Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing

Pre-Nursing Major Information: Admission to the BSN (Traditional) Program

Admission to the Nursing major is not guaranteed. An application must be submitted to the School of Nursing via Nursing CAS.

Applicants can only apply once to the BSN (Traditional) program. Pre-Nursing students who are not admitted will be referred to the HHS advisement center to select an alternate major. There's one exception: If your application was incomplete (missing required documents), you can re-apply for the next application cycle.

Note: Pre-Nursing Applicants begin applying to Nursing program in Year 1 during their second semester. Refer to the Pre-Nursing roadmap on the program website.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. **NursingCAS Application:** Create an account and submit your application through the NursingCAS platform (https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/). Applications are accepted for Fall semester only.
    - **Application opens:** April 1st
    - **Application deadline:** May 31st
    - **Application Fee:** Applies. Fee assistance programs may be available through NursingCAS (refer to Nursing CAS's Applicant Help Center for more information).
2. **TEAS Scores:** All four categories (Reading, Math, Science, English) must score 70 or higher (80+ considered competitive) within two years of the application deadline.
    - You must report the results of your ATI TEAS Scores. Download a PDF copy of your "Individual Performance Profile" report. This report must be uploaded to the "Documents" section under "TEAS Score Report" in NursingCAS. Please refer to the program website for a sample TEAS score page to ensure the correct document is uploaded.

- NOTE: There is no limit on how many times an applicant can take the TEAS exam, and there is no minimum timeframe required between exam re-take dates.

3. **Transcripts:**
   - Upload a copy of your "Unofficial Transcript" from "GET" into your Nursing CAS account in the "Other" category.
   - If you completed AP coursework, upload your college board scores.
   - If you completed any coursework at a community college, upload the unofficial transcript or a copy of the official transcript.

4. **Prerequisite Courses:**

   The BSN program has a strict "no retake" policy for the **eight** required prerequisite courses. A grade of "B" or better in each course must be earned on the first attempt. Retaking courses to improve a grade is not permitted as the first attempt will still be considered regardless of when the course was taken.

   ❖ **All 8 courses must be completed by the application deadline:**
   - BIOL 2030: Human Anatomy with Lab
   - CHEM 1010: Fundamentals of Chemistry with Lab
   - ENGL 1010: English/Accelerated College Writing
   - Statistics Course (upper or lower division)
   - BIOL 2040: Physiology with Lab
   - COMM 1100: Public Speaking or Oral Communication
   - Cal State LA Critical Thinking course
   - MICR 2010/2020: Microbiology for Health Related Sciences with Lab

5. **Grade Point Average (GPA):**
   - There are two minimum GPA requirements to meet for application consideration: Overall GPA & Prerequisite Course GPA must be at least 3.25. However, to be competitive for admission, applicants are strongly encouraged to have a GPA of 3.60 or higher (across all coursework and prerequisites).
   - There is no recency requirement for prerequisite courses; they do not expire.
   - If a science course consists of a lecture and a separate lab, the lecture and the lab grades will be averaged and must average to a "B" or higher.
   - Prerequisite courses cannot be repeated, and the original grade must be a "B" or better to be considered.
   - A "B-"grade does not meet the minimum grade requirement of "B."
   - AP scores of 3 or better are acceptable for prerequisite courses.

6. **Volunteer or work experience in healthcare** (optional, but strongly recommended): only one specific type of experience may be submitted. Must have 50 or more hours (100 max for credit) of service within the last 2 years. For more information see "Work/Volunteer Experience" section on the program website

   If you have any questions about creating your NursingCAS account, opening your application, or submitting your application through NursingCAS, please contact NursingCAS at (617) 612-2880

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE TO NURSING PROGRAM

- To ensure a fair and efficient review process, application status updates are not provided during the application window. Applicants will be notified of their admission decision via email at the end of the review period (June).
- Monitor emails (review spam/clutter) and check NursingCAS account for any communication.
- Meeting the minimum requirements for admission means consideration not admission into the nursing program. A selective admissions committee composed of faculty from the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing (PACSON) will review all applications.
- If selected, please follow the instructions on your email. If the instructions are not followed and completed according to the requested deadlines, it can result program admission being rescinded.

ACCEPTANCE INFORMATION

- Students will receive a welcome letter via email with orientation information. At that time, you will be notified of the dates to attend a **mandatory orientation** (**mid June**). This orientation will secure your admittance to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing. On the day of orientation, expect fees to be paid for parking, lab coats, laboratory fees, and more.

- In addition to the required nursing courses, students must meet the Cal State LA requirements for both lower and upper division education. These requirements are clearly outlined in the university catalog found online. Additional classes required by the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing include:
    - Sociology 2010- Principles of Sociology (3 semester units)
    - Nutrition 2500– Human Nutrition (3 semester units)
    - Psychology 1500 – Psychology of Developing Person (minimum 3 semester units)
- Nursing students must have a cleared background check to be acceptable to clinical agencies. Since the California State Board of Nursing makes the final determination on eligibility for licensure. Receiving a background check that has positive check may be a barrier to licensure, certification, and employment.
- Drug screening consistent with California Board of Registered Nursing guidelines for safe nursing practice is also required. Clinical agencies are requiring students be drug-free and you may be subject to random drug testing. NOTE: this includes marijuana

ADVICE FOR PRE-NURSING STUDENTS
(from current Traditional BSN nursing students)

- Research your major! (Ideally, you should have done this before applying)
- Look into nursing licenses (LVN, RN, NP) and what each role entails
- Read through the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing (PACSON) website in detail to make sure you understand the eligibility requirements, application process, and deadlines. The website can undergo changes, be sure to monitor and check the website before you apply
- Know which department to contact at each stage of your education.
    - Pre-Nursing (Year 1): College of Health and Human Services (HHS) Advising Center: (323) 343-5500, https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/ac
    - Please note: PACSON only advises students who have been admitted into the BSN program; pre-nursing students work with their advisor in the HHS Advising Center in their first year to complete the pre-requisite coursework. PACSON is available to answer/clarify any questions about the application process/requirements: https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/contact-us
- Know all of the academic requirements to apply to the BSN Program

    - Meet with an academic advisor regularly to make sure you are taking all the required classes (be sure to follow the roadmap to make sure you take all the required BSN prerequisite and GE courses: https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/bsn-traditional-program
    - Nursing (Years 2-4, once you've been admitted to the Traditional BSN Program): Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing
- Plan out a study strategy and timeline to prepare for the TEAS Exam
    - Take a diagnostic practice exam to assess your strengths and weaknesses
    - Popular resources: Mometrix TEAS book, ATI, YouTube
    - Don't wait until the last minute!
- Nursing is a highly impacted major at Cal State LA and a very difficult undergraduate major, so you need to put your all into it!
    - You may need to make sacrifices for this major, such as prioritizing studying instead of hanging out with friends.
    - Create good relationships with your professors. Sometimes, life circumstances interfere with your studies, and your instructors may be more flexible with accommodations if they know who you are.
    - Take time to figure out which study method/technique works best for you! Be it visual, tactile, auditory, etc.
    - Designate a day / specific time and outlet to de-stress and perform some self-care
    - Create study groups with classmates and friends; this will be an invaluable part of your support system in nursing school.

RESOURCES

- Utilize the Center for Academic Success for free tutoring and writing help on campus in the Library if needed. 6 free sessions a week! https://www.calstatela.edu/academic-success
- It's okay to ask for help if needed, school can be stressful. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is located on the second floor of the Health Center. You can make an appointment at (323) 343-3300; https://www.calstatela.edu/studenthealthcenter/caps
- Get involved with nursing organizations! Participate in organizations such as the Student Nurses Association (SNA) https://linktr.ee/csulasna and Alpha Tau Delta (ATD) https://atdnursing.org
- The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) can provide resources and accommodations for visible and invisible disabilities. They are located in the

Student Services Building, Room 1320. (323) 343-3140;
https://www.calstatela.edu/osd

- Double time on exams
- Priority registration for classes
- ASL interpreter
- Service animal registration
- Note-taking services*

*you can also apply to be note-task and get a stipend for your service and priority registration