



ABSN FAQs

About the ABSN Program:

1. What are the degree requirements?

A minimum of a bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing.

2. Can I still apply if I am an RN with an ADN?

No- this program is for **non-RNs** who hold a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than nursing.

3. Can I still apply if I will be graduating right before the program begins?

No. In order to be eligible to apply to the ABSN program, you must have graduated by the end of the presiding fall quarter or semester at the very latest.

4. What are the pre-requisites?

- **Human Anatomy with lab and Physiology with lab** (BIOL 2010, 4 semester units & 2020, 4 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Microbiology with lab** (MICRO 2010, 3 semester units & 2020, 1 semester unit, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Chemistry with lab** (CHEM 1010, 4 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Human Growth and Development** (PSY 1600, 3 semester units, Cal State LA – Lifespan psychology course covering birth to later life or Equivalent)
- **Intro to Sociology or Cultural Anthropology** (SOC 2010, 3 semester units or ANTH 1500, 3 semester units, Cal State LA, or Equivalent)
- **Human Nutrition** (NTRS 2500 or 3170, 3 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Inferential Statistics** (MATH 2740, 3 semester units, Cal State LA or Equivalent)
- **Critical Thinking** (COMM 1200, ENGL 1050, 3 semester units Cal State LA or Equivalent)

- *All prerequisites must be completed with at least a "C" grade or higher, with the exception of the science with lab courses which must be completed with a "B" grade or higher in order to be considered for the program*

- *All four science with lab prerequisite courses **must** be completed by the end of the preceding fall quarter/semester in order to apply for that summer's ABSN program.*

5. Can I take prerequisite courses at a community college?

Yes, it is recommended that students consider taking prerequisite courses at a community college, as it may be more cost effective.

6. Can I repeat prerequisites for higher grades?

A prerequisite course can only be taken a maximum of two times and those two course grades will be averaged.

7. How can I check to see if the pre-requisites in my community college satisfy the prerequisite course for the ABSN program?

You may use www.assist.org. Click on "Institution," find "Cal State LA" and click on that. Click on "Agreements with other campuses," find the community college you attended or plan to attend and select that college. After identifying this, select "nursing" as the major. If you are an international student, you must have your transcripts reviewed by the International Student Admissions department before you meet with an advisor.

8. What if I cannot find my course(s) listed on www.assist.org?

You may submit name of college, title of course, unit value (quarter/semester) and course description for review to the ABSN program coordinator.

9. Can I be in the process of completing prerequisites at the time of application?

The science with lab courses need to be completed by the fall prior to the start of the ABSN program. However, non-science prerequisite courses can be taken while you are in the process of applying as long as you get approval from the ABSN program coordinator beforehand. *Documentation of successful completion of the remaining pre-requisite(s) must be received before the beginning of May. Priority for admission may be granted to those who have already completed all of their required courses prior to that time.*

10. Are there any time frame limits for the prerequisite courses?

Not at this time.

11. What is the GPA requirement?

An official transcript awarding a Bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing with a GPA of 3.0 or higher is preferred. Transcripts must also show a strong academic record with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter units or 60 semester units. In addition, a grade of "B" or higher is required in all four science with lab pre-requisite courses.

12. Do I need to take an exam?

We require the most current entrance examination version of the TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) from ATI (**we do not accept the GRE**). Information about the exam itself can be found on the organization's website www.atitesting.com. You usually are able to access your test results online, within one week after taking the exam. In regards to scoring, the **national percentile rank must be 80% or higher in all four categories**

13. Is there a specified time frame for the TEAS exam, can I take it more than once? If I take it more than once, which score will be used?

The ATI TEAS exam may only be taken one time during that year's application cycle (it cannot be taken more than one year before the start date of the program and may not be taken after the deadline stated in the ABSN program application procedure. If an exam has been taken more than one year before the program start date, the results will not be counted. In addition, a minimum of six months (180 days) must have elapsed between the two test taking dates. It is highly recommended that applicants also ensure that he or she is taking the correct version of the test ahead of time. For other questions related to the proper timeframe for taking this exam, contact the ABSN graduate assistant or program coordinator.

14. When submitting my TEAS scores, do I have to order official transcripts from ATI or can I send in the printout of the scores that I receive after I take the test?

You do not need to have ATI send us official scores; we prefer that you submit the printout of your test results with your application OR mail/hand-deliver to the ABSN program coordinator by the stated deadline. The specific score report form that we require is titled, "Individual Performance Profile."

15. What transcripts are required for the application packet?

Two official/sealed transcripts from **all** of the colleges that you have attended are required as part of our application procedure, even if the classes taken are not ABSN prerequisite coursework. The Cal State LA admissions office will not accept official transcripts if they have been requested a year or more before the start date of the ABSN program (the ABSN program starts traditionally begins the first week of June).

16. Do I need experience?

Non-RN health care experience is strongly encouraged to be a competitive applicant (e.g. CNA or EMT certification/work experience, hospital volunteer programs that include hands-on patient care experience, college level research assistant, college teaching assistant in the sciences, medical missions, medical free clinics, community service, or other volunteer experiences related to healthcare).

17. Will I be interviewed?

Based upon the entire application packet of materials, the strongest applicants will be invited to the campus for an interview and an on-site writing sample. Final admission is also dependent on acceptance to the university itself. We do not offer Skype or phone interviews.

18. Are there any additional application requirements?

- A typed essay (NO more than two double-spaced pages) highlighting professional goals, including your reason for entering the nursing profession and qualifications to do so.
- **Two** recent letters of recommendation on **official company letterhead** (there is no designated recommendation letterform for the ABSN program). All recommendation letters must be dated and written within the past year. Recommendation letters should be work, academic, or healthcare experience related (e.g. from an employer, supervisor, or college professor). The writer should address your academic ability, and characteristics that qualify you for the program and the nursing profession.

19. How many applications does the program receive and how many students are admitted?

The program typically receives 200 or more applications and admits up to 30 students once a year.

20. When/How, can I apply?

This program admits once a year, with students beginning the program at the start of the summer term. The application period is from mid-November to early January. You must check the ABSN application on the School of Nursing Webpage for details regarding the specific deadlines. Application materials are typically posted on the Cal State LA School of Nursing website in the early fall. Applicants for the ABSN program will be instructed as to when they should apply to the university through *Cal State Apply*.

21. How much does the program cost?

The ABSN program (53 semester units) is run through the College of Professional and Global Education. Tuition fees for the program is approximately \$32,000 for the 15 months. There are additional costs for items such as university services, textbooks, uniforms, skills backpack, background checks, etc.

Can I use the Cal-Vet Fee Waiver?

The Cal-Vet Fee Waiver only waives statewide mandated fees. Self-support (extension) fees are not waived. Therefore, the Cal-Vet Fee Waiver cannot be used for any program or courses offered by the College of Professional and Global Education, including Open University. **Contact the Veterans Resource Center at (323) 343 5080 to inquire about educational programs that qualify under the Cal-Vet fee waiver program at Cal State LA.**

22. Can I apply for financial aid?

If you are interested in requesting financial aid, applicants need to complete an application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the current aid year during the school of nursing application period at www.fafsa.ed.gov. We strongly urge all applicants to complete the FAFSA form beginning in October as scholarships are also tied to this application.

Students accepted to this program will be able to apply for an annual Federal Direct Loan in the amount of \$12,500 during the ABSN program. Students may apply for an annual Federal Direct Loan in the amount of \$20,000 once in the MSN portion of the program. Students who need to supplement these loan amounts may want to consider obtaining a private loan.

23. Can I meet with an advisor?

Yes, we do offer a few general ABSN information sessions each year and additional in-person or phone ABSN advisement appointments during the academic year. There is a high demand for both of these services so it is best to contact the ABSN graduate assistant at least three months in advance.

24. What is the difference between an Information Session and an Advisement Appointment?

- An information session is a general meeting of 20+ prospective students led by the ABSN program coordinator where general information about the program is given and questions are answered. We usually offer one in the late summer and one in the early fall. Please email the ABSN Graduate Assistant listed in the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing directory <http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/advising>.
- An in-person or phone ABSN advisement appointment is an individual appointment in which the program coordinator and yourself, specifically go over your college transcripts in relation to our program prerequisites, plus answer any questions that you may have about our program. Advisement hours are offered when Cal State LA is in session, excluding finals week. If you are interested in setting up an appointment, please email the ABSN Graduate Assistant listed in the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing directory <http://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/advising>.

25. What degrees and certificates does ABSN offer?

After successfully completing the ABSN program (53 semester units) you will be awarded a BSN and be eligible to take the NCLEX exam to receive your RN license. You might additionally have the opportunity to go directly on for your MSN degree, as long as you meet the specific academic, school of nursing and university requirements, and are selected for that program.

26. What are the MSN options?

MSN options include Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP), Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), and Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (FPMHNP). NOTE: Periodically, Administration and Education may be additional options. For more information, visit the SON webpage under “MSN traditional.”

27. When is the MSN track chosen? Can I change my option later?

The application and interview process takes place during the spring semester position of the ABSN program. It should be noted that being a student in the ABSN program does not guarantee automatic admission into the MSN program. If you are admitted to the MSN program, we strongly recommend that you select your option carefully, as a petition to change options at a later time may not end up being granted.

28. How long is the ABSN program at Cal State LA?

The ABSN program is 15 consecutive months of coursework.

29. What is the course load like?

Each semester, there will typically be two or more lecture courses and one or more laboratory courses. An overall GPA of 3.0 or higher must be maintained while in the ABSN program.

30. Can I work while in the ABSN program?

Part-time employment is possible during the ABSN program, as long as the student is able to maintain good academic standing in the program and employment does not conflict with the curriculum schedule.

31. Can I attend part-time?

No, full-time student status is required throughout the ABSN program.

32. Can I still apply if I am not a resident of California?

Yes.

33. Can I still apply if I am an AB-540 (undocumented) student?

Yes, as long as you have a Social Security Number, as that will be needed when registering for the NCLEX-RN exam.

34. Can I still apply if I am an international student?

Yes, as long as you have met the Cal State Los Angeles international student admissions criteria. For more information, please visit the College of Professional Studies and Global Education at www.calstatela.edu/international or contact them at (323) 343-3170.

35. I have a degree that is not from the U.S.

Your baccalaureate degree will be honored as long as it is verified and approved by the Cal State LA campus' 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. TOEFL test scores are to be turned in to the International Admissions Office and must be no more than 2 years old from the start of the nursing program.

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

TOEFL: 61 ibt or higher

PTE: 44 or higher

IELTS: Band 5.5 or higher

For more information, go to <http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency>

36. If I am accepted to the ABSN program, does that mean that I am automatically accepted into Cal State LA?

No. You must apply and be accepted by both the Cal State LA University and the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing.

37. If I am denied admission to the ABSN program, can I re-apply?

Yes. If you are interested in re-applying, please contact the ABSN program coordinator or ABSN graduate assistant for further details.