

306 Vocational Nursing

Definition

Nursing is an art and science incorporating knowledge from behavioral, biological and physical sciences. It is based on holistic concept of health in which the physical, emotional, psychological, intellectual, social and spiritual aspects of human functioning are interrelated, interdependent and of equal importance.

Staff

To access faculty and staff, dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4-digit extension.

Program Advisement:

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Program Coordinator:

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Program Description

Vocational Nursing is a career that provides exciting and challenging opportunities in health care agencies. The program prepares graduates to work in hospitals, convalescent homes and clinics under the direction of registered nurses and physicians.

Students must receive a minimum grade of "C" or better in all required core courses and the specific courses listed as program electives in order to qualify for the degree or certificate.

Career Options

Licensed Vocational Nurse

Certificate Program

Vocational Nursing

The three-semester Vocational Nursing curriculum is designed to prepare graduates for the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses. This is the examination required by the California Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. Students must be admitted to the nursing program before enrolling in vocational nursing courses. Information about the admissions process is available in the Health Sciences Division.

The program is accredited by the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT). Graduates receive a certificate of achievement from the College and are recommended as qualified for the national licensure examination.

Students must maintain a minimum grade of "C" in each required course to graduate. A minimum grade of "C" in clinical and theory is mandatory.

The BVNPT may deny licensure to individuals who have been convicted of a felony. An individual who has such a conviction and who is seeking admission to the nursing program should contact the Board to receive advice about their status. The Board may be contacted by writing or calling:

Board of Vocational Nursing and
Psychiatric Technicians
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 205
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 263-7800

Additional information about the Vocational Nursing Practice Act can be found on the Internet at www.bvnpt.ca.gov which is the BVNPT's Web site.

Students will participate in supervised day and evening clinical experiences in local accredited hospitals and health care agencies in each semester. A student who is admitted to the program is guaranteed space in all vocational nursing courses that year, providing the student remains in good academic standing.

The program is demanding and includes many hours of class, clinical, and homework. Applicants should consider their own needs relevant to work, family, health, finances, and leisure in addition to the hours needed for study in this program.

High school students who would like to enter the field of vocational nursing should take relevant courses, such as chemistry, biology, algebra, anatomy and physiology.

Students may be given transfer credit for related previous education completed

in the last five years. Such education includes nursing courses, psychiatric technician courses, and certified nurse aide courses. Written and/or practical examinations are given to determine credit. Certified Nurse Aides may receive 120 hours advanced standing in the program based on written and/or practical exams. Previous education must be documented by official records.

Students purchase textbooks, personal liability insurance, uniforms and health services. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation. Current expense sheets are included with acceptance letters.

After conditional admission, students will be required to have an examination by a licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner. The examination must show that the student is free from communicable disease and does not have a physical and/or mental illness that may endanger the health or safety of a patient. A drug screening is required. Impairment by controlled substances or alcohol during class or clinical experience violates college policy and compromises physical and emotional patient safety. Therefore, impairment by substance abuse or alcohol abuse that affects class or clinical performance is reason for dismissal from the nursing program.

Students are required to have background screening for felonies, misdemeanors, fraud and abuse, sexual crimes and social security number verification. Information on how to obtain background screening will be given to students with enrollment packets.

Students with disabilities who anticipate they may need reasonable accommodation to participate in the nursing program should contact Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). The Health Sciences Division will work closely with OSD to determine if reasonable accommodations are required to perform essential job functions and identify effective accommodation that would not pose an undue hardship.

Attendance is mandatory in this program,

as state law requires 1530 hours of class and clinical experience for eligibility for licensure. Regardless of the reason for absence or tardiness, the faculty may request that the student be dismissed from the program if the minimum hours cannot be met.

An appeals procedure for student complaints is available through the Dean, Health Sciences Division.

A student enrolled in the nursing program may be allowed to reenroll in the program twice. Unsuccessful completion of a course, withdrawal from any course, or failure in a course will result in the student not being able to continue in the program.

Admission to Antelope Valley College does not guarantee enrollment in the Vocational Nursing Program.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS:

1. Graduation from an accredited United States high school or an approved equivalent.
2. Freedom from communicable disease as verified by a licensed physician or certified nurse practitioner. Other health conditions that could impair the student's ability to perform the essential functions of a vocational nursing student safely and competently will be examined on a case-by-case basis. Please do not have the physical examination until directed to do so by the Dean of Health Sciences. Final acceptance into the nursing program will be dependent on the results of the physical examination.
3. Request for enrollment to the Health Sciences Division on appropriate forms.

Advisory: It is recommended that students take the Antelope Valley College assessment tests. Recommended level of performance is eligibility for ENGL 099, READ 099, and MATH 070 or minimum grade of "C" in appropriate courses: ENGL 097, READ 097, and MATH 060. If the student does not score at the recommended levels, there is a very strong possibility that the student will not

successfully complete the program. The student is encouraged to take the courses to meet the eligibility advisories.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

All items in the enrollment process are extremely important. Students who omit any part of the required information will not be considered for enrollment in the Vocational Nursing Program.

- Submit the completed enrollment packet within the specified time period.
- Submit one set of official (unopened) high school transcripts and college transcripts (if applicable) with the enrollment form. Another set of high school and college transcripts should be submitted to the transcript office. It is the student's responsibility to contact the high school and college(s) for official transcripts. The student should contact educational institutions early in the enrollment process.
- Submit a copy of the Educational Planning and Evaluation form completed by an AVC counselor, within one semester prior to the date of submitting the enrollment form, if the student has transferable credit from another college or university.

NOTE: Foreign transcripts of high school and college work must be evaluated for equivalency to United States education by a credentials evaluation service. **Subject and grade listing are required. The high school evaluation must state that the student has the equivalent of a senior (12th grade) high school graduation in the United States.** A list of credentials evaluation services is available from the Admissions and Records Office.

Submission of an enrollment packet does not guarantee enrollment to the Vocational Nursing Program.

A student is responsible for notifying the Health Sciences Division of changes in address or telephone number. After one unsuccessful attempt to contact a student by mail, the student will be dropped from the admission pool. If this occurs, it will be necessary for the individual to reapply.

Students are contacted by mail once per

academic year to determine if they are still interested in being admitted to the vocational nursing program.

Students who do not respond to the mailing by the deadline given are dropped from the waiting list.

Acceptance letters are mailed approximately three months prior to the admission date.

SCREENING PROCEDURE

1. Students who meet the minimum requirements of the program are accepted in the order in which their enrollment packet was received.
2. Thirty students are accepted into the program every 12 months. The number of students accepted into the program is limited by the availability of faculty and clinical agencies.
3. Students are offered enrollment to the program in the order their complete enrollment packet was received. After all student slots are filled, any additional applicants will be placed on a waiting list for the next class. **Students who decline admission must reapply for the program.** They will be placed on the list in the order in which their application is received.
4. A physical examination and drug screening will be required after conditional acceptance into the program. The purpose of the exam is to ensure the absence of communicable disease and to ensure that the candidate is not adversely affected by physical and/or mental illness that may endanger the health and safety of a patient. Students will be required to submit evidence of the following immunizations: measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, Tdap (as an adult), annual seasonal flu vaccine, and hepatitis B. These immunizations are required by the facilities where students will be having clinical experiences. Antelope Valley College does not provide these immunizations. A drug screening is required.

Students are required to have background screening for felonies, misdemeanors, fraud and abuse,

sexual crimes and social security number verification. Information on how to obtain background screening will be given to students with enrollment packets.

Students are required to purchase personal liability insurance. Information about personal liability insurance will be sent to students with the enrollment packet.

- The procedure for grievances can be found in the Board Policy and Administrative Procedures Manual.

The following courses (52.5 units) are required for the Vocational Nursing certificate:

Required Courses:	units
* BIOL 100, Elementary Human Anatomy and Physiology	3
(This course must be completed before the student can enter the second semester of the program. Students are encouraged to complete it prior to admission.)	
* NF 100, Nutrition	3
* PSY 101, General Psychology	3
VN 109, Fundamentals of Patient Care for Vocational Nurses	2.5
VN 110, Self-Care: Fundamentals and Pharmacology	12.5
VN 111, Nursing to Promote Self-Care Agency in the Child-Bearing Family and Pediatric Patient	5.5
VN 112, Nursing to Promote Self-Care Agency in the Adult	15.5
VN 113, Nursing Leadership to Promote Self-Care Agency in the Adult	8.5
Total	53.5

* It is recommended that students take these courses prior to entering the program. Whether the student has taken or has not taken the courses will not affect the student's admission to the program. Students who want to pursue the associate degree in registered nursing should consider completing BIOL 201 and BIOL 202.

Prerequisite Completion

If a course is listed as a prerequisite for

another course, that prerequisite course must be completed with a satisfactory grade in order to enroll in the next course. According to Title 5, Section 55200(d), a satisfactory grade is a grade of "A," "B," "C" or "P". Classes in which the Pass/No Pass option is available are indicated with an asterisk (*) before the course title. See "Pass/No Pass Option" in the catalog for full explanation.

Vocational Nursing Courses

AH 101 *PRE-NURSING: INTRODUCTION TO NURSING

(formerly same course as NS 100/VN 100)

2 units

40 hours total

(17.5 hours lecture, 22.5 hours clinic)

Advisory: Completion of BIOL 100, BIOL 201, or BIOL 202, and Eligibility for ENGL 099, READ 099 and MATH 070.

Optional course that introduces the aspiring nursing student to the role of the registered nurse and the licensed vocational nurse in both theory and clinical practice within the various settings in today's healthcare system. Students assess their own learning styles using a learning assessment tool and compare their abilities to those required in nursing. Basic nursing skills and the use of nursing theory and the nursing process are introduced. Written, verbal, and math skills are emphasized, along with the use of learning resources, study strategies and stress management. There is an introduction to critical thinking skills used in the care of patients. (AVC)

VN 109 FUNDAMENTALS OF PATIENT CARE FOR VOCATIONAL NURSES

2.5 units

120 hours total

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in VN 110 and BIOL 100 or completion with

a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099, READ 099 and MATH 070.

A course in the fundamental nursing skills needed to care for the hospitalized or long-term care patient. The course includes clinical practice in a hospital or long-term care facility. Emphasis is on safety principles and basic patient care skills. Note: no grade will be given for this class; students will receive 'pass' or 'no pass' only. Qualifying Certified Nursing Assistants are exempt from this course. Prior approval must be obtained from the Director of Nursing. (AVC)

VN 110 SELF-CARE: FUNDAMENTALS AND PHARMACOLOGY

(formerly VN 101)

12.5 units

362 total hours

(147 hours lecture, 215 hours clinical)

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in BIOL 100, or completion with a grade of "C" or better. Concurrent enrollment in VN 109 unless exempt.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099, READ 099 and MATH 070.

Instructional materials fee required for this course and must be paid at registration.

Fundamental nursing principles of adult patient care, basic principles of the nursing process, self-care theory, nutrition, pharmacology, gerontology, and adult growth and development are integrated throughout the course. (AVC)

VN 111 NURSING TO PROMOTE SELF-CARE AGENCY IN THE CHILD-BEARING FAMILY AND PEDIATRIC PATIENT

5.5 units

179 total hours

(55 hours lecture, 124 hours clinical)

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

Prerequisite: Completion of BIOL 100 and VN 110 with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099,

READ 099 and MATH 070.

Instructional materials fee required for this course and must be paid at registration.

Principles of nursing care of the mother during child-bearing, the newborn, and the pediatric patient. The pediatric component will have emphasis on assessment and growth and development. Self-care theory will be integrated throughout the course. (AVC)

VN 112 NURSING TO PROMOTE SELF-CARE AGENCY IN THE ADULT

15.5 units

455 hours total

(147 hours lecture, 308 hours clinical)

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

Prerequisite: Completion of VN 111 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in NF 100 or PSY 101 or completion with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099, READ 099 and MATH 070.

Principles of medical-surgical nursing of the adult and the child, with integration of self-care theory throughout the course. Emphasis will be on diseases and conditions of the endocrine, respiratory, reproductive, integumentary, gastrointestinal, hematological, musculoskeletal, and renal systems. (AVC)

VN 113 NURSING LEADERSHIP TO PROMOTE SELF-CARE AGENCY IN THE ADULT

8.5 units

83 hours lecture, 187 hours clinical

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to Vocational Nursing Program.

Prerequisite: Completion of VN 112 with a grade of "C" or better.

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in NF 100 or PSY 101 or completion with a grade of "C" or better.

Advisory: Eligibility for ENGL 099, READ 099 and MATH 070.

Instructional materials fee required for this course and must be paid at registration.

Principles of medical-surgical nursing of the adult and child with integration of self-care theory and leadership throughout the course. Emphasis will be on diseases and conditions of the cardiovascular and neurological systems, and mental health disorders. (AVC)