



Essential Requirements of VN Students

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To enter into and to complete the Vocational Nursing Program, students must be able to meet the following emotional and physical requirements.

Emotional Requirements

The student must have sufficient emotional stability to perform under stress produced by both academic study and the necessity of performing nursing care in real patient situations while being observed by instructors and other health-care personnel.

Physical Requirements

Students are required to travel to agencies, hospitals and homes with unpredictable environments. Students need to have the endurance to adapt to a physically and emotionally demanding program. The following physical requirements would be necessary to participate in the clinical application courses in nursing:

- Strength – Sufficient strength to lift, move and transfer most patients with assistance of other healthcare providers; to restrain and carry children; to move and carry equipment; and to perform CPR, which requires sufficient body weight and adequate lung expansion.
- Mobility – Sufficient to bend, stoop, get down on the floor; combination of strength, dexterity, mobility, and coordination to assist patients; ability to move around rapidly.
- Fine Motor Movements – Necessary to manipulate syringes and IVs; to assist patients with feeling and hygiene; to document in patient's electronic health record; to perform sterile procedures and other skilled procedures.
- Speech – Ability to speak English clearly in person or over the telephone, in order to communicate with staff, physicians, patients, and families.
- Vision – Sufficient to make physical assessments of patients and equipment; to read medication label, chart entries and accurately read syringe calibrations.
- Hearing – Sufficient to accurately discriminate sounds, hear on the telephone, and to be able to hear through the stethoscope.
- Touch – Ability to palpate both superficially and deeply and discriminate tactile sensations.
- Health – Infectious Diseases – Nursing is considered a high-risk profession for exposure to Hepatitis and other contagious diseases. Immunizations required by the School of Nursing reduce this risk for nursing students, but do not eliminate it entirely. Pregnant students need a physician's note to participate in the program. Pregnant students in their 2nd and 3rd trimester must submit a monthly physician's clearance to participate in the program. Students with impaired or deficient immune systems may be at risk for contracting serious diseases. These students must have physician approval for



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participation in clinical courses, and should discuss their situation with a physician regarding the potential risk in the clinical setting. Some clinical practice sites require a flu shot form Oct.1 to April 1 each year.

- Health – Back Injury – Nurses are considered to be at high risk for back injury. Students with an official letter or prescription history of back injury or disease are at added risk. Such students must have physician approval for participation in clinical course, and must discuss their situation with the clinical instructor.
- Appearance – Professional dress, grooming, and hair style and color (no unnatural hair color); **no visible piercings** except one in each earlobe and **no visible tattoos**. See 2020-2021 Vocational Nursing Student Handbook on PVC website.

Cognitive Requirements

The student must have sufficient cognitive ability to listen, speak, read, write, reason and perform mathematical functions (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentages, and fractions with or without a calculator) and computer electronic functions at a level that allows processing and understanding of materials and information presented either verbally or in written format.

DSPS

The Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) Office is committed to providing opportunities for students with disabilities to fully participate in all college programs. A variety of services/accommodations is available to students with identified disabilities. To arrange for an appointment, contact the DSP&S Office at (760) 921-5489 or come to the DSP&S office (CS127).

Any request for accommodations in the clinical setting or for off campus training should be referred to a DSP & S counselor. Keep in mind those individual institutions that host the college's clinical training programs may have their own rules and regulations that must be followed and not all accommodations that are requested may be feasible, permissible, or reasonable. Therefore, the DSP&S staff will work together with the students, the instructors, and the clinical institution/training program to determine the appropriate accommodations and to facilitate in implementing those accommodations.

Code of Student Conduct

Students enrolled in Palo Verde College Nursing Department Program are expected to adhere to the American Nurse Association Code of Ethics for Nurses and the appropriate Standards of Clinical Nursing Practice: cheating, plagiarism forgery or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his/her study and



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participation in the academic process is conducted so there can be no question concerning his/her integrity.

As a student in a professional nursing program, it is the responsibility of each student to also report the unethical behavior of a fellow student, colleague, or clinical staff member to the faculty member in order to protect the safety of the public and ensure the integrity of the program and profession.

Any student may be dismissed from the program, removed from the classroom/clinical site, suspended, placed on probation, or withdrawn for one or more of the following:

1. Unauthorized consumption/possession of alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs on campus, off campus clinical/learning sites, when representing the college, or wearing the school uniform.
2. Failure, after a warning, to wear adequate clothing and footwear while attending classes and clinical practice or participation in campus laboratory clinical activities.
3. Cheating or plagiarism connected with any college academic program or participating in campus laboratory clinical activities and practice at clinical sites.
4. Physical or verbal abuse, bullying behaviors, and/or threat of inflicting injury to a fellow student, staff member, faculty, administrator or visitors on campus.
5. Physical or verbal disruption of instructional activity or administrative procedures in the classroom, clinical facility, or faculty offices.
6. Unauthorized visits or phone calls to off campus sites as a representative of the nursing program. Students must not wear the Palo Verde College uniform/patch anywhere other than class, clinical site or a sanctioned off campus activity.
7. Consistent failure to follow dress code in the clinical facility.
8. Theft, vandalism, or non-accidental damage to property of the college or its employees, patients, clinical facility, or the community at large.
9. Habitual or excessive tardiness or absences (see attendance/absence/tardiness) in Vocational Nursing Student Handbook.
10. Repeated failure to notify assigned area and/or school nursing office of impending absence or tardiness.