Nursing Education (NURS)

Contact the Nursing Education Department for additional information.
(760) 744-1150, ext. 2279
Office: HS-200
For transfer information, consult a Palomar College Counselor.

Associate in Arts (AA) Degree:
AA Degree requirements are listed in Section 6 (green pages).

• Nursing

Associate in Science (AS) Degree:

The Associate Degree Nursing program is accredited by both the California Board of Registered Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), Peachtree Rd. NE, Suite 850 Atlanta, GA 30326, 1-404-975-5000.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Associate Degree Nursing program prepares graduates to provide direct nursing care to patients in hospitals and other health agencies at a staff nurse level. The curriculum consists of coursework in nursing, general education, and clinical nursing practice in local hospitals and other health agencies. The Nursing faculty of the College is directly responsible for all phases of the program.

Palomar College has two Associate Degree options available in Nursing. The difference in the coursework between the two options is in the GE requirements, which are described in more detail in the programs of study on the following pages. The Associate in Arts (AA) in Nursing Degree meets the requirements of Title V and the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). The Associate in Science (AS) in Nursing Degree meets the requirements of Title V Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Admission to the nursing program is by special application. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must: (1) be eligible for admission to Palomar College; (2) attend a Nursing Orientation meeting; (3) submit proof of high school graduation or equivalency or higher; (4) have a GPA of 2.5 in prerequisite sciences; (5) pass the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), version V, with a composite score of at least 62%; and (6) submit a completed application along with the required documentation.

LICENSURE: Upon successful completion of either the Associate in Arts (AA) in Nursing Degree or the Associate in Science (AS) in Nursing Degree, students will be eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX RN). If performance on the examination is successful, they will be licensed as a registered nurse.

Students who have been enrolled in an accredited Registered Nursing program within the last two years may receive full credit for courses transferred which are, as evaluated by the Palomar College Nursing Education Department faculty, comparable to courses offered by the College. If courses transferred are found not to be comparable, students may challenge Palomar courses for credit.

CREDIT BY EXAMINATION: Academic credit by examination may be obtained by those whose prior education and/or experience provides the knowledge and skills required to meet the objectives of one or more courses. Students who believe they may be eligible for credit by examination should contact the Nursing Education Department for an appointment for special advising prior to submitting their application for admission to the program. For College policy regarding credit by examination, consult "Credit by Examination" in the Academic Regulations and Standards section of this catalog.

Upon completion of the eligibility requirements, separate theory and clinical performance examinations will be administered for courses with a laboratory component. A written patient care plan is required in all appropriate theory and clinical courses. Completion of the written work with a grade of ‘C’ or better is required prior to taking the clinical examination. Courses without a lab component will have a written examination only. A grade of ‘C’ or better must be achieved. The Nursing Education Department’s Credit by Examination Policy may be obtained from the Nursing Education Department Office. A maximum of 20 units may be obtained through credit by examination.

STUDENTS WITH A PREVIOUS BACHELOR’S DEGREE: As per the Education Code, SB 1393, students with baccalaureate or higher degrees from a regionally accredited college in a non-nursing field are only required to complete the course work necessary for completion of the registered nursing program, including prerequisites and nursing coursework. These students are not required to complete any other courses required by the college for an associate degree.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for currently licensed RNs and LVNs can be earned through a variety of Palomar College academic classes. For information contact the Nursing Education Department (760) 744-1150, ext. 2580.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY

Associate in Arts (AA) in Nursing

Requirements for an AA in Nursing

MATH Any course numbered 56 and above, except math topics, or an appropriate score on an approved math exam 0-4
MCR 200 Fundamentals of Microbiology 4
ZOO 200 Anatomy 4
ZOO 203 Physiology 4

Semester I
NURS 117 Nursing I 9
NURS 103 Nursing Foundation I 2

Semester II
NURS 118 Nursing II 9
NURS 203 Nursing Foundation II 1

Semester III
NURS 217 Nursing III 9

Semester IV
NURS 218 Nursing IV 9

Additional Related Support Courses
ENG 100* English Composition 4
HUM Any approved GE Area C course 3
PSY 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, or 130 3
SOC 100, 105, 110, 125, 130, or 135 3
SPCH 100 or 105 3
One approved pair of American History & Institutions courses or an appropriate score on an approved American History & Institutions exam 0-6

The Multicultural Course requirement is met by completion of NURS 103 and NURS 217, or NURS 110 and NURS 217.

The following additional requirements for an Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing are met by completion of the Nursing Curriculum: Health and Fitness requirement 0
Lifelong Learning and Self-Development requirement 0

TOTAL UNITS 73-77

*Three semester unit courses accepted from accredited colleges.
Curriculum plan subject to change.
To get credit for any course applicable to an Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing, students must receive a grade of ‘C’ or better.

To satisfy a prerequisite, the student must have earned a letter grade of A, B, C or CR in the prerequisite course, unless otherwise stated.
See Catalog addendum at http://www.palomar.edu/catalog/2015/ for updates and new program approvals.
AA in Nursing for LVNs

Advanced standing for LVNs is based on the following requirements:

- Hold a valid, active LVN license in the state of California.
- Graduate from an accredited LVN/LPN program.
- Meet all requirements for admission as identified in the College Catalog.
- Successfully complete NURS 110.

Upon successful completion of NURS 110, the student has two academic years to enroll in the nursing program. If the student is unable to enroll within two academic years, for any reason other than lack of space in the program, the student will be required to repeat NURS 110.

Requirements for an AA in Nursing for LVNs

MATH Any course numbered 56 and above, except math topics, or an appropriate score on an approved math exam 0-4
NURS 110 LVN-RN Transition 2
MICR 200 Fundamentals of Microbiology 4
ZOO 200 Anatomy 4
ZOO 203 Physiology 4

Semester I
NURS 217 Nursing III 9
NURS 203 Nursing Foundation II 1

Semester II
NURS 218 Nursing IV 9

Additional Related Support Courses
ENG 100* English Composition 4
HUM Any approved GE Area C course 3
PSYC 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, or 130 3
SOC 100, 105, 110, 125, 130, or 135 3
SPCH 100 or 105 3
One approved pair of American History & Institutions courses or an appropriate score on an approved American History & Institutions exam 0-6

The Multicultural Course requirement is met by completion of NURS 103 and NURS 217, or NURS 110 and NURS 217. 0

The following additional requirements for an Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing are met by completion of the Nursing Curriculum:
Health and Fitness requirement 0
Lifelong Learning and Self-Development requirement 0

TOTAL UNITS 49-59

*Three semester unit courses accepted from accredited colleges.
Curriculum plan subject to change.

When the LVN student has successfully completed the AA in Nursing program, the student will be given credit for previous vocational nursing education equivalent to 18 units.

Associate in Science (AS) in Nursing

Requirements for an AS in Nursing

MATH Any course numbered 56 and above, except math topics, or an appropriate score on an approved math exam 0-4
MICR 200 Fundamentals of Microbiology 4
ZOO 200 Anatomy 4
ZOO 203 Physiology 4

Semester I
NURS 117 Nursing I 9
NURS 103 Nursing Foundation I 2

Semester II
NURS 118 Nursing II 9
NURS 203 Nursing Foundation II 1

Semester III
NURS 217 Nursing III 9

Semester IV
NURS 218 Nursing IV 9

Additional Related Support Courses
ENG 100* English Composition 4
HUM Any approved GE Area C course 3
PSYC 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, or 130 3
SOC 100, 105, 110, 125, 130, or 135 3
SPCH 100 or 105 3

One approved pair of American History & Institutions courses or an appropriate score on an approved American History & Institutions exam 0-6

The Multicultural Course requirement is met by completion of NURS 103 and NURS 217, or NURS 110 and NURS 217. 0

The following additional requirements for an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing are met by completion of the Nursing Curriculum:
Health and Fitness requirement 0
Lifelong Learning and Self-Development requirement 0

TOTAL UNITS 67-71

*Three semester unit courses accepted from accredited colleges.
Curriculum plan subject to change.

To get credit for any course applicable to an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing, students must receive a grade of ‘C’ or better.
AS in Nursing for LVNs

Advanced standing for LVNs is based on the following requirements:
- Hold a valid, active LVN license in the state of California.
- Graduate from an accredited LVN/LPN program.
- Meet all requirements for admission as identified in the College Catalog.
- Successfully complete NURS 110.

Upon successful completion of NURS 110, the student has two academic years to enroll in the nursing program. If the student is unable to enroll within two academic years, for any reason other than lack of space in the program, the student will be required to repeat NURS 110.

Requirements for an AS in Nursing for LVNs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH Any course numbered 56 and above, except math topics, or an appropriate score on an approved math exam</td>
<td>0-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 110 LVN-RN Transition</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 200 Fundamentals of Microbiology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>ZOO 200 Anatomy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZOO 203 Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester I**

- NURS 217 Nursing III          | 9     |
- NURS 203 Nursing Foundation II | 1     |

**Semester II**

- NURS 218 Nursing IV           | 9     |

**Additional Related Support Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENG 100* English Composition</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUM Any approved GE Area C course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, or 130</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC 100, 105, 110, 125, 130, or 135</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPCH 100 or 105</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Multicultural Course requirement is met by completion of NURS 103 and NURS 217, or NURS 110 and NURS 217.

The following additional requirements for an Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing are met by completion of the Nursing Curriculum:

- Health and Fitness requirement | 0     |
- Lifelong Learning and Self-Development requirement | 0     |

**TOTAL UNITS** 49-53

*Three semester unit courses accepted from accredited colleges. Curriculum plan subject to change.

To get credit for any course applicable to an Associate in Science Degree in Nursing, students must receive a grade of 'C' or better.

When the LVN student has successfully completed the AS in Nursing program, the student will be given credit for previous vocational nursing education equivalent to 18 units.

Non-Degree 30 Unit Option for LVNs

Students who are LVNs and who are electing the Non-Degree 30 Unit Option are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX RN) as a NON-DEGREE candidate. If successful, they will be licensed as an RN by the California Board of Registered Nursing. Endorsement of a Non-Degree graduate RN in other states is not guaranteed because these regulations are unique to California. ONCE THE LICENSING EXAM IS TAKEN, STATUS CANNOT BE CHANGED FROM NON-DEGREE TO DEGREE REGARDLESS OF SUBSEQUENT DEGREES EARNED.

Upon successful completion of NURS 110, the student has two academic years to enroll in the nursing program. If the student is unable to enroll within two academic years, for any reason other than lack of space in the program, the student will be required to repeat NURS 110.

A maximum of 30 units of nursing and support courses are required to fulfill the unit requirement for licensure by the Board of Registered Nursing.

Requirements for the Non-Degree 30 Unit Option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ZOO 203 Physiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 200 Fundamentals of Microbiology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 110 LVN RN Transition</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Semester I**

- NURS 217 Nursing III          | 9     |
- NURS 203* Nursing Foundations II | 1     |

**Semester II**

- NURS 218 Nursing IV           | 9     |

**Total Units** 29

A 30 Unit Option student, with additional units in general education, may earn the Associate in Arts Degree in General Studies. Neither an Associate in Arts (AA) nor an Associate of Science (AS) in Nursing will be awarded.

AA or AS Degree in Nursing for Diploma RNs

Upon successful completion of the following requirements, a Diploma RN can be awarded an Associate Degree (AA or AS) in Nursing from Palomar College.

- The student must present a valid active California RN license to be verified by the Nursing Education Department.
- A copy of the RN license must be submitted to the College’s Records office for inclusion in the student’s academic file.
- The student must submit an official transcript of the Diploma Nursing school coursework to the Nursing Education Department at Palomar College. The transcript will also be evaluated by the Palomar College Evaluation Department for GE course approvals.
- 38 of the 39 units required for the Nursing major at Palomar College may be awarded from the Diploma Nursing school.
- One unit in Nursing at Palomar College must be earned by completion of NURS 203, Nursing Foundation II.
- A Diploma Nurse must also meet all Associate Degree (AA or AS) General Education and/or District requirements including a minimum of 12 units which must be completed in residency at Palomar College.

To satisfy a prerequisite, the student must have earned a letter grade of A, B, C, or CR in the prerequisite course, unless otherwise stated.

See Catalog addendum at http://www.palomar.edu/catalog/2015/ for updates and new program approvals.