



SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

School of Health & Wellness Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Information Packet

Applicant Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Age Requirement:** Must be at least 18 years of age at the time of admission.
- 2. Social Security or ITIN:** Must possess a valid Social Security card or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to allow for a background check and eligibility for NCLEX licensure upon program completion.
- 3. Completion of Prerequisite Courses:**
 - **Biology 11 (Human Anatomy)**
 - **Biology 12 (Human Physiology)** -*must be completed within 7 years of application.*
 - **Biology 15 (General Microbiology)**

All science prerequisites must be completed with a grade of **C** or better and a cumulative GPA of **2.8 or higher**.

Note: Online courses taken between 2020-2022 due to the pandemic are acceptable. Otherwise, science courses must be completed in person, though hybrid courses (with an in-person lab component) are permissible.

- 4. English Requirement:** Must have completed **English 1A - Principles of Composition I** (or an equivalent course) with a grade of **C** or higher.
 - All prerequisite courses must be completed **before** applying and grades must be reflected on your transcript at the time of application.

- 5. ATI TEAS Exam:**
 - Must have taken and passed the **ATI TEAS Version 7** exam with a score of **62% or higher**. Online proctored or in-person versions are both acceptable.
 - Version 6 is no longer accepted.
 - It is recommended to take the ATI TEAS exam **after** completing all RN prerequisites and the math requirement for an AA/AS degree.

All eligibility requirements must be met and documented before submission of your application. It is strongly recommended that applicants meet with a counselor before applying to confirm they meet all eligibility criteria. To schedule a [counseling appointment](#), please contact (949) 582-4572 or email Sc-ecounselor@saddleback.edu.

Program Duration

The program is two years in length, consisting of four semesters, with no classes held during the summer. The program is accredited by the [Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing](#)

(ACEN), formerly known as NLNAC, and by the [California Board of Registered Nursing](#) (BRN). Upon graduation, students are eligible to sit for the California State Board licensure exam for Registered Nurses. Our graduates consistently achieve [NCLEX pass rates](#) that exceed both the state and national averages. Many of our alumni have secured successful nursing careers across a range of specialties, with numerous others advancing to upper-degree nursing programs.

Admission Criteria and Point Distribution

Maximum Points: 100

The following criteria will be used to evaluate applicants for the RN program. Applicants will be ranked according to their points in each category, and the top 55-60 students with the highest scores will be invited to join the program. Please note that the point cut-off may vary with each application cycle (Spring/Fall). Be sure to include all required documentation when submitting your application in Submittable to receive full points. Official Transcripts must be submitted to the Admissions & Records office. **Unofficial transcripts** may be uploaded with your application in Submittable (online software platform), while **official transcripts** must be submitted directly to the [Admissions & Records office](#).

1. Academic Degrees from Regionally Accredited Programs

International transcripts must be evaluated by a third party.

- **What to Include in Submittable:** A copy of your unofficial transcript showing where your degree was earned.
 - **Maximum Points: 5**
 - **BS/BA or higher** = 5 points
 - **AS/AA degree** = 2 points
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2. Work Experience (within the past 5 years)

Must have work experience as an LVN, LPT, CNA, EMT-P, EMT, or Respiratory Therapist with a valid, current license. No other work experience will be accepted.

No minimum hours required.

- **What to Include in Submittable:**
 - A copy of your valid, current license.
 - A letter from your employer verifying employment dates, using the program's template.
- **Maximum Points: 15**
 - **Current licensure in one of the following:** LVN, LPT, CNA, EMT-P, EMT, or Respiratory Therapist = 15 points

Note: Both work experience and a valid license are required to earn full points (no partial points will be awarded).

3. GPA of Science Prerequisites (Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology)

Applicants must have a **minimum GPA of 2.8** to qualify (no rounding).

- **What to Include in Submittable:** Your unofficial transcripts showing the grades for the science prerequisites. If you have retaken a course, we will accept your highest grade.
- **Maximum Points:** 30
 - **4.0 GPA** = 30 points
 - **3.6 - 3.9 GPA** = 25 points
 - **3.3 - 3.5 GPA** = 20 points
 - **3.0 - 3.2 GPA** = 15 points
 - **2.8 GPA** = 5 points

We encourage applicants to meet with a counselor prior to applying to ensure they meet the requirements.

4. Completion of Relevant Nursing Coursework

- Points will not be awarded for courses in progress. A grade must be reflected on your transcript at the time of application.
- **What to Include in Submittable:**
 - A copy of your unofficial transcript showing relevant nursing coursework.
- **Maximum Points:** 20
 - **Pharmacology** = 5 points
 - **Lifecycle I, Fundamentals of Aging** = 3 points
 - **Lifecycle II, Growth & Development** = 3 points
 - **Psychology 1** = 3 points
 - **Communication Studies (Speech 1 or 5)** = 3 points
 - **Math requirement for AA/AS or higher** = 3 points
 - *Note: To verify course equivalencies, speak with a counselor prior to applying. If the course is not on the approved list, you will need to submit a Petition for Course Substitution/Waiver form. If the petition is in progress at the time of application evaluation, you will not be awarded points for that course.*

5. Life Experience

All applicants will automatically receive 3 points in this category.

- **Maximum Points:** 3
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6. Second Language Proficiency

Cannot combine high school and college transcripts. Self-written letters will not be accepted as verification.

- **What to Include in Submittable:**
 - A verification document for second language proficiency (see list of acceptable forms below).
 - **Maximum Points:** 2
 - You may use one of the following for verification:
 - Letter from a professor, supervisor, or clergy on formal letterhead confirming second language proficiency.
 - Unofficial transcripts from a foreign school showing you attended and completed coursework in the second language.
 - Unofficial high school transcript showing completion of 3 years in the same language with a grade of **C** or better.
 - Unofficial college transcript showing completion of 2 years in the same language with a grade of **C** or better.
 - Official AP score of **3+** in a second language.
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7. ATI TEAS Version 7 score

Must have a score of 62% or higher to qualify. Only Version 7 is accepted.

- **What to Include in Submittable:**
 - Your unofficial TEAS score, which can be obtained through your ATI account.
- **Maximum Points:** 25
 - **85-100%** = 25 points
 - **78-84.9%** = 20 points
 - **71-77.9%** = 15 points
 - **64-70.9%** = 10 points
 - **62-63.9%** = 5 points

Total Maximum Points: 100

Tiebreaker Criteria

In the event of a tie at the point cut-off, the following tiebreaker criteria will be applied, ranked from highest to lowest:

- 1. Completion of Relevant Nursing Coursework:**
 - N 160: Pharmacology
 - N 161: Lifecycle I, Fundamentals of Aging
 - N 165: Lifecycle II, Growth & Development
 - Psychology I
 - Communication Studies (formerly Speech) 1 or 5
 - Math requirement for AA/AS or higher
- 2. GPA for the Three Science Prerequisites (Anatomy, Microbiology, and Physiology)**
- 3. Overall ATI TEAS Score**
- 4. Work Experience**

Important: Criminal Convictions and RN Licensure Exam

If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, you must disclose this information when applying for the RN licensure exam. A criminal conviction may affect your eligibility to take the exam. If you have concerns regarding your eligibility, please consult with the [Nursing Program Director](#) or contact the Board of Registered Nursing before starting the nursing program.

Steps to Take Before Applying to the ADN Program

1. Apply to Saddleback College (if not already a student)

If you are not currently a student at Saddleback College, you must complete an online application to the college. You will need a **student ID** in order to submit your nursing application.

2. Submit Official Transcripts

Before submitting your nursing application, send **official (unopened)** transcripts from any colleges or universities **other than Saddleback/IVC** to the **Admissions & Records** office. This includes any **high school AP scores** used for course credit.

- **Note:** Previously submitted transcripts are kept on file and do not need to be resubmitted unless additional coursework has been completed.
- **International Transcripts:** Must be evaluated by an approved third-party agency. More information can be found at [NACES](#).

3. Schedule a Counseling Appointment

Call **(949) 582-4572** to schedule an appointment with a counselor. This meeting will help you:

- Ensure you meet the requirements to apply to the RN program
- Discuss any additional courses you may need to take before applying

- Completing your nursing application during the application period
- Submitting or confirming course substitutions for nursing prerequisites
- Confirming equivalent courses for nursing prerequisites and supplemental courses
- Determining your current eligibility for points based on completed coursework

4. Gather Required Documents for Your Application

Start collecting the necessary documents for your application:

- **Unofficial transcripts** showing where you completed the prerequisites and any relevant coursework. Official transcripts must also be on file with **Admissions & Records** for any coursework taken outside of Saddleback/IVC.
- **Unofficial ATI TEAS score** (available through your ATI account).
- **Proof of second language proficiency** (if applicable). Accepted verification documentation can be found in the multi-criteria Enrollment section.
- **Copy of your valid license** (if licensed as an LVN, LPT, CNA, EMT, EMT-P, or Respiratory Therapist). No other licenses will be accepted.
- **Employment verification:** If you have relevant work experience within the last 5 years, please have your employer complete the [employment verification form](#).

5. Complete Recommended Prerequisite Courses (Optional but Recommended)

Completing the following courses before applying will help you earn additional points in the application process:

- **N 165** (formerly Gerontology 101) - Fundamentals of Aging
- **N 160** - Pharmacology
- **N 161** - Growth & Development
- **Communication Studies** (formerly Speech) 1 or 5
- **Psychology 1**
- **Math requirement** to fulfill AA/AS degree or higher

Note: If these courses are not completed before entering the program, they must be taken concurrently during the **1st, 2nd, and 4th** semesters of the nursing program, as outlined in the Nursing curriculum.

Important Reminder

Completing these steps early will ensure you meet all eligibility requirements and help maximize your points for the nursing program application.

Application Process and Important Information

Applications for the RN program are accepted **twice a year**—typically in **January** for Fall entry and **July** for Spring entry. Please check the website for **exact application dates**.

- **No applications will be accepted via email, mail, or in person.**
- A link to apply will be available on our website once the application period opens.

We use **Submittable**, an online platform, to manage our application process. Through Submittable, students can:

- Access the application form.
- Upload required documents in various file formats.
- Work on their application incrementally and save their progress until they are ready to submit.

Once an application is submitted, students may request to **edit** their application if any changes are needed as long as it is before the application period closes.

All communication about your application, including its status and any updates, will be sent through your **Submittable account**. Be sure to register with a **valid personal email address**, as all notifications related to the application and acceptance will be sent there.

It is the student's responsibility to regularly check their Submittable account for updates.

If you are not accepted into the program, you are encouraged to re-apply. Please note, we do not maintain a waiting list.

Admission Acceptance and Health Requirements

Once invited into the RN program, students must **accept or decline** the offer within the timeframe specified in their acceptance letter. If a student declines the invitation, they must **re-apply** in a future application period. Students are allowed **only one declination** of admission.

If invited as an **alternate**, the student must also **accept or decline** within the specified response time and fulfill the same requirements as the students who are directly accepted, in order to remain as an alternate.

Health Requirements for Admission

To ensure students are physically capable of performing nursing duties, students who are accepted into the program must meet specific health requirements. The following immunizations, titers, and screenings must be completed within **four months** of admission. We recommend that you start these requirements as soon as possible to meet the deadlines:

- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)**
- **Varicella**
- **TDAP**

- **Hepatitis B**
- **Annual TB Skin Test**
- **COVID-19 Annual Booster**
- **Annual Physical Exam**
- **Annual Seasonal Flu Shot**

All required health documentation is outlined in the [Mandatory Health Assessment Packet](#), which can be found on the [Nursing website](#) under the **Nursing Resources** section.

Titers are lab test results that indicate your immunity to specific diseases. Clinical sites require positive **Hepatitis B**, **MMR**, and **Varicella** titers for placement (proof of vaccination alone is not sufficient).

The process begins with a blood test to check for immunity. If your titer is negative or equivocal, the next step is to receive a booster vaccine immediately. Afterward, you must wait at least 4 weeks before retesting. If you test before the 4-week period, the results will not be valid.

It's important to note that many individuals are not immune, even if they received all required childhood vaccinations. This process can take several months, so it's essential to start as soon as possible. Additionally, titers do not expire.

Additional Requirements

In addition to the health requirements, students accepted into the program must complete the following before starting the program:

- **Background check and drug test**
- **Annual Liability insurance**
- **Current health insurance**
- **Current BLS CPR certification** (American Heart Association)

Students will be required to attend an orientation session where all health requirements, paperwork, and deadlines will be reviewed in detail.

Work Recommendations for Nursing Students

It is recommended that students work **less than 20 hours per week** while enrolled in the program. If working is financially necessary, it is advised to schedule work during weekends or holidays, and ideally in a job that offers flexibility to accommodate the demands of the nursing program.

Course Hours Breakdown

Course	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
N 170 (10 weeks)	49.8	224.1
N 171 (6 weeks)	33.2	49.8
N 172 (16 weeks)	56.1	249
N 173 (8 weeks)	24.9	99.6
N 174 (8 weeks)	24.9	99.6
N 176 (10 weeks + 6-week preceptor)	49.8	249

Weekly Schedule Overview

Lectures will be held on campus **once a week on Wednesdays**. **Simulation days** will take place on campus **approximately two days per week**. **Clinical days** will vary depending on your assigned clinical site and schedule. Clinical placements will be assigned to students, with all clinical sites located within **Orange County**.

Estimated Costs for the RN Program

First Semester

- Total Approximate Cost: \$2,500

Second Semester

- Total Approximate Cost: \$1,100

Third Semester

- Total Approximate Cost: \$1,100

Fourth Semester

- Total Approximate Cost: \$1,500

Grand Total Estimated Cost: \$6,200

For any further inquiries, please feel free to contact us at (949) 582-4701 or via email at scnursing@saddleback.edu. Follow us on [Instagram](#) @Sc_nursing