

16 CCR §1426 (g)(2) requires all prelicensure nursing students to complete, at a minimum, 864 hours of clinical experience with 75% of those clinical hours being in direct patient care covering not less than two academic years (BPC §2786).

The 75% requirement in CCR §1426 (g)(2) drops the minimum time in a clinical setting providing direct patient care from 864 hours to 648 hours. Additionally, per CCR §1426 (g)(2) the initial nursing course that teaches basic nursing skills in a skills lab (often called “fundamentals of nursing”, or similar) does not have a direct patient care clinical hour requirement. Therefore, that unit allotment for the clinical lab component is subtracted from the overall direct patient care clinical requirement. See table below:

CA minimum clinical hours required for nursing licensure based on the calculation in 16 CCR 1426 (g)(2) with 18 units of nursing clinical offered over a 16-week semester	864 hours
75% Direct Patient Care requirement	648 hours 216 hours sim/lab = 25% 54 – 12 hour shifts over 2 academic years
Fundamentals 2-unit semester clinical the initial nursing course’s clinical hours can be completed in a skills lab.	2 u = 96 clinical/lab hours (-96 hours) 576 hours 288 hours sim/lab = 33% 48 – 12 hour shifts over 2 academic years
Fundamentals 3-unit semester clinical the initial nursing course’s clinical hours can be completed in a skills lab.	3 u = 144 clinical/lab hours (-144 hours) 540 hours 324 hours sim/lab = 37.5% 45 – 12 hour shifts over 2 academic years