

FAQ for Internationally Educated Nurses

Q: Does SMU accept internationally educated nurses into the nursing classes?

A: Yes we do accept internationally educated nurses into nursing classes. However, they are admitted on a space available basis and because we are generally admitting full cohorts of nursing students we do not often have space available. Additionally, spaces may become available when a currently enrolled SMU student drops out for various reasons. When this happens, we may be able to accommodate a special status student.

Q: I need to take Med-Surg nursing? Is that class available at SMU?

A: Yes, but please be advised that the Med Surg course is divided into three courses and the BRN requires that you take all three of them in order to meet their requirement. Taking one of the three classes does not guarantee availability for the remaining two classes. However, if you begin the Med-Surg coursework we will give you priority to enroll in subsequent Med-Surg courses if space is available. It is also important to know that the Med-Surg courses are 5 units each.

Q: How many students can you accommodate in these classes?

A: It depends on what the class is and how much space is available. It is not possible to predict this in advance. For example, at the end of the fall semester we will only know by the third week in December if all of the students are continuing on in the spring semester or if we have vacancies where Special Status students could be accommodated. Spring semester begins the second week of January so the turn-around time between notifying you that space is available and enrollment in the course is very short and requires that all of your paperwork be ready for submission shortly after notification of space availability.

Q: What is the deadline for submitting an application?

A: There isn't a specific deadline. When your application is submitted it goes on a master list of all students who have submitted applications and if a space becomes available in a class you need, you will be considered, along with all other students. Your name will remain active on this list for one calendar year from receipt of your application.

Q: If I am accepted, when do classes start?

A: The greatest chance for space in the nursing classes is for our summer term, with cohorts starting in April, May and June. It may be possible that we have spaces in other terms (fall or spring), and if we do, all applications we have currently on file will be considered.

Q: Where are the classes taught?

A: Availability of classes may be at any of our three campuses: Oakland, Sacramento and San Mateo.

Q: How long do you keep applications?

A: Applications are kept for one calendar year from date of receipt.

Q: How will I know if I'm accepted?

A: You will be contacted by email by the Office of Admission.

Q: How many other students are hoping to take special status classes at SMU?

A: At any given time, there will be well over 100 students on the master list of people who have submitted special status applications. However, they do not all need the same classes. The classes most in demand are: Obstetrics, Psychiatric Nursing, Med-Surg, and Pediatrics.

Q: How much does it cost to apply?

A: The application fee is \$300.

Q: How much do the classes cost?

A: Cost is on a per unit basis and will vary depending on what class you need to take. Most classes are 5-6 semester units. For the current per unit tuition charge, please check here: <http://www.samuelmerritt.edu/tuition>. Total cost will vary depending on whether the class is taught at the BSN, ABSN or ELMSN level and how many total units the class is.

Q: Are there additional charges?

A: Yes, miscellaneous charges may be incurred for uniforms, student health insurance, CPR course, required criminal background check, health exam, etc.

Q: Is financial aid available?

A: No. You are responsible for the full cost of the course you wish to take.

Q: What if I am not a citizen or permanent resident?

A: Only U.S. citizens or permanent residents can be accommodated in the nursing program.

Q: Is a personal interview required?

A: Yes. Prior to acceptance in the program, a personal interview will be required.

Q: Does SMU provide any academic support for special status students or non-native English language speakers?

A: No, there are no designated academic support services for special status students and no ESL services.

Q: If I am accepted to take the class what else is required?

A: You will be required to have the appropriate CPR, proof of health insurance (you may also buy health insurance through a SMU provider), a SMU criminal background check/drug screening and completed SMU Student Health Records.

Q: I have more questions, who can I contact?

A: There isn't more information to share with you at this time. The first step in the process is to apply for admission. If more information is needed, we will contact you.