

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

Please dial (661) 722-6300, then the 4 digit extension.

Division:

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Vacant

Program Description

Vocational Nursing is a career that provides exciting and challenging opportunities in health care agencies. The program prepares graduates to work in 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 certificate.

Career Options

Licensed Vocational Nurse

Certificate Program Vocational Nursing

The 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 meet program requirements before receiving permission to enroll in vocational nursing courses. Information about the enrollment process is available in the Health and Safety Sciences Division Nursing Department (Nursing Department) office.

The program is approved 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 (NCLEX).

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 enrollment into 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 BVNPT’s site www.bvnpt.ca.gov.

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 given permission to enroll in 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. Students 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 prior to enrollment. 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 of 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 enrollment letters.

After conditional enrollment into the program, 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 and alcohol abuse 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. If the background screen reveals a criminal background the student will not be allowed to enroll in the nursing program. All students must have a valid social security number when they are sent an enrollment letter for the program. 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 the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). The Health and Safety Sciences Division (Nursing Department) staff 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 to be eligible 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.

A student enrolled in the nursing program may be allowed to re-enroll in the program once. 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 GED results.
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 program director. Final enrollment into the nursing program will be dependent on the results of the physical examination.
3. Request for enrollment to the supervising dean on appropriate forms.
4. Completion of BIO 100, NF 100 and PSY 101

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURE

Refer to announcements on the AVC website for updated enrollment information. Classes are admitted annually in the fall semester. All items in the enrollment process are extremely important. Students who omit any part of the required information or miss the deadline will be dropped from consideration for the Vocational Nursing Program.

Submit the completed enrollment packet by mail in February.

The packet must include:

- Verification of Prerequisites (enrollment) form.
- One set of official (unopened) high school transcripts or GED results and college transcripts (if applicable). 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. The only documents that will be accepted as proof of high school graduation are an official transcript from a high school that is approved by the State Department of Education or a nationally regional accrediting body, or an official copy of GED results, taken at an institution approved by the State Department of Education or a nationally recognized regional accrediting body.
- Submit a copy of the Educational Planning and Evaluation form for vocational nursing completed by an AVC counselor, within one year prior to the date of submitting the enrollment form.

Foreign transcripts of college work must be evaluated for equivalency by an accredited credentials evaluation service. Subject, unit and grade list are required for college course work. A copy of course descriptions will also be required. A list of credentials evaluation services is available from the Dean of Student Services.

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

A student is responsible for notifying the Health and Safety Sciences Division (Nursing Department) office of changes in address or telephone number. After one unsuccessful attempt to contact a student by email or telephone, the student will be dropped from the enrollment pool. If this occurs, it will be necessary for the individual to reapply.

Enrollment letters are mailed approximately three months prior to the enrollment date.

All students who receive enrollment letters are required to attend a mandatory student orientation.

SCREENING PROCEDURE

1. Scholastic eligibility is determined by multi-screening criteria, which considers previous academic degrees, GPA in relevant science courses, and GPA in relevant course work.
2. The number of students enrolled into the program is limited by the availability of faculty and clinical agencies.
3. All students who do not receive an enrollment letter or who decline enrollment must submit an enrollment packet for the program during the next enrollment cycle.
4. A physical examination and drug screening will be required after conditional notification of enrollment 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.

Students are required to have background screening for felonies, misdemeanors, fraud and abuse, sexual crimes and social security number verification. If the background screen reveals a criminal background the student will not be allowed to enroll in the nursing program. The health care facilities reserve the right to decline any student who has a criminal background. As there is only one pediatric and obstetrical unit in the Antelope Valley, a student who does not meet the background screening requirements cannot enroll in the nursing program. Information on how to obtain background screening will be given to students with enrollment packets. A student who does not meet the background screening requirements cannot enroll in the program.

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

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

Vocational Nursing certificate:

Required Courses (51 units): **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 applying to the program.)	
*NF 100, Nutrition	3
*PSY 101, General Psychology	3
VN 109, Fundamentals of Patient Care for VN	2.25
VN 110, Fundamentals of VN and Pharmacology	12.25
VN 111, VN in the Child-Bearing Family and Ped. Patient	5.25
VN 112, Medical-Surgical Nursing for the Adult and Child	14
VN 113, Nursing Leadership in Medical-Surgical Nursing	8.25
Total	51

*Students must take these courses prior to applying to the program. Students who want to pursue the associate degree in registered nursing should consider completing BIOL 201 and BIOL 202.

Associate Degree

Associate degree not available.

Transfer

Students planning to continue studies at a four-year college or university after AVC should visit the Transfer Resource Center and consult with a counselor as soon as possible. Additional information on official transfer articulation agreements from AVC to many CSU/UC campuses can be found at www.assist.org

Prerequisite Completion

All prerequisite courses 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

VN 109 FUNDAMENTALS OF PATIENT CARE FOR VOCATIONAL NURSES

2.25 units

121.5 hours total

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

Corequisite: Concurrent enrollment in VN 110 and BIOL 100 or completion of with a grade of "C" or better.

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 FUNDAMENTALS OF VOCATIONAL NURSING AND PHARMACOLOGY

12.25 units

364.5 total hours [148.5 lecture, 216 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.

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

VN 111 VOCATIONAL NURSING IN THE CHILD-BEARING FAMILY AND PEDIATRIC PATIENT

5.25 units

175.5 total hours [54 lecture, 121.5 clinical]

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

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

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

Principles of vocational 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. (AVC)

VN 112 MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING FOR THE ADULT AND CHILD

14 units

459 hours total [148.5 lecture, 310.5 clinical]

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to VN program.

Prerequisite: Completion of VN 110.

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

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

VN 113 NURSING LEADERSHIP IN MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING

8.25 units

274.5 total hours [85.5 lecture, 189 clinical]

Limitation on Enrollment: Formal admission to Vocational Nursing Program.

Prerequisite: Completion of VN 112.

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

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

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