California State University Los Angeles
Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing
BSN BASIC (GENERIC) PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s)

1. What should I know about the BSN program?

   a. The nursing application will be available each October, through NursingCAS, https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux. **NOTE:** You will need to apply one year in advance. It is important that you abide by the University and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing deadlines or your application will be invalid.
      i. Go to the following website for deadlines. www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines
   b. There are two steps to the application process. The applicant must apply to Cal State University, Los Angeles and separately to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.
      i. **Admission to the University:** You must apply to the California State University, Los Angeles, unless you are currently enrolled as a student. Admission to the university is online at http://www.calstate.edu/apply and is time specific.
      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
   c. Approximately 500-600 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 overall GPA, GPA in prerequisites courses, TEAS exam scores, and experience in the health care field and/or volunteer efforts. The top-ranked students will be sent an Offer Made (via email) and once accepted by the applicant, a Letter of Acceptance is sent to the applicant.
      
      Students on the waitlist who are not accepted to the program during the application cycle may reapply to the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing the following year.
   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 units** from a community college.
2. What are the required pre-requisite courses for admission to the Nursing major?

   a. Human Anatomy with Lab
   b. Physiology with Lab
   c. Fundamentals of Chemistry
   d. English 101
   e. Public Speaking or Oral Communication
   f. Critical Thinking course
   g. Statistics (Inferential)
   h. Microbiology with Lab

All courses except for Microbiology with Lab must be completed by December 31 before the application deadline. Microbiology with Lab must be completed by the end of the Spring semester.

   a. Prerequisites have no limits on the time period taken to the time applying to the program. A minimum grade of “C” in prerequisite courses is required. Prerequisite courses can be repeated but **will not be recognized when the original grade is a C or better.** A C-(minus) grade in any required course is not acceptable.
   b. Check [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) for college articulation of pre-requisite courses.

3. What are other requirements for the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing?

   a. 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 [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com).

      i. 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 test to improve their scores. The higher test score will be used for scoring. You must retake the entire exam. **NOTE: the 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 upload 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. [https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux](https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux)
      iii. The TEAS score is only valid for one calendar year, January-December. You may take the TEAS two (2) times during the year, at least three (3) weeks apart.

   b. Volunteering or working in a hospital or other health-related facility where applicant is working directly with patients/clients increases the probability of being admitted.

   c. Students will need two sets of official transcripts. Official transcripts are given to the student from the initial college/university attended in a sealed envelope. Opened envelopes are considered unofficial transcripts. Students must have the attended college mail official transcript(s) to NursingCAS. NursingCAS will upload the transcript(s) the day received and then 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 late. All inquiries, about submissions should be made with NursingCAS.

i. The second set of 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.) Transcripts can be hand delivered to the University’s Admission Office.

d. Military applicants: In Accordance with SB 1348 that governs military admission procedures, the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing will admit by exception, and given priority 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 need only meet the following minimum admission eligibility requirements for Basic Pre-Licensure or RN to BSN transfer:

   I. Admission to the University
   II. A minimum 2.75 GPA in all transferable classes and in pre-requisite 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. Active California RN license (RN to BSN Transfer only).

e. 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.

4. What can I do to better my chances if I am not accepted at this time?

   a. You can take the following courses at Cal State University and Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing Requirements. They are as follows: Nutrition, Sociology, Psychology, Upper Division GE Courses (3 courses).
   b. Apply to another university’s / college nursing program.
   c. Retake the TEAS during the next year in the hopes of a higher score.
   d. Get a job working directly with clients in the healthcare field, such as being a certified nursing assistant (CNA).
   e. Meet an advisement counselor.

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

   a. 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, case management 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.

b. In addition to the required nursing courses, students must meet the Cal State University 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 (4 semester units)
   ii. Nutrition 2500 or 3170 – Human Nutrition (4 semester units)
   iii. Psychology 1500 – Psychology of Developing Person (minimum 4 semester units)

c. Students in the nursing program must carry university liability insurance, personal 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.

d. 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. Positive background check may be a barrier to licensure, certification, and employment.

e. Clinical agencies are requiring students be drug-free and you may be subject to random drug testing, as well as required annual drug testing.

f. 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.

6. What are the benefits of becoming a BSN graduate?

a. 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.

b. The average Registered Nurse’s Salary in California (CA) is $94,120 which is well above the national average for RN’s. There are approximately 250,000 Registered Nurses employed in California within a range of industries. (source www.nursesalaryguide.net)