

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL**

Subject: <b>NURSING COURSE EXEMPTIONS/CHALLENGES</b>	Original Issue Date: 2001	Policy #: <b>710</b>
	Supersedes: May 27, 2011	Effective Date: July 9, 2015
Committees Consulted: Admissions/Promotions	Reviewed & Approved by: Faculty Organization Semester Coordinators College Administration Board of Trustees College Planning Dean, Administrative & Student Services	Approved by:  (Signature on File) Dean, School of Nursing <hr/> (Signature on File) Provost, College of Nursing & Allied Health

**PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines for granting credit for previous education or other acquired knowledge in the field of nursing

**DEFINITION:**

**LVN Option I – Career Mobility**

- Admission requirements:
  - Graduate of an accredited vocational nursing program
  - Satisfactory achievement on pre-entrance examination
  - Minimum overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 in College academic courses
  - Minimum grade of “C” in required prerequisite College courses:
    - Human Anatomy (Anatomy 1)
    - Human Physiology (Physiology 1)
    - General Microbiology (Microbiology 20)
    - College English Composition (English 101)
    - Introduction to Sociology (Sociology 1)
    - Life Span Psychology (Psychology 41)
  - Science courses must be completed within 7 years prior to admission to the nursing program
- Individuals who successfully complete the nursing program are:
  - Graduates of the School of Nursing (SON)
  - Awarded the Associate of Science degree in Nursing from the College
  - Eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination – Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN).

**LVN Option II – 30 Unit Option (required by California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 14: Board of Registered Nursing)**

- Admission requirements:
  - Minimum grade of “C” in required prerequisite College courses:
    - Human Physiology (Physiology 1)
    - General Microbiology (Microbiology 20)
  - No recency requirement for science courses
- Exempt from 3<sup>rd</sup> semester pharmacology course (N231)
- Individuals who successfully complete the nursing program are:
  - Not considered graduates of the School of Nursing

Subject:

**NURSING COURSE EXEMPTIONS/CHALLENGES**

- Not awarded an Associate degree from the College
- Eligible to apply to take the NCLEX-RN for licensure in California.

**POLICY:****Advanced Placement for LVNs**

Advanced placement LVNs enter the nursing program in the 3<sup>rd</sup> semester following successful completion of the Nursing Transition course (N125).

LVN Option I students are awarded 21 units of credit for vocational nursing education.

LVN Option II students do not receive units for vocational nursing education.

**Course Exemption**

Students must petition for nursing course exemption.

Review of previous nursing education or health care experience for credit is coordinated by the Office of Educational Services (OES).

To be eligible for course exemption, the applicant must have completed a nursing course:

- Which was awarded credit by a U.S. community college, senior college, or university
- Which had unit value, hours, and content corresponding to the course for which exemption is sought as described in the SON curriculum
- With an earned minimum grade of "C" in the course
- Within the past three years.

Credit for previous course work may be obtained through:

- Course exemption
- Exemption by challenge examination
- Transfer from another nursing program.

The College transcript will designate credit using non-evaluative symbols:

- "EX" Credit by exemption
- "CE" Credit by challenge examination.

Requests for exemption/challenge are brought to Admissions and Promotions Committee for review and approval.

Accepted candidates who believe they are eligible for further exemption may petition.

Students, who successfully complete all curriculum requirements within a semester, either by course exemptions or challenge examinations, advance to the next semester provided all requirements for promotion have been met and space is available.

Information regarding credit for previous education is available in the SON Catalog and online.

**Exemption by Challenge Examination**

Students who do not qualify for nursing course exemption may apply for credit by challenge examination.

Subject:

**NURSING COURSE EXEMPTIONS/CHALLENGES**

Exemption by challenge examination is not permitted when the student has an earned grade for that course.

Challenge examinations will consist of a written examination for theory courses and a performance evaluation for clinical nursing courses.

- Nursing theory courses must be challenged successfully prior to challenging the clinical nursing course
- A minimum of two days will be allotted for evaluation of clinical performance
- Challenge examinations may be taken only once
  - Students who do not pass the challenge exam will be placed in the course.

A fee is charged for each written examination and per day of clinical evaluation.

**PROCEDURE:****Course Exemption**

Students petitioning for course exemption must submit the following to the OES a minimum of three months prior to the beginning of the course:

- Completed petition form
- Official transcript which shows satisfactory completion of the course
- Other evidence of prior education or knowledge.

Dean, Administrative and Student Services:

- Reviews the petition for course exemption with the applicant/student
- Asks the appropriate Semester Coordinator to evaluate the transcript and syllabi, and complete the Course Equivalency Review form
- Submits student petition and completed Course Equivalency Review forms to Admissions and Promotions Committee for approval
- Informs the applicant/student of the response.

Semester Coordinator:

- Evaluates the submitted transcript and syllabi
- May offer exemption by challenge examination if the course content does not meet the requirements for course exemption
- Completes the Course Equivalency Review form

Admissions and Promotions Committee:

- Votes on approval
- Notifies Dean, Administrative and Student Services and returns completed petition form.

**Exemption by Challenge Examination**

Student petitions for credit by challenge examination through the OES.

Dean, Administrative and Student Services informs the student of the examination fees.

Semester coordinator/designee provides the student with guidelines and/or study materials to prepare for the challenge examination(s).

Subject:  
**NURSING COURSE EXEMPTIONS/CHALLENGES**

**PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION:**

Petition  
Course Equivalency Review

**REFERENCES:**

Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges: Guide to Evaluating Institutions, Standard II: Student Learning Programs and Services  
California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Division 14: Board of Registered Nursing, Article 3: Prelicensure Nursing Programs

- Section 1429: Licensed Vocational Nurses, 30 Semester or 45 Quarter Unit Option
- Section 1430: Previous Education Credit

Board of Registered Nursing: Transfer and Challenge Policies  
School of Nursing Fee Schedule  
College Catalog: Credit for Previous Education/Work Experience

**REVISION DATES:**

2001  
November 6, 2003  
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