



College of the Sequoias Nursing and Allied Health Division

Nursing Program Information Tutorial



**Registered Nursing Program Office
Hospital Rock 101
915 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277**

**559-730-3728 • 559-730-3732
www.cos.edu/nursing**

What Will You Learn From This Tutorial?

- Information about nursing as a career
- Requirements before entering the program and ongoing requirements
- Application and selection process
- Estimated costs associated before and during the nursing program

Registered Nursing (RN) as a Career

- An RN is a key member of the health care team
- An RN uses critical thinking, assessment skills and organizational skills to care for patients of all ages in a variety of health care settings, including the home.

Characteristics Needed to be a Successful RN

- Motivated
- Caring and compassionate
- Honest
- Ability to focus and be detail oriented
- Like working with people of varied backgrounds, ages, and health conditions
- Flexibility
- Has good math skills at the algebra level
- Communicates clearly in both verbal and written formats
- Likes learning new things
- Ability to process information

RN Scope of Practice – CA Board of Registered Nursing (BRN)

www.rn.ca.gov/practice/npa

Nursing is Challenging & Very Rewarding

- Nursing is mentally, emotionally and physically challenging
- Nurses must always be thinking, problem solving, and assessing clients in their care and in a variety of situations
- Nurses must be able to lift patients, help them move, and perform other physical tasks
- Nurses must be able to stand and be functional for 10 – 12 hours shifts
- Nurses have to work very closely with a variety of other people
- Nurses have mobility in their career
- Nurses have high salary growth
- Most important – Nursing is a very fulfilling and rewarding career

Program Description

- The College of the Sequoias RN Program is a four-semester program offered to those applicants who have completed the required prerequisite course work
- There are four entry options to the RN Program
 - The two-year traditional RN Program (no previous nursing experience required)
 - Summer-start Year Round RN Program (no previous nursing experience required)
 - The LVN to RN Advanced Placement/Apprenticeship Option (for those applicants with an LVN license)
 - LVN 30-Unit Option (for those applicants with an LVN license; must meet with Director of Nursing before choosing this option)
- Upon completion of the RN Program, the graduate (except LVN 30-Unit Option) earns an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and is then eligible to apply for the CA NCLEX-RN licensure examination

COS Nursing Program Requirements

- Counseling
- Prerequisites/GPA
- Co-requisites
- Other degree requirements

COS Nursing Program Requirements: Counseling

- Amelia Sweeney
 - Counselor, Nursing & Allied Health
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 - Telephone: 559-730-3715



COS Nursing Program Requirements: Prerequisites/GPA

- 15 Units
 - Biology 30 Human Anatomy (4 Semester Units with Lab)
 - Biology 31 Human Physiology (4 Semester Units with Lab)
 - Biology 40 Microbiology (4 Semester Units with Lab)
 - English 1 (3-4 Semester Units)
- Overall GPA of 2.5
- GPA of at least 2.5 in Biology Classes
 - No More Than 1 Repeat In **EACH** Biology Course
- All prerequisite course work must be passed with at least a grade of “C” and be completed prior to the application deadline. Minimum 2.5 GPA required. In progress course work is not accepted.

COS Nursing Program Additional Graduation Requirements:

It is recommended these courses be completed prior to admission to the RN Program:

- Communications 1, 4, or 8
- Psychology 1, or General Psychology
- Sociology 1, or Anthropology 10, or N106 Cultural Competency in Healthcare
- History 17, 18, or Pols 5
- Humanities (General Education Area C)
- Math 230 or a more advanced Math course or eligibility for a higher Math course based on COS Placement Procedures (Based On Catalog Rights)

Note: There are no recency requirements on coursework.

Bachelor's or Higher Degree

- Students who have earned a Baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college are only required to complete the coursework required for the Registered Nursing program, including prerequisites and nursing coursework.
- These students are not required to complete any other courses to meet graduation requirements for the Associate of Science Degree.
- Note: per BRN CCR 1426(c), to apply for licensure through the CA BRN, COS nursing graduates are required to complete the following course content (if not part of the Bachelor's or higher degree):
 - GE Area 1: English Language Communication skills (oral, written, & group)
 - Related Natural Sciences - GE Area 4: Behavioral and Social Sciences

Foreign Transcript Evaluation

- **The Nursing Program does not accept foreign coursework for prerequisite courses**
- Foreign course work must first be evaluated by an accredited and approved evaluation service and then reviewed by the COS Evaluations Office.
- To have foreign coursework evaluated, students need to contact one of the approved evaluation agencies listed below and request a detailed equivalency report:
 - AERC (American Education Research Corporation)
(626) 339-4404 www.aerc-eval.com
 - APIE (Academic & Professional International Evaluations, Inc.)
(562) 594-6498 www.apie.org
 - IERF (International Education Research Foundation)
(310) 258-9451 www.ierf.org
 - NACES (The National Association of Credential Evaluation Services)
Email: info@naces.org <http://www.naces.org>
 - WES (World Education Service)
www.wes.org

How to Apply for the COS Nursing Program

- All requirements listed on the COS Nursing Website:
 - <https://catalog.cos.edu/areas-study/nursing/associate-science-registered-nursing-not-for-transfer-as/>
 - Complete Application for Program to the term in which you are applying
 - RN Program
 - LVN-RN Advanced Placement/Apprenticeship Program
 - Summer-Start Year Round Program (When this program is available, then it will only appear on the fall application cycle)

COS Nursing Program Application Process

- All applications must be submitted to the COS Nursing Office (HR 101). Applications will not be accepted by mail, email or fax. Applications will only be accepted on regular business days, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Summer hours are Monday through Thursday 7:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 am.
- For hard copy official transcripts included with your application packet: Applicant is required to provide TWO official transcripts (in original sealed/unopened envelope) for any and all U.S. institutions, regardless of applicability to nursing requirements. If you choose this option you are not required to apply to College of the Sequoias.
- For submission of official electronic transcripts: Applicant must apply to COS first, before sending an official eTranscript(s). Once applicant is issued a Banner ID, the applicant is required to send ONE official eTranscript for any and all U.S. institutions, regardless of applicability to nursing requirements. The applicant is also required to provide corresponding unofficial transcripts and receipt of transfer in with their application packet.
 - Official transcripts are used to calculate overall 2.5 GPA regardless of recency or non-degree applicable courses)
- One unofficial transcript from COS

COS Nursing Program Application Process

Continued

- Multi-criteria documentation attached
- Completed and Signed Nursing Program Information Tutorial Test attached to the application
 - For an application to be valid for evaluation, a minimum of 12 questions must be answered correctly on the Information Tutorial Test. Failure to meet this score is considered to be an incomplete application resulting in denial
- All prerequisites completed
- If LVN, copy of active LVN license
- TEAS Report
 - If TEAS was taken at COS, submit a copy of the Individual Performance Profile Report.
 - If TEAS was taken at a location other than COS, submit a printed copy of the Individual Performance Profile Report **and** a copy of the transfer receipt or an email verification showing payment for electronic transfer of scores to C.O.S. from www.atitesting.com.

If an applicant is not admitted to the program for the semester they are applying for, they can re-apply for any subsequent semester; there is no waitlist.

Application Period

- Applications are accepted twice a year:
 - February 1 Deadline
 - July 15 Deadline
- Applications are available at <https://www.cos.edu/en-us/academics/nursing-allied-health/application>
- November 1 – February 1
- May 1 – July 15
- 80 seats are available for each traditional RN cohort
- 10 seats are available for each LVN-RN Advanced Placement cohort
- 20 seats are available for each Summer Start Year Round program cohort, when it is offered

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS)

- An achievement test designed for nursing program admissions
- A percentile cutoff score is used for selection
- Score is known immediately after testing. ATI TEAS adjusted composite score accepted = **62%**
- There are four major content domains on ATI TEAS
 - Reading – 45 items
 - Math – 38 items
 - Science – 50 items
 - English and Language Usage – 37 items

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Continued

- Preparation
 - www.atitesting.com
- Cost - \$120.00
- Testing Location – COS
- Information and Schedule Posted on:
 - <https://www.cos.edu/en-us/academics/nursing-allied-health/teas-information>
 - ATI TEAS must be taken and passed with a score of 62% or higher
 - *You must achieve this score in your first two attempts at the TEAS. If you do not achieve a score of at least 62% in your first two attempts, you will not be considered for the COS Nursing Program.*
 - *A minimum of 45 days between test taking is required.*

LVN to RN Advanced Placement/Apprenticeship

- The LVN to RN Advanced Placement/Apprenticeship Program is a three semester sequence of courses designed to allow those who are licensed as an LVN to pursue their RN licensure
- Admitted on a space available basis and/or as a cohort of ten
- The LVN to RN application is the same as the traditional RN application
- The application cycle is the same as the RN Program (select LVN-RN Advanced Placement/Apprenticeship Program on the application)
- The prerequisites for the LVN to RN Advanced Placement Program/Apprenticeship are the same as the generic RN Program

LVN 30-Unit Option

- Non-degree option – must meet with the Director of Nursing before choosing this option
- Established by the CA Board of Registered Nursing (BRN-CCR 1429)
- Admitted on a space available basis only
- GE not required, only BIO 30, BIO 31 and BIO 40
- Cannot change option status once the first class is attended
- Upon successful completion of the 30-Unit Option, the graduate will receive a certificate of completion from COS and will be eligible to take the CA RN-NCLEX exam. The graduate will NOT receive an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing and will not be considered a graduate of the college
- After successfully passing the CA RN-NCLEX, the graduate will be designated as a “non-graduate” by the CA BRN. This designation is **permanent** and may have implications for out of state licensure
- The LVN 30-Unit Option application is the same as the generic RN application
- Same application cycle as the RN Program (select LVN 30-Unit Option)

Registered Nursing Program

- Lecture/Theory – 40 Units
 - 1st Semester – 11 Units
 - 2nd Semester – 10 Units
 - 3rd Semester – 9 Units
 - 4th Semester – 10 Units
- Clinical/Lab Experience
 - Types of Settings: Hospitals, School Nursing, Clinics, Home Health, Health Fairs, Assisted Living Facilities

Registered Nursing Courses

First Year:

- Semester 1
 - NURS 121 Fundamentals for Nursing
 - NURS 123 Critical Thinking in Nursing (Also taken by LVN to RN students in their 1st semester)
 - NURS 124 Adult Health Nursing 1
- Semester 2
 - NURS 133 Concepts of Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing
 - NURS 134 Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 2
 - NURS 135 Concepts of Nursing Care of the Pregnant Family & Neonatal

Second Year:

- Semester 1
 - NURS 143 Concepts of Pediatric Nursing
 - NURS 144 Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 3
- Semester 2
 - NURS 174 Concepts of Adult Health Nursing 4
 - NURS 175 Transition to Registered Nursing Practice

Year-Round Program

- The Year-Round Program begins in the summer and has a duration of 26 months
- The program requires all of the same coursework as the traditional RN Program; however, in the Year-Round Program only offers one (1) course taken at a time. Program classes are in back-to-back succession throughout summer, fall, and spring semesters.
- Lectures are scheduled in the evening on weekdays. Clinical rotations are scheduled every other weekend (Saturdays and Sundays).
- An applicant must select this program on the application when applying.
 - The Year-Round Program is only available on an application to the fall term; however, it may not be available to apply to every fall application.
 - Applicants can only select one of the programs listed on the application
- The application process remains the same as the traditional RN program, meaning that the requirements to apply are the same, and the selection process based of the multi-criteria selection matrix is the same.
 - 20 seats are offered for each Year-Round Program cohort.

Initial & Ongoing Requirements

(These are requirements once a seat is offered)

- Required Immunizations
 - MMR, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Td/Tdap, Flu Vaccine, COVID vaccine
- Background Check & Urine Drug Screen
 - Valid Social Security Number/Tax ID Required
 - Drug Testing (No Medical Marijuana Waiver)
- American Heart Association (AHA) Healthcare Provider
 - No Exceptions, No Substitutions
- 2-Step TB Skin Test (4 visit approach) – As required by Clinical Facilities
 - Visit 1 (Day 1): First Subdermal PPD Injection is administered
 - Visit 2 (Day 3): PPD is read 48-72 hours after placement
 - Visit 3 (Day 7-21): Second Subdermal PPD Injection is administered
 - Visit 4: Second PPD is read 48-72 hours after second PPD administration
 - Quantiferon Blood Test is required for positive PPD reactors
 - A Chest X-ray May Be Required for a positive blood test (Applicant Cost)
- CA Driver's License and Automobile Insurance
- N95 Mask Fit test to be administered by the COS Health Center
- Student Health Form & Physical Health Form
- Essential Technical & Cognitive Standards

STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH INITIAL AND ON-GOING REQUIREMENTS

Background Check and Urine Drug Screen

- COS is part of a consortium for Computerized Clinical Placement System (CCPS). As part of the system, COS complies with the standardized process for clinical placement in the consortium affiliate clinical facilities. To comply with the consortium, as well as other state, local, and federal regulations, all incoming students will complete a urine drug screen and criminal background check upon acceptance to the program.
- In addition: The Joint Commission (hospital accreditation agency) requires any health care facility that requires employees to have personal criminal background checks must also require the same background screening for students and volunteers involved in patient care.

Background Check and Urine Drug Screen Continued

- Students must have a negative urine drug screen and clear criminal background check to participate in placement(s) in clinical facilities which the college affiliates with for student learning experiences.
- Students are responsible for all costs associated with the urine drug screen and criminal background check and for any repeat urine testing/background check needed.
- Participation in clinical rotations is a mandatory part of the nursing program; therefore, the student who is refused admittance to any healthcare facility will not be able to meet clinical objectives and will be ineligible to continue in the program.
- If the urine drug screen and/or background check are “flagged”, the student must contact the Director of Nursing immediately to discuss flagged items and obtain further direction *if* flagged items will be accepted by all clinical agencies.

Background Check and Urine Drug Screen Continued

Any applicant with a background check that indicates any of the following felony and/or misdemeanor convictions may be denied clinical placement in healthcare facilities that are part of the consortium:

- Murder
- Felony Assault
- Sex offenses/sexual assault
- Abuse
- Felony possession and furnishing (without certificate of rehabilitation)
- Other felonies involving weapons and/or violent crimes
- Class B and Class A misdemeanor theft
- Felony theft
- Fraud

Background Check and Urine Drug Screen Continued

- Being cleared on the background check for participation in clinical by the clinical facility is a separate process than that of the CA Board of Registered Nursing. These same issues, including DUI's, may impact the ability for the graduate of the program to take the CA RN-NCLEX examination.
- Upon graduation, a new fingerprint Live Scan process for RN-NCLEX Licensure is required by the BRN. Permission to take the CA RN-NCLEX examination based on the Live Scan results is determined by the Board of Registered Nursing.

Essential Technical & Cognitive Standards

- Nursing students must meet the Essential Technical & Cognitive Standards to ensure the safety and welfare of the patients, the health care team and themselves.
- Any restrictions in carrying out the Essential Technical & Cognitive Standards may prevent continued acceptance in the COS RN Program.
- Contact the Director of Nursing for further direction if there are any restrictions.



• Convert pounds to kg ---- $212 \div 2.2 = 96.4\text{kg}$
 • Solution Concentration needs to in mcg/1ml

$$\frac{400 \text{ mcg}}{250 \text{ mL}} = \frac{1000 \text{ mcg}}{1 \text{ mg}} = \frac{400,000 \text{ mcg}}{250 \text{ mL}} = 1600 \text{ mcg/ml}$$

 • Plug in your numbers

$$\frac{5 \times 96.4 \times 60}{1600} = 18.075\text{ml/hr}$$

 • Round to the whole number === **18ml/hr**

Essential Technical Standards Criteria (brief listing; not all inclusive)

- Standing and/or walking continuous during all phases of patient care
- Bending, crouching, stooping several times per hour
- Lifting and carrying a minimum of 30 pounds several times per hour
- Lifting frequently with weight lifted ranging from 100-300 pounds (lifting always done with help)
- Pushing patients, objects, and equipment, frequently up to 45 pounds
- Hearing to communicate with the patient and health care team
- Utilizing sufficient verbal and written skills to effectively and promptly communicate with the patient and health care team

The Nursing Program Rigor and Time Commitments

- The program consists of classroom (lecture, discussion, simulation) activities as well as clinical (hospital, clinics, school nurse, etc.) hours
- Nursing courses must be passed with a minimum of a “C” grade (75%)
- There is an average of 20 hours of nursing class time per week
- The student needs to plan several hours per day to study on top of their class hours
- There are many hours of reading and written assignments to be completed as part of the program
- The student needs to be familiar with computer usage, have Internet access and be able to do word processing for assignments

Clinical Lab Rotations in the Hospital

- Clinical hours **vary** per course and semester. Can be 6-16 hours per week
- Shifts hours depend on type of clinical facility and specific clinical rotation
- Clinical facility shifts may start as early as 5:45 am and some may last until 7:00 pm
- Shifts are arranged by the course instructor and availability at clinical facilities
- Since clinical hours are mandatory for success as a student, it is imperative that you have **dependable** transportation and child care (if applicable)

Sample Student Schedule

Tuesday-Wednesday Clinical

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Wake/Shower/Food 0600-0700	Wake/Shower/Food 0430-0530	Wake/Shower/Food 0430-0530	READING	Personal Life	Personal Life	Personal Life
Driving Parking 0700-0730	Drive/Park/Check In 0530-0600	Drive/Park/Check In 0530-0600	Assignments	-OR-	-OR-	-OR-
NURS 121 Lecture 0730-1020	NURS 121 Lab/Clinical 0600-1330	NURS 121 Lab/Clinical 0600-1330	Care Plan Writing/Revision	Work	Work	Work
NURS 124 Lecture 1030-1150	Drive/Shop for groceries/Put Away 1430-1530	Drive/Shop for groceries/Put Away 1430-1530	Personal Life	-OR-	-OR-	-OR-
Lunch 1200-1300	Laundry 1600-1800	Laundry 1600-1800		Study Group	Study Group	Study Group
Patient Research 1300-1400	Pay Bills/Check Children's Homework 0800-1900	Pay Bills/Check Children's Homework 0800-1900		-OR-	-OR-	-OR-
NURS 123 Lecture 1410-1600	READING	READING		Work on Care Plan	Work on Care Plan	Work on Care Plan
Feed Family 1630-1730	Care Plan Writing 2000-2200	Care Plan Writing/Revision 2000-2200		-OR-	-OR-	-OR-
Sports Practice 1800-2000				Work on Clinical Assignment Paperwork	Work on Clinical Assignment Paperwork	Work on Clinical Assignment Paperwork
Children's Homework 2000-2100						
Paperwork Preparation on Client Care OR TV 2100-2300						

How to be Successful in the COS Nursing Program

- Develop good study habits and support systems to help you through the program
- Be prepared to use information learned from the prerequisite courses in the nursing program courses
- Be prepared to change study habits
- The nursing student must be able to integrate and apply new knowledge in new situations. When learning new material, the student must review by recall and make many connections to stored knowledge
- Learning by repetition and “regurgitating” facts will not work in the nursing program courses
- High grades don’t predict clinical success
- Clinical is pass/fail; the nursing student will go from theory content to implementation of theory content in clinical the same week

Financial Estimate

(prices are estimates & subject to change)

• Tuition and Related Fees	
• Tuition For All Semesters:	\$1,840.00
• Miscellaneous Fees:	312.00
• (Materials, ASB, Parking, Health, Student Center, etc)	
• Books and Online Resources	
Total for All Semesters:	\$ 1,868.69
• Supplies/Other Expenses	
• Total for All Semesters:	\$ 940.68
• NCLEX and Graduation Fees	\$ 1,120.00
Grand Total (Estimated)	\$ 6,081.37

Financial Planning per Semester

(*Prices are estimates & subject to change)

First

Tuition & fees \$584
Books \$1,443.23
Skills Tote \$238
Stethoscope \$32
Uniform \$276.68
Watch \$25
Background/Drug
Screen/Immunization
tracker \$126
Physical & Immunizations
\$200

Total: \$2,924.91

Second

Tuition & fees \$538
Books \$227
Background/drug
screen \$43

Total: \$808

Third

Tuition & fees \$492
Books \$43.96

Total: \$535.96

Fourth

Tuition & fees \$544
Books \$154.50
Nursing Pin \$39-\$480
LiveScan \$75-\$125
NCLEX Review \$400
Interim Permit \$100
NCLEX Application
\$500

Total: \$1,812.50

To do what nobody else will do,
a way that nobody else can do,
in spite of all we go through;
is to be a nurse

Rawsi Williams

Nurses: one of the few blessings of being ill.

Sara Moss-Wolfe

Nurses may not be angels but they are the next
best thing.

Anonymous



Thank you for completing the Nursing Program Information Tutorial

Nursing Program Information Tutorial TEST:

- PRINT the test found at the end of the RN application
- COMPLETE the test
- SIGN the test once you have completed it
- ATTACH the test to your application for submission

PLEASE NOTE:

- IF YOUR APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED WITHOUT THE COMPLETED AND SIGNED TEST IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- IF YOU MISS MORE THAN THREE QUESTIONS ON THE TEST, YOUR APPLICATION IS CONSIDERED INCOMPLETE AND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.