

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 is the fundamental 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 LVN program, then complete the RN program. You must be 18 years of age or older to qualify for any of the nursing programs at Allan Hancock College.

- **Are there background checks or drug 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 CNA, LVN, or RN 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.

- **What do I need to know about transferring courses from another college to AHC?**

Unfortunately not all college courses are the same or are transferrable. Please send in all other official college transcripts to the admissions and records department transcriber **before** applying to the nursing programs to be sure the classes transfer over. If there are courses in question, waivers can be done at this time and submitted to the appropriate academic departments for a decision through the counseling department. Please be proactive, as it might be detrimental during the application period to find out that a course is not equivalent, leaving you ineligible to apply.

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

Once all of the transcripts from other colleges have been transcribed into your portal, you will need to attend a nursing workshop through the counseling department, after the workshop you may make an appointment with the counseling department (922-6966 ext. 3285) to go over your transcripts and complete an SEP (Student Educational Plan) to be sure you have completed all of the prerequisites to apply to one of the nursing programs.

CNA PROGRAM

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

- An application must be completed and turned into the Health Sciences Office during application periods (2 per year). The application periods are October 1-November 1 and May 1-June 1. The application will be available online at hancockcollege.edu website (Programs of study - Nursing).
- **ENGLISH 101** must be completed with a grade “C” or better. Your AHC unofficial transcripts must be turned in with your application.
- Once accepted into the nursing program, you must complete the mandatory packet by the due dates indicated.
- 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.
- 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 (TB) 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.
- Flu vaccine is required for this program.

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

The CNA program is a one-semester, 16 week program. This class meets 4 days a week (Tuesday – Friday).

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

Forty-Five are accepted into the program every semester – 30 students for the Santa Maria facility and 15 for the Lompoc facility. Students register for the facility they would like, however, registration dates for every student vary based on their status. Please refer to hancockcollege.edu website (Admissions and Records – Priority Registration).

LVN & RN PROGRAMS

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

- An application must be completed and turned into the Health Sciences Office during the application period (April 1 - June 30). The application will be available online at hancockcollege.edu website (Programs of study - Nursing).
- Current California CNA Certificate or Psychiatric Technician License – Must be current at time of application and kept current throughout the program.
- High School graduate or equivalent (Official transcripts will be required with application, **new** applicants only)
- **Academic prerequisites (completed at AHC or transferred over from other colleges official transcripts 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 LVN students at AHC will have priority into the RN program the following semester as long as they meet all requirements)

- An application must be completed and turned into the Health Sciences Office during the application period (April 1 - June 30). The application will be available online at hancockcollege.edu website (Programs of study - Nursing).
- Current California LVN license – Must be current at time of application and kept current throughout the program.
- High School graduate or equivalent (Official transcripts will be required with application, **new** applicants only)
- **Academic prerequisites (completed at AHC or transferred over from other colleges official transcripts 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) – RN requirement
 - Math 331 – Algebra 2
 - Psychology 101 (Intro. to Psychology)
 - Meet Merit Based admissions – RN requirement

- **What is Merit based admissions?**

All Registered Nursing applicants need to meet merit based admission requirements in addition to prerequisite courses. Screening of applications will include looking at overall GPA, Number of Science Repetitions (Anatomy, Physiology and Microbiology), and score obtained on the merit based admission test (dates given on the application for new applicants).

$$\text{AHC RN} = 1.181 \text{ (Cumulative GPA)} + 0.160 \text{ (Test Score)} - 0.568 \text{ (Core Biology Repetitions)}$$

- **When do I take the Merit Based Admission Test?**

All **NEW** applicants applying to the Registered Nursing program are required to take the admissions exam (at the cost of the student) as part of the application procedure for the Allan Hancock College Registered Nursing Program. Current LVN students will take the merit based admissions test prior to going into the RN program and will be notified by the Director for that test date. Test dates for new applicants will take place during application period, so be sure to read your application packet. Students will only need to take the exam once if they pass. The merit based admissions table is available online at hancockcollege.edu website.

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- **How long are the LVN and 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 LVN program in January. Only those accepted into the LVN program and a limited number of alternates will be cleared to register for this class.

- **What are the costs of the LVN/RN programs?**

The cost of the LVN program is estimated at \$5,200 for the year for instate students and the RN program is estimated at \$3,650 for the year for instate students.

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

At this current time, a minimum of 30 students are accepted into the LVN program and RN program. Depending on annual funding will depend if more students can be taken into the program each year (no more than 34 for LVN and 35 for RN).

- **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 with all prerequisites completed to the Health Sciences Department. At this time, counseling evaluates applications and all new applicants are entered into a lottery and assigned a number behind students already on the waitlist. The LVN program is filled first by those on the wait list from the previous year. Once students on the wait list are placed, any remaining spots are filled by the applicants in order of their lottery number. Students must reapply every year in order to remain on the waitlist. Status letters are mailed out by July 31st of each year.

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

Applications for the RN program will be available starting April 1st and must be completed and delivered by June 30th to the Health Sciences Department with all prerequisites completed. Students in the current LVN class are **eligible for priority placement** in the upcoming RN class and will be seated first. Qualified candidates completing **other** LVN programs and qualified LVN applicants from the community will be placed on the waitlist until a spot becomes available. New applicants are entered into a lottery and assigned a number behind students already on the waitlist. All students that wish to remain on the waitlist must reapply every year. Subsequent classes will be filled as indicated above from the AHC LVN class and then from the wait list. Status letters are mailed out by July 31th of each year.

- **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 long is the LVN and RN waitlist?**

Currently the estimated waitlist is:

- LVN – two to four years
- RN – four to six years unless you complete the LVN program the previous year at AHC

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- **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 (first time appliers).
- Printed “unofficial transcript” link from the student tab of the hancockcollege.edu student portal.
- Official, sealed transcripts from all other colleges (first time appliers or if you have taken any classes at another college since your last application was turned in). One set of official transcripts goes to the admissions and records department and once they are transcribed over, you will need to attach a second set of official transcripts with the application along with the AHC unofficial.
- A current copy of appropriate California licensure (CNA, Psych Tech (for LVN applicants) or LVN License (for RN applicants))

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

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

- An application completely filled out – LVN or RN
- Printed “unofficial transcript” link from the student tab of the hancockcollege.edu student portal.
- 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 must be turned in with the application. One official goes to the Admissions and Records Dept. (transferred courses will show up on you’re AHC unofficial transcripts you turn in with the application) and one official set needs to be turned in with the application).
- A current copy of appropriate California licensure (CNA, Psych Tech (for LVN applicants) or LVN License (for RN applicants))

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

The office will evaluate all LVN and RN applications and a letter of acceptance and a prerequisite evaluation will be mailed out no later than July 31st. Acceptance letters and prerequisite evaluations must be signed and returned by the due date.

- **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.
- Current flu vaccine

ITEMS TO REMEMBER WHEN APPLYING for LVN and RN:

1. All pre-requisite items **MUST** be **COMPLETED** with a letter grade of “C” or better by June 30th with all classes showing in your AHC unofficial transcripts.
2. If you are a **first time applicant** – official transcripts are needed from your high school/GED and any college attended (except AHC). One set of other college official transcripts must be sent to admissions and records to be evaluated and transcribed over to your AHC portal. One set of other college official transcripts must be turned in with the application. All reapplicants must turn in a set of official transcripts with the application and one set with Admissions and Records if other course work has been taken since last application period.
3. All items have to be delivered by June 30. Any applications or items delivered after this date **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
4. 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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