

# California State University, Chico

## School of Nursing

### LVN to BSN Online Program

CSU, Chico School of Nursing offers an option for working LVNs to attain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in northern California. The majority of the theory courses are online, requiring only minimal time on campus. Clinical requirements will be met by a combination of high technology simulation scenarios in our Chico Simulation Center, and by specific clinical experiences in specialty clinical settings. Most of these clinical placements will require commuting to the Chico service area. Occasionally we may be able to establish preceptorships in the LVN's local setting (if CSU, Chico has contracts with agencies in your area). Sites used most commonly for LVN practica are Oroville and the Yuba City/Marysville area, with some placements in Redding.

The School of Nursing faculty has extensive experience with online teaching and learning. Three LVN to BSN cohorts have been admitted. The first graduated in August, 2010. Program satisfaction has been high. The program is fully accredited by the Board of Registered Nursing and by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Our faculty consists of master's and doctoral educated RNs. NCLEX pass rates for our graduates are excellent.

#### **What is Online Learning?**

Online learning replaces lecture courses on campus with an interactive computer format. Rather than sitting through lecture classes, you will achieve learning objectives through computer interaction. You may have reading assignments, links to online resources, online audio-visual materials, and assignments to discuss topics online with your classmates. Group projects can even be completed online.

Online learning requires a learner who is disciplined and self-motivated, but it is not learning in isolation. Our online classes are small (limited to no more than 20). The faculty and the learners interact frequently with each other, so it is possible to know your online classmates far better than in campus classrooms. We combine the online classes with quality interaction on campus (usually at least once each semester) so you meet your faculty and classmates face-to-face, as well as becoming acquainted with the campus.

Clinical experiences are not designed to be online. You will have a mix of experience in a high technology simulation center, clinical days assigned in specific agencies, under faculty direction, and clinical experiences with a designated preceptor. As the program will require some clinical time on campus and in some of our specialty settings, students should be within a reasonable driving distance of the campus, and a work schedule that will allow for planned time off. We set up course dates 4 months in advance, for your work schedule requests.

#### **What is required for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing?**

A bachelor's degree requires 120 units, which consists of university general education requirements, nursing prerequisites, and the nursing major courses. This program is ideal for LVNs who have already completed transferable college courses, with many of the general education and nursing prerequisites done. You may transfer up to 70 units from a community college. The nursing major provides 50 units; the university requires an additional 6 units of

upper division general education. Most of the general education requirements can be met through online classes at CSU, Chico and through some community colleges. Students who have already completed a bachelor's degree in another field will usually only need to complete nursing's prerequisite and major courses. All courses required for the degree are listed in attached pages.

### **What is required to be eligible to apply?**

1. You must have completed, or can complete by the end of summer preceding the fall semester you want to enter, all the science prerequisites with grades of C- or better:

**Anatomy**

**Physiology**

**Microbiology**

**Organic Chemistry** (if you have taken a college inorganic Chemistry course with a lab, you can complete the organic chemistry requirement through an online course, offered by Coastline or Shasta College). If you have never taken a college chemistry course with a lab, you will need to take a regular community college organic chemistry course).

2. CSU transferable Area A courses required for university admission with grades of C- or better:

**Speech**

**English**

**Critical Thinking**

**Math** (must be beyond intermediate algebra; statistics is preferred).

3. You must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in your prior college work.

### **How long will the program take?**

The program takes 3 years, including summers. This is not a full-time program, as it was designed specifically for working LVNs. If you want to finish a program more quickly, you should look for another program that offers full-time options. For most semesters, you will be a part-time student. During semesters when you are taking clinical courses, you should plan on working half-time or less in your LVN position. Some clinical courses occur in the summer.

### **How much will the program cost?**

During semesters when you are taking 6 units or less, you will pay part-time tuition (approximately \$1922/semester); in semesters requiring more than 6 units, the full-time tuition is approximately \$2,810/semester. The CSU tuition and fees are subject to change by the legislature, so will likely be increased in the future. For the general sequence outlined here, the cost would be about \$17,150 for the entire 3-year program. (Students who already have a bachelor's degree pay a slightly higher rate). Certain courses have additional course fees, approximately \$125/semester. Books are additional costs; health insurance, background checks and auto insurance are required for clinical courses.

Many employers will provide tuition reimbursement for RN education. Scholarships and loans are available. In addition, you can continue your employment while going to school, and won't have extensive commuting and child-care costs, as most of your school work can occur at home. You will have some commuting expenses for the limited on-campus meetings and the clinical requirements.

### **What kind of computer and computer skills do I need?**

You need a fairly recent computer with adequate speed and memory. You will need a good internet service provider with broad band service. A dial-up modem is not recommended; you should have cable or DSL access. Go to the following website to make sure you have the appropriate computer hardware, software and connectivity necessary to be successful in this online program: <http://www.csuchico.edu/stcp/about/ownership.shtml>

Use the following Web site to make sure you have the computer skills needed for this online program: [http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/computer\\_test/start.html](http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs/computer_test/start.html).

You should have basic word processing skills, and be able to perform basic functions, such as cutting and pasting, working with email, and sending attachments. The actual software for our online classes is fairly easy to master if you have these basic skills.

### **Will I have to repeat content and clinical experiences that I already have?**

We have designed portfolio assessments and simulation assessments to help us gain a clear understanding of the various competencies our students have. We will then design clinical experiences to build on those competencies, without requiring repetitious learning. With online learning formats, if you find you have already met certain content objectives, you can set your own pace with content, and move forward quickly. Our clinical experiences are designed to expand your professional skills and clinical decision-making, as well as to help you become a leader in evidence-based nursing care delivery.

### **How do I apply?**

*The next application period for the university is for Fall, 2011. However, due to the dire state and university budgets, we are uncertain if we will be able to admit an LVN to BSN cohort for Fall, 2011. We did not admit in Fall, 2010. We plan to make a firm decision about this program by Oct. 20, 2010. Do not apply to the university until you know the results of this decision, which will be posted on the CSU, Chico School of Nursing website: [www.csuchico.edu/nurs](http://www.csuchico.edu/nurs). Application instructions will be posted at that time.*

### **How will students be selected?**

We will accept 10-20 students, depending on funding. These should be students who have completed the prerequisites and the CSU Area A courses. Priority is given first to those students who live in our service area (which is basically north of Sacramento to the Oregon border), second, to those who have completed Nursing co-requisites (Nutrition, Child or Human development, Intro to Psychology, and either Cultural Anthropology or Intro to Sociology) and third, to those who have completed most of the other general education requirements (see below).

### **How can I tell which courses are transferable?**

If you took courses at a California community college, you can see which courses transfer by going to [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) and clicking on CSU, Chico and then your community college. The nursing prerequisites will be listed under the nursing major courses. The Area A courses and other general education requirements will be listed under CSU Breadth Certification Courses. If you took courses outside of California, or at private schools, the School of Nursing will have to look at them individually, and may require you to provide course descriptions.

**What other courses will I need for my degree?**

In addition to the above prerequisites, Nursing requires Nutrition, Child or Human development, Intro to Psychology, and either Cultural Anthropology or Intro to Sociology. These do not have to be completed before you start the program, but it helps if they are done before.

For university degree requirements, you will need US History, American/state/local government, two arts/humanities courses, and courses which cover ethnic/nonwestern requirements for the CSU. Once you are at CSU, Chico, you will need two upper division general education courses, which we will explain once you are admitted.

**What if I don't have the prerequisites done?**

Plan to complete any courses you still need now, and apply for our next cohort. The prerequisites must be done before you start the program.

**What if I don't yet have my LVN license?**

You can begin the program before you are licensed, if you have finished your LVN training by the time the fall semester begins. You must be licensed before you begin the first clinical course, which is in summer of the first year of the program.

**What if I have other questions?**

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