



SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

School of Health & Wellness Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Information Packet Applicable to February/Fall 2026 Applicants

Eligibility Requirements (Criteria #1–4)

To be eligible for admission, applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Age Requirement: You must be **18 years or older** at the time you are admitted into the program.

2. Social Security or ITIN: Must possess a valid Social Security card or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to allow for a background check and eligibility for NCLEX licensure upon program completion.

3. Required Prerequisite Courses:

Before applying, you must complete the following required prerequisite courses:

Science Prerequisites (Biology):

- **Biology 11 – Human Anatomy**
- **Biology 12 – Human Physiology** (*Must be completed within seven (7) years of applying*)
- **Biology 15 – General Microbiology**

A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 is required across all science prerequisite courses.

Science prerequisite courses taken **fully online between 2020–2022 only**, due to the pandemic, are accepted.

English Prerequisite Requirement

- **English 1A – Principles of Composition I (or an equivalent course) must be completed with a grade of C or higher.**

Important Reminder:

All prerequisite courses (both science and English) must be completed before you apply, and final grades must appear on your official transcript at the time of application.

4. ATI TEAS Exam Requirement

- **Applicants applying for February/Fall 2026 must take the ATI TEAS version 7. They must pass with a minimum score of 62% (online proctored or in person acceptable).**
- Multiple attempts are allowed; the program accepts the highest score with no waiting period between attempts. **Preliminary scores will not be accepted.**

Exam Important Update:

- **February 2026 is the final application period accepting the ATI TEAS.**

- **Beginning with Spring 2027 applications, the HESI A2 exam will be required.** Additional details will be provided, please check the website for updates.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with a counselor before applying to confirm eligibility.

 To schedule an appointment: (949) 582-4572

Program Duration

The ADN Program is two years long and consists of four semesters. No classes are held during the summer.

The program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN).

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to apply for and take the California Registered Nurse (RN) licensure exam (NCLEX-RN).

Admission Criteria and Point Distribution

Maximum Points: 100

Applicants to the RN Program are evaluated using a **point-based system**. Points are awarded across several categories, and applicants are **ranked by total score**.

- The **top 60 applicants with the highest point totals** are invited to join the program.
- **Point cut-off scores vary** each application cycle (**Spring/Fall**) based on the applicant pool.
- For reference, the **final point cut-off for Spring 2026 admission was 75 points**.

1. Academic Degrees from Regionally Accredited Programs

International transcripts must be evaluated by a third party.

What to Upload in Submittable: A copy of your unofficial transcript showing where your degree was earned.

Maximum Points: 5

- **BS/BA or higher** = 5 points
- **AS/AA degree** = 2 points

2. Work Experience (within the past 5 years)

Applicants must have **verifiable** work experience within the last five years in **one of the following roles**, along with a **valid, current license**:

- LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse)
- LPT (Licensed Psychiatric Technician)

- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)
- EMT-P (Paramedic)
- EMT (Emergency Medical Technician)
- Respiratory Therapist

 No other types of work experience will be accepted.

 **Important Note:** Changes to this work experience requirement are coming for **Spring 2027 applications (July 1–15)**. Please check the Nursing Program website for the most current and updated information.

What to Upload in Submittable: Please include **both** of the following:

- A copy of your **valid, current license**
- A **letter from your employer** verifying employment dates, job title and position on **company letterhead, or the program's Employment Verification Form** (available on the Nursing Program website)

 **Important Submission Requirements:**

- Letters must be on company letterhead or submitted using the program's Employment Verification Form
- Letters not on company letterhead and not using the program form will not be accepted
- Paycheck stubs, W-2s, or other payroll documents will not be accepted

Maximum Points: 15

Important: Both work experience and a valid license are required to receive points. Partial points will not be awarded.

3. GPA of Science Prerequisites (Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology)

Applicants must have a **minimum GPA of 2.8** in the science prerequisites to qualify (**no rounding**).

What to Upload in Submittable

- Your **unofficial transcripts** showing grades for **Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology**

Note: If you have **repeated a course**, the **highest grade earned** will be used for points

Maximum Points: 30

Science GPA Points

4.0	30 points
3.6 – 3.9	25 points
3.3 – 3.5	20 points

Science GPA Points

3.0 – 3.2	15 points
2.8	5 points

4. Completion of Relevant Nursing Coursework

Points are awarded only for completed courses.

 Courses in progress will not receive points—a final grade must appear on your transcript at the time of application.

What to Upload in Submittable

- Your unofficial transcript showing completion of the relevant nursing coursework

Maximum Points: 20

Course	Points
N 160: Pharmacology	5 points
N 161: Lifecycle I / Fundamentals of Aging	3 points
N 165: Lifecycle II / Growth & Development	3 points
Psychology 1	3 points
Communication Studies (formerly SP 1 or 5)	3 points
Math requirement for AA/AS degree or higher	3 points

Important Notes

- To verify course equivalencies, students should meet with a counselor prior to applying
- If a course is not on the approved list, you must submit a Petition for Course Substitution/Waiver
- If a petition is in progress at the time of application review, points will not be awarded for that courses

5. Life Experience

All applicants will automatically receive 3 points in this category.

Maximum Points: 3

No additional documentation is required.

6. Second Language Proficiency

Applicants may earn points for demonstrated **proficiency in a second language**.

Maximum Points: 2

What to Upload in Submittable

- **One verification document** showing second language proficiency (see acceptable options below)

Submit **one** of the following:

- **A letter on official letterhead** from a **professor, supervisor, or clergy** confirming second language proficiency
- **Unofficial transcripts from a foreign school** showing attendance and completion of coursework in the second language
- **Unofficial high school transcript** showing **3 years in the same language** with a **grade of C or higher** (*please highlight the applicable courses*)
- **Unofficial college transcript** showing **2 years in the same language** with a **grade of C or higher** (*please highlight the applicable courses*)
- An **official AP exam score of 3 or higher** in a second language

⚠ Important Rules

- *High school and college coursework **cannot be combined** to meet this requirement.*
- **Self-written letters will not be accepted** as verification.
- [**2nd Language Proficiency Letter Sample**](#)

7. ATI TEAS Version 7 score

Applicants must earn a minimum score of 62% to qualify.

⚠ Official scores are typically available 2–3 days after testing. Do not wait until the last days of the application period to test.

What to Include in Submittable: Official ATI TEAS scores are required.

- Scores must be sent directly to Saddleback College through ATI **or** uploaded with the application from your ATI account.
- Preliminary scores will not be accepted.

Maximum Points: 25

TEAS Score	Points
85 – 100%	25 points
78 – 84.9%	20 points
71 – 77.9%	15 points
64 – 70.9%	10 points
62 – 63.9%	5 points

Tiebreaker Criteria

If multiple applicants have the same total point score at the cut-off, the following tiebreaker criteria will be applied in order, from highest to lowest priority:

1. Completion of Relevant Nursing Coursework

Priority will be given to applicants who have completed the following courses:

- **N 160:** Pharmacology
- **N 161:** Lifecycle I / Fundamentals of Aging
- **N 165:** Lifecycle II / Growth & Development
- **Psychology 1**
- **Communication Studies (formerly Speech) 1 or 5**
- **Math requirement for AA/AS degree or higher**

2. Higher GPA in Science Prerequisites

- GPA for Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology

3. Higher ATI TEAS Score

- Overall ATI TEAS score

4. Work Experience

- Verified work experience in an approved healthcare role

Criminal Convictions and RN Licensure Exam Eligibility

Applicants who have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony are required to disclose this information when applying for the RN licensure (NCLEX-RN) exam.

A criminal conviction may impact eligibility to take the licensure exam. If you have any concerns about how a prior conviction may affect your eligibility, you are strongly encouraged to:

- Consult with the Nursing Program Director, and/or
- Contact the California Board of Registered Nursing before beginning the nursing program

Steps to Take Before Applying to the ADN Program

1. Apply to Saddleback College (if not already a student)

If you are not currently a student at Saddleback College, you must complete an [online application](#) to the college. You will need a **student ID** in order to submit your nursing application.

2. Send Official Transcripts

- Before submitting your nursing application, submit official (unopened) transcripts from all colleges or universities attended **other than Saddleback College or IVC** to the Admissions & Records Office. This includes official high school AP score reports if AP credit is being used to meet course requirements.
- **Note:** Previously submitted transcripts are kept on file and do not need to be resubmitted unless additional coursework has been completed.
- **International Transcripts:** Must be evaluated by an approved third-party agency. More information can be found at [NACES](#).

3. Schedule a Counseling Appointment

Call **(949) 582-4572** to schedule an appointment with a counselor. This meeting will help you:

- Ensure you meet the requirements to apply to the RN program
- Discuss any additional courses you may need to take before applying
- Completing your nursing application during the application period
- Submitting or confirming course substitutions for nursing prerequisites
- Confirming equivalent courses for nursing prerequisites and supplemental courses
- Determining your current eligibility for points based on completed coursework

Please note: Check the [Nursing Program website](#) for dates and times counselors will be available via **Zoom** to assist applicants during the application period.

4. Gather Required Documents for Your Application

Start collecting the necessary documents for your application:

- **Unofficial transcripts** showing where you completed the prerequisites and any relevant coursework. Official transcripts must also be on file with **Admissions & Records** for any coursework taken outside of Saddleback/IVC.
- **Official ATI TEAS score** (available through your ATI account). **Preliminary scores will not be accepted.**
- **Proof of second-language proficiency (if applicable)**, verified through one of the accepted documentation options listed in the multicriteria guidelines.
- **Copy of a valid professional license (if licensed as an LVN, LPT, CNA, EMT, EMT-P, or Respiratory Therapist)**. No other licenses will be accepted.

- **Employment verification:** If you have relevant work experience within the last 5 years, please have your employer complete the [**employment verification form**](#).

5. Complete Recommended Prerequisite Courses (Optional but Recommended)

Completing the following courses before applying will help you earn additional points in the application process:

- **N 165** (formerly Gerontology 101) - Fundamentals of Aging
- **N 160** - Pharmacology
- **N 161** - Growth & Development
- **Communication Studies** (formerly Speech) 1 or 5
- **Psychology 1**
- **Math requirement** to fulfill AA/AS degree or higher

Note: If these courses are not completed prior to entry into the program, they must be taken concurrently during the **1st, 2nd, and 4th semesters** of the nursing program, as outlined in the [Nursing curriculum](#).

Health Requirements for Admission

To ensure students are physically capable of performing nursing duties, applicants who are **accepted into the program** will be required to obtain the following **immunizations, titers, and screenings** within **three (3) months of admission:**

- **Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)**
- **Varicella**
- **Tdap**
- **Hepatitis B**
- **Annual TB screening**
- **COVID-19 annual booster** (as mandated by clinical facilities; no exemptions)
- **Annual physical examination**
- **Annual seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine**

Additional Admission Requirements

In addition to the health requirements listed above, applicants who are accepted into the program will be required to obtain the following items before starting:

- **Background check**
- **Annual Drug screening**
- **Annual liability insurance**
- **Valid health insurance**
- **Valid BLS CPR certification** (American Heart Association)

Note: Detailed instructions for completing these requirements will be provided during a mandatory paperwork **Zoom session after acceptance**. Please **do not begin** these requirements until further instructions are given. The date, time and details will be provided in the acceptance letter.

Orientation Requirement

All accepted students are required to attend a **mandatory in-person orientation**, which may take place **up to three (3) months prior to the start of the program to allow sufficient time for onboarding requirements**. The date and time will be provided in the acceptance letter.

Work Recommendations for Nursing Students

Due to the academic and clinical demands of the nursing program, it is **strongly recommended** that students work **fewer than 20 hours per week** while enrolled.

If employment is financially necessary, students are encouraged to:

- Seek positions that offer **flexibility** to accommodate schedule as **clinical site assignments are not confirmed until 1–2 months prior to the start of each semester**.

Carefully balancing work and academic responsibilities can help support student success throughout the program.

Course Hours Breakdown

Course	Theory Hours	Clinical Hours
N 170 (10 weeks)	49.8	224.1
N 171 (6 weeks)	33.2	49.8
N 172 (16 weeks)	56.1	249
N 173 (8 weeks)	24.9	99.6
N 174 (8 weeks)	24.9	99.6
N 176 (10 weeks + 6-week preceptor)	49.8	249

Weekly Schedule Overview

Lecture Schedule:

- Held **once per week on campus**, typically on **Wednesdays**

Skills / Simulation Days:

- Conducted **on campus** approximately **two days per week**
- Students must complete **seven (7) skills days** prior to starting clinical rotations
- Once skills days are completed, students will attend **lectures on Wednesdays** and **clinical one day per week**

Clinical Days:

- Clinical placements are assigned and will vary based on the designated clinical site
- Weekly schedules may change each semester due to varying clinical site assignments.
- All clinical sites are located within Orange County
- Students cannot be placed at a clinical site where they are currently employed

Students should be prepared for a **rigorous schedule** that requires balancing classroom instruction, clinical practice, and simulation activities throughout the program.

Estimated Costs for the RN Program

- **First Semester:** \$2,500
- **Second Semester:** \$1,100
- **Third Semester:** \$1,100
- **Fourth Semester:** \$1,600

Grand Total Estimated Cost: \$6,300

For additional questions, please contact us at **(949) 582-4701** or via email at
scnursing@saddleback.edu.

Follow us on Instagram **@sc_nursing**