

Health Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Where can I find the health program applications?

A. All paper health program applications can be found on the shelves in the Health Sciences and Wellness building, as well as the shelving by the Student Services office. All online health program applications can be found on each program's respective ATU-Ozark webpage at <https://www.atu.edu/ozark/degrees/index.php>. Online applications are automatically submitted to the Allied Health Administrative Assistant. All paper applications must be printed off and turned in via email or in person to the Allied Health Administrative Assistant by the application deadline. Please pay close attention to the requirements for each program application. Not all programs require the same documents to be turned in. Information explaining what is required for each program can be found on the paper applications as well as the respective program webpages.

Q. Can I apply for more than one health program?

A. Yes! Feel free to apply for every program you are interested in. If you are accepted into more than one program, you are able to choose the program of your preference.

Q. How do I contact the Allied Health Administrative Assistant?

A. You can contact the Administrative Assistant by phone at 479-508-3325 or at alliedhealth@atu.edu. If you would prefer to speak with the Administrative Assistant in person, you can visit the office in the Health Sciences and Wellness building.

Q. When is my health program application due?

A. The application for fall-start health programs is always March 1st. Programs that begin in the fall are Cardiac Sonography, Practical Nursing (fall-start), Medical Assisting, Occupational Therapy Assistant, and Physical Therapist Assistant. The deadline for spring-start health programs is always October 1st. Programs that begin in the spring are Paramedic and Practical Nursing (spring-start). Practical Nursing is the only ATU-Ozark health program that has a cohort that begins in both semesters.

Q. What entrance exam is required for my program?

A. The TEAS test is required to be taken by all Practical Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapist, and Cardiac Sonography applicants. TEAS stands for Test of Essential Academic Skills. The TEAS exam assesses knowledge and skills in reading, math, science, and English language. These programs use the test to determine the readiness and entrance eligibility of applicants.

A different test called the HESI test is required to be taken by all Registered Nursing applicants. The HESI test stands for Health Education Systems Incorporated, and is used to determine the entrance eligibility of Registered Nursing applicants.

No entrance test is required for the Paramedic program or Medical Assisting program, but program applications are still required for both.

Q. When are the TEAS and HESI tests offered?

- A. The Open TEAS test is offered twice each semester in February, July, and September. The Closed TEAS test is offered on multiple dates during the month of March, after the March 1st deadline, and in October, after the October 1st deadline.

The HESI exam is offered on multiple dates in April. Exact dates for these exams are determined in the semester in which they occur and are announced to RN applicants via Tech email.

Q. What is the difference between the Open and Closed TEAS tests?

- A. The Closed TEAS test is closed to program applicants only. That means when they are offered in March, only people who have applied to a fall-start health program are allowed to test, and they can only test once during these dates. When they are offered in October, only applicants to the spring-start Practical Nursing program can test, and they can only test once during these dates (Paramedic does not require applicants to sit for the TEAS).

The Open TEAS test is open for anyone to take. That can mean applicants that want to have multiple chances at taking the TEAS test before their Closed TEAS test date; it could be health students that are not ready to apply for a health program yet but would like “practice”; or it could even be people from other universities that just need somewhere to test, even if they are not planning on attending ATU-Ozark.

Q. How will I know when to take the TEAS or HESI exams?

- A. Open TEAS test dates and instructions for registering are announced to all students via Tech email and are also posted on all ATU-Ozark social media and health program webpages. For Closed TEAS tests, ONLY health program applicants will receive an email to the email address provided on their application with the link and instructions on how to sign up for one of the Closed TEAS test dates.

Registered Nursing applicants will also receive an email to the email address provided on their application regarding the HESI dates and how to sign up for that exam. At this time, there are no “Open” options for the HESI exam. The HESI exam is only offered in April, giving only the Registered Nursing applicants the opportunity to test one time each.

Q. What if I need accommodations for the TEAS or HESI test?

- A. If accommodations are needed for either test, be sure to have your accommodations documented with the ATU-Ozark ADA Coordinator, and let the Allied Health Administrative Assistant know as soon as possible by emailing alliedhealth@atu.edu, or calling 479-508-3325. Once we are aware, arrangements will be made to ensure the test and/or testing location is set up according to your accommodation documentation.

Q. What is the cost of the TEAS and HESI exams?

- A. The Open and Closed TEAS are \$87 each time you test on the ATU-Ozark campus. If you take the TEAS online through ATI, it is \$120 each time.
The HESI exam is \$89 for LPN to RN applicants and \$41 for Paramedic to RN applicants. The cost of the TEAS exam is determined by its parent company, Assessment Technologies, Institute. The cost of the HESI exams is determined by its parent company, Elsevier, Inc.

Q. Can I bring an outside technology to use during the exams, such as a calculator?

- A. No. Calculators are embedded into the test and outside technology is prohibited. You can bring items in with you, but we will ask you to put everything in the cubbies in the back of the testing room.

Q. What do I need to bring with me to the test?

- A. Please bring your driver's license with you to check in for both the TEAS or the HESI exam. Please be sure that your driver's license or other state ID has the same name as your application and test registration. You will also need your ATI username and password if you are taking the TEAS, or your Evolve username and password if you are taking the HESI. If you do not have this information at the time the test begins, you will not be able to test.

Q. Can I use my score from a previous TEAS test if it is higher than my Closed TEAS test score?

- A. Yes, as long as the score is less than a year old from the date of the last Closed TEAS tests that were offered for your chosen program. Example: you would not be able to use a TEAS test score from February of 2022 if the Closed TEAS tests for the program you are applying for are scheduled for March of 2023; February of 2023 would be the one-year mark, so the test would be more than a year old when Closed TEAS testing began in March of 2023. A previous test score must also be the same version of the TEAS test that is currently being used (version 7). You can also take the TEAS online through the ATI website, or at another location. As long as the scores meet the previously mentioned criteria and a copy of the scores are turned in to the Allied Health Administrative Assistant **before the last date the Closed TEAS test is offered during the applicable application cycle**, they will be accepted. The highest of all scores turned in by an applicant will be used. If you have a previous TEAS test score that meets the requirements and has been turned in by the deadline and you feel the score is high enough to get you into your program, you do not have to take the Closed TEAS test, but you are welcome to if you want to see if you can raise your score even higher.

Q. Can I take the HESI exam online or at another location and turn in my scores?

- A. No. The HESI exam is different from the TEAS in that it requires certain computer security settings that ensure the applicant is in a specific location when testing. Because of this, the test must be taken with us on the ATU-Ozark campus, and scores from other testing locations are not accepted.

Q. When will I hear back about whether I made it into my program or not?

A. Once we receive an application to any of the health programs, a confirmation email is sent to the email address listed on the application to let you know it has been received. After all TEAS test dates are over and every applicant has had a chance to test, scores will be compiled, and then notification emails will be sent to the email address provided on your program applications. These emails will state if the applicant was accepted into the program, is an alternate for the program, or did not score high enough to make it into the program at that time. The same will be done for all Registered Nursing applicants after the HESI testing dates have passed. This usually takes no more than a week, so the email notifications are generally sent out the week after the last testing date (be it TEAS or HESI). **Be sure to monitor your email!**

Q. What if I don't make it into the program I wanted?

A. If you do not make it into the program(s) you applied for, please do not be discouraged. You can always apply again during the next application cycle. In the meantime, you can continue to study for the TEAS or HESI exam to hopefully raise your scores for the next time. Or, if you feel that you no longer want to pursue the health program(s) you applied for, you can speak with someone in Student Services to talk about a backup plan. You can reach them at 479-667-2117, and they can help get you into classes for the new direction you are interested in.