Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s) For the Masters Program

1. What are the requirements?

- **Statistics:** Must have completed a statistics course that included inferential statistics. The words, "inferential statistics" must be in the course title, course description or content outline. This course **may** be from a community college and should be 3 three semester units or 4 quarter units.
- **Health Assessment:** Must have an initial undergraduate health assessment course and laboratory component on transcript. The lab **CANNOT** be online. The policy is that this course must have been taken within 5 years. If this course is older than 5 years, you may “refresh” by repeating the theory course only (no lab).
- **Nursing Research:** Must be taken as part of an undergraduate baccalaureate program.
- **CURRENT CA Nursing license.**
- **Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (or MSN for Post-Masters)** from an accredited (NLN or CCNE) program.
- **Minimum B (3.0)** grade point average in upper division nursing courses.
- **Minimum 3.0** cumulative grade point average.
- **Post Masters Students:** to be eligible to complete the 1 year program, the first year pre-requisite courses must be met; 1) Pathophysiology 2)Pharmacology 3)Physical Assessment 4)Role/Health Care Policy. Otherwise, the program will be 2 years.

The application also requires an essay and 3 letters of recommendation (templates are on application website)

NOTE: The application process **may** also involve an on campus interview.

2. What if I am international student or I have a degree that is not from the U.S.?

Your BSN will be honored as long as it is verified by the 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. Test scores are to be turned in to the international admissions office and must be no more than 2yrs old.

Acceptable English Language Exams and Scores: (institution code 4399)

TOEFL: 80 ibt or higher
PTE: 53 or higher
IELTS: Band 6 or higher

The University has an International Admissions Office that has additional paperwork requirements such as: Financial Affidavit form required in addition to English proficiency exam.

The School of Nursing (SON) cannot admit any international students unless they are cleared by the international admissions office. The SON must receive notice of clearance by the application deadline.

Please go to: [http://www.calstatela.edu/graduateadmissions/international-students](http://www.calstatela.edu/graduateadmissions/international-students) for more information
3. How do I apply?

- Apply to University via [https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply](https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply)
- Apply to the School of Nursing (SON) via [http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/](http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/)
  
  (SON application must be downloaded from website and be mailed or handed in)

4. When can I apply?

- Applications are only accepted for every Fall term.
- The application window periods begin in October.
- Check both websites for deadlines.

5. Can I turn in anything after the deadline?

No. Applications must be complete and turned in on or before the day of the deadline by 5pm with the exception of items noted in progress to be turned in upon completion.

6. Can I have requirements in progress?

Yes. However they must be completed no later than the day before school starts (August) and you will be required to provide proof of completion on or before the day of orientation. If admitted, you will receive a conditional admittance letter and you will be dropped from the program if you do not meet the conditions listed on your letter.

7. Does applying early affect your chances?

NO

8. Are post-masters applicants in a separate applicant pool?

NO

9. Where do I get course descriptions for my pre-requisite courses?

Contact your school or go online to their catalog. We will not contact any schools. Any missing course descriptions will make the course invalid unless it has been previously approved or is on our chart of approved pre-requisite courses.
10. How many sets of transcripts do I need?

- **UNIVERSITY:** All official transcripts must be sent to the university graduate admissions office (international transcripts must be original & sealed no exceptions). CSULA grads who have not attended any other institution besides CSULA do not need to submit anything else to admissions. NOTE: sealed transcripts must be received by Cal State L.A. within 1 year of the document’s issuing/print date (within 2 years for international transcripts).

- **SCHOOL OF NURSING:** Copies of transcripts or printed unofficial transcripts must be included with your SON application. International transcripts must include an evaluation if the transcript is not in English and/or the grading system is not letter based (A/B/C/D/F).

11. How are candidates selected?

Once the application deadline is over, all complete applicant files are distributed to the option coordinator of their first choice for review. If the applicant is not selected, their file is then forwarded to the option coordinator of their second choice ONLY if the option of their second choice needs more candidates. If the candidate is not selected by either option coordinator they will only get a rejection letter (or email) from the option coordinator of their first choice. All candidates are screened based on a qualitative assessment of experience, academic skills and references by the option coordinators.

12. Is the interview Mandatory?

The second phase of the application requires an on campus interview, the date is posted the application webpage. Applicants are expected to save the date and will receive an invitation for interview via email if selected. The interview is part of the application process and attendance is required.

13. Who should I ask for letters of recommendation?

A nursing professional, physician or professor that can attest to your academic, interpersonal and work skills.

14. How will I be notified of acceptance?

You will receive an email prior to your acceptance letter and be required to provide confirmation of attendance to the program you have been admitted to. Official letters are mailed after admissions close.

15. How many clinical hours are completed per option?

Refer to the program sheets for the total amount of clinical hours and the number of clinical hours per semester: [http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/academic-programs-msn-traditional-post-masters](http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/academic-programs-msn-traditional-post-masters) click on the appropriate program (MSN traditional or Post Masters) and find your program under the last column for semesters.
16. How long is each program?

Minimum 2 years
Refer to program sheets for sequence:
http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/academic-programs-msn-traditional-post-masters

17. How many days a week are classes held and what times do students typically come to campus for class?

- First year: 2 to 3 times per week

Sample PM course times: 5-9pm, 6-9pm, 5-8pm, 6-10pm, 420-8pm, 420-6pm
There are some occasional morning courses, sample AM course times: 8:30am-12:20pm, 10:30am-1pm, 7:20am-11:20am, 8:00am-10am, 10am-12pm

- Second year: 1 to 2 times per week,

1 full day for lecture (ex. 7am to 1pm) + clinical hour completion which is negotiated between student and preceptor.

18. Are students responsible for finding their own preceptors?

The School of Nursing has a clinical placement office that finds placements for students however, students may request to find their own placement. A contract between the SON and the agency is required.

19. Can you deviate from the set option schedule?

Any changes from the published sequence must be approved by the option coordinator.

20. Can you attend part-time?

Our programs are set up to encourage full time attendance because some courses are offered in particular sequences/order (i.e. theory and clinical courses are to be taken concurrently).

21. Are any courses offered online?

No
22. Can you change options once you are in the program?

Students are strongly encouraged to fully explore the option(s) they are interested in prior to applying. Your application is expected to reflect this thoughtful consideration of what is a best match for you. There is a petition process which must be initiated/completed before the start of the final year of the program. No option change requests will be accepted during or before the first semester of the program. The student must obtain the change of option request form and meet with and obtain signatures from the current and the requested option coordinators. The requested option coordinator will consult with the clinical placement office and contact the student regarding decision.

23. Can you work full time during the program?

It is extremely important to balance school, family and work. Working full time is not recommended however, most of our students work while attending school. The students who are working are usually part-time or per diem.

24. Can you substitute coursework from other universities?

YES. You can substitute with approval from the graduate advisor or option coordinator.

NOTE:

No more than 9 units taken before the program start date can be credited towards the degree.

No more than 9 units of 500 level coursework may be taken through extended education.

25. How much does the program cost?

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: [http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office](http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office)

multiply current tuition by # of semesters required for the program you are interested in (additional coursework may be required- Family and Psych options require Summer term)

26. Where can I find the University Deadlines?

It is important that you abide by University deadlines or your application will be invalid. Go to the following website and select the appropriate term: [http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines](http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines)

27. How long do I have to complete the MSN program?

7yrs
28. What if my Nursing and/or my CUMULATIVE GPA is below a 3.0?

For applicants with a CUMULATIVE GPA below a 3.0, a calculation of the last 90 or 60 semester units GPA will be calculated to give the applicant the opportunity to achieve the 3.0. If this GPA does not result in a 3.0, the applicant has the option to take additional courses to raise their GPA.

Applicants with an upper division Nursing GPA below 3.0 may also take additional upper division nursing courses to raise their GPA.

29. How are repeated courses calculated within the GPA?

The failing grade is replaced by the passing grade.

30. What if I do not get in to the program?

You may re-apply to the program and meet with the option coordinator to review your application before the new application period begins.

31. What happens to my application if I do not get in?

If you re-apply you may indicate that you are re-applying on your application and your previous materials can be used. Applications are only kept for 1 year then shredded at the end of following the application window.

32. If I am accepted to the program what happens next?

- There will be a mandatory CSULA School of Nursing Orientation (before Fall begins). Notifications will be sent via email. All pending documentation will be due on or before this date.

- In addition to having a Campus Identification Number (CIN) and 4 digit pin to login to GET, a USER ID and password is needed to log on to campus computers (library, computer labs). This ID will also be used to create a CSULA email address which is mandatory for the program. This must be done before orientation. link: https://id.calstatela.edu/user/anonmain.jsp

- You will not be able to register unless you pay your tuition first. For fee and payment information go to: http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office The courses you are to register for are listed on your acceptance letter.

- You will be assigned a registration date/time which will appear on GET under self-service. For any issues with your enrollment date or registration errors, call enrollment services 323-343-3840.

- To register for courses log on to GET: https://get.calstatela.edu/ Click eagle I view sign in. Registration tutorial links are available on this page on the right hand side of the webpage. You will need your CIN and your 4 digit pin. If you have any log in issues you can contact the GET helpline at 323-343-7438.

- For issues with registration such as course overlap, course permission, or requirements not met, contact Nursing Administration 323-343-4700.
• Obtain a CSULA student photo I.D. from Golden Eagle Service Center 323-343-6800. You must have your CIN, California I.D., have paid tuition and registered for classes.

• For text book information please go http://calstate-la.bncollege.com

Have more questions???

Consider visiting our online University Catalog: http://ecatalog.calstatela.edu/index.php