

Narrative Certificate of Achievement in LVN Option Merced Community College District

Item 1. Program Goals and Objectives

The pathway for California Licensed Vocational Nurses requires one academic year beyond completion of the prerequisite courses, non-nursing breadth requirements, and competencies. LVN to RN students enter into the third semester of the RN curriculum identified above after completion of REGN-01 and all other prerequisites. Applicants submit an application found on the Allied Health web site. Graduates will earn the Associate in Science Degree on completion of designated courses and competency requirements. Communication, natural and social science, and nursing courses must be completed with a grade of "C" or better to be eligible for licensure requirements of the State Board of Nursing.

Enrollment eligibility to the LVN to RN pathway requires the completion of previously identified prerequisite courses. Applicants must meet the same selection requirements as generic RN students entering the program in the first semester. In addition, CLDV-09/PSYC-09 are prerequisites for the LVN to RN applicant who has already met the selection criteria. Randomized selection is used to select a cohort from the pool of qualified applicants according to available seats.

LVN to RN applicants are notified of eligibility approximately two months prior to the next semester. The LVN-RN application period remains open. To progress into the RN program, students must successfully complete the REGN-01 LVN to RN transition class which is offered when a sufficient number of qualified applicants exist.

Space in the RN program is determined based on the number of RN students progressing from the second semester to the third semester.

Applicants selected from the pool must complete the assessment test (currently using TEAS). A score less than 62 requires the applicant to complete the same remediation requirements as all other generic RN students before admission into the program. Only those students formally accepted into the program may register for courses identified as Registered Nursing Curriculum. Students may, however, enroll in other courses designated as non-nursing program requirements while awaiting selection into the program.

Item 2. Catalog Description

The 30-unit option is available to any applicant to the Registered Nursing program at Merced College who is a vocational nurse licensed in the State of California (California Nurse Practice Act). The graduate of this 30-unit option is eligible to apply for licensure as a registered nurse if the applicant has successfully completed the courses below. Merced College will provide objective counseling of this option and evaluate each licensed vocational nurse applicant for admission to our registered nurse program. The 30-unit option does not qualify graduates to apply for out-of-state licensure.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

- A. Provide quality, safe, patient-centered nursing care through evidence-based practice.
- B. Participate in collaborative relationships with members of the interdisciplinary team to provide and improve patient care.
- C. Engage in critical thinking skills and strategies and clinical reasoning necessary to provide quality patient care.
- D. Provide leadership in a variety of healthcare settings for diverse patient populations.
- E. Use information technology to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision-making.
- F. Function as a competent nurse assimilating all professional, ethical, and legal principles.

Item 3. Program Requirements

Prerequisite Courses

Course Title	Merced College ID	Units
Principles of Physiology	BIOL-18**	4
Microbiology	BIOL-20**	4

Second Semester

Transition LVN to RN	REGN-01***	2
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Third Semester

Clinical Skills Transition LVN to RN	REGN-02****	1
Advanced Medical/Surgical Nursing and Pediatric Nursing	REGN-34	10

Fourth Semester

Acute Medical/Surgical Nursing and Mental Health Nursing	REGN-44	9
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**It is highly recommended that once enrolled in these classes, students do not drop them. Program applicants need to understand that multiple attempts to improve grades earned in these classes can negatively affect their eligibility.

***Only with an approved LVN License.

****Required for LVN's who have met admission selection criteria, have successfully completed REGN-01 and have been accepted into the Registered Nursing Program's third semester.

Total Units toward the Major: 30 Units

Item 4. Master Planning

The role of this program is to offer an alternative route for Licensed Vocational Nurses to become eligible to complete the courses required for licensure as a registered nurse in the State of California. The required curriculum of this certificate program must fulfill the educational requirement for licensure as a registered nurse and shall be courses beyond (or equivalent) to the first year of professional nursing courses. The nursing content shall include nursing interventions in acute, preventative, remedial, supportive, rehabilitative and teaching aspects of nursing (California Nurse Practice Act, Section 1429).

According to the Board of Registered Nursing interpretation of Section 1429, a Licensed Vocational Nurse who wishes to become a Registered Nurse using the 30-unit option is "required to complete not more than 30 semester units of courses"—of which 8 units are required Physiology and Microbiology. The 30-unit option is unique to California and other states do not recognize the curriculum of this program for licensure.

The certificate program allows LVN's, upon completion, the opportunity to take the NCLEX-RN examination for licensure in the State of California.

Item 5. Enrollment and Completer Projections

CB01: Course Department Number	CB02: Course Title	Year 1		Year 2	
		Annual # Sections	Annual Enrollment Total	Annual # Sections	Annual Enrollment Total
BIOL-18	Principles of Physiology	9	213	9	216
BIOL-20	Microbiology	10	246	11	262
REGN-01	Transition LVN to RN	2	2	2	9
REGN-02	Clinical Skills Transition LVN to RN	2	10	2	10
REGN-35	Nursing in Health and Illness IV	2	52	2	58
REGN-45	Nursing in Health and Illness IV	2	47	2	51

REGN-35 was replaced with REGN-34; similarly REGN-45 was replaced with REGN-44.

Item 6. Place of Program in Curriculum/Similar Programs

Registered Nursing program is administrated under the Allied Health cohort. The Certificate of Achievement in LVN Option is a pathway for California Licensed Vocational Nurses to become Registered Nurses. In addition to Registered Nursing, Merced College also has a Vocational Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Diagnostic Radiological Technology programs.

Item 7. Similar Programs at Other Colleges in Service Area

American River College offers the Licensed Vocation Nurse (LVN) 30-unit option Certificate. This option does not satisfy ARC's Nursing Program requirements or lead to an Associate Degree in nursing. The State of California provides the LVN with an option to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN) after completing 30 college semester units. Course work must receive a grade of "C" or better for progression toward the 30-unit option certificate. Transcripts of physiology, microbiology, and nursing course work completed will be provided to the Board of Registered Nursing upon completion of the 30-unit option.

Fresno City College offers the 30 Unit Option, Non-Degree LVN to RN Articulation Plan. According to BRN interpretation of the California Nurse Practice Act, Section 1429, an LVN who wishes to become an RN using the 30 Unit Option is required to complete no more than 30 semester units nursing and related courses with a grade of "C" or better. Once the student has completed the 30 unit option and received an RN license from the BRN, the BRN can change the status to that of a graduate if the student goes on to acquire a degree of nursing at a later date.