

Allan Hancock College Nursing Programs

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***How do I know if nursing is right for me?***

To be a nurse you need to enjoy working with people. Good communication and critical thinking skills are central to the nursing role. Nursing practice is based on scientific principles and a solid knowledge base of anatomy and physiology is important. Math skills are essential to safe medication administration. The ability to read and understand scientific literature and communicate effectively in writing are the fundamentals to success in nursing.

- ***How do I get started at Allan Hancock College?***

The AHC nursing program is built on the “ladder concept” which means you first complete the CNA program, then complete the VN program, then complete the RN program.

- ***Are there background checks or screenings with the nursing programs?***

The agencies that provide facilities for clinical experience require that students are screened prior to patient contact in the facility. All students accepted into the RN, LVN, or CNA programs will be required to complete a background check and drug screening at their own expense through an agency designated by Allan Hancock College. For licensure, fingerprinting is required to be submitted with the license application.

CNA PROGRAM

- ***What is required to begin the CNA program?***

- A level of Reading 110 on the START test must be obtained to qualify for the program. You may be exempt from the START test if you have completed a college level English course.
- Pick up a current CNA packet and return the top sheet to the Health Sciences Office prior to registration. This packet can be picked up in any of the counseling offices or the Health Sciences Office (M-132) beginning in April for fall registration and beginning in October for spring registration.
- Once registered in the NURS 400 sections, complete mandatory items by the due date indicated in the registration packet.
- A valid Social Security Card required for CNA certification by the Department of Health Services. Social Security Cards that have restrictions on the front of the card must state “for employment” to be valid.
- Must pass background check and drug testing
- No restrictions on physical examination allowed.
- Verification of HEP B Vaccination and a current TB shot.

- ***How long is the CNA program?***

The CNA program is a one-semester, 12 unit program. This class meets 3 days a week for a total of 23 hours per a week.

- ***How many students are accepted into the program?***

Usually 15 students are accepted into the Lompoc program and an average of 30-45 students are accepted into the Santa Maria program each fall and spring semester.

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LVN & RN PROGRAMS

- ***What is required to apply to the LVN program?***

Current California CNA or Psychiatric Technician License – Must be current at time of application and kept current throughout the program.

High School graduate or equivalent

Academic prerequisites (completed by June 30th with a letter grade of “C” or better)

English 101 (Freshman Comp: Expos.)

Biology 124 (Anatomy) & Biology 125 (Physiology)

Math 331 – Algebra 2

Psychology 101 (Intro. to Psychology)

- ***What is required to apply to the RN program?***

Current California LVN OR graduate of accredited VN program OR in progress with completion prior to the January start of the RN program

High School graduate or equivalent

Academic prerequisites (completed by June 30th with a letter grade of “C” or better)

English 101 (Freshman Comp: Expos.)

Biology 124 (Anatomy) & Biology 125 (Physiology) & Biology 128 (Microbiology)

Math 331 – Algebra 2

Psychology 101 (Intro. to Psychology)

Meet Merit Based admission requirements

- ***What is Merit based admission requirements?***

Registered Nursing applicants need to meet merit based admission requirements in addition to prerequisite courses. Screening of applications will include looking at overall GPA and GPA in English 101. The following formula validated for the Allan Hancock College Student population will be utilized.

$$(2.12 \times \text{overall GPA}) + (1.296 \times \text{English GPA}) \text{ must be } \geq 8.24$$

To qualify for the program your score must be 8.24 or higher. The GPA is made up of all college level course work.

- ***How can I get the classes I need and/or know that my classes meet the requirements?***

You will need to make an appointment with the counseling department (922-6966 ext. 3293) to go over your transcripts and complete a SEP (Student Educational Plan). Once you met with a counselor, started a SEP and have completed the English, Psychology and Math requirement you will be eligible for Priority Registration for classes as long as you continue to make progress in your nursing studies.

- ***How long are the LVN/RN programs?***

The nursing programs run on a calendar year (January through December). The LVN program is 3 semesters in length (including summer session) and the RN program is 2 semesters in length (summer off). LVN students are also required to complete NURS 310 (Pharmacology) class offered in the fall prior to the start of the program in January. Only those accepted into the LVN program and a limited number of alternates will be cleared to register for this class.

- ***How many students are accepted into the programs?***

At this current time, 40 students are accepted LVN program and 40 students are accepted into the RN program for a total of 80 nursing students at the start of the program.

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- ***Why can't more students be accepted?***

There are 2 major factors that limited the number of students accepted. One is the limited number of appropriate clinical sites to meet the number of board required clinical hours for each student. Student rotations must be scheduled so they don't interfere with the operation of the various sites. The other factor is the limited number of qualified nursing instructors available.

- ***How does the LVN application process work?***

Applications for the LVN program will be available starting April 1st and must be completed and delivered by June 30th prior to the spring start of the program with all prerequisites completed. At this time, counseling evaluates applicants and all qualified applicants are entered into a lottery and assigned a random number. The LVN program is filled first by those on the wait list from the previous year. Once those on the wait list students are placed, any remaining spots are filled by the new applicants in order of their lottery number. Students are renumbered annually in July.

- ***How does the RN application process work?***

Applications for the RN program will be available starting April 1st and must be delivered by June 30 prior to the spring start of the RN program with all prerequisites completed. Students in the current LVN class **eligible for priority placement** in the upcoming RN class will be seated first. Qualified candidates completing other LVN programs and qualified LVN applicants from the community will be considered for the remaining seats. Remaining seats are allocated through a computerized random selection (lottery) process. Starting with number 1, randomly selected candidates will be offered the remaining seats in the class. Any candidate not seated will be placed on a wait list. Subsequent classes will be filled as indicated above from the AHC LVN class and then from the wait list.

- ***What is required to be eligible for priority seating in the RN program?***

Students in the current LVN class at Allan Hancock College who have **completed all of the ADN prerequisites, merit based admission criteria and all ADN/BRN degree requirements by June 30th of the application year**, will be eligible for priority placement in the upcoming RN class

- ***How many are currently on the LVN/RN waitlist?***

As of 10/1/2008 there are currently 100 students on the LVN waitlist and 32 students on the RN waitlist.

- If you are a student who currently possesses a LVN waitlist number, divide your number by 40 (currently accepting 40 students/year) and you will get an estimation of your waitlist time.
- If you are a student who currently possesses a RN waitlist number, we are currently taking in a trend of 4 waitlist students per a year.

- ***What is a completed application?***

A completed application consists of the following

- An application completely filled out – LVN or RN
- Official, sealed transcript from your high school or GED with graduation date posted.
- An “unofficial transcript” from AHC with a counselor’s signature.
- Official, sealed transcripts from all other colleges, with the exception of AHC
- A current copy of appropriate California licensure (CNA, Psych Tech, or LVN)

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- ***What if I already have a waitlist number, what do I need to re-apply?***

To be turned into the Health Sciences office between April 1st and June 30th.

- An application completely filled out – LVN or RN
- Copy of your high school transcript or GED
- An “unofficial transcript” from AHC with a counselor’s signature.
- Copies of all UNCHANGED college coursework
- If coursework has been taken at another college since the last application period, official, sealed transcript from all other colleges, with the exception of AHC
- A current copy of appropriate California licensure (CNA, Psych Tech, or LVN)

- ***When will I know if I’m accepted?***

All RN/LVN applications are evaluated in July and qualified applicants will notified by the end of the month.

- ***What happens if the RN/LVN programs are full?***

You will be placed on the wait list in the same numerical order as your lottery number. To be considered for the next class, you must submit an updated application packet (including copies of transcripts) by June 30th. Openings for the next class will be filled first by those on the wait list in the order of their number on that wait list. Those who are not placed in the upcoming class will be moved up the wait list for the next class. You again must reapply with a completed application by June 30th of the next application period to be considered for the next class. As long as you continue to reapply, you will remain on the wait list and continue to move up in priority. If you do not reapply, you will be dropped from the wait list and will have to reapply on the same basis as one who has never applied before.

- ***Once accepted into the LVN/RN program what is required?***

- Must be able to pass background check, drug testing and physical exam,
- Paper documentation of childhood vaccinations: HEP B Series, MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Tetanus Toxoid), Varicella (Chicken Pox). If you cannot find your childhood shot records, please consult your physician for a titer.
- Current Tuberculin skin test prior to entering the program (these are done annually). Positive PPD requires a standard negative chest film with medical consultation. Standard chest x-ray is recommended if there is any history of previous chest disease.

ITEMS TO REMEMBER WHEN APPLYING:

1. All pre-requisite items **MUST** be **COMPLETED** with a letter grade of “C” or better by June 30th.
2. If you are a first time applicant – official transcripts are needed from your high school/GED and any college attended (except AHC).
3. If the only college you have attended is Allan Hancock College, call the counseling office (x3293) to get an “unofficial transcript” that is signed and dated by a counselor to use in place of a transcript.
4. If you are applying for the programs while your classes are in progress, please remember to update your application with an official transcript from that college or AHC “unofficial transcript” before the application deadline. **This is your responsibility.**
5. All items have to be delivered by June 30. Any applications delivered after this date **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
6. Remember... you will have to apply with a completed application every year until you receive your letter stating that you have been accepted into the program. So make copies of the entire packet including transcripts. Copies **will not be made** from the Health Sciences office.

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