

Frequently Asked Questions



SAC Nursing Program – Applying to the Program

The Program

How long is the Program?

The nursing courses take four semesters (two years) to complete after finishing the prerequisites. The entire program for the Associate Degree in Nursing could be five semesters or more, depending on how many units you take per semester.

How often are Nursing classes offered?

Classes are offered during the fall and spring semesters only.

How much does the Program Cost?

Approximately \$6,215 for the program; this includes the cost of tuition for the entire Nursing program. Please see this link: [Estimated Cost of Attendance-Concept Based Curriculum](#) for a detailed breakdown of costs.

What is the difference between the Traditional Program and the Extended Campus Program?

There is one Santa Ana College Nursing Program. There are two scheduling/location opportunities – the Traditional Program and the Extended Campus Program (ECP). The Traditional Program admits students twice each year and is located on the Santa Ana College campus. ECP admits students once a year in the fall, is located at St. Joseph's Hospital of Orange, and provides an alternative evening/weekend schedule. Both programs are 16 weeks long with theory courses meeting 2 times per week and clinical courses between 12 and 24 hours per week.

Is this a Day or Evening Program?

It depends. The Traditional Program meets during the day on Wednesdays and Thursdays for theory and Mondays and/or Tuesdays for clinical time with additional days as needed. The Extended Campus Program (ECP) meets two evenings per week on Wednesdays and Thursdays for theory except fourth semester when they meet twice per week during the day. Clinical time for ECP is on Saturdays with additional days as needed.

How can I learn more about the Nursing Program?

The best way to learn more is to attend one of the Nursing Program Orientations run through the Counseling Division. You can register online for any upcoming orientations [HERE](#) or contact the Counseling Department [HERE](#).

The Application Process

When can I apply to the Nursing Program?

We accept applications as follows:

Fall Semester Admission: **February 15th - March 2nd**

Spring Semester Admission: **September 15th - 30th**

Applications will be submitted electronically. Applications are made available online approximately two months prior to the application period.

Is there a waitlist to get into the first semester of the Nursing Program?

No. We accept applications every semester. If you are not accepted into the program, you must re-apply during the next application period in order to be considered. Please note, we do not keep your original application, test results, and/or transcripts. All need to be re-submitted at the time of application.

How many applications does the program usually receive?

On average, the program receives about 400 applications each application period.

How many students are accepted into the program?

Fall Semester – 58-60 students

Spring Semester – 40 students

Will I have a better chance of being accepted into the program if I turn in my application on the first day of the filing period?

No. You may submit your application any time DURING the filing period (not before or after), and it will not positively or negatively affect your chance of acceptance.

Prerequisites

What are the prerequisite courses?

Freshman Composition - English 101 or 101H (4 units)
General Human Anatomy - Bio 239 (4 units) including lab
Human Physiology - Bio 249 (4 units) including lab
Microbiology - Bio 139 (4 units) including lab
*(General Microbiology, Bio 229 - 5 units will be accepted)

Can I apply to the program even if I haven't finished all my prerequisite courses?

No. All your prerequisite courses must be completed **at the time you submit your application.**

I am having trouble getting into some of the prerequisite courses. What can I do?

Registration is based on the number of courses completed at SAC and SCC. The more classes you take at SAC or SCC, the earlier registration date you'll have. Classes can also be completed at more than one college. However, not all classes are equal. You can contact Counseling [HERE](#) or the Health Sciences/Nursing office at nursing2@sac.edu to find out if they are Santa Ana College equivalent.

I took my prerequisites a long time ago. Will you still accept them?

The English/Freshman Composition prerequisite has no expiration date. The three science prerequisite courses,

Anatomy (4 units), Physiology (4 units), and Microbiology (4 units), must be completed **within the last 7 years**. Any of these courses taken over 7 years ago need to be taken again.

I have a bachelor's degree and have met all of the prerequisites except Anatomy and/or Physiology. Can I take them during the first semester of the program?

No, you need to complete all the prerequisite courses by the time you submit your application.

I have taken a Human Biology class. Will that count for the Anatomy and Physiology prerequisite?

No.

I have taken a combination Anatomy/Physiology course. Will that count for the Anatomy and Physiology prerequisites?

Maybe, **IF** the course you took was two semesters (Anatomy/Physiology I & II), included a lab, and were both were taken at the **SAME** institution, then they would count. We will not accept a combined course taken at two separate schools. We will not accept a single 4-unit Anatomy/Physiology course.

The TEAS Exam

Where can I take the TEAS Exam?

Santa Ana College offers the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). We offer the test twice a year concurrent with our application period. Space is limited, therefore, there is no guarantee you will be able to take the TEAS at SAC in time to qualify for the next Nursing Program application period. Please email the Health Sciences/Nursing Office at nursing2@sac.edu to see if space is available. You can also contact other colleges for their testing opportunities or go to the [ATI Testing](#) website to register to take the TEAS at another location as well as obtain study guidance information for the test.

I have taken the HESI/RN-PAX exam. Can this score be used in lieu of the TEAS exam?

Yes. We will accept a HESI score of 70 or higher (having tested in all 4 required areas on the same testing date: math, English, reading, and science) and a score of 114 for RN-PAX. The score will be pro-rated with TEAS for points in the multi-criteria admission process.

Submitting Official Transcripts (must be included in your application)

Do I still need to submit my official transcripts with my application to 1st semester if I have taken my prerequisites at Santa Ana College or Santiago Canyon College?

Yes. The Nursing Program will not contact Santa Ana College's and/or Santiago Canyon College's Admissions and Records office(s) on your behalf to obtain these records when you are applying to 1st semester.

What do I do if some of my courses are from a foreign institution?

You will need to have your foreign transcripts evaluated. Submit an unofficial copy with your application. If selected to enter, you will submit the official evaluation.

Some of my coursework from one school is detailed on my transcript from another school (transferrable credit). Do I still have to submit separate transcripts from both schools?

Yes. We will only accept proof of coursework from the school you took the classes at.

If my AP scores show on my transcript, do I still need to submit AP scores from the College Board?

Yes. We will only accept proof of AP credit from the College Board. However, we will accept unofficial transcripts with your application. If you are selected to enter the program, official transcripts must be submitted.

The Selection Process

How are students selected to enter the SAC Nursing Program?

We select 20% of the incoming class from the eligible applications. Then, we select 75% of the incoming class based on our multi-criteria admission process. 5% of the incoming class is reserved for re-entry students.

What is the Multi-Criteria Admission Process?

It is a set of categories as guided and required by the California Community College Chancellor's Office to select the students to enter the 1st semester. The categories are: combined GPA of science prerequisites, completed coursework, relevant healthcare work experience, life experiences, fluency in specific languages in addition to English, TEAS results, and veteran status.

Other Frequently Asked Questions

I already have a bachelor's degree in another field of study. How long will it take me to complete the program?

The program will take you four semesters (two years) to complete the Nursing courses. You will need to check with Counseling regarding the graduation requirements that may need to be taken.

I live out of the area, can I complete the Nursing Program entirely online, without coming to campus?

No. All semesters of the Nursing program require on-campus theory and clinical lab classes at healthcare facilities.

Can I transfer from another nursing program?

Maybe. Successful theory and clinical courses must be within three years of entry to the program for transferring students. Please be aware that not all program curriculums can sync up with SAC's program offering and may prevent transferring. An individual appointment with the Program Director or designee is required to determine appropriate placement. Please see [Advanced Placement / LVN-RN Entry Information](#).

I am an LVN wanting to obtain my RN degree. Do I have to take all four semesters of the program?

No, LVN's enter the third semester. SAC's Nursing Program does have options for LVN's to obtain their RN degree (see [RN Program Options](#)). Please see [Advanced Placement / LVN-RN Entry Information](#).

Are there courses available to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN)?

No, we do not offer LVN courses. IF you have completed enough of the RN courses, you can apply to the Board of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians to challenge the licensing test to become an LVN. That is determined by the BVNPT.

Are there courses available to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)?

No, we do not offer courses to become a CNA. After completing the first semester of the RN program, you might qualify to take the certification test as determined by the California Department of Public Health. After completing the first semester of the RN program, you may request a letter to be written by the Director to state you have completed the first semester which could be equivalent to completing a nursing assistant course as determined by the healthcare facility.

I have been working as a Nursing Assistant / Medical Assistant / EMT for a while. Will any of my work count for college credit?

Although work experience is always helpful, only equivalent coursework will count as college credit. However, applications to enter 1st semester are evaluated on a multi-criteria admission process, and everyone with hours of "direct physical patient care" within the last 3 years working in any of the above occupations will receive points toward the overall evaluation of their application.

I work full-time. Will I be able to maintain this work schedule while I complete the Nursing Program?

This is considered a full-time program. Students are advised to limit outside employment. Excessive work schedules combined with family and school commitments may contribute to being unsuccessful in the program. However, there have been graduates who worked full-time while attending the SAC Nursing Program.