Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing

Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) FAQs

About Our ABSN Program:

1. **What are the minimum degree requirements in order to be considered for this ABSN program?**
   Prospective applicants must already possess a bachelor's degree in a discipline other than nursing.

2. **Can I still apply if I am an RN with an ADN?**
   No. This program is for **non-RNs**, who hold a bachelor's degree in a discipline other than nursing.

3. **Can I still apply if I will be graduating right before the program begins?**
   No. In order to be eligible to apply to this ABSN program, you must have graduated by the end of the presiding fall quarter (or semester) at the very latest, and be able to obtain an official transcript that includes awarding of the baccalaureate degree by the ABSN program's specified deadline.

4. **What are the pre-requisites? (Next page)**

*****Please note the prerequisites do not have to be taken at CSULA they can be taken at any accredited US based institution. We recommend local California Community Colleges. Equivalencies for community colleges can be found on Assist.org or by talking to an advisor at your local community college.*****

***** We highly recommend prerequisite be taken at a local California community college. Course equivalency can be found on https://assist.org/ or at your community college transfer advisor office. *****

*****We do accept online prerequisites including labs, but strongly recommend in-person courses as we find they do a better job of preparing students for our program. We accept courses from Portage Learning, Grand Canyon University, Western Governor's University, *****

*****We do not accept courses from Straighter Line or Sophia*****

ABSN Prerequisites:

- **Human Anatomy with lab and Physiology with lab** (BIOL 2030- 4 semester units & BIOL 2040- 4 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Microbiology with lab** (MICRO 2010 - 3 semester units & MICRO 2020 - 1 semester unit, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Chemistry with lab** (CHEM 1010 - 4 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Inferential Statistics** (MATH 2740 - 3 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Critical Thinking** (e.g. COMM 1200, ENGL 1050, etc. - 3 semester units Cal State LA or Equivalent)

- *All prerequisites must be completed with at least a "C" grade or higher, with the exception of the science with lab courses which must be completed with a "B" grade or higher in order to be considered for the program.*

- *All four science with lab prerequisite courses **must** be completed by the end of the preceding fall quarter/semester in order to apply for that summer's ABSN program.*

- Prerequisite equivalency will be evaluated based on two factors: 1) the number of units, each course must meet the minimum units as it's CSULA equivalent 4 semester units or six quarter units. 2) The course description and syllabus must fulfill similar course learning objectives ie. Biology will not meet the Microbiology requirement.

- **** The following three courses are required for Graduation. It is **highly recommended** that they be completed prior to the start of the program as they are not part of the ABSN course work and the student will have to take them in addition to Current ABSN course work.*

    - **Human Growth and Development** (PSY 1600 - 3 semester units, Cal State LA - Lifespan psychology course covering birth to later life or Equivalent)
    - **Intro to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology** (SOC 2010 - 3 semester units or ANTH 1500 - 3 semester units, Cal State LA, or Equivalent)
    - **Human Nutrition** (NTRS 2500 or NTRS 3170 - 3 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)

****Intro to psychology will not meet the human growth and development requirement****

5. **Can I take prerequisite courses at a community college?**
   Yes. It is recommended that students consider taking prerequisite courses at a community college, as it may be more cost effective. Online courses will be accepted for the ABSN program as long as they have been taken at accredited colleges/universities approved by the Cal State LA campus.

    - **WE accept online courses for the science classes but they must include a lab portion. It is acceptable if the lab is online.**

6. **Can I repeat prerequisites for higher grades?**
   Each prerequisite course can be taken a maximum of two times and the two course grades from both attempts will be averaged. The averaged grade must be a "B" or higher to be eligible to apply.

7. **How can I check to see if the pre-requisites in my community college satisfy the prerequisite course for the ABSN program?**
   You may use www.assist.org. Click on "Institution," and select "Cal State LA". Click on "Agreements with Other Institutions" and select the community college you attended or plan to attend. Click on "View Agreements" and select "Nursing" as the major. Click on "View Agreements".

8. **What if I cannot find my course(s) listed on** www.assist.org?

   You may submit via email - the name of the college where the course was taken, title and course number, unit value (quarter/semester) and course description to the ABSN program coordinator. Select the "contact" tab on the ABSN website for more information: https://www.calstatela.edu/page/accelerated-bachelor-science-nursing

9. **Can I be in the process of completing prerequisites at the time of application?**
   All four science with lab prerequisites need to be completed by the preceding fall, in relation to the desired ABSN program start date. Any remaining non-science prerequisite courses can be taken during the winter intersession the same year as the desired program start date. It is highly recommended that you contact the ABSN program coordinator for approval beforehand. An official transcript showing successful completion of any remaining non-science with lab pre-requisite(s) must be received before the beginning of May. *Priority for admission may be granted to those who have already completed all of their required courses and submitted their official transcript(s) prior to that time.*

10. **Are there any time frame limits for the prerequisite courses?**
    No there are no recency requirements.

11. **What are the GPA requirements?**
    There are three different GPA requirements. An official transcript awarding a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing (a GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred). Transcripts must also demonstrate a 3.0 GPA or higher, for the *most recent* 90 quarter unit or 60 semester unit GPA. Lastly, a grade of "B" or higher is required in each of the four science with lab pre-requisite courses (science with lab GPA of 3.0 or higher).

12. **Do I need to take an exam?**
    We require the most current version of the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills). **We do not accept the GRE**. Information about the exam itself can be found on the organization's website www.atitesting.com. You usually are able to access your test results online, within one week after taking the exam. In regards to scoring, the **national percentile rank must be 70% or higher in all four categories**

13. **Is there a specified time frame for the TEAS exam, can I take it more than once? If I take it more than once, which score will be used?**
    The ATI TEAS exam may be taken once during that year's application cycle and it must be taken less than one year before the desired start date of the ABSN program (Refer to the *ABSN Application Procedure* for more specific information). If an exam has been taken a year or more from the desired ABSN program start date, those test results will *not* be counted.

14. **When submitting my TEAS scores, do I have to order official transcripts from ATI or can I send in the printout of the scores that I receive after I take the test?**
    You do not need to have ATI send us official scores; we prefer that you submit the printout of your test results with your ABSN application on the Nursing CAS website. The specific score report form that we require is titled, "Individual Performance Profile," and includes a bar graph as part of the results page. Do note the test submittal deadline date on the *ABSN Application Procedure*.

15. **What transcripts are required for the application packet?**
    Two official/sealed transcripts from ***all*** colleges attended are required as part of our application procedure, even if the classes taken are not ABSN prerequisite coursework. One set of transcripts will be submitted to Nursing CAS the second set will be submitted to the university during the CalState apply window in February. Of note: The Cal State LA admissions office will ***not*** accept official transcripts if they have been requested a year or more before the start date of the ABSN program. (The ABSN summer 2026 program will begin June 1.).

16. **Do I need experience?**

Non-RN health care experience is strongly encouraged to be a competitive ABSN applicant. Some examples are CNA, MA or EMT training/certification/work experience, hospital volunteer programs that include hands-on patient care experience, college level research assistant, college-teaching assistant in the sciences, medical missions, medical free clinics, community service, or other volunteer experiences related to healthcare.

17. **Will I be interviewed?**
    Based upon a review of the ABSN application packet, the strongest applicants will be invited for an interview on zoom. Final admission is also dependent on acceptance to the University itself.

18. **Are there any additional application requirements?**
    - A typed essay (*NO* more than two double-spaced pages) highlighting professional goals, including your reason for entering the nursing profession and qualifications to do so.
    - ***Two*** recent letters of recommendation (there is no designated recommendation letterform for the ABSN program). All recommendation letters must be dated and written within the past year. Recommendation letters should be work, academic, or healthcare experience related (e.g. from an employer, supervisor, or college professor). The writer should address your academic ability, and characteristics that qualify you for the program and the nursing profession. The letters will be uploaded by the recommender to the NursingCAS web portal. Please refer to Nursing CAS guidelines for uploading instructions.

19. **How many applications does the program receive and how many students are admitted?**
    The program typically receives approximately 200 applications and admits up to 40 students, once a year.

20. **When/How, can I apply?**
    This program admits once a year, with students beginning the program at the start of the summer term. The application period is from mid-November to early January for all of the required school of nursing documents. Refer to the *ABSN Application Procedure* for details regarding the specific deadlines: https://www.calstatela.edu/page/accelerated-bachelor-science-nursing.

    Application materials are typically posted on this website in the early fall. Those applying to the ABSN program have a different window of time for applying to the Cal State LA University. Applicants will be contacted by one of the College of Professional and Global Education (PaGE) staff via email, and instructed as to when/how they should apply to the University (through *Cal State Apply*). This part of the application process historically involves applying to the University itself during the month of February.

21. **How much does the program cost?**
    The ABSN program (53 semester units, $695/unit + Fees) is run through the College of Professional and Global Education. Tuition fees for the program is approximately $37,000 for the 15 months. There are additional costs for items such as University services, textbooks, uniforms, skills backpack, background checks, health clearance requirements, etc.

    Can I use the Cal-Vet Fee Waiver?
    No. The Cal-Vet Fee Waiver only waives statewide mandated fees. Self-support (extension) fees are not waived. Therefore, the Cal-Vet Fee Waiver cannot be used for any program or courses offered by the College of Professional and Global Education, including Open University. **Contact the Veterans Resource Center at:** https://www.calstatela.edu/vets

22. **Can I apply for financial aid?**
    If you are interested in requesting financial aid, applicants need to complete an application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current aid year during the school of nursing application period at: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa. We strongly urge all applicants to complete the FAFSA form beginning in October as scholarships are also tied to this application.

    Students accepted to this program will be able to apply for an annual Federal Direct Loan in the amount of $12,500 twice during the ABSN program. Students who need to supplement these loan amounts may want to consider obtaining a private loan.

23. **Can I meet with an advisor prior to applying or being admitted?**
    No, unfortunately, we pride ourselves on offering affordable nursing education and to do so we often work with limited resources. We do offer a few ABSN general information sessions each year during the fall semester, as well as email based advisement during the academic year for questions that can not be answered by our FAQ document or website. **We do not offer full transcript evaluation.**

24. **What degrees and certificates does ABSN offer?**
    After successfully completing the ABSN program (53 semester units) you will be awarded a BSN and be eligible to take our state's nursing licensure exam (NCLEX-RN). You might additionally have the opportunity to go directly on for your MSN degree, as long as you meet the specific academic, school of nursing and university requirements, and are selected for that program.

25. **What are the MSN options?**
    MSN options include Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)**,** Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), and Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FPMHNP). NOTE: Periodically, there may be additional options. For more information, visit Cal State LA's school of nursing webpage: https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs.

26. **When is the MSN track chosen? Can I change my option later?**
    The application and interview process takes place during the spring semester position of the ABSN program. It should be noted that being a student in the ABSN program does not guarantee automatic admission into the MSN program. If you are admitted to the MSN program, we strongly recommend that you select your option carefully, as a petition to change options at a later time may not end up being granted.

27. **How long is the ABSN program at Cal State LA?**
    The ABSN program is 15 consecutive months of coursework.

28. **What is the course load like?**
    Each semester, there will typically be two or more lecture courses and one or more laboratory courses. An overall GPA of 3.0 or higher must be maintained while in the ABSN program in order to remain in good academic standing.

29. **Can I work while in the ABSN program?**
    Part-time employment is possible during the ABSN program, as long as the student is able to maintain good academic standing in the program, and employment does not conflict with the curriculum schedule.

30. **Can I attend part-time?**
    No. Full-time student status is required throughout the ABSN program.

31. **Can I still apply if I am not a resident of California?**
    Yes. Tuition fees are the same whether an in-state or out-of-state U.S. resident.

32. **Can I still apply if I am an AB-540 (undocumented) student?**
    Yes. California is one of the states which allows AB-540 students to take the nursing licensure exam (NCLEX-RN) as long as they have a federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) or Social Security Number (SSN) and have fulfilled all other requirements.

33. **Can I still apply if I am an international student?**
    Yes, as long as you have met the Cal State LA international student admissions criteria. As an international student, you must have your transcripts reviewed by the International Student Admissions department before you meet with the ABSN advisor. For more information, please visit the College of Professional Studies and Global Education (PaGE) at: https://www.calstatela.edu/page.

34. **I have a degree that is not from the U.S.**
    Your baccalaureate degree will be honored as long as it is verified and approved by the Cal State LA campus' International Admissions Office. In addition, all graduate and post baccalaureate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must demonstrate competence in English. TOEFL test scores are to be turned in to the International Admissions Office and must be no more than 2 years old from the start of the nursing program.

    Acceptable English Language Exams and Scores: (institution code 4399)
    TOEFL: 61 ibt or higher
    PTE: 44 or higher
    IELTS: Band 5.5 or higher

    For more information, go to www.calstatela.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency.

35. **If I am accepted to the ABSN program, does that mean that I am automatically accepted into Cal State LA?**
    No. You must apply and be accepted by both the Cal State LA University and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing. Applications via Calstate Apply will open February 1-28 in the Spring.

36. **If I am denied admission to the ABSN program, can I re-apply?**
    Yes. You can re-apply to the ABSN program the following year, if you are denied admission. All new application materials must be submitted for that year's program.