

Military Personnel Admission Challenge/Advanced Placement into the Nursing Program for Military Personnel

Policy

In compliance with Senate Bill 466, Military Personnel and Veterans may be eligible for advanced placement into the Porterville College Associate Degree Nursing Program. Three pathways have been established to assist with obtaining nursing credit for previous education and experience for the Basic Medical Technician Corpsman or Army Medical Specialist, Basic Medical Technician Corpsman with an active California LVN license, and the Independent Duty Corpsman or Army Healthcare Specialist.

Students must meet the following to be able to receive credit for nursing courses:

1. Military records and transcripts must be reviewed by a counselor.
2. The applicant must have a DD214 showing completion of military coursework and service/discharge under honorable conditions or current active honorable service required (letter from supervisor).
3. Applicants must meet all general entrance requirements of the Associate Degree Nursing Program, including completion of designated prerequisites.
4. Students must pass the applicable written challenge exams with 75% or higher and obtain a satisfactory level of achievement on skills competency.
5. Military Challenge students will not be admitted if they have previously failed a nursing course at another nursing school.
6. Acceptance of Military Challenge students into the Associate Degree Nursing Program is contingent upon space availability.

Procedure

1. Interested candidates must request an appointment with the Director of Nursing and Health Occupations at least eight weeks prior to the application period to discuss eligibility requirements for the Associate Degree Nursing Program.
2. Applicants who may be eligible for advanced placement include those individuals who have satisfactorily completed military education and work experience within the last five years.
3. Applicants applying for credit by exam or transfer credit must submit the following materials verifying education and experience.
 - a. Official transcripts from all colleges attended, course descriptions and/or course syllabi from appropriate education program(s) demonstrating satisfactory completion of coursework and clinical experience.
 - b. Documentation of work experience.
4. Evaluation of the experience(s) or courses will be performed by the nursing director, content expert(s), and lead instructor at the very least.
5. After a review of the applicant's documentation and experience, and upon determination that the applicant has met the educational and experience requirements, as well as the additional nursing program requirements, the student will be required to take and pass challenge examinations.
6. Written and skills competency examinations for placement or challenge must be completed eight weeks prior to admission to the program.
7. Based on results of the challenge exams, pathway placement will be deferred to the discretion of the Director of the Nursing Program and Admissions committee.

Note:

The student cannot be enrolled in the course to be challenged. The student should allow sufficient time to complete the challenge process. In the event that the student does not successfully complete the challenge process, the student must apply to enroll in said course to progress through the program.

Eligible candidates will be provided with the course Syllabus/Syllabi. An instructor will be assigned to administer the challenge exam. The student must pay the registration fees for the course prior to administration of the challenge exam.

Students who are successful in challenging a course are admitted to the next course on a seat availability basis.

Enrollment in the next course in the program sequence requires meeting all course prerequisites of the courses preceding the successfully challenged course. Example: entering N23 following successful challenge of N22 requires the student pass N21, N10A and N10B and all other prerequisites as noted in the current College Catalog.

Students who receive a failing grade in a nursing course at College of the Redwoods or any other nursing program/school may not challenge the course to re-enter or enter the RN Nursing Program. Readmission/transfer policies must be followed.

Failing a challenge exam constitutes a course failure and constitutes one program attempt. The student will only be allowed to return one additional time for a program attempt on a space available basis.

Students are reminded that whatever grade is earned on the challenge exam (including a failing grade) is entered on the permanent college transcript.

The challenge examination for each nursing course will consist of:

The student takes an NLCEX-format written exam of course content and must obtain at least 75% to pass. Note: Nursing courses are blended, meaning they consist of several areas of nursing such as pediatrics + obstetrics or medical/surgical + psychiatric nursing.

The student must take and pass the med math exam associated with the course being challenged.

Students will be required to show their work.

Simple calculators may be used. Cell phones or advanced calculators may not be used.

The questions will reflect medication calculations that students in the course being challenged are required to perform.

Answers must contain the appropriate unit of measure (ml/hr, units/hr, etc.).

The student must demonstrate competency in patient care and/or the skills required in the syllabus for the challenged course. A nursing faculty member who teaches the challenged course will evaluate these. A patient care (clinical) evaluation may be given in the practice laboratory (may include simulation) or in the clinical setting.

Three pathways have been established to assist with obtaining nursing credit for previous education and experience.

Pathway I- Including but not limited to Basic Medical Technician (Navy Hospital Corpsman) or United States Air Force Basic Medical Service Technician or Army Medical Specialist.

Applicants eligible for pathway 1 must successfully pass the challenge exams for the first semester courses, which include:

NURS 21

- Course Final
- Med Math Exam
- Skills competency (all skills normally tested in N21)
- Simulation + clinical documentation + written demonstration of use of the nursing process (plan of care/concept map)

NURS 10A Pharmacology

Course Final

Candidates must also meet the same eligibility requirements for admission into the ADN program as other applicants, including completion of prerequisites.

Pathway II- Basic Medical Technician Corpsman (Navy Hospital Medic or Air Force Basic Medical Technician Corpsman) with an active California LVN license (Licensed Vocational Nurse) either through challenge (BVNPT Method 4) or successful completion of an LVN program.

- a) May apply to the LVN/Paramedic -RN Career Mobility Program.
- b) Admission to the program is on a space available basis as for any LVN/Paramedic to RN student.
- c) The transition courses (NURS 60 A/B/L) require demonstration of theory and clinical pediatric and obstetric competency.
- d) All ADN prerequisites must be completed prior to admission, as per admission policies.

Pathway III- Independent Duty Corpsman/Advanced Army Medic/Advanced Airforce Medic

- a) Credit given for first year of the ADRN nursing program.
- b) Completion of Smart Transcript review to determine course credits or challenge opportunities based on College/Department policies.
 - a. Completion of ADN prerequisite coursework per College/Department policy is required.
 - b. Transcripts will be evaluated for Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Communication, English, and natural and social science coursework (these courses must be completed in order to take the NCLEX).
- c) If transcript review determines all prerequisites have been met, will be placed on waitlist for LVN/Paramedic – RN program.
 - a. Admission to the program is on a space available basis as any LVN/Paramedic to RN student.
- d) The transition courses (NURS 60 A/B/L) require demonstration of theory and clinical pediatric and obstetric competency.