



## **SOUTHWESTERN OREGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Limited Entry, Associate of Applied Science Degree  
NURSING PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR LPNs INTERESTED IN  
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (NOVEMBER 2011 APPLICATION DEADLINE)  
INTO SECOND YEAR OF NURSING PROGRAM FALL 2012

Thank you for your interest in the Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC) Nursing Program! The Nursing program is approved by the Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN, 17938 SW Upper Boones Ferry Rd., Portland, OR, 971-673-0685, [www.oregon.gov/OSBN](http://www.oregon.gov/OSBN)).

The Nursing program is both exciting and challenging; offering graduates the opportunities for employment in a variety of settings and for a lifelong career that is personally fulfilling. The program demands may pose unique personal as well as academic challenges. Most students have multiple responsibilities in addition to going to school (i.e., marriage, family, job). Success in the program takes a firm commitment, and the nursing faculty members are here to help you succeed. LPNs interested in the recently developed advanced placement process are asked to make an advising appointment with Susan Walker, Director of Nursing by calling the department secretary at 541-888-7443. Minimum criteria **for eligibility by the application deadline** of November 1, 2011 (for fall 2012 entry into the second year) include completion of all program prerequisites (46 credits or more) with a cumulative GPA of  $\geq 3.0$  (and each individual course with a C or better), a current unencumbered Oregon LPN license and  $\geq 500$  hours of work experience as an LPN. (Note: Microbiology with lab may be completed after the application deadline but must be completed with a grade of C or higher by the end of fall term to progress to Phase L2 of the application/selection process.)

### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM**

The Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC) Nursing Program has joined with seven other community college programs (Clackamas Community College, Lane Community College, Umpqua Community College, Rogue Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, Blue Mountain Community College and Portland Community College) and all campuses of the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU, in Ashland, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Portland and Monmouth) in a unified approach to nursing education. This coalition of statewide nursing educators and programs is known as the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE). Faculty members from SOCC have been actively involved in the development of the competency-based curriculum that is used in all full partner consortium schools. SOCC implemented the OCNE curriculum beginning in 2006.

The competencies of the OCNE curriculum address the need for nurses to be skilled in clinical judgment and critical thinking. The competencies also focus on skill in evidence-based practice, relationship-centered care, interdisciplinary collaboration, assisting individuals and families in self-care practices for promotion of health and management of chronic and acute illness, end-of-life care, and teaching, delegation, leadership and supervision of caregivers.

Acceptance to the program allows for co-admission to Southwestern Oregon Community College and Oregon Health & Science University Nursing Programs. Co-admission is an agreement that students who are affirmed by the community college nursing faculty as having met the progression standards

will be eligible to enroll in the upper-division nursing courses and complete a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Nursing if they choose to do so at OHSU without an additional competitive application process. The co-admitted student may choose to matriculate and be entered into the OHSU student record system following successful completion of the nursing curriculum at SOCC and passing of the national licensure exam (NCLEX-RN). Students who successfully complete the Nursing Program at SOCC will meet the educational requirements to be eligible to take the RN-licensure examination. Additional information regarding matriculation opportunities will be provided at regular intervals throughout the program.

### **EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK AND EXPECTED INCOME**

Employment opportunities in nursing are available in Coos/Curry County and throughout most of the state. Graduates from Southwestern Oregon Community College generally find employment within three to six months of graduation. According to the Oregon Employment Department, the average hourly salary was \$34.40/hour and the average annual salary of RNs in Coos and Curry counties was \$72,666 in 2010.

### **DEMANDS OF THE PROGRAM**

It is important to understand the mental and physical demands of the nursing program and the career of the nurse. Applicants to the nursing program must be physically and mentally able to cope with the rigors of the curriculum and the demanding nature of the health professions. Nursing students must be able to grasp scientific concepts, set up and answer basic math and algebra problems, and communicate well verbally and in writing. Physically, students must be able to remain on their feet for extended periods, lift up to 35 pounds, hear heart and breath sounds, read fine print and identify skin tones such as pale, ashen, gray or bluish.

Established academic and clinical requirements essential to the program of instruction apply to all students and cannot be waived. Attempts will be made to accommodate and retain qualified applicants with disabilities unless results of evaluations indicate that given reasonable accommodation an individual is still unable to perform the Technical Standards required by the program. A complete list of the required technical standards can be found on our website at <http://www.socc.edu/academics/pgs/degrees/aas-degree/associate-of-applied-science-nursing.shtml>. Persons with questions concerning particular qualifications are encouraged to contact the Disability Services office to arrange an appointment for individual consultation and advice prior to application. Any student who feels that she or he may need an academic accommodation for any disability should make an appointment with the Educational Support Services and Programs (ESPS) at (541) 888-7405 as soon as possible.

The nursing program utilizes a variety of clinical sites throughout Coos and Curry counties. These include hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, etc. Students will be assigned to have clinical experiences in most if not all of the sites and must expect to travel to communities other than those in which they reside for these experiences. At times carpooling to clinical sites will not be possible and reliable transportation will be needed by students. Required clinical experiences are assigned during days, evenings, and/or night shifts during the program, and client selection and care preparation takes place typically the day before clinical, e.g. on Sundays when clinical is scheduled on

Monday. During the final clinical rotation of the program (spring, second year), students are assigned to match a staff clinical teaching associate's work schedule for two or three full 8- or 12-hour shifts per week which may include nights and weekends. Nursing classes, labs, and clinicals typically involve 20-30 hours of attendance and 30-40 hours of preparation/assignments/study per week. Meeting these requirements will mean that students will need to adjust employment and family responsibilities.

### **APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

LPN Advanced Placement applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria by specified times:

- ❖ Completion of all program prerequisites with a letter grade of "C" or better and an average prerequisite GPA  $\geq 3.0$  by end of summer term in the year of application. Program prerequisite/preparatory course information can be found at: <http://www.socc.edu/academics/pgs/degrees/aas-degree/associate-of-applied-science-nursing.shtml>. For purposes of OCNE academic policies, letter grades are used/recognized without +/- designation. Therefore, a C- would be an accepted grade for a prerequisite course.
- ❖ Credits taken pass/no pass (if accepted by the college as meeting requirements) may be considered only if the "pass" was equivalent to a "C" or better.
- ❖ Prior to the application deadline of November 1, 2011, submit official transcripts from all colleges or universities previously attended demonstrating a minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA for all completed prerequisite/preparatory coursework.
- ❖ Completion of all required forms, including the SOCC College Admission Application, which can be located on the Admission Office web site at <http://www.socc.edu/admissions/ApplicationforAdmission.pdf> (for students who have not previously been admitted to Southwestern Oregon Community College). NOTE: The application for admission to Southwestern Oregon Community College must be completed IN ADDITION to the LPN Advanced Placement Nursing Program Application.
- ❖ International students (individuals with a non-immigrant visa) will be required to follow the Admission Office process (<http://www.socc.edu/isp/pgs/bm~doc/intnlapp.pdf>) for admission and/or registration. If prerequisites were completed outside the United States, a course-by-course evaluation by a credential evaluation service is required. Contact Student First Stop at 541-888-7352 with questions regarding transcript evaluation. Note that the timeframe for an evaluation of courses completed outside the U.S. can be lengthy and the evaluation and document submission to the Admission's Office must be completed by the application deadline for the transcript to be considered in the application process.
- ❖ Current unencumbered Oregon LPN license and  $\geq 500$  hours of LPN work experience by November 1, 2011.
- ❖ Microbiology with lab may be completed after the application deadline but must be completed with a grade of C or higher by the end of fall term to progress in the application/selection process and be allowed to enroll in the nursing pharmacology and pathophysiology courses.
- ❖ Completion of the ATI LPN Step Test at the time scheduled (close to November 1) in the application materials.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

If an applicant has taken an equivalent course elsewhere which has a course number, title, or credit hour different from the SOCC course, the applicant must submit official transcripts from each school where courses were completed to the Southwestern Oregon Community College transcript evaluator. Classes taken at other colleges can only be deemed equivalent by SOCC transcript evaluator.

See the LPN Advanced Placement Application and the LPN to RN OCNE Advanced Placement Timeline available at <http://www.socc.edu/academics/pgs/degrees/aas-degree/associate-of-applied-science-nursing.shtml>.

Applicants will have to take the ATI LPN Step test (of LPN knowledge) on either October 31 or November 1, 2011 on the SOCC Campus in Coos Bay (time and classroom to be announced). Applicants must contact the department secretary at 541-888-7443 to reserve a seat for the test. The cost of the test will be \$30 (check or money order made out to SOCC). Applicants are encouraged to study an NCLEX-PN review text before the test.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION POINTS

Eligible LPN Advanced Placement applicants will be considered for the three phases of the application/selection process and available slots in the second year of the Nursing Program. Applicants will be assessed according to the following:

### **PHASE I:**

- 1. PREREQUISITE GPA:** A maximum of 40 points will be awarded. The applicant must provide transcript(s) for all prerequisites. The first 49 credits of prerequisites will be calculated in the gpa for assignment of points in the selection process. Points will be assigned using a linear equation,  $\text{points} = 24 \text{ times gpa} - 56$ .
- 2. ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY I GRADE:** Points will be awarded to the grade point for anatomy and physiology i as follows: a = 5 points; b = 3. If a&p i was repeated, the gpa will be calculated on the most recent grade for that course.
- 3. PRIOR DEGREE:** Applicants who provide official transcripts as proof of a prior degree will be awarded points as follows: associate degree = 1 point; bachelor's degree = 2 points; master's degree or higher = 3 points.
- 4. REQUIRED REFERENCES:** See application forms.
- 5. NATIONAL STANDARDIZED TEST:** Up to 20 points will be awarded for scores on the ati lpn step exam. (Points = applicant's score in decimal form times 20.)
- 6. License and Practice as an LPN:** Current unencumbered license in Oregon as an LPN and 500 or more hours of work experience as an LPN are required. No points are awarded. (NOTE:

Another 500 hours of work experience as an LPN will be required by the end of the following summer term if not already shown on documents attached to the application.)

**7. Discretionary Points:** The SOCC Nursing Program will award discretionary points to applicants who meet the following criteria by November 1, 2011:

- Resident of Coos or Curry county (proof of residency may be required) = 3 points;
- Completion of in-program first and second year electives with C or above as follows:
  - all 21 credits = 3 points,
  - 15 credits = 2 points,
  - 8 credits = 1 point;
- Cumulative GPA for PN Program (PN courses only) as follows:
  - $\geq 3.5$  = 8 points,
  - 3.0-3.49 = 5 points,
  - 2.5-2.99 = 3 points,
  - 2.25-2.49 = 1 point.

**8. Tie Breakers:** In the event that two or more applicant scores cluster at the same cut-off point, SOCC will use tie breakers in the following order: 1) In-district student; 2) overall prerequisite/preparatory GPA; 3) Math grade; 4) BI231 grade.

**Based on the point system, applicants are ranked and selected for enrolling in the available slots for the pharmacology 1 and pathophysiology 1 courses (NRS230 and NRS232), Phase L 2 of the process.**

**Phase L2:**

Selection for enrollment in the pathophysiology and pharmacology courses does not guarantee admission to the nursing program but allows applicants to progress (if both Pharmacology 1 and 2 and Pathophysiology 1 and 2 courses are successfully completed) to the summer bridge course (on a space available basis). Phase L2 advancement status combines the points earned in Phase L I with up to 10 points for the patho/pharm grades as follows:

Pathophysiology 1	A = 5 points
	B = 3 points
Pharmacology 1	A = 5 points
	B = 3 points

Acceptance or alternate status for the SOCC Nursing Program is made after the completion of Patho/Pharm I courses in order to allow the applicant time to plan for the bridge course. Patho/Pharm II (NRS 231 and NRS233) must also be completed with a C or better in order to maintain the acceptance or alternate status and progress to the bridge course on a space available basis (NRS115 LPN Transition to OCNE, to be offered through Lane Community College during the summer of 2012).

(Note: Starting in 2012 LPN Advanced Placement applicants who were alternates in a prior year but not admitted to the second year of the Nursing Program, have completed the Patho/Pharm 1 and 2

courses with a C or better, and who re-apply, will be assigned an additional 5 points for subsequent application processes for up to three years.)

Applicants may apply for any available LPN Advanced Placement slots in any community college OCNE partner nursing program. Contact the nursing program director for more information.

**Phase L3:**

Selected applicants and alternates are eligible to take the bridge course (on a space available basis; up to 24 students from partner programs will be allowed to enroll in NRS115). Applicants must complete the course with a C or better. Top ranked applicants (four or more depending on available spaces) will be accepted and admitted to the fourth term (beginning of second year) of the SOCC nursing program. Alternates must earn a C or better in the bridge course to become eligible for admission to slots that may become available by the start of fall term, or to earn preferential points for advanced placement application processes in subsequent years.

Applicants must complete all program first year general education courses and the bridge course with a C or better as well as providing proof of the additional 500 hours (for a final total of 1000 hours) of work experience as an LPN by the end of the summer term in order to progress into the fall nursing courses in the second year of the program. (Top ranked applicants fill the available slots.)

**Credit Award for Previous Practical Nursing Courses**

Following successful completion of Phases L1, L2 and L3, the Nursing Program Director will review the accepted applicant's prior Practical Nursing Program transcripts. The director will arrange with Enrollment Services for awarding of 15 credits for equivalency to NRS110, NRS111 and NRS112 to ensure at least 90 required credits (prerequisites through the Nursing Program's first year) have been completed prior to entry in the second year of the program.

**Nursing Program Curriculum, Second Year**

See the Nursing Program advising guide for more information about the required courses in the second year of the program.