Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

1. **What should I know about the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program?**

The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing (PACSON) program undergraduate program has only one applicant pool annually for FALL. The program combines general education with theoretical and clinical nursing courses. Upon completion of the program, you will be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and will be eligible for licensure as a Registered Nurse. Courses are offered at variable days and times and involve travel to clinical sites in different areas of Los Angeles County. The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing is an impacted, demanding, full-time program, and is not compatible with a heavy outside workload.

2. **What are the application deadlines and steps required to apply to Cal State LA and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing?**

   a. Applying to both Cal State LA and Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing is a two-step application process and require that two separate deadlines are adhered to:

      i. Deadlines for applying to Cal State University can be found at www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines

      ii. The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing application period opens October 1 and ends the second Friday in January at 11:59 p.m. e.s.t (9:59 p.m. p.s.t.), through NursingCAS, https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux.

      iii. **NOTE:** Applicants need to apply one year in advance to both Cal State LA and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing. It is important that you abide by both the Cal State LA and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing deadlines or your application will be invalid for the nursing program.

   b. As stated before, the application process is a two-step process. The applicant must apply to California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA) and separately to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.

      i. **Admission to the University:** You must apply to Cal State LA, unless you are currently enrolled as a student. Admission to the university is online at http://www.calstate.edu/apply and is time specific.

         1. Go to http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions for application details
         2. **Cal State LA’s application filing fee is $55** nonrefundable.
         3. For Cal State LA’s application fee waiver please see the FAQ’s at the Cal State Apply website.
ii. **Admission to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing**: Admission to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing requires you to apply to NursingCAS.

   [https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux](https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux)

   1. NursingCAS fees for the undergraduate programs are $50.00 for the first program applying to and an additional $35.00 for each program afterwards.

   2. **Nursing CAS** offers a Fee Assistance Program. This fee assistance program is on a first come bases and is only determined by NursingCAS. See Nursing CAS’s Applicant Help Center for more information.

      [https://help.liaisonedu.com/NursingCAS_Applicant_Help_Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/NursingCAS_Applicant_Help_Center)

iii. **NOTE**: Applicants need to apply one year in advance to both Cal State LA and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing. It is important that you abide by both the University and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing deadlines or your application will be invalid for the nursing program.

   c. Approximately 1000 - 1400 students may apply each year to the nursing program. The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing accepts **seventy (70) applicants from this very competitive pool of student applicants.** Applicants are rated by the overall GPA; GPA in prerequisites courses; TEAS exam scores; employment in the health care field or volunteer hours; and local admission area.

   d. Second baccalaureate students and LVN’s can apply to the BSN Basic (Generic) Program.

   e. The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing program BSN (Generic) Program takes an average of three (3) years to complete. Most students spend two (2) years completing prerequisite courses for a total of five (5) years.

   f. To graduate, **120 semester units** are required. The university accepts, up to **70 transfer units** from a community college.

3. **What are the required prerequisite courses for admission to the nursing major?**

   a. The **minimum** acceptable GPA for the prerequisite courses is 3.25.

   b. **All** prerequisites need to be completed by December 31, prior to the application year, except Microbiology. Microbiology needs to be completed by spring, the following year.

   c. Prerequisites have no time limits of when they have been taken prior to applying to the nursing program. A minimum grade of “C” in non-science prerequisite courses is required. A minimum grade of “B” is required for all science prerequisites.

      a. Non-science prerequisite courses can be repeated but **will not be recognized when the original grade is a C or better.**

      b. Science prerequisite courses cannot be repeated and **will recognize only the original grade if it is a B or better.**
d. A C-(minus) grade in any prerequisite course is not acceptable. If a course is repeated because of an unsuccessful first attempt, the grades are averaged to computing the GPA. **No more than one repetition of any course is allowed.**

a. Science prerequisite courses cannot be repeated and the original grade must be a ‘B’ or better.

e. Withdrawn (W) courses are not considered.

f. Go to the webpage [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for transfer of California Community College prerequisite courses to Cal State LA. Contact ASSIST at 949.824.4385 or email at help@assist.org for questions generated or not generated by the program.

g. Check Cal State LA’s Transfer Equivalencies for transferrable prerequisite courses, which include some colleges located in California, Colorado, Texas, New Jersey, Washington, Wyoming, and Virginia.


**These courses are reviewed for eligibility into PACSON.**

- BIOL 2010 Human Anatomy with Lab (4 semester units)
- BIOL 2020 Physiology with Lab (4 semester units)
- CHEM 1010 Fundamentals of Chemistry with Lab (4 semester units)
- ENGL 1010 English/ Accelerated College Writing (3 semester units)
- COMM 1100 Public Speaking or Oral Communication (3 semester units)
- Cal State LA Assist Listed GE A3 Critical Thinking course (3 semester units)

**The following courses must be completed but are not considered as part of the admission review.**

- Completion of one upper or lower division course of Statistics (must include Inferential Statistics) (3 semester units)
- MICR 2010 Microbiology for Health Related Sciences (3 semester units)
- MICR 2020 Microbiology Laboratory for Health Related Sciences (1 semester units)

These courses are required classes in a related field, may be completed while in the program and are not prerequisite courses.

- NTRS 2500 Human Nutrition (3 semester units)
- PSYCH 1500 Introductory Psychology (3 semester units)
4. What are other requirements for the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing?

a. **GPA**: A minimum 3.25 GPA is required in both prerequisite courses and cumulative (overall) courses to be considered for admission.

b. **TEAS TESTING**: The Assessment Technologies Incorporated (ATI) TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) is a four (4) part exam that measures the student knowledge of Math, Reading, Science, and English. **This test is mandatory for all applicants.** The test is approximately five (5) hours long (includes check-in and instruction). A study guide can be purchased from ATI at [https://www.atitesting.com/teas](https://www.atitesting.com/teas).
   i. A minimal acceptable percentile for the TEAS scores is 40% or above the national average. **Applicants whose ATI scores are below the minimum acceptable 40th percentile will not be eligible for admission to the Cal State LA nursing program.**
   ii. An applicant can retake the proctored test to improve their scores. The higher test score will be used for scoring. You must retake the entire exam. **NOTE: the proctored test can only be taken twice a year with at least a three week time period between test taking dates.** It is the applicant’s responsibility to select the highest test score and upload that proctored TEAS scores in the “Standardized Test” Section prior to the deadline. Submission of the TEAS to NursingCAS must be submitted no later than the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing application deadline date in NursingCAS. [https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux](https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux)
   iii. The TEAS proctored score is only valid from, January-until the PACSON’s application final deadline date/time.
      1. You may take the proctored TEAS no more than two (2) times during the year, with at least three (3) weeks apart.
      2. Practice test do not count as a proctored test.
   iv. **It is not necessary to pay an additional fee to have your TEAS results uploaded into Nursing CAS.** You can download your results from ATI TEAS “My Report”, scan the copy and upload, both the “Proctored Assessment Report” and “Practice Assessment Report” directly into NursingCAS. These reports can be added in the two available sections for the “TEAS Reports” in NursingCAS.

c. **WORK EXPERIENCE**: The applicant can also include their current work experiences, (from January to December as an employee) health related experience, or volunteer/community enrichment.
   i. **The applicant can only submit one specific work or volunteer experience in which they have directly worked with patients with 100 or more hours of service within the last 2 years:**
1. **As an employee** – Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), Respiratory Therapist (RT), Psychiatric Technician, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Medical Assistant (MA), Lab Technician, or Pharm Tech are examples.

2. **As health related experience** – Regional Occupational Program (ROP) or Career Technical Education (CTE program)

3. **As volunteer/community enrichment**
   a. Acceptable locations for volunteer/community enrichment hours are hospital, clinics, dentist office, in-home support, and the like.
   b. Acceptable responsibilities are feeding patients, dressing patients, assisting patients by wheelchair or physically, making beds, and the like.

4. Volunteer hours are accepted from the last 2 years only and can increase the probability of being admitted but the hours are not mandatory.

**d. LOCAL PREFERENCE For Transfer Students/Military:**
   i. Transfer Students: As a commitment to the local community and social upward mobility transfer students are given local preference for attending specific community colleges. Please check to see if your community college is on the list. [http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/local-preference-transfers](http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/local-preference-transfers)
   ii. Military Students: As a commitment to provide access to veterans, Cal State LA gives ‘Local Preference’ to all military veterans regardless of their school of origin. This Veterans category includes active-duty, reservists, and National Guard. [http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/veteran-admission](http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/veteran-admission)

**e. TRANSCRIPTS:** Students will need two sets of official transcripts and one set of unofficial transcripts.
   i. One set of official transcripts can be sent electronically or by sealed envelope directly from the initial college/university attended to Nursing CAS only. Opened envelopes are considered unofficial transcripts. (See complete instructions for transcript submission in Nursing CAS “Need Help”). [https://www.nursingcas.org/resource/help-with-transcripts/](https://www.nursingcas.org/resource/help-with-transcripts/)

   1. NursingCAS will upload the official transcript(s) with the date received and then they will verify courses taken. **The Patricia A. School of Nursing recognizes the “verified date” as the date received.** Transcripts verified after the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing submission date are considered as long as the application was submitted by the due date and time. All inquiries, about transcript submissions should be made with NursingCAS. (617.612.2880)

   ii. The second set of official transcripts is to be delivered to Cal State LA Admission Office within one year of the documents’ issuing/pricing date (within two years for international transcripts (or they will be considered invalid.) Sealed Transcripts can be hand delivered to the University’s Admission Office. [http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/submitting-documents](http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/submitting-documents)

   iii. The set of unofficial transcripts can be uploaded in Nursing CAS by the applicant in the Documents “Other” section.
1. Current Cal State LA students can retrieve their unofficial transcripts from “GET” at the time Fall Grades are due. Please check the Academic Calendar for dates. [http://www.calstatela.edu/academicresources/academic-calendar](http://www.calstatela.edu/academicresources/academic-calendar)

f. MILITARY APPLICANTS: In Accordance with SB 1348 that governs military admission procedures, the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing will admit by exception, and give priority consideration to military service members and veterans. Veterans who are California (CA) residents may be able to apply military experience and training towards licensure requirements. Veterans must meet the following minimum admission eligibility requirements for Basic Pre-Licensure or RN to BSN transfer to be considered:

   I. Admission to the University
   II. A minimum 3.25 GPA in all transferable classes and in prerequisite courses
   III. A 40 percentile or better on the TEAS exam in all 4 areas: English, Reading, Math, and Science (Basic Pre-licensure only)
   IV. Health-related work experience or 100 volunteer hours (optional)
   V. Active California RN license (RN to BSN Transfer only).

  g. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS: International students need to take the TOFEL exam. All applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must demonstrate competence in English. Test scores are to be turned in to the international admissions office and must be no more than two (2) years old. The University International Admissions office evaluates the transcripts first. Once the criteria are met the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing is able to accept the international students. Please contact International Programs - 323.343.3170. [http://www.calstatela.edu/international/request-advising-appointment](http://www.calstatela.edu/international/request-advising-appointment)

5. How will I be notified if I have been accepted or not been accepted into the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.

   a. A selection committee will review all applicants and submit their top-ranked students to the Universities Admissions department.
   b. The Cal State LA’s Admissions department will send transfer students an Offer Made email indicating that an applicant has been selected or not selected for the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing Program. An accepting email will state, “Congratulations you have been accepted at Cal State LA in Nursing.” If your email does not state this, you may be admitted at Cal State LA but not into the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing Program.
   c. If selected, please follow the instructions requested from Cal State LA’s email. Your admittance is conditional until all request have been completed for admissions. If the instructions are not followed and completed according to the requested deadlines, it can result in not being admitted in Cal State LA and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.
   d. If you want to appeal the decisions of not being selected by the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing,
i. Submit your appeal by email to Yvette Richardson at yrichar@calstatela.edu. In the subject line enter: Appeal for “Your Name”.

ii. Explain the bases for the appeal. The appeal must include how you meet the requirement, or how an extenuating circumstance prevented you from meeting a deadline, no later than 15 business days of your denial email notification.

iii. Responses will be returned in order of submission, please do not contact the nursing office for the progress of your email response.

6. I have been accepted by the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing, what is expected from me?

a. You will receive a combine welcome letter and orientation package to the school, in email format, in June. At that time you will be notified of the dates to attend the mandatory two day orientation, which will secure your admittance to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing. At the day of orientation expect fees to be paid for parking, lab coats, laboratory fees, and more.

b. You will take courses in pathophysiology (the study of disease), physical assessment, basic nursing skills, medical/surgical nursing, pediatrics, maternal/child nursing, psychiatric nursing, public health, leadership and others. Most of these courses will have a theory (lecture) component and a practice (clinical) component where you will be accompanied by faculty to various health care facilities in the LA area to care for patients.

c. 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:

   i. Sociology 2010- Principles of Sociology (3 semester units)
   ii. Nutrition 2500– Human Nutrition (3 semester units)
   iii. Psychology 1500 – Psychology of Developing Person (minimum 3 semester units)


d. Students in the nursing program must carry university liability insurance, personal health insurance and a valid California driver’s license. NOTE: The California Board of Registered Nursing requires possession of either a Social Security number or taxpayer ID to apply for licensure.


e. 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.

f. “Drug screening that is consistent with California Board of Registered Nursing guidelines for safe nursing practice is required annually. Clinical agencies are requiring students be drug-free and you may be subject to random drug testing, as well as required annual drug testing.


g. It is necessary to take the National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX) to qualify as a Registered Nurse (RN). The Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing prepares you to take this exam. In the past five (5) years 95% or more of our graduates have passed this exam on their first attempt.
7. **What are the benefits of becoming a BSN graduate?**

   h. The possibilities are almost endless! You can work in a hospital in any specialty area. You might work in the operating room, the emergency department, or an intensive care unit caring for infants, children and/or adults. You can join the military and work as a commissioned officer. You might decide to do public health nursing, home health nursing or work in a clinic. You can come back to graduate school at Cal State LA and become a nurse practitioner, or a nurse educator.

   i. The average Registered Nurse’s Salary in California (CA) is $102,700 which is well above the national average for RN’s. There are approximately 282,290 Registered Nurses employed in California within a range of industries. (source [www.nursesalaryguide.net](http://www.nursesalaryguide.net))