Patricia A. Chin
School of Nursing

Traditional BSN Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. **Can I apply if I am undocumented?**

   The BSN program welcomes applications from all qualified students regardless of immigration status. However, it's important to be aware of potential challenges related to clinical placements and licensure.

   - **Clinical Placements:** Clinical placements are an essential part of the nursing program. While some facilities may accept undocumented students, regulations and policies can vary.
   - **Licensure:** The California Board of Registered Nursing (CA BRN) currently allows the use of an ITIN number to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). However, regulations are subject to change. We encourage undocumented students to stay informed about any updates from the CA BRN.

2. **How is the program structured?**

   Instruction is face to face, with classes held on campus and at clinical sites. Some courses may offer a hybrid schedule with a mix of in-person and virtual class sessions however, students should plan to attend classes in-person for the duration of the program.

3. **What is the screening process?**

   Applicants to the Nursing major are screened competitively based on the following indicators:

   - Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) exam score must be 70 percent (80 + considered competitive) on each of the four subtest areas (Reading, Math, Science, and English).
   - Cumulative & Pre-requisite GPA (3.25 minimum to apply, 3.60 is considered competitive)
   - Volunteer or work experience in healthcare (optional but strongly recommended).

4. **How many people apply?**

   The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing is highly competitive, with only 70 slots available for approximately 700 students who apply each year.

5. When can I apply?

The BSN Program begins each Fall semester in August. There are 2 applications for transfer applicants and 1 application for current Cal State LA Pre-Nursing students (Nursing CAS). Both applications open every October 1st, and each has its own deadline (check website for exact filing periods)

I. University application (for transfer applicants only): CSU Apply (Oct to Nov) https://www.calstate.edu/apply

II. Nursing application: Nursing CAS (Oct - Jan) https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/

6. How much is the program?

CSULA is a semester system and tuition is due before the beginning of each semester. For the most up to date tuition information go to the CSULA cashiers home page: https://www.calstatela.edu/finance-onestop/student-fees
multiply current tuition by # of semesters required for the program

7. How long is the program?

3 years, 6 semesters total (Fall/Spring)

8. What are the pre-requisite courses?

- 8 Pre-requisite courses total:

These 8 prerequisite courses are reviewed for admission eligibility into PACSON. MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION (B or better on 1st attempt)

I. Human Anatomy with Lab (GE B2)
II. Chemistry with Lab (GE B1)
III. English/Accelerated College Writing (GE A2)
IV. Statistics Course (may or may not meet [B4] can be upper or lower division)
V. Physiology with Lab (GE B2)
VI. Microbiology with a lab (GE B2)
VII. Public Speaking or Oral Communication (GE A1)
VIII. Cal State LA Assist Listed (GE A3) Critical Thinking course

9. Can I have pre-requisites in progress?

No, all pre-requisites must be completed at the time that you submit your application.

10. Can the pre-requisites be taken online?

We accept both in-person and online course format for all prerequisites, including labs

11. Where can I find out what courses meet the pre-requisite requirements?

To determine if a class is transferable to Cal State LA, go to the webpage www.assist.org for transfer of California Community College prerequisite courses.

Cal State LA's undergraduate studies website also has information regarding transfer equivalencies: https://www.calstatela.edu/undergraduatestudies/transfer-students

If you still cannot determine course equivalency you can email the course descriptions to schoolofnursing@calstatela.edu

12. Can a pre-requisite course be repeated for a better grade?

Only the first attempt will be considered for the prerequisite requirement. You must receive a grade of B or better on your initial attempt. Any subsequent retakes, even if successful, will not be accepted.

13. Do pre-requisite courses expire?

No

14. If I received less than a B on a pre-requisite course can I repeat it?

No, you must receive a grade of B or better on your first attempt. Any grades lower than a B- will disqualify your application.

15. What if I withdrew from a pre-requisite course?

Applicants who withdrew from prerequisite(s) due to extenuating circumstances may submit an appeal using the form on the PACSON website

16. Are there any other requirements for admission?

- TEAS exam: atitesting.com Exam score must be 70 percent (80 + considered competitive) on each of the four subtest areas (Reading, Math, Science, and English).
- Cumulative & Pre-requisite GPA 3.25 minimum to apply (3.60 is considered competitive)
- Health care related Volunteer or work experience (optional, but strongly recommended) 50 hours minimum, 100 for max credit

17. How many times can I apply?

You can only apply once to the Nursing program via Nursing CAS (this is not appealable). If you only submitted a university application via CSU Apply that does not count as an attempt.

18. What documents do I need for the application(s)?

- Nursing application (Nursing CAS)
  - Unofficial transcripts or scanned copies of official transcripts
  - TEAS score page
  - Verification of volunteer or work experience (if applicable)
  - Verification of AP credit (if applicable)

  TRANSFER APPLICANTS ONLY:
- University Application (CSU Apply)
  - Unofficial transcripts or scanned copies of official transcripts
  - Verification of AP credit (if applicable)

Note:

- Current Cal State LA Pre-Nursing students only submit a nursing application via Nursing CAS.
- Transfer students submit BOTH a nursing application via Nursing CAS & a university application via CSU Apply.

Have More Questions?

Review the customized handouts on the PACSON website under "How to Apply"