SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE
School of Nursing and Health Services

Nursing – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is a "cohort?"

A. The nursing program admits students twice a year. The students that are admitted into the program as classified as "cohorts." Cohorts are a group of students that move together through the nursing program.

Q. How many students are admitted to each cohort?

A. There are 40 seats available in each cohort

Q. Is the nursing application the same as the college admission application?

A. No. The nursing program has a separate application. You can find the nursing application online at https://www.swmich.edu/media/website/content-assets/documents/nursing-application-packet-ADA.pdf or you can pick one up in the Nursing and Health Services Office (HEAL 1642) or in the Academic Resources Center (ARC).

Q. When are applications to the Nursing Program due?

A1. If you would like to be considered for Fall admission, applications must be complete and turned into the Nursing Office by June 1st. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

A2. If you would like to be considered for Spring admission, applications must be complete and turned into the Nursing Office by November 1st. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Q. Where do I turn in my nursing application?

A. All nursing applications need to be turned into the nursing office. They will be checked for completeness in the nursing office. No incomplete applications will be accepted. Students must turn in their own applications.

Q. What are pre-requisites?

A. Pre-requisites or Pre-requisites are the course students must complete before they are admitted into the nursing program. There are five pre-requisites for RN students and six for LPN-RN students.

Q. What grades do I have to have in pre-requisites to qualify for the nursing program?

A. Students are required to get a minimum of a "C" in all pre-requisite courses except for BIOL 214. A "B-" is required for BIOL 214.

Q. What is the entrance exam?

A. The entrance exam is a test that evaluates basic reading, writing, math and science skills of students seeking entry into the nursing program. This is a 91-question test.

Q. Where do I take the entrance exam?

A. The entrance exam must be taken in the Testing Center at Southwestern Michigan College. The test is only offered at the Dowagiac Campus. Please talk to your academic advisor for more information about signing up for the entrance exam.

Q. Is the entrance exam Free?

A. There is not a fee for the student's first or second attempt on the entrance exam.

Q. How many times can I take the entrance exam?

A. Students may attempt the entrance exam two times. There will be a 90-day waiting period before the first and second attempts. A student may only attempt the entrance exam once per admission cycle.

Q. What is the passing score for the entrance exam?

A. Student's must score a 60 or higher on the entrance exam to be considered for entry into the nursing program. Scores lower than 60 will not be considered for admission.

Q. What if I do not pass the entrance exam on my second attempt?

A. If you do not pass the entrance exam on your second attempt, you will not be eligible for admittance into the nursing program at Southwestern Michigan College. All attempts on the entrance exam expire after 2 years. The student can attempt the entrance exam after 2 years.

Q. Can I transfer my entrance exam from a different school?

A. No. To be eligible for the SMC Nursing Program, you must take the entrance exam through SMC.

Q. How do I best prepare for the entrance exam?

A. The SMC library has purchased several resources to help students prepare for the entrance exam. Please visit the SMC library to check-out these resources.

Q. What is the required GPA to get into the Nursing Program?

A. All students must have at least a 2.75 GPA on their pre-requisites.

Q. Can I attend the Nursing Program part-time?

A. Yes. The Nursing Program at SMC has been designed to fit for those that would like to go full or part-time.

Q. What are the required immunizations and screenings?

A. The following immunizations and screenings are required by our clinical partners. If you do not have these complete, you will not be able to attend the clinical portion of your courses or progress through the Nursing Program.

i. Tuberculosis screening (only valid for 1 year)
ii. Tetanus vaccine (valid for 10 years)
iii. Measles
iv. Mumps
v. Rubella
vi. Hepatitis B vaccine series
vii. Chicken Pox Vaccine/or antibody test
viii. CPR (American Heart Association BLS Healthcare Provider

Q. What will my schedule look like once I am accepted into the Nursing Program?

A1. You will be expected to be available at least four days a week. Two days each week will be spent in the clinical setting. Two days each week are reserved for classroom lectures.

A2. Clinical hours vary by course. You may be required to attend day-time, evening, or weekend clinicals.

A3. Classroom lecture courses are held during the daytime or evening.

Q. Do I get to pick my class schedule?

A. Due to the nature of the program, limited seat counts, and limited clinical space, the nursing department will assign all students to their courses. Special requests are not considered.