

# NURSING AND HEALTH OCCUPATIONS

## Higher Education Center at Otay Mesa

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## General Description

Nursing can be described as both a science and an art. Through critical thinking, exemplified in the nursing process, nurses use their judgment and experience together with a patient's biological, physical, social, psychological, and behavioral needs. This ensures that every person receives the best possible care regardless of who they are or where they seek care. Registered nurses form the backbone of United States Healthcare system and provide critical health care to the public wherever it is needed. It is the duty of a Registered Nurse to protect and advocate for the public good.

### Key Responsibilities

- Perform physical exams and health histories before making critical decisions
- Provide health promotion, counseling and education
- Administer medications and other personalized interventions
- Coordinate care, in collaboration with a wide array of healthcare professionals

## Career Options

Below is a sample of the career options available for the nursing major. Career options require an associate degree at a minimum, some require higher levels of academic preparation: licensed vocational nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, nurse administrator, nurse educator, nurse researcher and scientist. Nurses practice in many settings such as hospitals, extended care facilities, primary and specialty care clinics, homes, community settings, and in the military. They may specialize in caring for specific age groups such as children or those persons who are advanced in age. They may also specialize in certain areas such as medical, surgical, psychiatric, critical or emergency room care, obstetrics, pediatrics, community and population health, or the operating room.

## Associate in Science Degree Southwestern College Mission Statement

Southwestern Community College District is the premier public institution of higher education in Southern San Diego County that serves a diverse community of students by providing quality academic programs, comprehensive student support services that ensure equitable access, and clear pathways to student success.

Southwestern Community College District promotes learning and success to prepare students to become critical thinkers and engaged life-long learners/global citizens. The District is committed to continuous improvements through the use of data-informed planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Southwestern Community College District utilizes a variety of instructional modalities to provide educational and career opportunities in the following areas: Associate degree and certificate programs, transfer, professional, technical and career advancement, foundational skills, personal enrichment, and continuing education.

*Governing Board approved March 10, 2020*

## Southwestern College Associate Degree Nursing Mission Statement

Southwestern Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program serves a diverse community of students and provides educational preparation for the graduate in the role of a Registered Nurse and as professional member of the healthcare community.

The Nursing Program provides educational opportunities that enable our students to progress from a novice level of expertise to a graduate level of expertise in nursing skills, clinical reasoning, and theoretical preparation. The program promotes personal enrichment, community service and transfer for advanced nursing educational opportunities.

The Nursing Program promotes student learning and success by committing to a continuous improvement plan utilizing evidence-based practice which includes assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation. The program celebrates successes as our students' progress in the program, in their advanced degrees and as key members of the Nursing profession.

## The Associate Degree Nursing Program Philosophy

The associate degree nursing faculty advocates the mission and goals of Southwestern College and the ADN program; furthermore, the faculty is committed to the following beliefs, which guide the nursing curriculum:

### Beliefs About Man, Health, and Illness

- Man is a unique individual with inseparable bio-psycho-social-spiritual needs.
- Man's culture and ability to communicate needs are an integral component in health and wellness throughout the life span.
- Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- Health is on a continuum of maximum wellness to maximum illness throughout the life span.

### Beliefs About Nursing

- Nursing is both an art and a science. The science of nursing is the knowledge base for the care that is given; the art of nursing is the skilled application of that knowledge to help others reach maximum function and quality of life throughout the life span.
- Nursing is a profession that utilizes special skills and knowledge to provide safe care to the whole person in health and illness and in a variety of practice settings.
- Nursing requires critical reasoning skills that focus on health promotion, illness prevention, restoring health, and facilitating coping while utilizing therapeutic communication methods.
- Nursing care is determined by man's human responses resulting from changes in the structure and/or function of all body systems.

### Beliefs About Students, Faculty, and Education

- Students are individuals with unique combinations of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, learning abilities, and support systems.

- Optimal student learning takes place in a safe environment that is supportive, provides frequent feedback, as well as strategies for success.
- Nursing faculty believe that learning is a lifelong process involving external changes in behavior and internal changes in thought process and attitudes. Nursing faculty are committed to their own lifelong learning and maintain currency in theory and skills through course work, CE opportunities, conferences and through their own experiential learning as a practitioner in the clinical setting.
- Nursing faculty believe that the role of the faculty is to facilitate student learning by providing instruction, clinical experiences, resources, counseling, and guidance.
- Nursing education incorporates knowledge from the humanities and the behavioral, physical, and natural sciences.
- Nursing education remains current and incorporates such resources as The National Patient Safety Goals and Institute of Medicine Reports (as it relates to nursing) as references for both the faculty and the students.
- Nursing faculty are committed to program core values that are reflected in each course: communication, clinical reasoning, cultural diversity, health promotion/illness prevention, life span development, nursing theory/skills, roles of the nurse, safety, evidence-based practice and quality improvement.

The Associate Degree Nursing program serves as the beginning preparation for the registered nurse with identified competencies, critical thinking, supervision, leadership, and delegation. Various nursing roles are also emphasized as the student nurse prepares for state licensure.

The Associate Degree Nursing program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing  
3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400  
Atlanta, GA 30326  
Phone: (404) 975-5000

## How to Apply

Applicants must be admitted to the College and have a Southwestern College Student ID. In addition to the College application, a special application for the program is required. Program information and application forms are available on the Nursing program website at <https://www.swccd.edu/programs-and-academics/health-and-medical-occupations/nursing/associate-degree-nursing-adn/index.aspx> (<https://www.swccd.edu/programs-and-academics/health-and-medical-occupations/nursing/associate-degree-nursing-adn/>), Applications for each program will be accepted after prerequisite courses and other requirements are met. Students accepted into the nursing programs are subject to further screening to determine eligibility to be admitted into the program.

An individual evaluation will be made for students wishing to transfer from a nursing program or to receive credit for previous nursing education.

## Special Instructions

Students enrolled in the nursing programs are required to provide their own transportation to off-campus clinical agencies and for home visits and are required to have automobile insurance to access some clinical facilities. Proof of health insurance is required to participate in clinical. A fee for malpractice insurance and for other requirements are charged for each year of the program, as well as a minimal fee for supplies.

Students are also responsible for purchasing certain equipment such as a stethoscope, uniform, and appropriate footwear.

CPR/BLS certification: students are required to be certified prior to admission and to maintain certification throughout the program. American Heart Association (AHA) certification course for Healthcare Providers is required.

To obtain optimal admission points applicants should consult the multi-criteria point system guide: [https://www.swccd.edu/programs-and-academics/career-education/health/registered-nurse/\\_files/multicriteria-points-formula.pdf](https://www.swccd.edu/programs-and-academics/career-education/health/registered-nurse/_files/multicriteria-points-formula.pdf)

A grade of "C" or better is required in all nursing courses for progression and satisfactory completion (minimum 78% is a C). Progress in the nursing program is dependent upon completion of nursing courses in the prescribed sequence as outlined for each program. Students will not be permitted to progress to the next semester until all previous semester nursing courses are completed. Nursing courses may be repeated only once.

## Associate in Science Degree Registered Nursing

Applicants will be accepted under the multi-criteria point system as mandated by the State Chancellor's Office. In order to apply and be placed on the priority list for the ADN program, applicants must document the following:

- Basic science prerequisites Option 1 (BIOL 260, BIOL 261, and BIOL 265) must be completed with a cumulative GPA of 2.5. Foreign transcripts not submitted at time of application may not be used to meet program or graduation requirements. Required science courses taken at Southwestern College have prerequisites including college-level biology, chemistry, and algebra courses or credit for the appropriate college-level examination (CLEP)
- Recency: Anatomy must be completed within 10 years, Microbiology and Physiology must be completed within 7 years of program start date.
- Basic nursing skills: students who have an active, unexpired CNA, EMT, or equivalent certification will earn more application points. Certification requires passing a standardized exam. A Certificate of Completion is not a certification and will not earn application points.
- Graduation from a U.S. high school or satisfactory score on the GED or evidence of other high school equivalency certificate or a degree from a U.S. accredited institution.
- College-level reading ability as evidenced by a satisfactory result on the Southwestern College Reading Assessment process, earning a "C" or better in RDG 158, ENGL 115 or equivalent reading course; equivalency documented by approved petition; or college transcript showing an earned associate or bachelor's degree from a U.S. accredited institution.
- Math proficiency as evidenced by completion of MATH 119 or equivalent, earning a "C" or better in MATH 119 or higher-numbered math course with intermediate algebra as a prerequisite, or equivalent as documented by an approved petition.
- Passing the TEAS test with a result of 62 or higher; the test may not be repeated if a 62 is earned on the first attempt. Recency requirement: TEAS must be taken within the three (3) years prior to applying to the nursing program. Refer to Nursing website.

- Other criteria i.e. working/volunteering in healthcare, receiving financial aid, being a veteran, holding a previous degree, etc.
- Refer to nursing website for information regarding military credit for course work.

**Note:** College level Math or above and ENGL 115 are required for graduation from Southwestern College.

Before a space in the nursing program can be offered, applicants must verify completion of the series of vaccinations for a variety of communicable diseases. Healthcare facilities require specific vaccinations and may or may not accept declinations for medical or other non-medical reasons. The nursing program cannot guarantee a student clinical placement if a student declines specific immunizations that a healthcare facility requires. Please read the application which outlines all of the vaccination requirements.

Students who have been accepted into the program must meet the following conditions: attend a mandatory scheduled program orientation, submit a completed physical examination form including medical history and current medical conditions for which they are under a healthcare providers care, evidence of required immunizations, tuberculosis screening, CPR certification, and provide evidence of payment of malpractice insurance premium and ATI testing fees. Accepted students are required to complete an online background check and drug screening prior to enrollment into the program. The background check and drug screening are mandated by the policies of the hospitals/clinical sites for all health occupation programs faculty and students. Anyone with background check issues (includes misdemeanors and felonies) may not be eligible for admission to the nursing program. Many of the hospital systems are now refusing to take students with any background check issues. Each student situation will be evaluated on an individual basis as they complete the background check. The student must provide a urine sample for drug testing per hospital request. If the urine sample is dilute, the student WILL NOT be eligible for acceptance into the program. Failure to disclose medical information on the physical form may result in a program dismissal or may disqualify a student from entering or progressing in the nursing program.

All ADN, LVN-ADN, and VN students must pass the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). This is a diagnostic test that covers basic math, reading and science. Students may prepare for this test by going to the ATI testing site ([www.atitesting.com/](http://www.atitesting.com/) (<http://www.atitesting.com/>)), then go to Assessments; go to Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS).

Under the multi-criteria point system, a student will earn points for the first attempt only but may remediate. Refer to Nursing website.

In addition to the above costs, students are required to pay for assessment and exam services provided by ATI Testing. These diagnostic tests are administered periodically throughout the nursing program. The test identifies knowledge gaps for the student to enable them to seek appropriate assistance during the program. Periodic additional tests must be passed before the student progresses in the program. Remediation is available for every student. A non-credit "Success in Nursing" course is encouraged for all students entering the nursing program (NC1033).

Some financial assistance is available through Financial Aid. Application for assistance should be made early (preferably by April or May for new students) in the Financial Aid office. It is recommended that the student not work more than 20 hours per week.

Upon completion of degree requirements, the graduate is eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure examination for Registered Nursing (NCLEX-RN). The Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) may refuse licensure to individuals who have been convicted of crimes and/or certain misdemeanors. Further information may be obtained from the BRN at P.O. Box 944210, Sacramento, CA 94244-2100. Program information regarding national accreditation may also be obtained from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, 3390 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30326.

Degree/Certificate Options	Major Code
<b>Associate in Arts Degree: Transfer Preparation</b>	
Preparation for Allied Health Programs ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/preparation-allied-health-programs-aa/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/preparation-allied-health-programs-aa/</a> )	B1330
<b>Associate in Science Degree: Career/Technical</b>	
Nursing ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/nursing-as/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/nursing-as/</a> )	02360
Surgical Technology ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/surgical-technology-as/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/surgical-technology-as/</a> )	02345
Nursing, Vocational ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/vocational-nursing-as/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/vocational-nursing-as/</a> )	02390
<b>Certificates of Achievement</b>	
Nursing, Vocational ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/vocational-nursing-certificate/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/vocational-nursing-certificate/</a> )	02392
<b>Certificates of Proficiency</b>	
Central Service Technology ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/central-service-technology-certificate/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/central-service-technology-certificate/</a> )	02347
Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/certified-nursing-assistant-cna-certificate/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/certified-nursing-assistant-cna-certificate/</a> )	02371
Operating Room Nursing ( <a href="http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/operating-room-nursing-certificate/">http://catalog.swccd.edu/associate-degree-certificate-programs/nursing-health-occupations/operating-room-nursing-certificate/</a> )	A2361

Entrance into the any of the above Nursing programs have special application requirements and deadlines. For more information, please visit [www.swccd.edu/nursing/](http://www.swccd.edu/nursing/) (<http://www.swccd.edu/nursing/>).

Consult with a counselor to develop a Student Education Plan (SEP), which lists the courses necessary to achieve your academic goal.

**Note:** In the ADN, VN, ST, and ORN programs, a minimum grade of “C” is required in each course for progression and satisfactory completion. Nursing courses may be repeated no more than one time with a maximum of one re-entry to the program.

Courses must be completed in sequence as stated.

## Faculty

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