



Credit for Prior Education 2016-2017

POLICY:

In accordance with CSU, Chancellor Executive Order 1084, CSUSM Undergraduate Student policies, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN/CACN) and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), credit for previous education or by examination allows students to gain credit for a specific nursing course(s) by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter.

Students may receive credit for previous education by demonstrating that courses were taken at another accredited college or university or by testing out of a course by taking a formal challenge examination for credit. CSU San Marcos grants up to a maximum of thirty (30) semester units of credit to those students who pass examinations that have been approved for credit system-wide. No credit for any examination will be awarded to a student who has:

- 1) taken the examination previously within the past year;
- 2) earned equivalent credit through regular coursework credit by another examination, or other instructional processes, such as correspondence study or military training; or
- 3) earned credit previously in a course or by examination more advanced than the level represented by the examination in question.

LVN to BSN STUDENTS:

Policy:

- If not licensed as and LVN, student will challenge the state license examination for an LVN license
- Students will challenge a skills examination for admission to the LVN program
- Student Services advisor and the Director/Associate Director will evaluate transcripts and skills examination to waive 17 units of lower division nursing coursework for admitted applicants to the LVN to BSN option.

Procedure:

- Prospective students will submit an application for the LVN to BSN option of the BSN program; if criteria are met, applicants will be notified by the College of Education, Health and Human Services (CEHHS) Students Services Department for further information.
- CEHHS Student Services will contact the applicant to set up a skills examination day.

- The applicant will complete the skills examinations.
- If admitted to the LVN to BSN option, a meeting will be arranged with the Student Services advisor, and Director or Associate Director of the School of Nursing to discuss a plan of study and evaluate courses that will be waived for this option.
- Specific information for skills testing is on the School of Nursing website.

RN to BSN STUDENTS:

Policy:

- Prospective students may transfer and get credit for 70 semester units of course work; transfer courses will be reviewed by Student Services
- Prospective students may get up to 30 units of semester unit credit for demonstration of prior learning of pre-licensure nursing content
- Further policy information is found in the CSU Chancellor's Office Executive Order 1084

Procedure:

- Prospective students will submit an application for the RN to BSN option of the BSN program; if criteria are met, applicants will be notified by Extended Learning Student Services Department.
- Students may transfer courses and get credit if courses meet criteria and they are completed at an accredited college or university. Student Services advisors will evaluate transcripts and send course descriptions to faculty for final approval. Sometimes a course syllabus may be requested and required for final approval.
- In addition to 70 transfer units from Associate Degree programs, RN to BSN students can be awarded up to 30 units of credit for demonstration of prior learning of pre-licensure nursing content per CSU Chancellor's Executive Order 1084.
- Specific information is in the CSU Chancellor's Office Executive Order 1084.

CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

Policy:

- In order to challenge a nursing course by examination, students must be currently enrolled in the Nursing Program.
- Applicants considering this option should review the *Undergraduate Tests and Examination Policy in the University Course Catalog (Under Admission and Application, Evaluation of Academic Records, page 33).*

Procedure:

- Students considering a challenge examination should first meet with the Director/Associate Director of Nursing **before the course begins** to discuss eligibility for challenge examinations, and challenge procedures.

NOTE:

- a. Students cannot be enrolled in the course that they are planning to challenge.

- b. Students should allow sufficient time to complete the challenge process.
- c. In the event that students are not able to complete the challenge process, students must enroll in the desired course.

- For eligible candidates, the course syllabus/syllabi (including a textbook list) will be provided.
- An instructor will be assigned to administer the challenge examination.
- Students who receive a failing grade in a nursing course may not challenge the course to re-enter the Nursing Program –**in this situation, the Re-entry Policy will be followed.**
- Students who fail the challenge exam will need to enroll in the course.

NOTE: Challenge examinations for nursing courses may contain both written and performance components.

- Students must obtain at least 71% to pass.
- Students must pass a math dosage calculation examination for clinical course challenge exams. See the School of Nursing policy on math exams *in the student handbook*.
- Students must demonstrate competency in the skills required in the syllabus/syllabi for the challenged clinical course.
- The clinical evaluation will be given in the practice laboratory.