



TO: Chief Instructional Officers
Admissions & Records Officers
CTE Deans
Nursing Directors
Regional Consortia Chairs

FROM: Anthony Cordova
Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development

RE: Allied Health and Nursing - Updates to Multicriteria Screening Admissions Processes
(AB 1891 and SB 1183)

On Sep. 22, 2024, [SB 1183](#) was amended, and [AB 1891](#) was signed into law. These bills encourage community colleges to adopt a Multicriteria Selection (MCS) process to promote equitable admissions for limited enrollment for nursing and allied health programs. While MCS has been used in nursing programs, it is now newly available for allied health programs. This memo outlines the required changes.

Multicriteria Screening Admissions Processes for Nursing and Allied Health Programs

SB 1183 and AB 1891 require community college nursing and allied health programs that **elects** to adopt a multicriteria screening process on or after July 1, 2025, to evaluate applicants based on specific criteria, including academic performance, work or volunteer experience, foreign language skills, life experiences, and special circumstances. The bills also authorize these programs to use an approved diagnostic assessment tool before, during, or after the screening process.

AB 1891 Review for Allied Health

[Section 78263.1](#) was added to the Education Code, to read: “A community college allied health program that determines that the number of applicants to that program exceeds its capacity may admit students in accordance with any of the following procedures:

1. Administration of a multicriteria screening process, if authorized by [Section 78263.2](#), in a manner that is consistent with the standards set forth in subdivision (b).
2. A random selection process.
3. A blended combination of random selection and a multicriteria screening process.

If the college chooses to use a multicriteria screening process for their allied health program, they may consider the following criteria, but not necessarily be limited to, all the following:

1. Academic degrees or diplomas, or relevant certificates, held by an applicant.
2. Grade point average in relevant coursework.
3. Any relevant work or volunteer experience.
4. Life experiences or special circumstances of an applicant, including, but not limited to, any, or any combination of, the following experiences or circumstances:

- i. Disabilities.
 - ii. Low family income.
 - iii. First generation of family to attend college.
 - iv. Need to work.
 - v. Disadvantaged social or educational environment.
 - vi. Difficult personal and family situations or circumstances.
 - vii. Refugee or veteran status.
 - viii. Living in a medically underserved area or population, as designated by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.
5. Proficiency or advanced level coursework in languages other than English. Credit for languages other than English shall be received for languages that are identified by the chancellor as high-frequency languages, as based on census data. These languages may include, but are not limited to, any of the following languages:
 - i. American Sign Language.
 - ii. Arabic.
 - iii. Chinese, including its various dialects.
 - iv. Farsi.
 - v. Russian.
 - vi. Spanish.
 - vii. Tagalog.
 - viii. The various languages of the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
 - ix. The various languages of the African continent.
6. Additional criteria, such as a personal interview, a personal statement, letter of recommendation, or the number of repetitions of prerequisite classes, or other criteria, as approved by the chancellor, may be used, but are not required.
7. A community college allied health program using a multicriteria screening process under this article may use an approved diagnostic assessment tool, in accordance with Section 78263.2, before, during, or after the multicriteria screening process.

This section of the Education Code provided by AB 1891 shall remain in effect until January 1, 2030, unless a bill is enacted that deletes or extends this date.

SB1183 Amendment for Nursing Programs

For colleges using a multicriteria screening process for nursing programs, SB 1183 requires the additional consideration of African languages and whether applicants live in medically underserved areas, in addition to existing criteria, which mirrors the language of AB1891. The Health Resources and Services Administration provides a [tool](#) to identify these areas. SB 1183 also extends the sunset date for the nursing multicriteria screening process until January 1, 2030.

Reporting Requirements

To comply with this mandate, districts using a multicriteria screening process must report annually to the Chancellor's Office. Beginning in the 2025-26 academic year, the Chancellor's Office will compile data from all California community college allied health programs and associate degree nursing (ADN) programs. Colleges implementing a multicriteria screening process must establish a method for collecting the required information.

Allied Health Programs (AB 1891)

Community college allied health programs must report to the Chancellor's Office the following data by June 30 of each year:

- Program student participation
- Program retention rate
- Program completion rates
- Student's age, gender, ethnicity, and language spoken at the home

The admissions policies reported shall include:

- The weight given to any criteria used by the program; and
- Demographic information relating to both the persons admitted to the program and the persons of that group who successfully completed the program including the participation, retention, and completion rates in allied health programs of students admitted through a multicriteria screening process, as described in this section, disaggregated by the age, gender, ethnicity, and language spoken at the home of those students.

The Chancellor's Office is expanding NOVA data reporting for Allied Health to include a section for MCS data. Additional information and training to follow.

Nursing Programs (SB 1183)

Community college nursing programs must report to the Chancellor's Office the following data by June 30 of each year:

- Program student participation
- Program retention rate
- Program completion rates
- Program first time NCLEX pass rate
- Student's age, gender, ethnicity, and language spoken at the home
- Languages of the African continent
- Students living in a medically underserved area or population

The Chancellor's Office will update the annual data collection process to include the data required above. Additional information and training to follow.

Model Admissions Process

[A sample admissions process based on the criteria above is attached for reference.](#) While this list outlines key criteria for a multicriteria screening process, it does not represent a complete model. Nursing and allied health programs have flexibility in assigning points, provided they meet the requirements of SB 1183 and AB 1891. The law also includes examples of required considerations within each category.

The multicriteria selection process is designed for associate degree nursing and allied health programs with more qualified applicants than available enrollment spots. The process may occur in two phases.

The initial phase determines whether applicants meet prerequisite requirements, which may involve a validated selection process or verifying that students have completed required courses with a grade of “C” or better. If there are still more applicants than available seats, programs may use an additional selection method, such as multicriteria screening, a lottery, or a combination of both.

In accordance with SB 1183 and AB 1891, five selection categories have been established, each with recommended point allocations. These categories are summarized below. For selection purposes, refer to the definitions provided below.

1. **GPA** – Determine an appropriate number of points
 - 2.75 minimum GPA in anatomy, physiology, and microbiology
 - 2.75 minimum GPA in remaining prerequisite courses for the nursing program
2. **Assessment/Readiness Test Results** – Determine an appropriate number of points
3. **Degrees/Work Experience** – Determine an appropriate number of points
4. **Life Experiences** – Determine an appropriate number of points
5. **Proficiency in languages other than English** – Determine an appropriate number of points

Definitions Provided in the Bill

- “Disabilities” has the same meaning as used in [Section 2626](#) of the Unemployment Insurance Code.
- “Disadvantaged social or educational environment” includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the status of a student who has participated in Extended Opportunity Programs and Services.
- “Grade point average” refers to the same fixed set of required prerequisite courses that all applicants to the allied health program administering the multicriteria screening process are required to complete.
- “Low family income” shall be measured by a community college allied health program in terms of a student’s eligibility for, or receipt of, financial aid under a program that may include, but is not necessarily limited to, a fee waiver from the board of governors under Section 76300, the Cal Grant Program under Chapter 1.7 (commencing with Section 69430) of Part 42 of Division 5, the federal Pell Grant program, or CalWORKs.
- “Need to work” means that the student is working at least part time while completing academic work that is a prerequisite for admission to the allied health program.

Contacts

Please submit any questions about this memo to Dean Ochoa and Jennifer Xiong-Moua at: LOchoa@CCCCO.edu and NursingApps@CCCCO.edu.

cc: Sonya Christian, Chancellor
Linda Vazquez, Assistant Vice Chancellor, State and Federal Relations