

Santa Monica College

AS Degree in Registered Nursing



Updated Spring 2024
(information subject to change)

Compiled by SMC Health Sciences Counseling



Areas and Topics

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Nursing Career/Major Exploration: Videos & SMC Resources/Information

- Nursing Major/Career exploration videos:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4Y_2fpET0U&feature=youtu.be
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nr84qi4_S3I
- Career Exploration and [SMC Clubs](#):
 - SMC [Career Services Center](#) (current SMC students): Must be currently enrolled in 3 units (at SMC) or currently enrolled in COUNS 12 course to schedule a Career Services counseling appointment.
 - COUNS 12: Exploring Careers and College Majors
 - SMC Pre-Health Association Club | SMC Student Nurse Association Club | Respiratory Care Practitioner Club at SMC
- Additional exploratory course options at SMC: Medical Terminology (HEALTH 61), Human Biology (BIOL 2), Introduction to Occupational Therapy (OT 1), Introduction to Nutrition Science (NUTR 1), Introduction to Kinesiology (PRO CR 10)
- Non-Credit Health Courses and [SMC Certificates of Completion](#)
- Explore Nursing programs in CA: California Board of Registered Nursing [list of Nursing programs](#)

Nursing Career/Major Exploration: Other Allied Health Career Options & Volunteer

- Additional Allied Health Exploration: LVN, CNA, EMT
 - Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN): Board of Vocational Nursing & Psychiatric Technicians: <https://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/>
 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA): California Department of Public Health Licensing and Certification Program: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/CNA.aspx>
 - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT): California Emergency Medical Services Authority: <https://emsa.ca.gov/emt/>
- List of Healthcare/Medical Experiential/Volunteer Opportunities:
 - Visit the SMC Career Services > Career Interest Areas > Health and Wellness Career Interest Area > [Health and Wellness Experiential List of Opportunities](#)
 - Once on Health and Wellness Experiential List of Opportunities > click on yellow expand button next to Healthcare/Medical to access full list

Nursing Career/Major Exploration: Important Qualities for Nurses

Career exploration information website:
[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

- **Critical-thinking skills.** Registered nurses must be able to assess changes in the health status of patients, including determining when to take corrective action and when to make referrals.
- **Communication skills.** Registered nurses must be able to communicate effectively with patients in order to understand their concerns and assess their health conditions. Nurses need to explain instructions, such as how to take medication, clearly. They must be able to work in teams with other health professionals and communicate the patients' needs.
- **Compassion.** Registered nurses should be caring and empathetic when caring for patients.
- **Detail oriented.** Registered nurses must be responsible and detail oriented because they must make sure that patients get the correct treatments and medicines at the right time.
- **Emotional stability.** Registered nurses need emotional resilience and the ability to manage their emotions to cope with human suffering, emergencies, and other stresses.
- **Organizational skills.** Nurses often work with multiple patients with various health needs. Organizational skills are critical to ensure that each patient is given appropriate care.
- **Physical stamina.** Nurses should be comfortable performing physical tasks, such as moving patients. They may be on their feet for most of their shift.

SMC Nursing Program Criteria

- Admission to the Nursing program MUST meet the following criteria:
 - An overall grade point average of **2.5** for the Human Anatomy*, Human Physiology*, and Microbiology* prerequisite courses, taken in the last 5 years, with no grade less than C for each course.
 - P/NP or CR/NC evaluative symbols are not acceptable.
 - ***No on-line lab courses.** *Exceptions have been made for core science courses completed (spring 2020 to summer 2022) at SMC or were pre-approved courses or schools pre-pandemic due to the COVID-19 campus closures/remote learning.
 - Starting fall 2022, the SMC Nursing program will resume requiring science prerequisite courses (Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, and Microbiology) be completed with an on-ground lab. Science prerequisite courses completed fall 2022 or later are required to have an on-ground lab.
 - Save/keep your course syllabus for science prerequisite courses, especially for courses completed spring 2020 or later.

SMC Nursing Program Criteria Continued

- Admission to the Nursing program MUST meet the following criteria:
 - Only one repetition (excluding W) in the group of science prerequisite courses (Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology) is allowed within the last 5 years at the time of application.
 - College-level English composition class (minimum 3 semester units) with a grade no less than C*
 - *C- grade is NOT acceptable.
 - P/NP or CR/NC evaluative symbols are not acceptable.
 - AP English exam score of 3 or above will meet requirement. Official College Board Score Report required to be on file with SMC Admissions and Records Office.

SMC Nursing Program Criteria continued

- Admission to the Nursing program MUST meet the following criteria:
 - Be in good standing at Santa Monica College (not on academic or lack-of-progress probation);
 - Meet the minimum physical qualifications (immunizations, physical exam) and essential functions (more information at smc.edu/nursing);
 - Must have negative criminal background check and drug screening. Will be required to update regularly;
 - Persons who have been convicted of misdemeanor or felony may not qualify for licensure to practice nursing in California;
 - Must take and achieve the required score on an Admission Assessment (if invited, must take & achieve the required minimum score (114) on the approved Admissions Assessment (NLN-PAX RN). The minimum required score determined by CCCCCO); and
 - Must have a valid Social Security Number or a valid Individual Tax Identification Number. Some clinical facilities may not accept ITIN.

The SMC Nursing Program Requires a **2.5 CUM GPA** in Science Prerequisites **ONLY**

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| AAA = 4.0 | ACC = 2.61 |
| AAB = 3.61 | BBC = 2.61 |
| AAC = 3.23 | CAB = 3.0 |
| ABB = 3.30 | CBB = 2.69 |
| ABC = 2.92 | BCC = 2.30 |
| BBB = 3.0 | CCC = 2.0 |

Based on SMC ANATMY 1 (4 units), PHYS 3 (4 units), and MCRBIO 1 (5 units)
P/NP or CR/NC evaluative symbols are not acceptable

SMC Nursing Prerequisite Requirements (16 units)

Must be completed before applying AND grades must be posted on transcript
(P/NP or CR/NC evaluative symbols are not acceptable)

ENGL 1 – Reading & Composition 1 (3 semester units) or **ENGL 1D**, Reading and Writing Composition I- Diversity (3 semester units)

ANATMY 1 – General Human Anatomy (4 semester units), prerequisite ENGL 1

PHYS 3 – Human Physiology (4 semester units), prerequisites: ANATMY 1 & CHEM 19 (preferred) or CHEM 10

MCRBIO 1 – Fundamentals of Microbiology (5 semester units), prerequisites: PHYS 3 & CHEM 19 (preferred) or CHEM 10

Suggestion: enroll in CHEM 19 (preferred) or CHEM 10 before ANATMY 1

Suggestion: CHEM 19 is preferred for PHYS 3 and MCRBIO 1, allied health majors, and many Nursing CSU transfer programs

“Can I” vs “Should I” enroll in science prerequisite during winter/summer term?

- “In progress” Nursing program science prerequisites will not be accepted at the time of application.
- THINGS TO CONSIDER:
 - For any science prerequisite course in which a “C” or better was earned and repeated within the 5-year recency, the earliest course will be calculated for the purpose of GPA for admission evaluation.
 - Importance of course drop/withdrawal deadlines: a “W” will result in a deduction of points.
 - Consider the impact of “B” or “C” on CUM Science GPA points & overall Nursing Multi-criteria points.
 - Consider your ability to understand, retain, and ability to apply the information.

SMC Nursing Program Information:

Nursing Program and AS Graduation Requirements

Additional Nursing Major Requirements

- PSYCH 19 - Lifespan Human Development
- COM ST 11 - Public Speaking (if completed summer 2013 or later) OR COM ST 35 - Interpersonal Communication

AS Graduation (General Education) Requirements

NOTE: Students who have earned an associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education are not required to complete SMC local general education requirements. Coursework that is required to earn a nursing degree must be completed. (Per Educational Code 66055.8)

- Humanities/Global Citizenship* (Recommended: ENGL 2, but not a GC course)
 - Social Science (SS Group A)/Global Citizenship* (Recommended: HIST 10 or HIST 14, as these courses also satisfy the Global Citizenship requirement)
 - Rationality (Math) (Recommended: MATH 54 generally CSU transfer path, review www.assist.org)
 - *Global Citizenship (GC) is a requirement for AS degree. Designated Humanities and SS Group A courses will satisfy a GE area and Global Citizenship requirement.
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- Did you score a 3 or better on AP exams in high school? If so, request an official score report from the College Board be sent to SMC Admissions & Records Office.
 - For additional Nursing Multi-criteria application points, focus on [SMC AS GE](#) and [SMC AA GEN SCI](#) major requirements.

SMC Nursing Program Information: NURSNG 36 and NURSNG 17

- Ideal: complete NURSNG 36 & NURSNG 17 (offered fall & spring) before applying for additional points. Otherwise, enroll during gap semester. Example: apply winter 2024 for fall 2024 admission consideration > gap semester spring 2024.
- NURSNG 36 – Calculations in Drugs and Solutions (no prerequisite)
 - 1st 8-week section (reserved for incoming Nursing students initially and opens up at a later time for all students)
 - 2nd 8-week section
- NURSNG 17 – Pharmacological Aspects of Nursing (prerequisite PHYS 3)
- NURSNG 17 prerequisite waiver request is processed by the [Life Science Department](#) if human physiology course was completed at another college or university.

Email waiver request to: ScienceWaivers@smc.edu

Attach transcript, course description/syllabus, include your name and SMC student ID number.

Initiate NURSNG 17 waiver request early as it can take weeks to process.

Health Sciences Counselors or front desk cannot expedite the process.

Science Prerequisite Waiver Requests

Information for students who completed English composition and/or science courses at another college/university and are seeking to enroll in SMC courses with computer enforced prerequisites:

Contact the [Success and Engagement Center](#) for prerequisite waiver request to enroll in:

- ANATMY 1

Contact the [Life Science Department](#) for prerequisite waiver request to enroll in the following courses:

- PHYS 3
- MCRBIO 1
- NURSNG 17

SMC Nursing Multi-Criteria Admission Requirements



Santa Monica College ADN Generic Program Multi-Criteria Admission Requirements

Prerequisite Requirements: Completion of Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, and Microbiology with a GPA of 2.5 or above (grade no less than a "C" in a course and no more than one repetition in any of these courses within the last 5 years at the time of application), and completion of college level transferable English, minimum of 3 semester units with a grade no less than a "C".

| Admission Criteria | Points | Point Distribution | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Academic degrees: <ul style="list-style-type: none">From regionally accredited U.S. colleges or universities orForeign AS/AA or higher degree: To have foreign coursework credits evaluated- contact one of the SMC approved credential evaluation agencies and request a detailed equivalency report that indicates for each course, its US semester equivalency, and the grade the student earned. | Maximum 5 points | Only 1 academic degree will be counted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">AA/AS degree = 5 pointsBA or higher = 5 points OR Please note: Foreign coursework will NOT satisfy SMC AS/AA general education requirements for Area II, Social Science, Group A (American History/Government) and for Area IV, Language and Rationality, Group A (English Composition). | | | | | | | | | | |
| Relevant work or volunteer experience with direct human patient care within the past 5 years at time of application: Letter verifying employment/experience: <u>The letter must be on organization letterhead with an original signature and include:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The applicant's name (must match name on application),Start and end date (if applicable),Employment status (full-time/part-time),Number of hours worked per week (or total hours worked from/to date),Job title, department if applicable, andExample of duties including human patient interaction.All information must be submitted by the applicant along with the application. | Maximum 10 points | Licensed Healthcare Worker, e.g., LVN, Psych Tech, Paramedic, Respiratory Therapist, Radiologic Technician, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant, Medical Military Experience, etc.: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work Experience ≥ 1000 hours = 10 points; 999-750 hours = 8 points; 749-500 hours = 6 pointsSubmit copy of current license including your license number and date of expiration. OR Certified Healthcare Worker, e.g., CNA, Home Health Aide, Medical Assistant, EMT, Phlebotomist, etc.: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work experience ≥ 1000 hours = 8 points; 999-750 hours = 6 points; 749-500 hours = 4 pointsSubmit copy of current certificate including your certificate number & date of expiration. OR Other allied health employment/volunteer with direct patient contact will be considered on a case by case basis, e.g., unit-based clerical, companion, healthcare volunteer program, etc.: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work/Volunteer Experience ≥ 500 hours = 4 points; 499-200 hours = 2 points | | | | | | | | | | |
| GPA in relevant course work Science Prerequisites: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Anatomy, Physiology & Microbiology are lecture & lab courses only.Science lab courses must have an on ground component.All 3 science prerequisite courses must be completed within 5 years at the time of application.Courses attempted prior to 5 yrs from the time of application will not be considered in the science prerequisite GPA calculation and are excluded from science prerequisite repeat/withdrawal policy. | Maximum 40 points | Science Prerequisites Anatomy, Microbiology and Physiology GPA must be ≥ 2.5 (No rounding) <table><tr><td>3.5 - 4.0</td><td>40 points</td></tr><tr><td>3.0 - 3.49</td><td>35 points</td></tr><tr><td>2.7 - 2.99</td><td>20 points</td></tr><tr><td>2.6 - 2.69</td><td>10 points</td></tr><tr><td>2.5 - 2.59</td><td>0 points</td></tr></table> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Students may earn credit for course(s) completed at other accredited schools approved to be equivalent if course descriptions and syllabi are provided at the time of application. | 3.5 - 4.0 | 40 points | 3.0 - 3.49 | 35 points | 2.7 - 2.99 | 20 points | 2.6 - 2.69 | 10 points | 2.5 - 2.59 | 0 points |
| 3.5 - 4.0 | 40 points | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.0 - 3.49 | 35 points | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.7 - 2.99 | 20 points | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.6 - 2.69 | 10 points | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.5 - 2.59 | 0 points | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Withdrawal/Repeat Policy for Science Prerequisite Courses: Only one repetition ^{A*} (excluding W) in the group of science prerequisite courses (Anatomy, Physiology and Microbiology) is allowed within the last 5 years at the time of application. ^A A Nursing science prerequisite course repetition is defined as attempts in a course resulting in a grade or notation but not limited to P, CR, C-, D, F, AU, WF/FW, NP, IP, U or I. [*] For any science prerequisite course in which a "C" or better was earned and repeated within the 5 year recency, the earliest course will be utilized. | Deducted Points: ____ # of W ____ Points Deducted | Within the last 5 years at the time of application: <ul style="list-style-type: none">For each Withdrawal (W) in a science prerequisite course = -3 points for each withdrawalMilitary Withdrawal (MW) is excluded from the point deduction | | | | | | | | | | |

At SMC, the AA GEN SCI is the most common AA degree for Nursing applicants.

SMC Nursing Multi-Criteria Admission Requirements

| Admission Criteria | Points | Point Distribution |
|--|----------------------|---|
| <u>Points for completed ADN relevant coursework:</u> ENGL 1, Nursing 17, Nursing 36 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each course must be successfully completed with a grade of "C" or better. For any course in which a "C" or better was earned and repeated, the earliest course will be utilized. +/- will not be used in determining points. Students may earn points for course(s) completed at other accredited schools approved to be equivalent if course descriptions and syllabi are provided at the time of application. Course(s) in progress will not be used to determine points but may be used in the case of ties as one of several criteria in ranking. | Maximum 15 points | Grades earned: "A" = 3 points; "B" = 2 points; "C" = 1 point Advanced Placement (AP)- English Score: "5" = 3 points; "4" = 2 points; "3" = 1 point <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English 1 = grade/AP score ____/ points ____ Nursing 17 (Pharmacological Aspects of Nursing) = grade ____/ points ____ Nursing 36 (Calculations in Drugs and Solutions) = grade ____/ points ____ Completion of required ADN relevant coursework areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All areas completed = 6 points 1 area remaining = 4 points 2 areas remaining = 2 points 3 areas remaining = 1 point 4+ areas = 0 point |
| <u>Life experience include:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Disabilities Low family income First generation of family to attend college Need to work Disadvantaged social or educational environment Difficult personal or family situations or circumstances Refugee Veteran status or eligible spouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points will only be awarded in one area. Applicants must be able to perform the Essential Functions for Student Nurses as defined in the SMC Nursing Student Handbook. | Maximum 3 points | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Proof of receiving college disability services from Disabled Student Services. Proof of eligibility or proof of financial aid, e.g., Board of Governors Fee Waiver (BOGW), Cal Grant, Pell Grant or other federal grant, CalWORKS. (DO NOT SUBMIT FAFSA applications or tax returns). Complete the ADN Admission Supporting Documentation form explaining situation or circumstances. One (1) paycheck stub during period enrolled in prerequisite course or letter from employer on letterhead stationary verifying employment at least part-time while completing prerequisites. Participation or eligibility for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services. Complete the ADN Admission Supporting Documentation form explaining situation or circumstances. Documentation of United States Citizens Immigration Service, e.g., I-94 card with Refugee Asylum Stamps or I-797 Notice of Action. Submit copy of DD-214 honorable discharge or alternate documentation per veterans and eligible spouses. |
| <u>Proficiency in a second Language other than English:</u> _____ | Maximum 2 points | Student will self-identify on the SMC Nursing Program Application. <u>Please note:</u> if at any time it is uncovered that the Nursing applicant/student is not proficient in the identified language during the course of the application process/program the student will be disqualified from consideration/dismissed from the Nursing program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 point = proficiency in speaking 1 point = proficiency in reading and writing |
| <u>Assessment and Readiness testing:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLN-PAX testing- First time NLN testing will be available through Santa Monica College. Only the first passing score of (≥114) will be counted for points. NLN-PAX may only be repeated one time following remediation. | Maximum 25 points | NLN-PAX: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 147-160 25 points 133- 146 20 points 120-132 15 points 114-119 10 points |

Completed courses that count toward Nursing MC points: PSYCH 19, COM ST 35 or COM ST 11 (COM ST 11 completed summer 2013 or later)

GE: SS-Group A, Humanities, Rationality, Global Citizenship

Students seeking admission to the nursing program must meet ALL requirements for admission. All verification and proof must accompany application to be considered. Changes to the admission criteria may occur. Updates will be posted on the nursing program website as soon as possible after a change has occurred. www.smc.edu/Nursing.

SMC Nursing Program Information: Application Process

- Review [SMC Nursing application](#) information/button
- Information and supporting documentation required at application, if applicable:
 - SMC student ID number (required)
 - Letter verifying employment/experience: licensed or certified healthcare worker*/volunteer/other healthcare employment experience hours. Verification letter MUST include all required components on letterhead and total hours worked/volunteered.
 - *Copy of valid healthcare License or Certification card/verification.
 - LVN to ADN advanced placements applicants are required to upload:
 - Employment verification letter that verifies LVN employment: one year's experience in direct patient care within the past two years at the time of application.
 - Copy of valid California LVN license at the time of application.
 - Have on file with SMC Admission and Records: LVN official transcript and all other college/university transcripts by **Dec 31 for winter/June 30 for summer application cycle.**
- Supporting documentation for Nursing Multi-criteria Life Experience area.

SMC Nursing Program Information: Transcript & AP Score Information

- **IMPORTANT [TRANSCRIPT](#), AP SCORE REPORT, FOREIGN COURSEWORK (NON-SMC COURSEWORK) INFORMATION:**

- Non-SMC official transcripts/AP Score Report from **all** colleges/universities attended and attending are required to be on file with SMC Admissions and Records Office before applying: **Dec 31 for winter/June 30 for summer application cycle.**

Examples of transcripts/college coursework include:

- All US college/university transcript(s) you attended/attending or withdrew, including high school, certificate programs, etc.
- AP Score Report: if you scored a 3 or above on an AP exams(s)
- LVN program/college transcript
- Military transcript
- Foreign college/university transcripts must be evaluated by a [SMC approved credential evaluation agency](#) and are required to be on file with SMC Admissions and Records Office before applying: **Dec 31 for winter/June 30 for summer.**
- Have you attended SMC or are currently attending SMC? If so, do not request an official SMC transcript be sent to SMC as the Nursing program has access to your SMC transcript.

SMC Nursing Program Information: Admissions Assessment Test (NLN-PAX RN- Passing score is 114)

- **NLN PAX update: Spring 2024 will be the last semester the NLN PAX will be available. Starting Fall 2024 the NLN will transition to NLN NEX assessment.**
- After application season ends- eligible applicants receive invitation to test to their SMC email.
- If you pass, retaking the NLN PAX is NOT allowed for a better score.
- If you do not pass, you will receive letter regarding dates to schedule a counseling appointment to complete a Readiness Plan contract to be eligible to retest the following application cycle, at the earliest.
- Testing typically takes place twice a year: October & April.
 - Refer to the NLN PAX invitation letter for additional information.
 - Currently, SMC covers the cost of the exam through grant funding but subject to change and other fees may apply.
- Exam covers English, math & science: general biology, human anatomy & physiology, basic chemistry, & physics.
- SMC does not cover the cost of study material- workbooks, apps, online test prep. Please study/review early.
- Contact the SMC [Center for Students with Disabilities](#), for more information regarding the procedure for requesting testing accommodations for a verified disability.

SMC Nursing Program Information:

Nursing Program Timeline

- Four Semesters (2 years)- Fall & Spring
- SMC [Nursing Curriculum](#) Schedule:
 - 1st, 2nd, 4th semesters – 8-week courses
 - 3rd semester - 8 & 4-week courses
- Clinical partners include Kaiser West LA, Southern California Hospital at Culver City, St. Johns, UCLA and the V.A. Medical Center
- Important: clinical placements vary and may include days, evenings, nights, and/or weekends.
- NCLEX pass rate for SMC Nursing program: <http://www.rn.ca.gov/education/passrates.shtml>
 - 83.87% - 2022-2023 (only one cohort tested due to the COVID-19 pandemic)
 - 91.55% - 2021-2022
 - 91.55% - 2020-2021
 - 94.74% - 2019-2020
 - 90.00% - 2018-2019

SMC Additional Information: Transfer Resources

- SMC [General Counseling and Transfer Services](#)
 - General Education Patterns: AA/AS, CSU and IGETC
 - MyEdPlan Workshops
 - Prerequisite Waiver requests for English and Math
 - [Preliminary Transcript Evaluations requests](#) (select AS/AA GE if goal is AS Nursing)
 - Transfer (Application) Workshops
- Is your goal to apply to a BSN program without completing an associate's degree in Nursing?
 - BSN Information- [Nursing: The Transfer Option](#) workshops and information
 - Most common [general education pattern](#) for Nursing Transfer majors is the CSU GE pattern.

Health Sciences Counseling Appointment

Call or email to schedule a Health Sciences Counseling appointment

Front Desk (310) 434-3453 or Michelle (310) 434-3446

Email: healthsciences@smc.edu or aragon_michelle@smc.edu

Schedule a counseling appointment to address Nursing Program counseling related questions or concerns.

If you leave a message, please include your full name, SMC ID number, and a call back number.

A blue stethoscope is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its chest piece in the lower-left foreground and its tubing extending towards the upper-left background. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue with some bokeh light effects. The text "THANK YOU" is centered in the middle of the image.

THANK YOU