DEAR APPLICANT:

Thank you for your interest in the Associate Degree Nursing Program, which leads to eligibility for licensure as a registered nurse (RN). The following information about the program will introduce you to the application process. You may also contact the Counseling Department at 562-860-2451, extension 2231 and arrange to attend one of the information sessions or make an appointment with a counselor to discuss your individual situation. A two-unit elective course, NRSG 3 Preparing for Nursing is offered in spring and fall semesters to help you prepare for success in the program.

If you are transferring from another nursing program, you will need to schedule an appointment with a nursing counselor for a preliminary transcript evaluation. See paragraph above for counseling information. After that you will be asked to schedule an appointment with the Director of Nursing. Appointments for the Director of Nursing are scheduled by calling 562-860-2451, extension 2551 between 7:30 am and 5:30 pm. on Mondays through Thursdays or 9 a.m. to 1:00 pm on Fridays. Call the office for summer hours.

There are a number of general admission requirements that must be completed by students applying to the nursing program. In addition, certain “Options” include variations in these requirements. If you are entering a nursing program for the first time, you are considered an “Option A” applicant. If you are a Licensed Psychiatric Technician (LPT) seeking advanced placement in the program, you are an “Option B”. Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) have a choice of two options. If you plan to complete an Associate Degree in Nursing, which results in eligibility for an unrestricted registered nurse (RN) license, you are an “Option C”. If you are intending to complete only 30 semester units beyond LVN completion, which results in eligibility for a “non-degree” registered nurse license valid only in California, you are an “Option D”. If you have completed nursing program courses in another associate degree or baccalaureate degree program and are seeking advanced placement into the Cerritos nursing program, you are an “Option E”. If you completed your nursing education in another country and have been referred to us by the Board of Registered Nursing to complete one or more content areas before qualifying for RN licensure, you are an “Option F”.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The nursing program welcomes all applicants. To be considered for acceptance into the program, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. High school graduation or the equivalent.
2. Completion of English 52, *Math 60, and Reading 54 or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process. LVN applicants selecting the 30-unit option are required to complete the placement test process for advisement purposes but are not required to complete these courses.

*Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.

3. Completion of prerequisite courses: Anatomy & Physiology 150, Anatomy & Physiology 151, English 100, and Microbiology 200 with an overall grade point average of 2.5. Only one of the above courses can be repeated. A&P 150, A&P 151 and Micro 200 are recommended to be completed within six (6) years of admission.

4. Effective Fall 2008, students must pass a diagnostic assessment test (basic math, English, reading, and science) prior to program enrollment. Students who fail to achieve a passing score will be required to complete additional pre-nursing course work to become eligible for admission.

5. Cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for all college work taken.

NURSING PROGRAM OPTIONS

A. Associate in Arts Degree (also referred to as the “generic” option or Associate Degree in Nursing) – 914

B. LPT – ADN (Licensed Psychiatric Technician to Associate Degree in Nursing) – 914

C. LVN – ADN (Licensed Vocational Nurse to Associate Degree in Nursing) – 914

D. LVN-30 Unit Option (LVN + 30 units qualifying for NCLEX-RN, non-degree)

E. Transfer and Challenge

F. Board of Registered Nursing Referral

For Options A, B, C, and E — To graduate with an Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing, the student is required to complete prior to graduation, in addition to prerequisites and nursing courses, the following general education courses: PSYC 251, PHIL 104, and SPCH 100, SPCH 120, SPCH 130, SPCH 132, or SPCH 150 and one (1) three-unit course from U.S. History or American Government (U.S. History or American Government courses chosen from Plan A, Sections B1 or B2) as listed in the College’s General Education Requirements found in the College General Catalog and Schedule of Classes. Option A students desiring to matriculate to the CSU or UC system should also take PSYC 101 and SOC 101 or ANTH 100. For additional information, please refer to CSU or UC program requirements.
Option A: A&P 150, A&P 151, ENGL 100, and MICR 200
Option B: Same as Option A.
Additional courses required for admission: NRSG 25, NRSG 211, NRSG 213A, NRSG 251, and PSYC 251 or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. Valid California LPT license.
Option C: Same as Option A.
Additional courses required for admission: NRSG 26, NRSG 215, NRSG 251, and PSYC 251, or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. Completion of a medication calculation examination with score of 80% or higher. Valid California LVN license and at least one (1) year of acute care experience in a skilled nursing or hospital based facility is required.
Option D: A&P 151, MICR 200, NRSG 215.
Additional requirements: Completion of a medication calculation examination with a score of 80% or higher. Valid California LVN license. Optional courses: NRSG 26, NRSG 251 (strongly recommended), and PSYC 251. Completion of the college placement test process for advisement purposes. At least one (1) year of acute care experience in a skilled nursing or hospital based facility.
Option E: Same as Option A.
Additional courses required for admission: HO 152, NRSG 25 if entering prior to the middle of the second semester or NRSG 26 if entering at or following the middle of the second semester, NRSG 200, NRSG 215, NRSG 251, and PSYC 251 or equivalent with grades of Credit of “C” or higher. ENGL 52, *MATH 60, and READ 54 or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process. Completion of a medication calculation examination with a score of 80% or higher for entry at NRSG 220 or above. Students applying under this option will be notified individually for additional requirements relative to their entry points in the curriculum.
*Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.
Option F: NRSG 26 and NRSG 215. Applicants must meet with the Director of Nursing and submit a valid letter of referral from the California Board of Registered Nursing.

All applicants must complete the prerequisites listed above or equivalents with grades of Credit or “C” or higher.
Option A, B, C, and E applicants must show successful completion of ENGL 52, **MATH 60, and READ 54 or equivalents with grades of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process. Option D applicants are required to complete the placement test process for advisement purposes but are not required to complete these courses.
***Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.
Options D, E, and F applicants will be notified individually for additional requirements relative to their entry point in the program.
For more information on updated program information or prerequisites, please call the Health Occupations Division Office at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2550.
APPLICATION PROCESS:

Step 1: If not previously enrolled at Cerritos College, the applicant must complete a College application. This can be done on-line or in the Admissions and Records Office (in Administration Building on Alondra Boulevard).

Step 2: Complete the College’s assessment test process at the Cerritos College Assessment Center. Test schedules are available in the Counseling Department. If assessment test requirements have already been met by equivalent measures, the applicant should see a counselor for options.

Step 3: After College assessment tests have been completed, make an appointment with a counselor by calling (562) 860-2451, ext. 2231; specify that this is for completion of a nursing application. If transcripts have not been submitted prior to appointment, copies of transcripts may be hand-carried to the appointment.

SELECTION PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS

1. Applications will only be accepted during the application period (March 1 through March 15).

2. The applicant must submit to the Health Occupations Division Office the following items:
   a. A completed application signed by the applicant and a Cerritos College counselor
   b. Proof of high school graduation or GED completion
   c. College transcripts
   d. College assessment test results or indication by counselor that this requirement has been met through equivalent courses or activities
   e. Any additional items required for specific option (see below)

3. LVN applicants and transfer students seeking entry at NRSG 220 or above, will be scheduled for a medication calculation examination. Information regarding this examination will be provided in writing.

4. Applicants will be notified of eligibility for admission to the nursing program in writing.

5. Students who are eligible for admission into the nursing program will be required to take and pass a diagnostic assessment test (basic math, English, reading, and science).

6. Notification of admission to the program will be done in writing.

7. Admitted students and alternates will be required to attend a mandatory orientation meeting. During the orientation, information will be given regarding textbooks, uniforms, registration procedures, and other relevant matters.

8. Student Rights: The nursing student has certain rights in addition to those reflected in the College Student Handbook. These include:
   a. The right to contact professional nursing boards regarding concerns about the educational program.
   b. The right to know of the existence of a policy giving credit for previous nursing education and/or experience.
OPTION A ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE - 914

**PREREQUISITES:**
A&P 150, A&P 151, MICR 200, and ENGL 100 or equivalents with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. Successful completion of ENGL 52, ***MATH 60, and READ 54 or equivalents with grades of Credit or “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process.

### REQUIRED COURSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>NRSG 232</td>
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<td>Electives</td>
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<td>NRSG 80</td>
<td><strong>Nursing Process Documentation</strong></td>
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* 6-week courses
** 9-week courses

***Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.***
The Nursing Program offers to qualified Licensed Psychiatric Technician applicants an opportunity to prepare for professional nursing through the pursuit of specific knowledge and skills. Graduates from the program, in addition to receiving an Associate of Arts Degree, are eligible for the NCLEX-RN examination for licensure as a registered nurse.

**PREREQUISITES:**
A&P 150, A&P 151, ENGL 100, and MICR 200 or equivalents with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. ENGL 52, ***MATH 60, and READ 54 or equivalents with grades of Credit or “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process.

**Additional courses required for admission:** HO 152, NRSG 25, NRSG 211, NRSG 213A, NRSG 251 and PSYC 251 or equivalents with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. Valid California LPT license.

**REQUIRED COURSES**

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**Electives**

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*6 week courses
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***Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.
The Nursing Program offers to qualified Licensed Vocational Nurse applicants an opportunity to prepare for professional nursing through the pursuit of specific knowledge and skills. Graduates from the program, in addition to receiving an Associate in Arts Degree, are eligible for the NCLEX-RN examination for licensure as a registered nurse.

**PREREQUISITES:**
A&P 150, A&P 151, ENGL 100, and MICR 200 or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. Successful completion of READ 54, ***MATH 60, and ENGL 52 or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process.

**Additional courses required for admission:** NRSG 26, NRSG 215, NRSG 251, and PSYC 251 or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. Completion of a medication calculation examination with a score of 80% or higher. Valid California LVN license and at least one (1) year of acute care experience in a skilled nursing or hospital based facility.

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*6 week courses
**9 week courses

***Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.
OPTION D       LVN-30 UNIT OPTION

The Nursing Program offers to qualified Licensed Vocational Nurse applicants an opportunity to prepare for registered nurse licensure by completing thirty (30) units of college course work. The LVN who completes the thirty units designated by Cerritos College is eligible for the NCLEX-RN examination for licensure as a registered nurse.

PREREQUISITES:
A&P 151, MICR 200, and NRSG 215, or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher.
Additional requirement: Valid California LVN license and completion of a medication calculation examination with a score of 80% or higher.
Optional courses: NRSG 26, NRSG 251 (strongly recommended), and PSYC 251. Completion of the college placement test process for advisement purposes. At least one (1) year of acute care experience in a skilled nursing or hospital based facility.

REQUIRED COURSES

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<th>Semester 1</th>
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Electives
NRSG 48T **Elective Nursing Tutorial 0.5
NRSG 80 **Nursing Process Documentation 1.0

*6 week courses
**9 week courses
OPTION E TRANSFER AND CHALLENGE

PREREQUISITES:
A&P 150, A&P 151, ENGL 100, and MICR 200, or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher.

Additional courses required for admission: HO 152, NRSG 25 if entering prior to the middle of the second semester or NRSG 26 if entering at or following the middle of the second semester. NRSG 200, NRSG 215, and NRSG 251, and PSYC 251, or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher. ENGL 52, **MATH 60 and READ 54, or equivalent with grades of Credit or “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test process. Completion of medication calculation exam with a score of 80% or higher for entry at Nursing 222 or above.

Students applying under this option will be notified individually for additional requirements relative to their entry points in the curriculum.

**Note: Beginning Fall 2009, all new admits to the program will be required to complete Math 80 or equivalent with grade of Credit of “C” or higher or satisfactory completion of the college placement test in order to graduate from the nursing program.

CREDIT GRANTING POLICY: Students who have successfully completed academic courses and/or have relevant knowledge and/or skills acquired in other than an accredited institution will be given advanced standing in the nursing program upon verification of such knowledge and/or skills.

TRANSFER CREDIT
A. Credit will be granted for related previous education completed in:
   1. Accredited Vocational or Practical Nursing courses
   2. Accredited Registered Nursing courses
   3. Accredited Psychiatric Technician courses
   4. Other related courses (e.g., Anatomy and Physiology, Nutrition)
B. Official transcripts and/or copies of certificates of completion must be submitted for credit to be granted.
C. Credit will be granted based upon the content and hours of transferring courses and must be equivalent to courses in the Cerritos College Nursing Program.

CHALLENGE CREDIT (Competency-based)
A. Credit may be granted for relevant knowledge and/or skills acquired through prior experience, courses in non-accredited institutions, and individual study which are essentially equivalent to a course for which credit is being requested.
B. Credit shall be determined by successful completion of a comprehensive written examination and/or practical evaluation.
C. Objectives for both the written and/or practical examinations are made available to the student prior to evaluation.
D. Student must meet the requirements which govern credit by examination as stated in the college catalog.
E. A minimum of twelve (12) units of the nursing curriculum must be in residency at Cerritos College in order to receive the Associate Degree in Nursing.
OPTION F  BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING REFERRAL

Applicants for California licensure as registered nurses may be referred by the Board of Registered Nursing to complete specific areas of nursing content prior to taking the NCLEX-RN examination. The Nursing Program offers such applicants the opportunity to complete nursing preparation as specified by the Board of Registered Nursing.

**PREREQUISITES:** A valid letter of referral from the California Board of Registered Nursing for completion of a specified area. NRSG 26 and NRSG 215 with grades of Credit or “C” or higher.
GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CERRITOS COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAM
The Cerritos College Nursing Program, approved by the Board of Registered Nursing and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc, offers an opportunity to prepare for a nursing career through mastery of a specific body of knowledge and skills. For successful completion of the nursing program, the student is required to achieve a minimum 75% in all nursing and nursing-related courses. This is consistent with the Board of Registered Nursing’s standard of competency for nursing practice. Completion of the program meets qualifications for the NCLEX-RN licensing exam.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Cerritos College Nursing Program Mission is to prepare nurses to meet the needs of diverse populations in an ever changing health care environment.

PHILOSOPHY
Nursing is defined as a science, discipline and health care practice that focuses on the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of clients having health problems within the domain of nursing. The goals of nursing practice focus on health promotion, illness prevention, rehabilitation, and supporting the resources of the person who is ill or threatened with illness in adapting to changes within the environment.

In addition to implementing the philosophy of the College, the purpose of the Nursing Department is to provide the community with registered nurses who are capable of functioning in a variety of health care settings. To accomplish this, the Roy Adaptation Model has been selected as the primary conceptual framework. Within this framework, nurses identify their patients as biopsychosocial beings in constant interaction with the environment. In periods of health, individuals have both innate and learned behavioral mechanisms which enable them to cope with their complex internal and external environments. In times of stress, the patient’s coping mechanisms may be disrupted and the individual is defined as ill. The patient’s health status is defined on a continuum from wellness to illness.

Nursing practice focuses on adaptation of the patient in four major modes: physiological, self-concept, role function, and interdependence. The program prepares students to understand individuals as total beings and to recognize and respect a diversity of spiritual and cultural/ethnic values.

COMPETENCIES EXPECTED OF THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSE
The Associate Degree Nurse (ADN) graduate is prepared and expected to practice within the framework of the Educational Competencies for Graduates of Associate Degree Nursing Programs as identified by the National Council of Associate Degree Nursing Competencies Task Force in 2000. As identified by the Task Force, ADN graduates practice within the framework of eight core components and competencies. The core components of nursing practice are: professional behaviors, communication, assessment, clinical decision making, caring interventions, teaching and learning, collaboration, and managing care. These core components emphasize competencies related to diversity in healthcare, clinical decision making, assessment, patient education, continuity of care (including community aspects), collaboration and leadership. In order to meet the expected outcomes, the ADN graduate utilizes critical thinking and demonstrates clinical
The Associate Degree Nurse is an entry level practitioner and is competent to practice as a direct caregiver in a variety of health care settings which include diverse patient populations. ADN graduates are employed in a health care delivery system that continues to grow and change. Consequently, ADN graduates may pursue bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in preparation for advanced levels of practice.

CONCEPT OF EDUCATION
Nursing faculty believe that Nursing education is driven by the application of critical thinking and development/improvement of teaching/learning strategies using innovative approaches and evidence-based research. Nursing faculty also believe the purpose of education is to enlighten and enhance the quality of life for the student, the community and patients for whom students and graduates provide care. Education based on mastery learning is viewed by the nursing faculty as a collaborative process involving college administrators and staff, nursing faculty and nursing students. Each student enters the nursing program with unique characteristics, capabilities, learning styles, and motivation for learning. To address these individual differences, learning experiences are structured from simple to complex. The program embraces the diversity of cultural, linguistic and philosophical differences represented in the student body. Course experiences are designed to encourage discussion, sharing and application of cultural practices that are unique to the individuals and groups represented in the campus and the community.

The goal of the program is to promote students’ creative and critical thinking and personal growth based on successful learning experiences. Achievement of this goal is fostered by encouraging self-direction and by providing a variety of individual and group learning experiences. Students are expected to participate actively in the learning process.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM AND ANTICIPATED EXPENSES
The core nursing program consists of sequenced courses over a four-semester period. Prerequisite courses are completed prior to these four semesters. In addition, general education courses are required for completion of the Associate in Arts Degree in Nursing (Associate Degree in Nursing – ADN). Some students may need to take additional courses to meet English, reading and mathematics requirements.

Each unit costs $20 for California residents, $173 for non-residents of California and $210 for international students. A College Services ID fee ($10) and Health Services fee ($14) are assessed each semester.

During the four core semesters, lab material fees total approximately $450, textbooks approximately $1600, and additional supplies and uniforms approximately $350. Students are responsible for their own living arrangements, uniform laundry and transportation to clinical agencies. Application fee for licensure as a registered nurse ranges from $330.00 to $370.00. Information about costs of NLNAC accredited nursing programs is available from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission Inc., 61 Broadway, 33rd Floor, New York, NY 10006, telephone 800-669-1656, extension 153 or www.nlnac.org.

ATTENDANCE
All students are expected to observe the attendance requirements of the Nursing Program as stated in the Nursing Program Student Handbook.
PROMOTION/PROGRESSION
In order to remain enrolled in and complete the program, the student must maintain a “C” grade or higher in all nursing courses and those general education courses specified by the California Board of Registered Nursing for completion of the nursing program. These courses include: PSCY 251, PHIL 104, and SPCH 100, SPCH 120, SPCH 130, SPCH 132, or SPCH 150. In combined nursing lecture/lab courses, the student must receive a minimum of “C” in lecture and a satisfactory grade in lab in order to successfully complete the course.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK/DRUG SCREEN
Clinical placements are a mandatory component of the curriculum and require clearance of a criminal background check and drug screen. Students who do not clear agency requirements are not eligible for clinical placement and will, consequently, be ineligible to continue in the program. If there is any concern regarding clearance of a criminal background check or drug screen, please contact the Health Occupations Division for additional information.

REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE APPLICATION
At the completion of the fourth semester of the Nursing Program, the nursing student files an application for licensure (NCLEX-RN) with the Board of Registered Nursing. The application and examination registration fee is $275. In addition, the student may apply for an interim permit for $30. These fees are subject to change by the Board of Registered Nursing. As stated in the Board of Registered Nursing’s application for licensure:

- Applicants are required under law to report all misdemeanor and felony convictions.
- “Driving under the influence” convictions must be reported. Convictions must be reported even if they have been expunged under Penal Code 1203.4 or even if court ordered diversion program has been completed under the Penal Code or under Article 5 of the Vehicle Code. Also, all disciplinary action against an applicant’s registered nurse, practical nurse, vocational nurse, or other professional must be reported. Failure to report prior convictions or disciplinary action is considered falsification of application and is grounds for denial of licensure or revocation of license.

To make a determination [regarding eligibility for licensure] the Board considers the nature and severity of the offense, additional subsequent acts, recency of acts or crimes, compliance with court sanctions, and evidence of rehabilitation.

Attached is the application for the nursing program. For further information, please contact the COUNSELING DEPARTMENT at 562-860-2451, extension 2231 or the NURSING DEPARTMENT at extension 2550.