

Hartnell College

Registered Nursing

Frequently Asked Questions

When can I submit an application for the registered nursing program? Applications are available and accepted *only* from mid-December through some time in early February. Please follow the steps as outlined in “Application Procedures” on the Registered Nursing Application. (If you are an LVN or transfer student seeking Advanced Placement, please see a nursing counselor to determine if you have completed all the prerequisites.)

How do you select your students for the registered nursing program? Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements are selected by the strongest grade point averages in the prerequisite courses and overall college work. Selection is based on criteria established by the Hartnell College Nursing Program faculty and advisory and follows the mandates of both the California Community College Chancellor’s office and the Board of Registered Nursing. The criteria include overall college GPA, English GPA, and core science GPA for Anatomy, Physiology and Microbiology courses. Students considered eligible must complete the BIO-5 Anatomy, BIO-6 Physiology, BIO-6L Physiology Lab and BIO 27 or BIO-7 Microbiology with an overall GPA of 2.5. This science GPA will be reduced for each W, D, F and/or repeat by $<.33>$. No grade with less than a “C” is accepted. (There is not a deduction for repeated Science courses that were completed seven (7) or more years. Often times, students who have taken these courses that length of time ago will need to repeat the course for current knowledge to be successful in a nursing program.) Beginning admission for Fall 2009, students will also need to complete the TEAS test (Test of Essential Academic Skills) and receive a 67% or higher comprehensive score. Information and study guides for this test can be found at <http://www.atitesting.com/>

Where is the closest site to take the TEAS test? The closest testing site for the TEAS test is San Jose State University and you can register for the test through the San Jose Bookstore only after you attain a paper and pencil identification number from <http://www.atitesting.com/>

Do you keep a waiting list? Hartnell College does not keep a waiting list. If an applicant is not accepted into the program, the applicant must re-apply for the next selection period.

How long does the Nursing Program take to complete? It is a 4-semester (two-year) program. No courses are offered in the summer session.

How long does it take to complete the program from starting the prerequisites and general education courses to finishing the nursing curriculum? If you start slowly and take one course per semester, it could take as long as six years. If you take a “full load” of coursework for your prerequisites and general education requirements each semester, you can complete the program in about 3 years.

Can I work while I am in the program? There is no restriction against working while enrolled in the Nursing Program. However, it is not advised to work more than 16-20 hours a week as it can interfere with your success in the program. It is not advised to work on days in which classes or clinical experiences are assigned. You will not be permitted to leave early or arrive late to clinical or class. Limited scholarship money is available. Financial aid and low-cost loans are available – please contact the Financial Aid Office 831/755-6806.

Do you have a part-time or evening program? No. the Nursing Program is a full-time program with theory courses, lab and clinical rotations generally during the day. (Some rotations may be in the evening hours).

Do you require nursing care experience? To be admitted to the registered nursing program, Hartnell College does not ‘require’ nursing care experience; however, we do advise for either volunteer or paid direct-patient care experience. This experience is invaluable in introducing the clinical setting and helping you better understand the nursing world of work.

Can I bring my transcripts to you? Official transcripts must be mailed or brought in a sealed envelope to the Department of Nursing office *and* to Admissions and Records office as part of the registered nursing application process.

How many students do you accept? Hartnell accept approximately 40 students for the Fall Semester.

Do you have a Spring entry period? No. The Department of Nursing accepts students once a year for the registered nursing program, which begins each Fall Semester.

What are the prerequisites for applying to the two-year program?

1. You must have a United States high school education or equivalent. As evidenced on an official high school transcript, GED report, proficiency report or foreign transcript evaluation. (Board of Registered Nursing, Rules and Regulations, Section 1412).
2. Current Healthcare Provider CPR card certification
3. You must have completed Human Anatomy (BIO-5), Physiology (BIO-6 and BIO-6L), Microbiology (BIO-27 or BIO-7), English (ENG-1A) ENG-1A must be complete, but students could use higher grade in a higher level English course (ENG-1B or ENG-2) on RN application, Psychology (PSY-2 formerly 1A) and Intermediate Algebra (MAT-123), or higher level math or their equivalents.
4. Although corequisites do not need to be completed to apply, we highly advise that students complete the additional courses for the Associate Degree in Nursing from Hartnell College (Cultural Anthropology (ANT-2), Speech (SPE-1A or SPE-3) and an Ethnic Groups course, or their equivalents before starting the program.
5. TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills). A study guide and more information is available at <http://www.atitesting.com/> (If you need additional information, please contact the Nursing Director.)

Is NRN-101, NRN-101L Readiness for nursing a required course? No, NRN-101, NRN-101L are no longer required for entry into the Registered Nursing program.

Will someone in the Department of Nursing office go over my transcripts with me to see if I am missing anything? The Department of Nursing office cannot evaluate individual transcripts. Please call and make an appointment to see a Nursing Counselor, LaVerne Cook or Dr. Ignacio Pando, through the main Counseling Department (831)755-6820. Bring a copy of your transcripts and any course descriptions to your appointment.

How can I find out if the courses I am taking at another college are equivalent to the courses at Hartnell College? A nursing counselor must evaluate course descriptions provided by the student for each prerequisite or general education course completed at another institution. Once reviewed, the nursing counselor completes and signs a “*Course-to-Course Evaluation Form*” that must be included with the nursing application. Appointments with the nursing counselors, Ms. LaVerne Cook or Dr. Ignacio Pando, may be made by calling the Hartnell College Counseling Office at (831) 755.6820. It is best to check early to see if your courses are equivalent to Hartnell College courses. Counseling appointments should be made well ahead of time, as nursing counselors are busy at certain times of the year.

I took a combined Anatomy and Physiology course with a lab. Will that count? If you took only one semester combined Anatomy and Physiology course, you will need to have completed a second combined Anatomy and Physiology course with a lab. Many colleges offer these combined courses over two semesters or

three quarters. A nursing counselor can help you determine whether your combined course will transfer. The courses **must** be the **equivalent** of the Anatomy with lab and Physiology with lab at Hartnell College.

I have a Bachelor’s Degree (or higher) from another college. What courses will count towards my AA in Nursing? It depends on your major degree. Generally, if you have a BA/BS , you most likely have met most of the General Education requirements and may only need to take the natural and behavioral science courses.

I was educated in another country (high school secondary and/or college). Will my coursework transfer to Hartnell College? You will need to have a professional outside evaluation of your foreign transcript completed. You may obtain information from Hartnell College’s Admissions and Records office that indicates the agencies that you can contact for this service. The evaluation is not simply a translation of the courses, but rather a ‘comprehensive’ evaluation of the coursework’s equivalent units and grades you took in your country’s college or university as compared to the United States. (Also include an evaluation of your secondary (high school) to show that it is equivalent to a United States high school education through 12th grade). Once your courses are evaluated by the foreign transcript evaluator, make an appointment with a nursing counselor to complete a “*Course-to-Course Evaluation Form.*”

How much will the program cost? The approximate cost of the two-year program is approximately \$4000.00. This includes tuition fees, books, uniforms, shoes, medical examinations, NCLEX-RN testing fees, and background check/drug screen clearance. The advanced-placement (LVN to RN) student (entering third semester) can expect to pay approximately \$2000.00, inclusive of testing fees and background check/drug screen clearance.

Why do I have to have a background check? Hospitals are now requiring all nursing students to have a background check and drug screen prior to coming to the hospital for clinical experience. The background check is for the protection of the patients assigned to students.

My coursework is old. Is there a course recency requirement? Hartnell College does not have a “recency” requirement for the prerequisites courses for the registered nursing program. (For those students who opt to enter the Vocational Nursing program; please be mindful, there is a five-year recency requirement on most courses for the Vocational Nursing program.)

What hospitals do you use for clinical experience? Hospitals include Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, Natividad Medical Center, Mee Memorial in King City, and Watsonville Community Hospital. (Others may be added.)

Are applications available on the Hartnell College website? At the present time, applications are not available on the website. You can pick up an application during the application period (mid-December – February) at the Department of Nursing Office at Natividad Medical Center, Bldg 400, 3rd Floor Room 308, on Hartnell College’s main campus in the counseling department, or by contacting a nursing counselor, Dr. Ignacio Pando at ipando@hartnell.edu or LaVerne Cook at lcook@hartnell.edu

Please note, the difference in mailing address and location of Hartnell College Department of Nursing.

Mailing Address:
Hartnell College
ATTN: Department of Nursing
411 Central Ave
Salinas, CA 93901

Department of Nursing Office Location:
Natividad Health Profession Center
1441 Constitution Blvd, Bldg 400, Third Floor, Rm 308
Salinas, CA 93906
Phone number 831/770-6146 Fax Number 831/770-6144