

Nursing Program Guidance for International Students

No evaluation of coursework will be conducted without official transcripts and translation on file

-Transcripts-

<https://www.cuesta.edu/student/student-services/records/transcript-submit.html>

1. Students *must* submit their international transcripts regardless of whether they completed prerequisite courses there.
2. An official copy of their international transcript *must* be on file with Admissions and Records by the application deadline.
3. The international transcript *must* be translated into English *and* independently evaluated by Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute, Inc. (ACEI) or other accredited organizations (NACES member) and submitted to Cuesta College.
 - a. Copies sent as email attachments are not official and will not be accepted.
 - b. Official transcripts must be submitted as a Comprehensive Report in original, unopened envelope translated in English. Students must provide certified transcripts of academic records achieved during all prior high school or college attendance. Transcripts submitted for evaluation must include the school seal and be signed by the registrar or another appropriate official.
 - i. ACEI phone in US only: (310) 275-3530 or (800) 234-1597
 - ii. ACEI Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm, PST
 - iii. ACEI Email: acei@acei-global.org
 - iv. ACEI web site: www.acei-global.org

-Transcript Evaluation-

To request evaluation of your international records:

1. Schedule a counseling appointment OR
2. Submit a "Non-Cuesta Transcript Evaluation Request" form once you receive email confirmation that we've received your documents. The form will be included with the email.
 - a. Your documents must be on file at Cuesta *before* scheduling a counseling appointment or submitting an evaluation request.

-General Education-

1. General education credit can be applied towards AA/AS degrees.
 - a. International course work may not be applied to CSUGE or IGETC *unless* the non-US institution is US regionally accredited.
2. General education credit is determined by course title and unit value. Typically, 3-unit courses can be applied when the title represents general education content. Courses fewer than 3 units may be applied in combination with other courses of the same general education area to meet a Cuesta general education area.
3. Cuesta area D1 (Written Communication) *cannot* be met with an international course.
4. Cuesta area E (American Institutions) *cannot* be met with an international course.

-Prerequisite Courses-

1. **Biology (BIO 204, 205, 206, & 212/L)** - These courses *must* include a lab and be *at least* 4-5 semester units.
 - a. Students must complete the *full sequence* of Anatomy/Physiology combination courses to receive credit for BIO 205 and/or BIO 206.
 - i. Completion of the first half of the sequence can *sometimes* be used to receive credit for BIO 212/L (LVN/Paramedic) *if* they submit a course substitution and syllabus to the Biological Sciences Division Chair for approval.
 1. If the student is unable to obtain a syllabus, they must retake the class.
 - b. Courses with unclear titles will need to be discussed by appointment with a Nursing Counselor and receive approval from the Nursing Director.
2. **English (ENGL 156/180 & 201A)** - Students are required to complete a college level English course at a US institution to receive credit for this area.
3. **Math (MATH 127+)** - Students can use a college level math course (e.g., College Algebra or Statistics) as part of the English and math GPA calculation for points if the course is 3 units or more (multiple courses may not be combined for this area).
 - a. The department highly recommends taking a math class unless the student feels confident enough with math to complete medication calculations/conversions. They will need to pass a math test during the first semester demonstrating this competency.

-RN Licensure Courses-

The following course titles on an international transcript can be applied for RN Licensure:

1. **Psychology (PSYC 201)** - 3 units.
2. **Sociology or Cultural Anthropology (SOC 201A or ANTH 203)** - 3 units.
3. **Speech (COMM 201, 210, or 230; *COMM 230 not recommended for BSN students)** - 3 units.
 - a. Students may have to repeat this course at the CSU if they pursue their BSN depending on the CSU they attend.

-RN Special Circumstances-

1. **Students with a higher degree (e.g., masters/doctoral)** - There is *no exception* for the required prerequisite or licensure coursework. Students must pass equivalent courses to qualify for admission to any Nursing program.
 - a. However, students who hold a baccalaureate degree (or higher) from a regionally accredited institution *may* not be required to complete general education requirements.
*See Senate Bill 1393 below.
2. **LVN program** - The rules mentioned above apply to both the LVN and RN programs.

SB 1393, Scott. Nursing programs.

(1) Existing law provides that a student of a registered nursing program at a campus of the California State University or California Community Colleges, who holds a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution, may not be required to complete general education requirements. Instead, the student may only be required to complete coursework that is necessary for licensing as a registered nurse.

This bill would specifically prohibit a campus of the California State University or California Community Colleges from requiring a student of a registered nursing program with a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution to complete any coursework other than that which is unique and exclusively required to earn a nursing degree from that institution. ***See GE exceptions above***

(2) Existing law prohibits a community college district from excluding an applicant to a registered nursing program on the sole basis that the applicant is not a resident of that district or has not completed prerequisite courses in that district.

This bill would instead specify that a district is prohibited from either excluding an applicant on the basis that the applicant is not a district resident or has not completed prerequisite courses in that district, or from implementing policies, procedures, and systems, including, but not limited to, priority registration systems, that have the effect of excluding an applicant or student who is not a resident of that district from a registered nursing program of that district.

*Note: Students with a domestic degree are not held to international exemptions mentioned above for GE.