

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

Approved Program with California Board of Vocational Nurses & Psychiatric Technicians

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nursing is an exciting and challenging profession of responsibility, integrity, and personal growth. Nursing provides an essential service to others, involving the care of people, sick and well. As career professionals, nurses are dedicated individuals who have committed themselves to improving the quality of health care for others.

Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) are the second largest group of healthcare providers in the United States. As an important member of the health care team, the LVN cares for individuals in structured settings under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed physician. LVNs are employed in every area of the healthcare field. They work in long-term care facilities, ambulatory care clinics, assisted living facilities, physician's offices, acute care facilities, and health agencies. The typical salary range for an LVN is \$13-16 per hour or \$24,960 - \$30,720 per year.

Becoming an LVN requires physical strength and stamina; self-confidence; good judgment and decision making skills; but most of all a great deal of compassion for others. Successful

nurses and nursing students have the following characteristics.

Match yourself with the following:

- Responsibility* – A nurse/nursing student must respect confidentiality, use dependable judgment and be accountable for all actions, legally and morally.
- Willingness to Learn* – a nurse/nursing student is motivated to learn and keep up with the trends in the profession.
- Likes People* – A nurse/nursing student is unbiased, compassionate, considerate and interested in others, accepting and respecting the rights of people of all ages and walks of life.
- Common Sense* – A nurse/nursing student develops the ability to handle catastrophe and crisis, along with every day frustrations, in a confident and efficient way.
- Determination* – A nurse/nursing student needs good mental and physical health and plenty of stamina and endurance.
- Academic Ability* – A nurse/nursing student is willing to be a serious student with a desire to learn and study at an intense level.

The Vocational Nursing Program at College of the Desert (COD) provides the comprehensive theory knowledge and hands on clinical experiences needed to become a Licensed Vocational Nurse. COD's Vocational Nursing Program is approved by the California Board of Vocational Nurses and Psychiatric Technicians. Upon completion of the program, the student must pass a comprehensive, mandated exam (NCLEX-PN) to receive a license as a vocational nurse.

Students completing the program receive a certificate of completion. Students may also choose to complete additional College requirements and receive an Associate of Science degree. Classes are held Monday through Friday on both the COD campus and in local health care facilities such as long term care facilities and hospitals. The program begins each June and ends the following May. The program requires full-time attendance.

The Vocational Nursing Program is a three semester, full-time, intensive program totaling 1,566 hours. Students receive 594 hours of classroom instruction and 972 hours of clinical practice.

Are you interested in becoming a Licensed Vocational Nurse? If so, here's what to do to get started...

1)	Read this information flyer thoroughly.
2)	If you have questions or need more information you may call the Health Sciences/ECE (HS/ECE) Division at 760-773-2579 to schedule an appointment to meet with a vocational nursing (VN) faculty advisor.
3)	Be admitted to College of the Desert, if not already a current student.
4)	Take College of the Desert's Math and English assessment tests. Call the Assessment Center at 760-776-7413 to make an appointment to take the
5)	Attend a vocational nursing information session. A one hour session is held monthly every fall semester. Students are strongly encouraged to attend at least one session.
6)	In spring semester schedule an appointment with a nursing advisor. Bring your math and English assessment scores, official high school transcript/diploma or GED certificate, and official college transcripts in sealed envelope(s) from all colleges attended (except COD), when you meet with the advisor.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Student Qualifications for the Vocational Nursing Program:

- a) You must be at least 17 years of age.
- b) You must have a high school diploma or equivalent preparation. Foreign high school transcripts must be evaluated by an international transcript evaluation agency.
- c) You must be physically and mentally capable of meeting the program objectives (See the Core Performance Standards on page 10).
- d) You must have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or higher from all college level work attempted.

Program Prerequisites – A grade of “C” or better is required in each of these courses:

Entrance Prerequisites:

- a) English 051 Introduction to Expository Writing (or an assessment score greater than 99).
- b) Math 057 College Arithmetic (or an assessment score greater than 65).
- c) HS 062 Your Living Body (or equivalent course) completed within the past five (5) years.
- d) HEC 013 General Nutrition (or equivalent course) completed within the past five (5) years.

Required for Program Completion:

- e) HS 067 Introduction to Med Dosage Calculations. *(Completed prior to VN002.)* Completed within the past five (5) years.
- f) PSY 001 General Psychology (or equivalent course). *(Completed prior to VN003.)* Completed within the past five (5) years.

Program Requirements (continued from previous page):

Additional Recommendations:

- g) Not required but highly recommended are the courses Introduction to Health Sciences (HS 070) and Medical Terminology (HS 061). These courses are very helpful to any student interested in a health career.
- h) It is strongly recommended that students complete all 6 courses prior to the start of the VN program.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- a) In fall semester prospective student attends an informational session on the VN application process.
- b) Each spring semester, prospective VN students arrange an appointment with a nursing advisor. At this meeting transcript/s will be evaluated for prerequisite course completion. Student is to bring official transcripts from all colleges attended (except COD) and evidence of high school completion to the meeting. Evidence of high school completion can be from an official transcript or actual diploma.
- c) Once determined that a student has all prerequisites and criteria completed, he/she is eligible to have his/her name placed on the acceptance list. To be placed on the acceptance list, you must meet with the Programs Admission Specialist, bringing the yellow status approval form.
- d) A student determined to be in progress with one or more prerequisites or criteria is eligible for the stand-by list. To be placed on the standby list, the student needs to bring the yellow copy of the completed status approval form to the mandatory orientation in the spring semester.
- e) A mandatory orientation on the VN program is held every spring semester. Any student not attending the orientation is dropped from the acceptance or stand-by list
- f) ***It is the student's responsibility to obtain all information and complete the application process in a timely manner.***

SELECTION PROCESS

- a) At the orientation meeting, a stand-by list will be created through a lottery of the status approval forms of students' in progress with one or more courses.
- b) If there are not enough names on the acceptance list to fill the upcoming class, names from the stand-by list will be added to the acceptance list. This will be done at the end of the orientation meeting.
- c) A maximum of 45 students are accepted to the Vocational Nursing Program each year.

APPLICATION PARTICULARS

- a) Entrance to the program is on a yearly basis. Applications are not carried over to the next year
- b) Student names are placed on the acceptance list on a first-come, first-served basis.
- c) A copy of the signed status approval form is required for students to participate in the lottery stand-by list process.
- d) Students not attending the orientation held in late April/early May will be dropped from the list and their place given to the next student on the list (applicant or stand-by)
- e) Students accepted to the program receive a letter from the Health Sciences/ECE Division with detailed information about the program, registration, orientation date, and other requirements.
- f) Admission criteria, program eligibility, and selection processes are subject to change. Prospective students are encouraged to check the division website periodically to remain updated.

RE-ENTRY/TRANSFER APPLICANTS

- a) Students who wish to re-enter the VN program must make an appointment with the Programs Admission Specialist to be placed on the acceptance list.
- b) Students seeking transfer from another program must meet with the nursing advisor for evaluation of eligibility to transfer. Transfer to the program is on a space-available basis. Transfer students must satisfy all criteria and prerequisites.

Upon acceptance into the Vocational Nursing Program, the student must complete the following prior to the start of the first semester:

- ▶ Physical examination (form will be in the acceptance letter you get from the Division)
- ▶ A negative Tuberculosis skin test or chest x-ray. Initial TB skin test must be a 2-step test.
- ▶ Immunizations – MMR, Hepatitis B, DT. This requirement is written in the acceptance letter.
- ▶ Current CPR certification. This must be an American Heart Association HealthCare Provider certification – no other levels or card types will be accepted. A class will be offered during the first 2 weeks of class for those students not currently certified.
- ▶ Criminal background check and drug screen (prior to start of VN002L).



HS/ECE DIVISION STAFF AND CONTACT PERSONS FOR THE VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM:

Division Dean	Leslie Young
Director of Nursing Programs & Allied Health.....	Cindy Hay, RN, MSN
Faculty Advisors, Vocational Nursing Program	Pat Keller, RN, MSN
	Monica Langella, RN, BSN
Programs Admission Specialist.....	Margaret Foat-Koenig
Administrative Secretary	Tanna Panek (760) 568-3092
Secretary.....	Mark Demry (760) 568-3093
Secretary.....	JoAnn Wilson (760) 773-2579

Office hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please consult current academic calendar for listing of holiday and other scheduled campus closure dates.

Health Sciences/ECE Division vocational nursing information web address:

<http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu/Students/Academics/Programs/healthsciences/hlth.asp?id=283> (To access information via the internet.)

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Upon completion of the three semester program, students may apply for licensure to the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians (BVNPT). The BVNPT has the responsibility and authority to review previous convictions of all applicants and withhold licensure should it be deemed necessary to protect public safety.

Prospective students with questions regarding previous criminal history should contact the BVNPT at 916-263-7800 before applying to the program.

Additional information can be accessed via the internet at <http://www.bvnpt.ca.gov/>.

Credit for Previous Experience and Advanced Placement

The Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians allow programs to grant credit for previous coursework or employment experiences. This is done on an individual basis.

Transfer credit will be given for related previous education completed within the last five years. This includes the following courses:

- 1) Accredited vocational or practical nursing courses;
- 2) Accredited registered nursing courses;
- 3) Accredited psychiatric technician courses;
- 4) Armed services nursing courses;
- 5) Nurse assistant courses; and
- 6) Other courses determined by the school program that are equivalent to courses in COD's program.

Credit determinations are done on an individual basis. The Program Admissions Specialist will discuss this option with you when you file your Letter of Application.

ESTIMATED PROGRAM COSTS

SUMMER SESSION

• Enrollment fees (9 units @ \$20.25/unit)	\$ 182.25
• Mandatory Health Service Fee	\$ 9.00
• Nursing Malpractice Insurance	\$ 10.00
• Parking Fee.....	\$ 5.00
• Physical Exam (estimate)	\$ 60.00
• Books (estimate)	\$ 375.00
• Uniforms, School Emblem, Name Tag (estimate)	\$ 225.00
• Skills Lab Kit.....	\$ 45.50
• Watch with second hand (estimate)	\$ 30.00
• Equipment (stethoscope, goggles, scissors, etc.)	\$ 45.00
• CPR Class	\$ 45.00
Summer Total.....	\$1,031.75

FALL SESSION

• Enrollment fees (16 units @ \$20.25/unit).....	\$ 324.00
• Background Check Fee.....	\$ 48.00
• Drug Screening.....	\$ 40.00
• Mandatory Health Service Fee	\$ 14.00
• Mandatory Student Rep Fee	\$ 1.00
• Nursing Malpractice Insurance	\$ 10.00
• Parking Fee.....	\$ 20.00
Fall Total.....	\$ 457.00

SPRING SESSION

• Enrollment fees (16 units @ \$26.25/unit).....	\$ 324.00
• Mandatory Health Service Fee	\$ 14.00
• Mandatory Student Rep Fee	\$ 1.00
• Parking Fee.....	\$ 20.00
• Books (estimate)	\$ 100.00
• Licensing examination costs	\$ 275.00
• Initial License fee	\$ 100.00
• Interim Permit (optional).....	\$ 40.00
• Graduation Costs (estimate)	\$ 300.00
Spring Total	\$1,174.00

PROGRAM TOTAL**\$2,662.75***

Students are to provide their own transportation to and from school and clinical areas, provide childcare as needed and maintain individual health insurance during the program.

*Cost estimate only. Subject to change.

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT
Vocational Nursing Program

Approved Program with California Board of Vocational Nurses & Psychiatric Technicians

2008 - 2009
PROGRAM CURRICULUM

SUMMER SEMESTER (Semester I)

VN 1 – Theory, 5 units

- **Fundamentals**
Basic skills & Nursing Concepts
- **Medical-Surgical Nursing**
Geriatrics
Pharmacology
Growth & Development
Musculoskeletal

VN 1L – Clinical, 4 units

- **Skills Laboratory**
- **Long Term Care Facilities**

FALL SEMESTER (Semester 2)

VN 2 – Theory, 9 units

- **Medical-Surgical Nursing**
Cardiovascular Urinary
Respiratory Surgery
Gastrointestinal Reproductive
Endocrine Loss & Death
Nervous System

VN 2L – Clinical, 7 units

- **Acute Care Facilities**
- **Ambulatory Care Facilities**
- **Operating Room/PACU**
GI Lab

SPRING SEMESTER (Semester 3)

VN 3 – Theory, 9 units

- **Leadership/Supervision**
- **Maternity Nursing**
- **Pediatric Nursing**
- **Medical-Surgical Nursing**

VN 3L – Clinical, 7 units

- **Acute Care Facilities**
- **Dialysis Unit**
- **Child Development**
Facilities

HEALTH SCIENCES/ECE DIVISION

CORE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students must be, with reasonable accommodation, physically and mentally capable of performing the essential functions of the program. The Health Sciences/ECE Division faculty adopted the following core performance standards:

Physical Demands – The student must be able to:

- Be on your feet 6-12 hours at a time and perform activities that include reaching, balancing, carrying, pushing, pulling, stooping, bending and crouching;
- Lift and transfer adults and children from a stooped to an upright position to accomplish bed-to-chair and chair-to-bed transfers;
- Lift and adjust positions of bedridden patients, including pulling as much as 12 inches toward the head of the bed;
- Physically apply up to ten pounds of pressure to bleeding sites or to the chest in the performance of CPR using hands, wrists and arms;
- Maneuver in small spaces quickly and with ease;
- Perform fine motor skills that require hand/eye coordination in the use of small instruments, equipment and syringes;
- Feel and compress tissues to assess for size, shape texture and temperature

Senses – The student must be able to:

- Visually read calibrated scales in increments of one-hundredth of an inch in not more than a three inch space;
- Perform close and distinct visual acuities involving persons and paperwork;
- Visually discriminate depth and color perceptions;
- Identify and distinguish odors that are pungent, such as the products of infection or metabolic imbalance (e.g., ketones);
- Respond and react immediately to auditory instruction, requests, signals, and monitoring equipment;
- Perform auditory assessments requiring the distinguishing of variances in sounds (e.g., tones and pitches)

Attitudes – The student must be able to:

- Learn to perform mathematical calculation for medication preparation and administration in a timely manner;
- Learn to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing using appropriate grammar, vocabulary, and word usage as well as medical terminology;
- Comprehend verbal and written directions, making correct notations and responding as directed;
- Make proper and timely decisions under stressful and emergency situations

There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, veteran status, or handicap in either the selection of students for participation in the Program, or as to any aspect of the clinical training; provided, however, that with respect to handicap, the handicap must not be such as would, even with reasonable accommodation, in and of itself, preclude the student's effective participation in the Program.

Igualdad De Oportunidades Y Titulo IX

En el "Desert Community College District" (DCCD) reconocemos que la diversidad en el ambiente académico promueve la interacción cultural, el entendimiento, el respeto, la armonía y la creatividad. Para lograr este objetivo, en este distrito nos hemos comprometido a implementar las reglas y pólizas al proveer las mismas oportunidades a todos y prohibir la discriminación basada en la raza, el sexo, el color, la religión, la edad, (más de 40), el origen nacional, la invalidez, el estado civil, la veteranía de la Guerra del Vietnam, la orientación sexual, la descendencia y prohíbe el hostigamiento.

Este compromiso envuelve todas las facetas de las reglas y pólizas para el empleo, el desarrollo, la promoción y el trato de los empleados, de los estudiantes y del público en general. En este distrito creemos que para cumplir con las reglas federales y estatales, la mesa directiva, la administración, el cuerpo docente y el personal deben reconocer que la oportunidad igual de empleo es la responsabilidad de todos, y cada cual es responsable de implementarla en su correspondiente area. Con los esfuerzos de todos, el DCCD impartirá justicia e igualdad.

Continuaremos nuestros esfuerzos para asegurarnos que los procesos de enlistamiento, selección, contratos y promociones cumplan con las reglas de igualdad en las oportunidades y la diversidad del personal.

En el DCCD también nos comprometemos a no discriminar en el proceso de admisiones, el financiamiento de estudios, las actividades para estudiantes y el empleo, sin importar la raza, la religión, el género, la edad, la invalidez, o el origen nacional. La coordinadora del programa de anti-hostigamiento, igualdad de oportunidad, Titulo IX y la acta de los Estadounidenses inválidos es el vice-presidente de personal y representante de

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT Health Sciences/ECE Division

LETTER OF APPLICATION VOCATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM

DATE: _____

I, (circle one and PRINT NAME) Ms. Mrs. Mr. _____ wish to be considered for the Vocational Nursing class which will begin summer 2007. I assume responsibility for providing the following information to the Health Sciences/ECE Division. I understand that failure to complete this process automatically disqualifies me.

SUBMITTED

1. Official High School Transcript or copy of GED Certificate _____
2. Official Transcripts and grades of all college work completed.
(This need not include work completed at College of the Desert, as we can access that information by computer.) _____
 - ENG 51 - English 51 (or an assessment score greater than 99)
 - MATH 57 - Math 57 (or an assessment score greater than 65)
 - HS 62 - Your Living Body
 - HS 67 - Intro to Med/Dosage Calculations
 - PSY 1 - General Psychology
 - HEC 13 - Nutrition

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Do you wish to challenge or be given advance placement on the basis of previous course work or experience? Yes _____ No _____
- Have you made formal application for admission to College of the Desert? Yes _____ No _____
- Are we maintaining a current file for you in our department? Yes _____ No _____
- Are you a CNA? Yes _____ No _____
- Do you have a 2.0 cumulative GPA? Yes _____ No _____

(Signature):

Student I.D. Number

Address: _____

Telephone No: _____
(Area Code)

Any other names under which transcripts may be issued?

Date received in Dept:
