NURSING (RN, NP)
ACADEMIC AND CAREER INFORMATION

NATURE OF THE WORK, EARNINGS, AND OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Nurses promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They can practice independently, although they also collaborate with all members of the healthcare team to provide the care needed for each patient. Nurses also serve as advocates for patients, families, and communities. They develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families in proper care; and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health.

Earnings and Job Outlook: In 2018, the average annual salary was $71,730 for registered nurses and $113,390 for nurse practitioners. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment for registered nurses will grow 12% for registered nurses and 26% for nurse practitioners from 2018-2028 (Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2018).

TRAINING

The primary pathway to become a Registered Nurse (RN) is the four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). There are additional ways of obtaining a BSN or Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) besides the traditional 4-year route which include: 1) Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (A-BSN) programs, which are geared for those without previous nursing preparation, but who hold a baccalaureate/bachelor's degree in a major field other than nursing. An Accelerated second-degree BSN program is a full time commitment, which generally takes 12-18 months to complete (depending on the program); and 2) Entry-level Nursing Masters programs, also accelerated in nature, are geared to non-nursing graduates, and generally take three years to finish. Nurses who graduate with an MSN are called advanced practice nurses (APNs). Both A-BSN and MSN programs qualify students to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN exam), which one must pass to obtain a nursing license.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION

In order to be considered for admission to the nursing major, CSULB students must be declared as pre-nursing students. Pre-nursing students must complete a series of prerequisite courses: written communication, oral communication, critical thinking, STAT 108, BIOL 207, BIOL 208, CHEM 140, and BIOL 311. Each course must be completed with a grade of "C" or better; when all prerequisites are completed the GPA for the prerequisite courses must be "B" or better (3.0 or better).Applicants to the nursing major are normally admitted by the time they reach junior standing and must apply before they have earned 75 Timely Graduation units. Students who have earned 75 or more Timely Graduation units at CSULB are not eligible to apply to nursing. Pre-nursing students should note that withdrawing or repeating courses to improve their grades or GPA will result in poor academic progress and will likely make them ineligible for admission.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CSULB courses which fulfill admission requirements for some nursing programs:
Students maintain responsibility for verifying course selection with individual programs.

Coursework	CSULB Courses
One year of General Chemistry with Lab	Chemistry 111A & 111B
One year of Organic Chemistry with Lab	Chemistry 220A & 220B + 320 L (Chem. & Biochem. majors) OR 220A w/ 223A & 220B w/ 223B
Human Anatomy and Physiology with Lab	Biology 208: Human Anatomy Biology 207: Human Physiology
One year of General Biology with Lab	Biology 211 & 212 & 213
One year of General Physics with Lab	Physics 100A & 100B OR 151 & 152
Microbiology	Biology 311
One semester to 1 year of Calculus	Math 119A OR 122 & 123
One course in Statistics	Biology 260 OR Statistics 108
One year of Behavioral Science courses	Sociology 100 and Psychology 100
One year of English (Composition and Literature preferred)	English 100 AND another course from the English department such as: 102, 180, 300 (some schools MAY take equivalent courses)

Courses in the social sciences, humanities, languages, and computer skills are also recommended.

IMPORTANT FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

CLINICAL EXPOSURE: Nursing admission committees want to know that you have the desire and ability to work with patients and successful participation in clinical volunteer or job experience can demonstrate this. Working and/or shadowing a nurse is strongly encouraged.

WORK EXPERIENCE: Work experience can also be valuable in demonstrating your potential to succeed in school. Success in a work environment can reveal meaningful information to admissions committees. Depending on the setting, work experience can develop and showcase a variety of skills including communication (oral and/or written), time management, and problem solving.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION: Letters of recommendation are required for application to some nursing programs. The purpose of the letters is to provide nursing schools with an impression of the applicant from faculty or persons who are in a position to observe the applicant's work, as it relates to the study of medicine.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)
- Nurse Source
- All Nursing Schools
- List of Accelerated BSN programs
- Discover Nursing
- Centralized Application Service for Nursing Programs (NursingCAS)
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

For more information on nursing, visit www.discovernursing.com and see the HPAO advisor for further information on the application process, application assistance, and a list of upcoming workshops and events.