COVID-19

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted CSUF and other American institutions of higher education to move to virtual instruction, for the safety of all students, faculty, and staff. During this unprecedented time, the CSUF School of Nursing (SON) has altered some existing policies.

PROSPECTIVE NURSING STUDENTS AND APPLICANTS

ONLINE LAB COURSES:

Our Pre-Licensure programs (Traditional BSN: CSUF Student Pathway, Accelerated BSN, and LVN-BSN) will accept online science lab courses taken in Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and/or Fall 2020 if the lab was moved online due to COVID-19. Please note that we will still only accept courses from regionally accredited institutions.

Our RN-BSN program will continue to accept online science lab, as there are no course or lab format restrictions for this program.

GRADING POLICIES:

The SON will accept CR/NC or P/NP grades for Spring 2020, Summer 2020, and/or Fall 2020 if the institution’s grading policy was changed or altered due to COVID-19. If the institution’s standard grading policy is in place for Spring, Summer, or Fall 2020, the applicant should complete the required prerequisite course for a letter grade, per our admission requirements (outlined on our website). For Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 courses, we may require the applicant provide proof that the grading policy was changed due to COVID-19 before we accept a CR/NC or P/NP grade.

We strongly encourage prospective students and applicants to speak with their current institution’s counselor/advisor prior to changing their grading option.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

We will continue to accept optional work and volunteer experience for our Pre-Licensure programs (Traditional BSN: CSUF Student Pathway, Accelerated BSN, and LVN-BSN). We understand that due to COVID-19, applicants may have trouble finding volunteer placements, but please note that gaining volunteer experience is not required. We encourage applicants to continue searching for approved volunteer opportunities in their area.
CURRENT SON STUDENTS

VIRTUAL FORMAT:

As noted by the CSUF President, CSUF will start the Fall 2020 semester with a virtual format for all courses. CSUF will follow all health official and governmental safety guidelines in regards to reopening procedures.

For on campus and hybrid courses: If we do return to campus during the Fall 2020 semester, courses will meet at the day, time, and location, listed in the class schedule. The University and the School of Nursing will provide notice to students if CSUF receives clearance to return to in-person classes.

SON faculty will inform their students before the start of the semester, if the course section will be held synchronously or asynchronously while we are in this virtual format.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT AND DOCUMENTS:

The situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve but has required that changes be made to clinical placements.

CLINICAL SAFETY:

The safety of students, facility, and patients is a priority and requirements have been put in place to address this. The risk of the transmission of COVID-19 may increase in a hospital setting simply because of the presence on site of patients with confirmed or presumed COVID-19 infections. These risks cannot be eliminated, but may be mitigated by practicing good prevention behaviors such as wearing all required personal protective equipment, following all clinical protocols, frequently washing your hands with soap and water, refraining from touching your face before sanitizing your hands, and practicing social distancing.

- No student is allowed to care for COVID-19 patients or potential COVID-19 patients
- There may be restrictions in other areas/units as to whether or not students will be allowed
- Voluntarily, students need to sign a COVID-19 Release of Liability Waiver as determined by the University to participate in any face to face clinical experience
- Students may be required to provide PPE to attend face to face clinical experiences
- Students may be required to provide COVID-19 test results
- Students must follow all current/updated CDC guidelines, state, and other agencies including CSUF and facility-specific requirements
CLINICAL PLACEMENT ISSUES:

COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on the SON’s ability to place students in the required clinical courses. Some clinical sites have completely cancelled rotations while others have significantly reduced the number of students who can be at the clinical site at any one time. Due to the decreased number of clinical spots, some students may not be able to take their required clinical courses in the same timeframe as they would when COVID-19 did not exist.

The clinical placement office continues to follow the requirements of the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), which allows for a percentage of the clinical time to be spent in simulation.

The clinical placement and document team, along with the SON leadership, are diligently seeking opportunities at other sites within a 50 miles’ radius and searching for creative solutions to ensure that students meet clinical hour requirements while meeting course objectives.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT DETERMINATION:

Multiple factors will be used to determine who can and will be placed at a site. These include:

- Completeness of the student’s SON core required documents for clinical placement
- The student voluntarily agreeing to the University’s COVID-19 Release of Liability Waiver on approved sites
- The student’s willingness to accept clinical placement. Students have the right to decline clinical placement while understanding that alternate sites may not be available during any given semester/term. Students may also opt out and choose to complete the requirements during a later semester.
- Requirements of the various sites