



Information for Vocational Nursing Prospective Students

Visit [How to Apply](#) on the LVN Program homepage for more information, including deadlines.

Thank you for your interest in Merced College's Vocational Nursing Program.

PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of Merced College Vocational Nursing Program is to promote student success by providing a continually improving educational program that prepares graduates to competently practice Vocational Nursing at the entry level.

PROGRAM GOALS

Goal 1 - COMMUNICATION: Students will communicate effectively.

Goal 2 – CRITICAL THINKING: Students will apply clinical reasoning skills in their daily practice.

Goal 3 - COMPETENCY: Students will perform successfully as entry level vocational nurses.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

High School Diploma or GED or AA/AS Degree or higher degree completed.

PROGRAM PREREQUISITES

Please read the following information carefully:

Combined GPA on prerequisites must be a 2.0 or higher.

- ALLH-67 Medical Terminology
- BIOL-50 Survey of Anatomy & Physiology or BIOL-16 General Human Anatomy
- NUTR-10 Nutrition
- VOCN-46A Applied Mathematics for Pharmacology

Per the Board of Vocational Nurses & Psychiatric Technicians, ALL program prerequisites must be completed within 5 years of submitting your application to the program. If any prerequisites are older than 5 years, they must be retaken prior to applying to the program.

COURSE EQUIVALENCY

You are encouraged to view the Grid of Comparable Prerequisites Courses online for program prerequisite information. Please refer to this chart if you plan to take, or have taken, prerequisite courses outside of Merced College. This grid is to be used as a reference only. If your course is not listed, please check with a Merced College Allied Health counselor.

Students are responsible for ensuring their course work is equivalent to Merced College requirements. Fill this [Equivalency Verification Form](#) out for the course(s) you need verified for equivalency.

COUNSELING AND TRANSFERABILITY

It is recommended that prospective applicants meet with an academic counselor to review their college transcripts only if prerequisite courses are not listed on the Grid of Comparable Prerequisites Courses. Any courses needing to be petitioned for equivalency need to be done at that time. Petitions must be completed prior to the application deadline.

It is strongly recommended that applicants complete the General Education courses required for the Associate's Degree. Questions regarding graduation requirements, and transferability of course work should be directed to one of the academic counselors (preferably an Allied Health counselor) in Merced College's [Counseling & Guidance Department](#). Use the link to make a counseling appointment.

- **Recency:** Program prerequisites must be completed within (5) years of application.
- **Equivalency:** All prerequisite coursework taken at colleges or universities other than Merced College must be comparable in content to the required Merced College course to be applicable to this program.
- **Work in Progress:** No prerequisite coursework may be in progress at the time of applying. All prerequisites must be shown as complete with a grade on official transcripts.
- **General Education:** High School Diploma or GED or AA/AS Degree or higher degree completed.
- **Grades** of C- or lower are NOT acceptable in fulfillment of prerequisite courses.

TRANSCRIPTS

All applicants are required to upload transcript(s) with their application. Transcripts must include all work shown as completed on the application. An application that is not filled out and/or does not have all transcripts submitted by the application deadline will be considered incomplete.

You can login to your MC Self-Service account to view and print a PDF of your [unofficial transcript](#).

You will need to request **two copies** of your official transcript(s) from all institutions other than Merced College:

1st Copy Required: Official transcript(s) from other colleges/universities must be sent directly to the Merced College Admissions & Records office by the transcript submission deadline.

2nd Copy Required: You also need to request an official transcript(s) sent directly from your institution(s) to you. Plan to submit a copy (PDF) of your official transcript(s) with your application. We understand that once you open the copy, it becomes unofficial. This will be accepted for this application.

If necessary, make an appointment to see an Allied Health Counselor at 209-381-6478, and bring with you the following if applicable:

1. All forms related to the LVN Application
2. Transcripts(s)
3. Copy of your High School Diploma, or High School Transcript or GED, or Equivalent
4. Other college catalogs, course descriptions, transcripts (credits for program)
5. Foreign transcripts - Formal Evaluation
6. Military Credits

* To ensure that courses are equivalent to those offered by Merced College, a counselor must complete Equivalency Verification Form.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSCRIPTS

Any students who have completed coursework at another university or college from a foreign country must provide [transcripts](#).

Applicants with college transcripts outside the U.S. will need to have them evaluated for U.S. equivalency. International transcripts without official translation will not be accepted for credit.

International transcripts must be officially evaluated by the following agency:

[Educational Records Evaluation Service](#), Inc.

2480 Hilborn Rd., Ste. # 106
Fairfield, CA 94534

(P) 707-759-2866

[Email edu@eres.com](mailto:edu@eres.com)

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

To apply to the Licensed Vocational Nursing Program at Merced College, a Merced College student ID is required. If you do not have a student ID, you must [apply](#) for one.

Admission requirements and procedures are subject to change at any time.

ADMISSION POLICY

Admission into the LVN Program is based on criteria approved by Merced College and consistent with State and Federal law, regulations and program accreditation guidelines. Primary admission criteria include completion of the prerequisite courses with a grade of "C" or better, combined prerequisite GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Per the Board of Vocational Nurses & Psychiatric Technicians, ALL program prerequisites must be completed within 5 years of submitting your application to the program. If any prerequisites are older than 5 years, they must be retaken prior to applying to the program.

The Merced College LVN Program does not have a wait list. Applicants who have previously applied, and wish to reapply, must submit a new application.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Application: New applications are accepted online during the application window upon completion of entrance requirement and all prerequisites. Admission requirements and procedures are subject to change at any time.

Length of Program: Three semesters (one and one-half years) excluding summers.

Selection: 40-45 applicants will be notified by email around 3 - 4 months prior to the beginning of a new class. If any person admitted into the program declines, an alternate will be called according to their order on the lottery list until a full class has been designated.

Upon selection into the Vocational Nursing Program students must confirm acceptance to participate in the program and must attend a mandatory program orientation. Information about the orientation will be provided at the time of selection. Failure to attend will result in forfeiture of program placement.

Upon admission to the program, all immunizations, health exams, CPR requirements, etc. must be met prior to beginning the Vocational Nursing Program. More information provided at time of admission to the program.

LOTTERY

Merced College utilizes a computerized statistical lottery selection process for admission into the Licensed Vocational Nursing Program. The Lottery Process is used in response to more eligible applicants than enrollment space to the Allied Health Programs. The lottery is student driven, which means the student is responsible for supplying all transcripts and supplemental documentation required. To be included in the Lottery, **the program application must be completed, and all transcripts and supplemental documents included or it will be considered incomplete and processing will be terminated.** All qualified applications received before the stated deadline will be treated equally regardless of the submission date.

All applicants who meet the application requirements are included in the lottery. After the lottery is complete, applications are evaluated to confirm eligibility. ALL applicants (accepted, alternates, not accepted, and disqualified) will receive notification to both their Merced College and personal email addresses that the applicant provided on their application.

A new class begins once every 18 months.

August 2026 (Fall Semester)

January 2028 (Spring Semester)

August 2029 (Fall Semester) etc....

ABOUT THE LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

The major goal of the Merced College Vocational Nursing Program is to provide nursing education that prepares the student for licensure after completing the three-semester curriculum. The graduate is prepared to use technical nursing skills and utilize knowledge of basic health principles to provide care and comfort in restoring the patient to the best state of wellness.

The Allied Health Center houses a complete Vocational Nursing Skills Lab, large computer lab, conference rooms, study rooms and multiple large and small classrooms. The Vocational Nursing Program has state-of-the art equipment and software that assist students with learning current procedures.

Additional goals are developed according to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to prepare the graduate to set priorities, plan and organize to facilitate safe nursing care in meeting patients' basic human needs in acute hospitals, extended care facilities, health maintenance organizations, physicians' offices and Public Health Departments. The beginning practitioner is ready to function in delivering routine nursing care, and to work under the direction of a Registered Nurse or healthcare provider in the more complex, commonly occurring nursing situations.

The student will recognize areas of responsibility on the health team and work with other members to facilitate patient care.

The student will, by word and manner, instill confidence relative to members of the health team (in the patient and members of the patients' family). The students will also display a sense of appropriate conduct in relationships with the college, faculty, patients and facility staff. The integrity of the Student Vocational Nurse will be absolute in matters concerning the patient, the patient's family and members of the health team.

We believe that the graduate of this program will be prepared for the licensure examination for Vocational Nursing and competent in utilizing the technical skills required of the first level of Vocational Nursing.

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND CURRICULUM

The Vocational Nursing Program is a full-time program to which students are admitted every 18 months. The program is 18 months composed of three semesters, excluding summers.

Information on the [program courses and schedule](#) is available in the Merced College Catalog, the searchable class schedule, or the program pathways mapper.

INSTRUCTION

Each semester consists of both theoretical and clinical components. The student is expected to attend all scheduled classes which are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Students are also expected to spend appropriate time outside of class time studying for exams, practicing skills, and writing papers. The Board of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians requires all students to fulfil clinical hour objectives by working with direct patient care in a variety of clinical settings.

DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

The Vocational Nursing curriculum comprises three semesters of combined didactic and clinical work on campus and at affiliated health care facilities. Upon satisfactory completion of the prerequisites and the nursing courses, a Certificate of Achievement is awarded, and the student is then eligible to take the National Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

An Associate in Arts Degree is also available for those students who complete the Merced College General Education requirements. Due to the rigorous course load during the program, we strongly recommend that all applicants complete their General Education courses prior to applying for the program.

Merced College offers the following degrees/certificates in Nursing, Vocational: Nursing, Vocational (AA) Nursing, Vocational (CT)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

While in the Licensed Vocational Nursing Program, you will require significant financial support.

Vocational nursing students are routinely assigned clinical activities at hospitals and clinics away from campus and/or outside of their hometown. You will need to provide transportation for such assignments. The number of hours you will spend in classes and clinical experience make it difficult for a student to work while enrolled in the program. In addition, working while enrolled in the program is going to put a strain on your ability to study for your course work. We strongly recommend you plan ahead financially for the next 18 months of the program.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

An estimate of the cost of the program is provided. Tuition fees are subject to change. Non-residents of California pay tuition to the College.

[Financial Aid Assistance](#) and services are available to prospective students at Merced College.

The first semester is the costliest semester for textbooks. All of the textbooks purchased in the first semester will be utilized throughout the duration of the program.

Legal residents of California are required to pay nominal fees. In addition, students may expect to incur other unforeseen expenses throughout the duration of the program.

Students must adhere to clearance requirements in order to be accepted into, and continue enrollment in, Allied Health Programs' clinical courses. Requirements include background checks, drug screenings, CPR certification, vaccinations and boosters (for example, COVID-19). Merced College Allied Health Programs do not accept religious nor medical exemptions.

Positive results on background checks and drug testing or failure to comply with clinical requirements could impact a student's ability to attend clinic, complete program requirements, or gain a license to practice upon graduation. The student will pay for the costs related to required physical examinations, immunizations, background screenings and drug testing. Students are required to have health insurance while in the program.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROGRAM

Legal residents of the State of California are required to pay nominal fees. In addition, students may expect other miscellaneous fees and expenses during the length of the program.

A. Fees - (estimates only)	
Enrollment Fee (entire program \$46/unit x 44 units)	2,024.00
<i>Contact Admissions and Records for details. Fees subject to change as per the State Legislature</i>	
Transportation Fee (\$9.95 per semester if enrolled in 12 units or more; \$6.95 if enrolled in less than 12 units)	29.85
Student Body Fee (Fall/Spring semesters \$10 x 3)	30.00
Health Fee (Fall/Spring semester \$21 x 3)	63.00
Parking (Fall/Spring \$30 x 3)	90.00
B. Additional Expenses - (estimates only)	
Books (entire program) - may include enrollment in the Follet Program	600.00
CPR Certification - BLS (American Heart Association)	60.00
Physical & Immunizations	400.00
Uniforms (entire program)	180.00
Background Clearance (criminal/financial/social security trace), Drug Screening & Immunization Tracker	200.00
C. Licensing - (estimates only)	
BVNPT Application For NCLEX Examination	300.00
Live Scan Fingerprinting (DOJ/FBI)	74.00
BVNPT License	300.00
Grand Total	\$5,350.85

Fees are subject to change. Non-resident students are required by state law to pay non-resident tuition. Consult the Merced College catalog for current fees or Merced College Admissions and Records.

RECORD OF CONVICTION

Eligibility for the NLCEX examination requires the candidate to be of good moral character. If a prospective student has a prior conviction this will be identified in the DOJ background check. Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony may indicate a lack of good moral character for eligibility purposes and will require a thorough review. Prospective students should aim to expunge any potential problematic records. If the conviction is serious enough a clinical facility may deny entry of the student to their facility. If the student is denied entry to multiple facilities, they will not be able to complete the objectives of the LVN program.

Thank you for your interest in the Vocational Nursing Program.

Please check out the LVN program's website for all the latest information, including deadlines.

For more information or additional questions that are not addressed in this document, please contact Merced College's [Counseling & Guidance Department](#) or visit the LVN program's website.