

**BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING**

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Executive Officer

EXPLANATION OF CCR 1429 - LVN 30 UNIT OPTION

COUNSELING

1. Objective counseling must be provided. The counseling should include the admission process, course requirements, the advantages/disadvantages of this route to licensure, and that high school graduation or equivalent is required in order to take the NCLEX-RN.
2. Written information about the option must be included in at least one official school publication.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. The applicant for this option cannot be required to meet university or college admission requirements.
2. The applicant for this option must be licensed, (either active or inactive), as a vocational nurse in California; or a program, at its discretion, may admit a VN program graduate waiting to take first NCLEX-VN. Continuation in the RN program is contingent upon passing the NCLEX-VN.
3. In addition to LVN licensure the program, at its discretion, may require of the applicants:
 - a. Items necessary to enable the student to provide care in the clinical agencies, e.g., immunizations, CPR, etc.
 - b. Test of knowledge and clinical skills to identify areas where remediation might assist the student, however, test results may not be used to deny the applicant admission to the program.

CURRICULUM

1. The required courses, including microbiology, physiology, and nursing, may be less than but can not exceed 30 semester (or 45 quarter) units.
2. Credit must be given for any previously completed required course, regardless of date the course was taken.
3. Microbiology and physiology may be prerequisites to the nursing courses. However, if micro or physiology have prerequisite(s), e.g. chemistry, math, etc., these courses cannot be required.

4. Nursing theory content must include nursing intervention in acute, preventive, remedial, supportive, rehabilitative and teaching aspects of nursing, as well as leadership and management. The nursing content shall include the basic standards for competent performance prescribed in Section 1443.5.
5. Clinical practice, with concurrent theory, is required in and is limited to advanced med/surg, geriatrics, and psych/mental health. A minimum of 30 clinical hours is required in each of these areas.
6. Courses requiring provision of care to OB and pediatric patients may be required only if the theoretical and clinical objectives pertain to advanced med/surg or psych/mental health OB or pediatric nursing.

In order for the course to qualify as advanced med/surg, the preponderance of theoretical and clinical objectives must relate to the provision of total nursing care to one or more patients, with moderate to high acuity, who require complex, comprehensive nursing care including the performance of advanced technical skills.

7. Nursing courses must be beyond the level of first year nursing courses. Psych/mental health, regardless of where it is taught in the curriculum, is considered to be beyond first year nursing courses.
8. A VN to RN transition course may be required. If a transition course is required, the units must be included as part of the 30/45 units. Trends/issue courses cannot be required, unless the course is required content for leadership/ management.
9. The required nursing courses must be the same as in the generic/Career Ladder program. If a course includes basic OB or peds, the student cannot be required to take this content. However, partial credit can be granted for the course or, if necessary, a different course number may be assigned in order to grant unit credit for the course.

PERTINENT STATUTES & REGULATIONS

B&P Code 2736.6 The board shall determine by regulation the additional preparation in nursing, in a school approved by the board, which is required for a vocational nurse, licensed under Chapter 6.5 (commencing with section 2840) of this division to be eligible to take the examination for licensure under this chapter as a registered nurse. The board shall not require more than 30 units in nursing and related science subjects to satisfy such preparation.

B&P Code 2786.6 The board shall deny the application for approval made by, and shall revoke the approval given to, any school of nursing which:
(b) Is operated by a community college and discriminates against an applicant for admission to a school solely on the grounds that the applicant is seeking to fulfill the units of nursing required by section 2736.6.

CCR 1429 (Note this section pertains only to 30 Unit Option LVNs.)

(a) An applicant who is licensed in California as a vocational nurse is eligible to apply for licensure as a registered nurse if such applicant has successfully completed the courses prescribed below and meets all the other requirements set forth in section 2736.6 of the code. Such applicant shall submit evidence to the board, including a transcript, of successful completion of the requirements set forth in subsection (c) and of successful completion or challenge of courses in physiology and microbiology comparable to such courses required for licensure as a registered nurse.

(b) The school shall offer objective counseling of this option and evaluate each licensed vocational nurse applicant for admission to its registered nursing program on an individual basis. A school's determination of the prerequisite courses required of a licensed vocational nurse applicant shall be based on an analysis of each applicant's academic deficiencies, irrespective of the time such courses were taken.

(c) The additional education required of licensed vocational nurse applicants shall not exceed a maximum of thirty (30) semester or forty-five (45) quarter units. Courses required for vocational nurse licensure do not count toward fulfillment of the additional education requirement. However, other courses comparable to those required for licensure as a registered nurse as specified in section 1426, may be counted toward fulfillment of additional education requirement.

Nursing courses shall be taken in an accredited school and shall be beyond the first year of professional nursing courses. The nursing content shall include nursing intervention in acute, preventive, remedial, supportive, rehabilitative and teaching aspects of nursing. Theory and courses with concurrent clinical practice shall include advanced medical-surgical, mental health, psychiatric nursing and geriatric nursing. The nursing content shall include the basic standards for competent performance prescribed in section 1443.5 of these regulations.