



SADDLEBACK COLLEGE

School of Health & Wellness
Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) Information Packet
Updated 6-26-26

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 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 due to the pandemic are accepted. Outside of this timeframe, science prerequisites must be completed in person. Hybrid courses are acceptable if the lab portion is completed in person.

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 must pass the ATI TEAS Version 7 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.

NOTE: Meeting the minimum eligibility requirements does not guarantee admission to the Nursing Program. Admission is competitive and based on the multi-criteria point system described in this information packet.

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 **initial point cut-off for Fall 2026 admission was 82 points**. As accepted applicants declined their admission offers, alternate applicants were subsequently invited and the point cut-off decreased. Final Fall 2026 cut off fell at 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 qualifying work experience obtained within the past five years in **one of the following roles**, along with a **valid, current license**:

- LVN

- LPT
- CNA
- EMT-P
- EMT
- Respiratory Therapist

⚠ Only work experience in the qualifying roles listed above will be considered. No other types of work experience will be accepted.

Applicants must provide **both** qualifying work experience **and** a current, valid license or certification to receive full points. Partial points will **not** be awarded.

There is **no minimum number of work experience hours required**. Any amount of work experience will be accepted, provided the work experience is directly related to one of the qualifying licenses or certifications listed above.

Work experience must be obtained through a **licensed healthcare facility, agency, hospital, skilled nursing facility, or other healthcare employer**. Private-duty caregiving, private caregiving arrangements, or employment directly by an individual or family will **not** be accepted.

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

- A copy of your **valid, current license**
- An employment verification letter on official company letterhead that includes:

- ✚ Applicant's name
- ✚ Job title
- ✚ Employment dates
- ✚ Job duties
- ✚ Total hours worked

⚠ Paycheck stubs, W-2s, or other payroll documents will not be accepted

Maximum Points: 15

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

4.0	30 points
3.6 – 3.9	25 points
3.3 – 3.5	20 points
3.0 – 3.2	15 points
2.8	5 points

N 160: Pharmacology	5 points
N 165: Lifecycle I / Fundamentals of Aging	3 points
N 161: 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 <u>or</u> higher	3 points

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

Applicants may submit **ONE** of the following forms of verification:

- A **letter on official letterhead** from a **professor, supervisor, or clergy** confirming second language proficiency
- **Unofficial transcript from a foreign school showing coursework completed 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

⚠ **Self-written letters will not be accepted** as verification.

- [2nd Language Proficiency Letter Sample](#)
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7. ATI TEAS Version 7 score

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

What to Include in Submittable:

- **Official ATI TEAS scores** must be sent directly to Saddleback College through your ATI account.
- **An unofficial ATI TEAS score report (PDF)** must also be uploaded with your application in Submittable. The uploaded score report **must include your name and indicate that the exam is ATI TEAS Version 7**. Score reports that do not include this information will not be accepted.

Important Information

- **Preliminary scores will not be accepted.**

- Official ATI TEAS scores are typically available **2–3 business days** after testing. Applicants are strongly encouraged **not to wait until the final days of the application period** to take the exam, as official scores must be received by the application deadline.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that both the official ATI TEAS scores and the unofficial PDF score report are submitted by the application deadline.

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. GPA for Science Prerequisites

- GPA for **Anatomy, Physiology, and Microbiology**

3. 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

Taking these steps early can help prevent delays or issues with licensure after program completion.

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. Submit Official Transcripts

Before submitting your nursing application, send **official (unopened)** transcripts from any colleges or universities **other than Saddleback/IVC** to the **Admissions & Records** office. This includes any **high school AP scores** used for course credit.

- **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

4. Gather Required Documents for Your Application

- Unofficial transcripts from all colleges where you completed prerequisite or other relevant coursework. Official transcripts for coursework completed outside of Saddleback College

or Irvine Valley College must also be on file with Saddleback College Admissions & Records by the application deadline.

- ATI TEAS Version 7 score report (unofficial PDF) available through your ATI account. Official ATI TEAS scores must also be sent directly to Saddleback College through ATI.
- Proof of second language proficiency (if applicable). Accepted forms of documentation are listed in the Multi-Criteria Enrollment section.
- A copy of your current and valid professional license or certification (if applying for work experience points as an LVN, LPT, CNA, EMT, EMT-P, or Respiratory Therapist). No other licenses or certifications will be accepted.
- Employment verification letter (if applying for work experience points). The letter must be on official employer letterhead and include your name, job title, employment dates, job duties, and total hours worked. Work experience must be directly related to one of the qualifying licenses or certifications listed above and must be obtained through a licensed healthcare facility, agency, hospital, skilled nursing facility, or other healthcare employer. Private-duty caregiving, private caregiving arrangements, or employment directly by an individual or family will not be accepted.

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 before entering 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** must complete the following **immunizations, titers, and screenings** within **three (3) months of admission**:

- **Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)**
- **Varicella**
- **Tdap**

- **Hepatitis B**
 - **Annual TB skin test**
 - **COVID-19 annual booster** (*no exemptions*)
 - **Annual physical exam**
 - **Annual seasonal flu shot**
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Additional Admission Requirements

In addition to the health requirements listed above, students must complete the following **prior to starting the program**:

- **Annual Background check and drug screening**
 - **Annual professional liability insurance**
 - **Current health insurance**
 - **Current BLS CPR certification** (American Heart Association)
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Orientation Requirement

All accepted students are required to attend a **mandatory orientation session**, where health requirements, required documentation, and submission deadlines will be reviewed in detail.

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 working is **financially necessary**, students are encouraged to:

- Schedule work hours during **weekends or holidays**, when possible
- Seek employment that offers **flexibility** to accommodate class, clinical, and study requirements

Balancing work and school carefully 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

- **Lectures:** Held **on campus once per week**, typically on **Wednesdays**
- **Simulation:** Conducted **on campus approximately two days per week**
- **Clinical:** Schedules will **vary based on assigned clinical site and rotation**

Clinical placements are **assigned by the program**, and **all clinical sites are located within Orange County**.

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 any further inquiries, please feel free to contact us at (949) 582-4701 or via email at scnursing@saddleback.edu. Follow us on [Instagram](#) @Sc_nursing