



## Vocational Nursing Program Application

### Essay Guidelines

#### **Purpose of Writing the Essay**

Submitting an essay allows the applicant to demonstrate critical thinking; communicate his/her thoughts in a logical, organized manner; and apply principles of scholarly writing.

#### **Evaluation Procedure**

1. The applicant will submit the completed essay as part of the application packet.  
**Do not write your name on the essay. Write your name only on the cover page provided.**
2. Two faculty (one nursing and one non-nursing) will review and comment on the essay. The scores are averaged, and one score awarded. The applicant's name is then matched to the essay.

#### **Writing the Essay**

1. **Select only one (1) topic** from the three (3) provided below:
  - **Integrity**  
What is integrity? Define in your own words and explain how it applies to the nursing profession. (Give an example of a situation in which, you or someone else showed integrity.)
  - **Professionalism**  
What is professionalism? Give an example of how you or someone acted professionally. (Describe the qualities of professionalism. Discuss how they apply to the nursing profession.)
  - **The Most Important Characteristic of a LVN**  
Identify which characteristic of a Licensed Vocational Nurse you believe is the most important to nursing. Discuss how that characteristic will affect your development as a Licensed Vocational Nurse and how you will practice vocational nursing.
2. Write the essay **in your own words**. Do not plagiarize.

*Plagiarism occurs when you present someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by including it into your essay without giving the author credit. Copying material that someone else has written or copying and pasting online material is covered under this definition. This includes published and unpublished materials. If you have questions about plagiarism, please contact the Nursing Office. Plagiarized material will disqualify the applicant.*
3. **Follow the required structure** for your essay.
  - Cover Page: place on top of your essay (see last page)
  - **Must be typewritten.** Type title on first page of essay. **Do not type your name on the essay.**
  - Use one-inch margins for all sides.
  - Double space; Times Roman font, 12 pitch
  - Length 1-3 pages. (Cover page does not count as one page.)

**Scoring Criteria** (See attached scoring sheet).

### Questions?

**If you have any questions, need clarification, or would like to discuss your topic,  
please feel free to contact:**

**Silvia Lainez (760-921-5504) or Dr. Becker (760-921-5444)**



## ESSAY COVER PAGE

(Please attach to front of essay)

**Applicant Name (Print)** \_\_\_\_\_

My signature verifies the material was my original work and not plagiarized from any written, verbal, online, or digital source. I understand that plagiarized material will disqualify my application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Code	Reviewer	Score	Reviewer	Score

<b>Essay Score</b>
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Palo Verde College  
Nursing & Allied Health

## ESSAY SCORE PAGE

Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Assigned by Nursing Department)

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Earned	Comments
Purpose/Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clearly stated</li><li>Accurate</li></ul>	3		
Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Main point of paper is clear.</li><li>Body of essay supports the main point.</li></ul>	14		
Summary or Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Clearly stated</li><li>Concise, 3-4 sentences</li></ul>	3		
Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Followed instructions for set-up</li><li>Grammar, spelling accurate</li><li>Met page requirement</li></ul>	5		
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>25</b>		