Associate Degree Nursing (RN) Program Information Session Spring 2019
Marcia Scott, Director of Nursing

Agenda
- Welcome and Introductions
- Program Overview
- Prerequisites
- Other Required Coursework
- Counseling Information
- Final Admission Criteria
- Estimated Costs
- Class Selection and Point Allocation
- Application Instructions & Timeline
- Factors Affecting Success
- Where to Begin
- Questions

Do You Have What it Takes To Be A Nurse?
- Familiarity with RN role
- Caring Nature
- Communication Skills
- Emotionally Strong
- Professional Presence
- Good Physical Endurance
- Able to Multitask
- Enjoy Math & Science
- Detail Oriented
Why Cuesta College?

- Strong reputation
- Community support
- High RN licensure exam (NCLEX) 1st test pass rate
- Positive employee surveys
- Experienced faculty
- Counselors, Success Specialist, & staff who care
- High fidelity simulation lab
- High tech skills lab

Cuesta College RN Program

- Program website: [www.cuesta.edu](http://www.cuesta.edu), Academics tab, then Sciences, then Registered Nursing (RN)
- Two-year program that earns an Associate Degree in Registered Nursing (ADN)
- Prepares graduates to take the National RN Licensure Examination—NCLEX
  - Students apply to the BRN to take NCLEX in the 4th semester of the program
  - Licensure as an RN is granted by the BRN after passing the NCLEX

Cuesta College RN Program, cont.

- Time Commitment
  - Full time, rigorous and demanding program
  - 2 years = 4 semesters with summer off
  - Monday through Friday
  - Clinical sites from Arroyo Grande, SLO to Templeton
  - Clinicals are completed in long term care, hospitals & clinics
- ADN to BSN options exist, including
  - CSU-Monterey Bay Collaborative
    - Graduate 1 year after completing the ADN
### Schedule By the Week...

#### 1st and 2nd Semester:
- **Monday** - Lectures and skills lab
- **Tuesday** - Lecture and clinical prep that goes into the evening
- **Wednesday & Thursday** - Clinical
  - 1st Semester Clinical is every other week
  - 2nd semester Clinical is every week
- **Friday** - Open lab, homework, catch up, class meetings

#### 3rd and 4th Semester:
- **Monday & Tuesday** - Clinical
  - 3rd Semester Clinical is every other week
  - 4th semester Clinical is every week
- **Wednesday and Thursday** - Lecture
- **Friday** - Scheduled lab

#### Also in 4th Semester:
- Preceptorship as the final clinical rotation
- NCLEX preparation

### Prerequisite Coursework Requirements

- Must be completed by **August 31st** to apply in October
- No online science labs can be accepted
- No recency requirement exists for prerequisite coursework
- Combined prereq science GPA must be ≥ 2.50* (no rounding)
- All courses must be completed with C grade or higher
- Consider recency for your success!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Cuesta Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology with Lab (4 credits)</td>
<td>BIO 204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy with Lab (4 credits)</td>
<td>BIO 205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Physiology with Lab (4 credits)</td>
<td>BIO 206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Composition (3 credits)</td>
<td>English 201A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If your combined science GPA is <2.50, see a nursing counselor to consider possibilities to become eligible in the future

### Additional BRN and Associate Degree Required Coursework

- May complete after application is submitted but should be started well before
- Must be completed before RN program
- Transcripts must be submitted by date in the application

#### BRN Required
- Intro to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology
- General Psychology
- Speech/Communication
  - Must complete — no exceptions

#### Associate Degree Required
- Arts/Humanities
- History/Political Science (American Institutions)
- Intermediate Algebra (or higher)
  - SB 1393 may waive
    - a bachelor degree or higher
Prerequisite Equivalency Evaluation of Courses NOT taken at Cuesta

- For courses not taken at Cuesta
  - consult the RN Prerequisite Course Equivalencies Chart
- For courses not listed on the chart
  - Pre-RN Course Equivalency Form to know equivalency outcome before you submit your application
  - Form is submitted to Enrollment Services (as indicated on form)
  - If you don’t complete the Form prior to submitting your application, (4 weeks ahead...), all courses will be reviewed as part of the application process and you will be notified of equivalency in eligibility letter.
- Plan Ahead: Transcripts and course descriptions are necessary to complete coursework evaluation. Mail or submit electronically ahead of time.

Associate Degree
GE Requirement Course Examples

- American Institutions
  - HIST 207A or 207B History of the US
  - POLS 202 US Government & Politics
- Cultural Diversity
  - HEED 203 Women’s Health Issues or 208 Multicultural Health*
- Health Education
  - HEED 201 or 210 Intro to Public Health*
  - HEED 203 or 208 Multicultural Health*

*Note - HEED 203 or 208 count for both diversity and health education requirement

Estimated Costs of the RN Program is $5,500

- Estimate Includes
  - Tuition, material fees, parking, books, stethoscope & watch, NCLEX fees
  - Breakdown of estimated costs are on the webpage
- Reliable transportation is a must
- Factor in the financial hit due to loss of income for two years
- Financial Aid is available! Contact the Financial Aid office at http://www.cuesta.edu/student/studentservices/finaid/
- Apply for Financial Aid early
- Apply for Cuesta Scholarships even if you have not received notification of acceptance to the ADN Program (application dates October 1-March 2)
Class Selection

- Multi-Criteria Selection
- In accordance with California Community College Education Code 78261
- Admission granted to highest ranking applicants
- Must reapply if not admitted (No wait list)

SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION

**Degree, License or Certificate**
MAX = 10 points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree, License or Certificate</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree or higher</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Health Care Worker</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(LVN, Psych Tech, Paramedic...)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified Nurse Assistant Certification PLUS CNA work experience</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(500 hours in past 2 years*)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificated Health Care Worker</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Nurse Asst., Medical Asst., EMT...)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION

**Combined Prerequisite Science GPA**
MAX = 40 points

Combined Science GPA of 2.50 or higher (no rounding)
Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology
- Calculate points by multiplying combined GPA by 10
- Points are rounded to the nearest tenth
- For example: a combined GPA of 3.64 x 10 = 36.4 pts

If your combined science GPA is < 2.50 see a nursing counselor to consider possibilities to become eligible in the future
SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION
Combined GPA in English Composition & Associate Degree Math
MAX 10 Points

• Calculate points by multiplying combined GPA by 2.50
• Points are rounded to the nearest tenth
• Example: a combined GPA of 3.64 x 2.5 = 9.1 pts
• Must have both courses to earn points in this category
• AP tests may satisfy requirements

If your combined GPA is <2.00 see a nursing counselor to consider possibilities to become eligible in the future

SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION:
Repeats in Science or English prerequisite courses

1 repeat = 5 point deduction
2 repeats = 10 point deduction
3 repeats = Not eligible
Repeats include grades of C-, D, F, I, U, W, FW

In cases of unique and individual extenuating circumstances, applicants may choose to:
1. Request a waiver of point deductions for 1 or 2 repeats
   OR
2. Appeal their ineligible status for 3 or more repeats
For either option, a detailed written statement of 500 words or less is required. Instructions are included in the online application.
Not all appeals or petitions are granted.
Appeals accepted only at time of application.

SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION
Work Experience in Healthcare
5.0 points

• Heads up! Work experience criteria has been updated with the October 2019 application – be sure to review
• Qualification - 200 hours within two years
• Points are awarded for work experience that will help you be successful nursing such as:
  • Observe the RN role
  • Practice basic nursing care (vital signs, hygiene, etc.)
  • Gain a basic understanding of patient assessments, patient care, medications and med math
  • Become comfortable with nursing environment
SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION
Volunteer Experience in Healthcare
2.5 points

• Heads up! Volunteer experience criteria has been updated with the October 2019 application – be sure to review
• Qualification - volunteer 200 hours within two years
• Points are awarded for to recognize volunteer that benefits patients, families, and/or the healthcare community.
• The nursing program promotes volunteering.
  • Working with others to make a meaningful contribution to better our community, meet new people, learn new skills, gain experience, and improve self-worth.
  • Examples: Hospital volunteer, Special Olympics, healthcare screening, senior center, Alzheimer’s event, and more!

SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION
Life Experiences or Circumstances
MAX = 2.5 points

• Disabilities (i.e. DSPS)
• Family income
• First generation to attend college
• Need to work while completing prerequisites
• Disadvantaged social or educational environment
• Difficult personal and family situation
• Veteran
• Refugee status

SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION:
Proficiency in language other than English
2.5 points

• Ability to speak, interpret, and write at a conversational level and translate during a medical emergency
• The person verifying language ability may not be a family member or relative
• May be asked to verify through assessment testing
• Coursework alone will not meet this requirement
SELECTION CRITERIA & POINT ALLOCATION
Diagnostic Assessment Tool: ATI TEAS
MAX = 30 points

• Tests Reading, Math, English, & Science
• Only ATI TEAS scores accepted (TEAS V no longer available)
• Only the first TEAS taken in past 12 months will be accepted
• Need a 62% or higher for program eligibility
  o Scores under 62% will be offered remediation to be eligible in future application
• Testing window is announced in the application packet
• Cuesta applicants are offered one test onsite free of charge
  o Test date and time is pre-assigned in the application
• Read application packet information on the ATI TEAS carefully and thoroughly

ATI TEAS Preparation Information

  o ATI has several test preparation products. Information about purchasing these materials is available at: https://atitesting.com/Solutions/pre-program/TEAS.aspx
  o Talk with a Cuesta counselor for preparation information

ADDITIONAL POINTS
For Previous Eligible Applicants
8 points

• An additional 8 points are awarded to applicants who submitted three (3) or more eligible RN program applications within the past 5 years without being selected
• Specific years will be specified in each application
• Keep eligible applicant letters for verification
Final Admission Criteria

Instructions & forms distributed at the incoming student orientation

- **Physical Exam**
  - Immunization records and/or lab titters
    - MMR x 2, Varicella x 2, Hepatitis B x 3, Tdap
    - TB skin test between June 1 and July 31 before program
    - Seasonal Flu vaccine will be required each fall (offered free to students)
- **American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR Cert**
  - Completed between June 1 and July 31 before your program begins
- **Background Check & Drug Screen**
  - Cleared by Cuesta prior to program, and again upon completion by BRN
  - Cuesta’s policy can be viewed on the Nursing & Allied Health Student Resources webpage
  - BRN policy can be viewed at www.rn.ca.gov
  - Arrest and court documents need to be submitted with your NCLEX application to the BRN during the 4th semester

General Application Timeline

See actual dates in application instructions

- **June/July:** New Application Instruction Packet posted online
- **August 31:** Deadline for [RN Program Prerequisites] to be completed
- **October 1-31:** Applications accepted online
- **November/December:** ATI-TEAS test dates at Cuesta College
- **December:** Deadline for ATI-TEAS scores to be submitted
  - Must be requested from ATI if you test someplace other than Cuesta
  - This is automatic if you test at Cuesta
- **January:** Eligibility and point allocation will be emailed
- **February:** Notification of admission status emailed
- **February:** Intent to Enroll form must be returned
- **June 1:** Deadline for Associate Degree and BRN additional required courses
- **June:** Mandatory program orientation for admitted students
- **August:** RN program begins

Application Reminders – delete

- Prerequisites must be completed by deadline in application
- Additionally required BRN and Associate Degree coursework must be completed by the deadline in application
- ATI TEAS test must be taken during the testing dates identified in the current application with a score of 62% or higher to be an eligible applicant
- Fall ATI TEAS pre-assigned test dates and instructions will be listed in the application packet
- Final Admission Criteria (physical exam & immunization forms, CPR information, and background & drug screen instructions) will be given to admitted students at the incoming student orientation
Be Sure Your Application is Complete & Meets Due Dates To Remain Eligible!

- Follow the current application instructions found in the application packet on program website
- Every effort is made to eliminate previous online applications, however, verify the online application you are completing matches the year in which you are applying
- Submit official, sealed transcripts for all coursework not taken at Cuesta College (mail or submit electronically)
  - Sealed and official transcripts are unopened
  - Request transcripts early because it can take 4 – 6 weeks for the school to process your request
- Submit online application by the due date and time

Important and Time Sensitive Communication will be sent to your myCuesta email account

- myCuesta email assigned after you apply to be a student at Cuesta
- Check your myCuesta email inbox directly
  - do not rely on email forwarding to another account!
  - adjust junk and spam filters to receive our emails
- Email notification dates are provided in the application
- Notify Admissions and Records at (805) 546-3100, ext. 2555 with change of name and/or contact information

It is the responsibility of each applicant to check their myCuesta email. If we cannot contact you, you will not receive time sensitive information and your application may become ineligible.

Plan for Success!
Prepare now for these potential barriers to success as a nursing student:

Get Experience!
• Get first hand experience of the nursing field/expectations of nursing school

Plan your budget now.
Talk to family members.
Be realistic about the demands of a full-time nursing program.

Go to a Cuesta College Student Success Center and get help now!
• Stress management
• Time management
• Study skills
Enrollment Statistics

**Class of 2018**
- Applied: 217
- Eligible: 173
- Admitted: 43
- Science GPA Average: 3.58 Range: 2.56 - 4.0
- English and Math GPA Average: 3.57 Range: 2.74 - 4.0
- Average TEAS V Composite Score: 85.81 Range: 73.3 - 94
- Alternates Accepted: 7

**Class of 2019**
- Applied: 216
- Eligible: 176
- Admitted: 43
- Science GPA Average: 3.6 Range: 2.8 - 4.0
- English and Math GPA Average: 3.52 Range: 2.5 - 4.0
- Average ATI TEAS Composite Score: 87.41 Range: 78.0 - 95.3
- Alternates Accepted: 5

**Class of 2020 (Initial Admission Stats)**
- Applied: 262
- Eligible: 218
- Admitted: 43
- Science GPA Average: 3.69 Range: 2.77 - 4.0
- English and Math GPA Average: 3.62 Range: 2.0 - 4.0
- Average ATI TEAS Composite Score: 88.82 Range: 83.2 - 97.07
- Alternates Accepted: 5

Where to Begin –

**Call the Counseling Department** at: (805) 546-3138 (SLO campus) or (805) 591-6225 (North County campus) to schedule an appointment for the following:
- Evaluate coursework to date
- Complete a Student Education Plan (SEP)
- Obtain evaluation of prerequisite coursework not taken at Cuesta (recommended, not mandatory)

**Before your Counseling appointment, be sure to:**
- Review RN Department website before the Counseling Appointment
- Complete the Cuesta On-line Student Orientation prior to your counseling appointment found on the MyCuesta portal
  - Student tab
  - Registration
  - Tools

Thank you for being with us today!

Do you have Nursing in your future?