

New Nursing Eligibility Requirements

Starting in the Fall 2009 semester, in order to advance into nursing clinicals, students must provide documentation for one of the following categories:

- 1) U.S. Citizenship
- 2) Permanent Residency
- 3) International Student with F1 Status
- 4) Granted Asylum, Refugee Status, Temporary Protected Status, Withholding of Removal, Deferred Enforced Departure; or Deferred Action Status by the U.s. government

Rationale for the Change

CUNY is committed to providing New York State with significant numbers of new Registered Nurses to help combat the ongoing shortage. Recently, the University was informed by the Nurses Service Organization (NSO), the leading provider of malpractice (liability) insurance for nursing students, that it is prohibited from covering individuals who do not have legal status in the United States. Also, increasingly, CUNY affiliated health facilities have denied clinical placements and/or access to electronic patient medical records to nursing students who are undocumented. These new developments have made it impossible to guarantee clinical placements for undocumented students. At the same time there is a long waiting list of qualified students who seek admissions to our nursing programs. Therefore, reluctantly, the University has decided that it cannot allow admissions of undocumented students into the clinical component of CUNY's nursing programs.

All students who may be affected by the change must be urged to consult with the CUNY Citizenship and Immigration Project, which provides free counseling and assistance to all CUNY students who need help with their immigration status (<http://web.cuny.edu/about/citizenship.html>).

New Requirement Does Not Affect Students Who Have Advanced or Will Advance into Nursing Clinicals before Fall 2009

The change does not affect students who have already advanced into the clinical component of CUNY's nursing programs, or those who will advance into clinical for the spring 2009 semester. These students should continue in their programs. If problems arise for these individuals, such as restrictions in the choice of clinical sites, these problems should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with an academic advisor to receive academic advisement related to the new and/or any other eligibility requirements for nursing. Please feel free to contact the Academic Success Center, Kathy Savage, at (718) 289-5456 or kathy.savage@bcc.cuny.edu