



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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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”