

Pre-Nursing Advising Guide

Welcome to SENMC Carlsbad and the Department of Nursing! Our highly successful program, accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), offers two options for students—a Practical Nursing Certificate (LPN**) and an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN).

LPN course offered subject to instructor availability)

To get started, follow these steps:

1. _____ Complete prerequisite courses with a “C” or higher in each

- Developmental studies courses (CCDE, CCDM, CCDR) based on ACT, SAT, and/or Accuplacer placement test results
- BIOL 2210, Human Anatomy & Physiology I*
- CHEM 1120G, Introduction to Chemistry*
- NA 101, Nurse Assistant Theory & Lab**

*It is strongly recommended that BIOL 2210, BIOL 2225, and CHEM 1120G be taken within 5 years of application to the program. Science courses cannot be taken more than twice with a letter grade (excluding withdrawals).

**Waived for students who are currently certified as a nurse assistant (regardless of state) or completed a CNA class within the last 5 years if not currently certified. Those who completed a medical assistant or physician’s assistant program, or who are certified EMT Basic or higher might not need to complete NA 101 and should contact the Director of Nursing for guidance.

2. _____ Complete the HESI A2 exam

The Health Education Systems, Inc. test (HESI) is designed to assess the academic and personal readiness of prospective nursing students. Students must earn a minimum of composite score 75% and a minimum score of 60% on each of the five academic subtests—Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary and General Knowledge, Grammar, and Anatomy and Physiology. For best results, students are advised to take BIOL 225, Anatomy & Physiology, BIOL 226, Anatomy & Physiology II, and any required developmental studies courses prior to taking the HESI.

Scores are valid for one year, and only two attempts are permitted within any 12-month period. We will use the attempt with the highest overall score providing all subtest scores are at least 60% and the composite score is at least a 75%. We will not pick and choose highest subtest scores from different attempts. To sign up for the HESI, contact the Testing Center at (575) 234-9319 or stop by the center in room 221 at least 2 weeks prior to the test session you want. The HESI A2 costs \$55 and takes approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

3. _____ Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher in courses applicable to the nursing program

Fractional grading is not used when calculating the nursing GPA, only the letter grade (i.e., the point value for A, B, C, D, F not for A+, A-, B+, etc.). Students may repeat a course they’ve passed in order to raise their nursing GPA, but are advised that this may negatively affect their financial aid; consult with the financial aid office as needed.

4. _____ Submit a nursing program application packet by the second Monday in May

Applications are available on the Nursing Department website at <https://senmc.edu/academic-departments/nursing.html> and in the Nursing Administration Office in the Allied Health Building. To be complete, students must submit the nursing program application, college transcripts, and scores from the HESI exam. Students should contact the nursing department at 575-234-9300 to set up an appointment for advising with the nursing director prior to the May application deadline.

*Acceptance into the NMSU Carlsbad nursing program is competitive.
Successful completion of prerequisites does not guarantee acceptance into the program.*

Advising Worksheet for Associate Degree in Nursing and Certificate in Practical Nursing

All courses must be completed with a “C” or higher

Nursing Program Prerequisites	Cr.	Grade Earned	Notes
Completion of any developmental studies as indicated by placement test			Grades for these courses are not used in nursing GPA
BIOL 2210, Human Anatomy & Physiology I	4		
CHEM 1120G, Intro to Chemistry	4		
NA 101, Certified Nurse Asst. Theory/Lab ¹	(6)		
HESI A2 test			Min. 75% composite and 60% on each subtest
Nursing GPA of 2.75 or higher			
Application submitted by second Monday in May			
Additional Courses Required for Degree		Grade Earned	
ENGL 1110G, Composition I ³	4		
MATH 1130G, Survey of Mathematics or MATH 1220G, College Algebra	3		Not required for Certificate in Practical Nursing, but cannot move forward to ADN without it.
CEPY 1120G, Human Growth & Behavior ³	3		
PSY 1110G, Introduction to Psychology ³	3		
BIOL 2225, Human Anatomy & Physiology II ²	4		
Nursing Program	Cr.	Grade Earned	Notes
NURS 153, Medication & Dosage Calculation	1		
NURS 154, Physical Assessment	2		
NURS 156, Basic Nursing Theory & Practice	6		
NURS 157, Maternal/Child Health Deviations	8		
NURS 210, Pharmacological Requisites of the Childbearing Family	1		Not required for Certificate in Practical Nursing, but cannot move forward to ADN without it. Only offered in Spring semester.
NURS 146, Common Health Dev. w/lab	6		Required only for Practical Nursing Certificate
NURS 211, Pharmacological Requisites of Simple Health Deviations	1		Associate degree students only
NURS 246, Health Deviations I	7		
NURS 258, Psychosocial Requisites: A Deficit Approach	3		
NURS 212, Pharmacological Requisites of Complex Health Deviations	1		Associate degree students only
NURS 256, Health Deviations II	8		
NURS 260, Mgmt. of Patients with Health Dev.	2		

¹ May be waived for who completed a medical assistant or physician’s assistant program, or who are certified EMT Basic or higher. Consult with the Director of Nursing for further guidance.

² BIOL 2225 and PSYC 1110G must be completed prior to the start of the second semester (spring) in the nursing program

³ ENGL 1110G and CEPY 1120G must be completed prior to the start of the second year (fall) in the nursing program

Reference: Nursing Handbook <https://senmc.edu/academic-departments/nursing.html>