

**COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO  
NURSING DEPARTMENT**

**CHALLENGE POLICY  
Credit By Examination**

1. When an RN student applicant requests information regarding challenging a course, the Nursing Office provides him/her a copy of this Challenge Policy and directs them to the College Catalog (p. 31 of the 2009-2010 catalog) The applicant must be a currently enrolled student in good standing. The applicant will also be given an explanation of entrance to the program only if there is a **Space Available**.
2. The Nursing Office also informs the RN student applicant of the CSM Policy for Credit by Examination and directs the applicant to apply for Credit by Examination. The form is available on the nursing program website.
3. Applicants wishing to challenge courses within the nursing program must notify the Nursing Director in writing.
4. Applicants must show evidence of completion of:
  - a. program prerequisites and related courses required for the nursing course to be challenged
  - b. equivalent instruction of the content to be challenged
  - c. Reading Placement Test
  - d. TEAS composite score of a minimum of 67%
5. Once the applicant completes #3 and #4, he/she is provided with a Course Outline and Objectives, a Study Guide listing the content and textbook readings of the course to be challenged, and a Program Skills List. Applicants prepare independently for the challenge examination(s).
6. The challenge option for each nursing course consists of two parts:
  - Part 1: Theory portion; includes a) a Medication Administration test and b) a Theory test.
  - Part 2: Clinical portion; includes use of the nursing process and a skill performance test.
7. The applicant will be given a non standardized medication administration exam for the course to be challenged. A score of 90%, consistent with the programs' Math Policy is required for passing. The applicant must receive 90% in order to proceed to the theory exam. Qualified applicants will also be given a non-standardized theory exam developed by the nursing faculty. The applicant must achieve a score of 70% on the written theory examination. Each of these parts of the theory portion must be passed or the applicant must take the course as scheduled if admitted to the program.
8. Once the theory components have been passed, the applicant must take the clinical portion of the challenge option. During the clinical portion of the challenge exam, the applicant will receive a clinical patient situation. He/she will be required to show evidence of use of the nursing process in developing a written nursing care plan. The applicant will also be asked to demonstrate competency in a predetermined skill or simulated scenario in the Nursing Skills Center or a clinical setting. The clinical skill to be tested will be chosen from the Program Skills List by the by the designated course manager. The skill could be chosen from the course for which the applicant is challenging or any course prior to that course in the curriculum.
9. If the applicant earns a "Pass" rating on the clinical performance exam, he/she is given a letter grade for the unit value of the course based on the grade of the theory exam. If the performance on the clinical performance exam is "No Pass", the applicant must take the course as scheduled, if admitted to the program.