license exam
- **EMS – Paramedic Certificate** (selective admissions)
  - Must be licensed as EMT-Basic in Illinois
  - One full year – 29 credit hours; leads to Paramedic license
  - Advanced EMS provider; increased responsibilities
  - **Associate in Applied Science degree** – additional year after certificate; 2 years total - 66 semester hours
- For information on employment outlook and more information on Emergency Medicine occupations:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website:
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/emts-and-paramedics.htm>
  - Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful

# Massage Therapy

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/massage.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in Massage Therapy visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website:
    - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/massage-therapists.htm>
    - Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession
- Prepares graduates to sit for National Certification (NCTMB) and are eligible to apply for state license
- 1 year certificate program
- Massage therapists treat clients by using touch to manipulate the soft-tissue muscles of the body. With their touch, therapists relieve pain, rehabilitate injuries, reduce stress, increase relaxation, and aid in the general wellness of clients

# Medical Assisting

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/medasst.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore the role of Medical Assistants visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website:
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Medical-assistants.htm>
  - Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful
- Medical assistants complete administrative and clinical tasks in the offices of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, and other health practitioners. Their duties vary with the location, specialty, and size of the practice.
- Employment is expected to grow by 31 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations



# Nursing - ADN program

- Graduates are eligible to take the National Exam (NCLEX) and be licensed as registered nurses (RNs)
- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/nursing.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in nursing visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Registered-nurses.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession**
- May work in a variety of capacities: hospitals, long-term care, home care, physician’s offices, and community based settings
- Registered nurses (RNs) provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members.

# Practical Nursing – LPN program

- Graduates are eligible to take the National Exam (NCLEX-PN) and become licensed practical nurses (LPNs)
- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/lpn.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in Practical Nursing visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Licensed-practical-and-licensed-vocational-nurses.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession**
- LPNs provide basic nursing care and work under the direction of registered nurses and doctors.
- They work in many settings, including long-term care facilities, hospitals, physicians' offices, and private homes

# LPN to RN Bridge Program

- For those who have completed their LPN program and would like to continue their education to become RNs this is for you – whether you are a new graduate or have been an LPN for many years.
- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/nursing.aspx>
- The nursing website contains a link to the catalog page for the Bridge program which provides specific information for applying to the bridge program.
- You must also meet the same **admission requirements for the ADN** program so please review these thoroughly.
- **\*\*The Bridge program is only offered when we have enough qualified candidates to offer the class.**

# Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/ota.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career as an Occupational Therapy Assistants visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/occupational-therapy-assistants-and-aides.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession**
- OTAs work under the direction of Occupational Therapists in treating people of all ages who have physical, developmental, emotional, and/or cognitive impairments.
- OTAs help these patients develop, recover, and improve the skills needed for daily living and working – helping to improve their quality of life.

# Radiologic Technology Program

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/radtech.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in Radiologic Technology visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Radiologic-technologists.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession**
- Our students take diagnostic images on patients of all ages using an X-ray machine to take images of the internal parts of the patient’s body.
- You will work in a fast-paced, demanding environment using the latest in digital technology.
- Graduates are eligible to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists exam for certification nationally.

# Respiratory Therapy

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/respiratory.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in Respiratory Therapy visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/respiratory-therapists.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession**
- Respiratory Therapists work with patients of all ages in all patient care areas
  - Administers respiratory therapy – responsible for airway and breathing
  - Educates patients and assists with respiratory rehabilitation
- Cooperative schools include: DACC, Richland, Lakeland, and Heartland
  - Biology courses are accepted from these colleges

# Surgical Technology

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/surgtech.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in Surgical Technology visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/surgical-technologists.htm>
  - **Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession**
- Our students are trained to provide crucial assistance to surgeons and other surgical staff while caring for patients before, during, and immediately after surgery.
  - Handles the instruments, supplies, and equipment necessary during the surgical procedure
  - Has an understanding of the procedure being performed and anticipates the needs of the surgeon
- Upon completion you qualify to take the National Certification Exam which is accepted in all states.

# Veterinary Technology

- Begin by visiting the website:
  - <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/departments/health/vettech.aspx>
- For information on employment outlook and to explore a career in Veterinary Technology visit:
  - US Dept of Labor – Bureau of Labor Statistics website
  - <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/Healthcare/Veterinary-technologists-and-technicians.htm>
  - Click on “How to become one” to learn more about the education and personal qualities necessary to be successful in this profession
- Students are trained in the following areas: surgery, anesthesia, large and small animal nursing, radiology, clinical pathology, and computerized record keeping
- Five semesters, including an internship in the summer between the first and second years



# Are you ready to apply?

- Each program has a document on its webpage titled: “Are you ready to apply?”
  - Review this check off list to make sure you have met all the requirements
- Complete the “Request for Health Career form” and provide the \$20 fee if you haven’t done this yet:
  - If you have applied in the past to a health career program you still need to update your application but your \$20 fee is good for 5 years
  - If you do not pay the \$20 **and** submit the application you will NOT be scored
- Meet with an advisor to review your check off list – bring your list with you
- Discuss your academic and personal readiness.
  - Do you need to work while in school? How many hours?
  - Do you have the support you need in areas such as: child care, financial, transportation??
  - How many credits can you realistically handle given your personal commitments? In addition to hours in class, lab, and clinical calculate at LEAST 3 hours of study/prep time for EACH hour in class, lab, and clinical. Now, add these hours to your personal commitments - do you have enough hours to sleep???

# Application Deadlines

- All requirements **MUST** be met and completed by the appropriate deadline
- All Health Profession programs have a March 1 deadline for classes beginning the following Fall semester
- Nursing and Practical Nursing admit students twice a year so also have an October 1 deadline for classes beginning Spring semester each year
- Immediately after the deadline Admissions will score all applicants that have completed the application process and submitted an updated “Request for Health Career form”
- Students are notified in writing by the Program Director as to their admission status within 1 month of the deadline (April 1 or November 1). Information is not given out by phone.
- **MAKE SURE THE COLLEGE HAS YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS. CHECK YOUR STUDENT EMAIL DAILY.**

# QUESTIONS?

- Please don't hesitate to ask questions.
- Good resources are:
  - Michele Spading, Vice Chair Health Professions, Student Affairs: [mspading@parkland.edu](mailto:mspading@parkland.edu) or 351-2468
  - Counseling and Advising 351-2219
    - Carrie Harris, Marilyn Ryan, Jennifer Klatsky work with all students but especially those in the health professions
    - Joe Omo-Osagie: International Student Advisor
  - Selective Admissions:
    - Li Barbee (Dental Hygiene, Massage Therapy, Radiology Technology) 315-2490 or [zbarbee@parkland.edu](mailto:zbarbee@parkland.edu)
    - Diane Schuering (Occupational Therapy, Respiratory Care, Veterinary Technology) 351-2487 or [dschuering@parkland.edu](mailto:dschuering@parkland.edu)
    - Michelle White (Nursing, Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology, Medical Assisting, Dietary Manager) 353-2635 or [mwhite@parkland.edu](mailto:mwhite@parkland.edu)