

Nursing

Career Information

There are 2 paths to become a registered nurse:

- Complete the prerequisites and general education in order to apply to a community college program (i.e. Cypress, Cerritos, Golden West). If admitted students will be in an Associate Degree Program (ADN for Associate Degree in Nursing).
- Complete the prerequisites and general education in order to apply to a university program (i.e. CSULB, University of San Francisco, Loma Linda). If admitted students will be in a Bachelor's Degree Program (BSN for Bachelor of Science in Nursing).

Licensure

Students from ADN and BSN programs take the same licensing exam (NCLEX) to become licensed registered nurses.

Academic Information

Admission

Admission to nursing school is HIGHLY COMPETITIVE regardless of whether it is an ADN or BSN program. Programs will often inform students the average g.p.a. for admission (as high as a 3.8) and excellent grades in the specific prerequisites (especially the sciences) are expected.

Course Preparation for Nursing

- The majority of university programs and community college programs have the same prerequisites. Some might ask for 1 or 2 additional /different courses. The exception to this is the two UC schools that offer nursing degrees (UCLA and UCI). Due to the fact that the prerequisites to these programs are so vastly different than the others, it is not recommended that student's pursue these programs. Students that wish to pursue either UC are encouraged to meet directly with their representatives, as they will likely hear that **very, very few transfer students are accepted each year**. It is advised that students focus on the numerous programs that have similar prerequisites.
- Although the only prerequisite for Anatomy 231 is Math 40, students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO TAKE BIOLOGY 101 PRIOR TO ANATOMY**. This will greatly increase their chances of getting a higher grade in anatomy.
- "Typical" courses pre-nursing students will complete at FC include:
 - Biology 101, Anatomy 231, Chemistry 101, Anatomy 240 (physiology), Microbiology 262, Chemistry 201 (BSN programs only)
 - Non science prerequisites: Psychology 101, Sociology 101, Speech 100, English 100, Psychology 139 (not all schools require this course), Math 120 (BSN programs only)
 - General Education: at least one fine art for ADN (we can't be sure of each school's general education so the recommendation is something SAFE, like music appreciation, or introduction to art or theater), and at least one humanities (like Introduction to Philosophy or a Foreign Language). Some private school programs (Loma Linda) may require more, and of course CSU's will ask for three courses in Area C.

Additional Information

- Students should look on assist.org for the articulation agreements between Fullerton College and the CSU nursing programs.
- Students should also do their own research by going directly to the websites for the respective nursing programs.
- It is CRUCIAL that students attend INFORMATION WORKSHOPS for any of the schools to which they plan to apply. This is typically where they hear about their competitive admissions, as well as how many students apply and how many spots are available each semester.

Applying to Nursing Programs

- RN programs require that students take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). Students can find information about the test on the nursing program's websites, as well as doing a search online.
- Apply BROADLY. It is not uncommon for students to apply to 10 or more nursing programs, with the hopes of being admitted to one.
- Even if students are only interested in BSN programs, it is suggested that they also apply to ADN programs as well.
- Students should SERIOUSLY consider applying to at least one university as a non-nursing major (for example, Health Science at CSUF since the preparation for this major is similar to nursing). In the event that they are not admitted to a nursing program, they can continue their pursuit of a degree while they determine whether or not to reapply for nursing.

Helpful websites

- Board of Registered Nursing www.rn.ca.gov (lists all BSN/ADN programs in California)
- Test of Essential Academic Skills www.atitesting.com (information regarding the TEAS exam)