Nursing Program Prerequisite Change to MATH-060: Elementary Algebra

The College of the Canyons Curriculum Committee approved MATH-060 as a prerequisite to the Nursing Program at the September 18th, 2003 Curriculum Committee meeting based on a validation studies from six other community colleges.

The 1998 Title 5 change allows standard program prerequisites, when validated by 6 or more colleges, to be used by additional colleges without need for further validation.

Health and safety prerequisites can be used provided that a content review is done to determine the skills students should possess to avoid harm to themselves or others and that the prerequisite assesses those skills. For example, a nurse must have a definite set of skills to enter a clinical situation, including math ability sufficient to compute dosages. That set of skills might be taught in a class such as “Math for Meds” which would then be a health and safety prerequisite for enrollment in the Nursing program. Health and safety is an important consideration in science labs and vocational shops as well.

The schools that call for elementary algebra and have validated the need for it as a program prerequisite are:

- Alan Hancock
- College of the Redwoods- Eureka campus
- College of the Redwoods- Del Norte campus
- Merritt College
- Moorpark College
- El Camino College