CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, SCHOOL OF NURSING
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree

Most frequently asked questions

1. What programs are offered by nursing school?
The School of Nursing offers a Traditional Semester/Trimester Bachelor of Science and a RN to Bachelor of Science. The Traditional Semester/Trimester BSN Program is open to both undergraduate and second degree seekers. The RN to BSN program is open to undergraduates and second degree seekers who have a California Registered Nurse’s license.

2. When and how do I apply to the nursing program?
If you are applying to the Traditional BSN Programs, refer to the packet for Spring and Fall application deadlines. You may submit an application when all prerequisites are completed by the nursing application deadline (Fall: February 10/Spring: September 10).

3. Is there a waiting list to enter your nursing program?
We do not have a waiting list. We use a point system to find the best qualified students for admission each semester.

4. If I applied last year and was not selected, does my application automatically get considered for next semester?
No! You must submit a new application for each admission cycle.

5. Can international students apply?
Yes. All international students must reside in California and have a valid Social Security Number.

6. Can out of state residents apply?
No. At this time, due to impaction, only California state residents can be considered for admission.

7. AB 540 Students
At this time, we cannot consider AB 540 students for admission into our Nursing Program.

“Nonresident students meeting the criteria (for AB 540 status) will be exempted from the payment of nonresident tuition, but they will not be classified as California residents. They continue to be ‘nonresidents.’” (Exemption request form)

However, if the applicant has achieved Employment Authorization Card and Social Security Number through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the applicant can be considered for admission. These applicants must submit a copy of their DACA C-33 card.

8. Is it difficult to get into the program?
Yes! More students apply to the CSULB’s School of Nursing than there are spaces available. PLAN AHEAD! The higher your grades, the better your chances are of being admitted to the program. Also, take your prerequisite courses as soon as possible and apply to the School of Nursing when you have completed them or are enrolled in your LAST prerequisite course.

9. How does the School of Nursing select applicants for admission?
The Student Affairs Admissions Committee looks at several factors when considering which applicants will be admitted. The criteria for selection out of 11 possible points are:

- a.) TEAS Assessment Overall Test Score (2 points max)
- b.) GPA in the science prerequisite courses (4 points max)
- c.) GPA in the GE prerequisite courses (2 points max)
- d.) TEAS Assessment Reading Score (2 points max)
- e.) Active and Retired Military (1 point max)

Candidates with the highest cumulative scores, based upon their personal profile, must participate in a mandatory faculty Communication Exercise. This is an assessed timed evaluation of both written and oral communication skills and will be held approximately thirty days after the nursing application deadline. This exercise earns applicants a maximum of 2 points. After the communication exercise, successful candidates will be offered admission into the program.

10. How many students do you accept, and how often are students admitted?
We admit 70 students to begin Semester/Trimester BSN classes each fall and spring semester.

11. What if I took a science prerequisite course at another college or university?
Science prerequisite courses are listed in the application packet. Many colleges and universities can tell you which transfer to CSULB due to contractual agreements. It is very important that prerequisite courses are equivalent to the CSULB courses listed on the application. Do not assume that the courses you took will be equivalent to CSULB’s courses. Also, do not assume a class is an equivalent even if it is accepted by another nursing program. If the course is not listed at assist.org, or on our science prerequisite chart located on our website, you must submit the course syllabus to the School of Nursing for evaluation.

12. Do I have to take the prerequisite courses at CSULB?
No. Students may take the prerequisites at any college or university as long as the courses taken are equivalent in content and units to those listed in the application packet. Equivalencies are obtained by submitting a course the course syllabus to our nursing department.

13. Can I take a second GE course in the same category and/or retake a science course to improve my pre-nursing GPA rating?
The first Science/GE course with a C or better taken which fulfills a Science/GE category requirement will be used for the Pre-NRSG GPA calculation. CSULB does not allow us to consider retakes of a passed prerequisite.

14. Do you accept AP English, Statistics and Psychology?
Yes. Students receive credit that the requirement has been met. On your nursing application just write AP credit and the high school name. However, we calculate students’ ratings without these courses. The applicants must contact the AP Board and have the scores sent directly to CSULB Enrollment Services.

15. Is there a time limit on when I took my prerequisites?
Yes. All natural sciences need to be taken within the last five years.

16. Can I apply if I have any prerequisites in progress?
No, all prerequisites must be complete by the nursing application deadline date.
17. **What courses can I take after my prerequisite course work is completed?**
   Many students like to complete their general education courses before entering the nursing program. This will allow them to focus on the nursing courses and be ready for graduation as soon as the nursing courses are finished. You can also take support courses and co-requisite courses prior to beginning our program.

18. **What GPA do I need to apply to the nursing program?**
   For the Basic/Trimester BSN program, all prerequisite courses must be B or higher. A grade of C is not acceptable. Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in each of their science and their general education prerequisite courses. However, the science GPA average Spring 2016 was 3.96. The higher the grades the better the applicants’ chances are of being admitted to the program.

19. **How long will it take me to complete the BSN Program?**
   Students admitted to the Semester/Trimester BSN Program take five semesters to complete the nursing courses, but the Trimester students finish sooner since they also attend summers. The RN to BSN program takes approximately 3-4 semesters to complete.

20. **Can I attend courses on a part-time basis?**
   For the basic BSN program, each semester is scheduled for 15 or 16 units. Some students take general courses during the summer or winter break to decrease the number of units during the regular semester. If students must be out a semester, the leave of absence procedure must be followed.

21. **Are there any nursing courses in the evening?**
   Nursing courses are usually offered during the day or early evening. Lecture and lab classes are offered one or two days a week. Clinical classes are offered Monday through Sunday during day or evening shifts.

22. **Can I take the state board exam before I graduate?**
   No. The NCLEX can only be taken after your BSN has been awarded by the university.

23. **What if I have my LVN already?**
   LVNs, who are accepted for admission, can have Nursing 200 waived.

24. **What if I have my RN already?**
   A.D.N.-RN students enter with 56 units of transferable lower division credit. Fourteen additional units may be given for lower division general education course work. Up to 70 total units may be transferred. RNs should be GE certified at the community college prior to application to CSULB. The RN Pathway program has been developed for the A.D.N.-RN student. The first semester is a bridge year. Some classes may be taken with the basic students while others are designed to help transition students to the BSN level. All students merge during the senior year.

25. **Are there nursing classes in the summer?**
   Yes, students in the Trimester will attend in the summer.

26. **When can I meet with a nursing counselor?**
   There are group counseling sessions each semester. It is recommended that you attend one of these sessions prior to submitting your application to the nursing department. Once you have this information, a personal appointment can be made by calling 562-985-2201 or emailing monalisa.ward@csulb.edu if you have additional questions. However, we cannot offer advising. We can only answer questions on how to apply to the program.

27. **Does acceptance into the program mean that I am automatically accepted to the University?**
   No. Transfer applicants must file three separate applications (two for CSULB and one for the SON) by the deadlines required for each. Post Bacs will file one application for CSULB and one for Nursing. Check the CSULB website (www.csulb.edu) for the University application deadline. The SON and CSULB must be in agreement that you are admissible.

28. **Where do I send my official transcripts?**
   You must attach one set of official unopened transcripts to your nursing program application. You will submit one set to the University when the University requested them.

29. **Can I take the TEAS more than once and if I can take it more than once, which score will be used?**
   You may take the TEAS more than once; however, we require that there must be 30 days between each test date. We will use the test that yields you the highest rating.

30. **When is the TEAS offered?**
   Multiple TEAS dates are offered January, April, June, July August and November. Testing applications are available approximately 30 days before a test date.

31. **Can I take the TEAS at another testing location?**
   If the TEAS test is not taken at CSULB, applicants must arrange to have official TEAS scores sent by atitesting.com to CSULB. Go to atitesting.com, place test results in shopping cart, choose CSULB as destination and pay ATI. We will receive your result in about 15 minutes.

32. **What if I want to transfer from another nursing program to your program?**
   Transfer students are taken on space availability only. After you have applied to CSULB and submitted a Nursing Application, you will need to write a letter of interest to the Undergraduate Director, submit letter of recommendation from current Nursing Dean/Chair, and submit official transcripts along with nursing course syllabi. After your file is reviewed, the Undergraduate Director will meet with you to discuss your options.

33. **Do I need to submit letters of references and volunteer hours?**
   Letters of reference and volunteer hours are not a factor in the basic BSN application process. Please do not submit these items.

34. **Can I substitute Anthropology for Sociology?**
   No. We only accept a Sociology 100 equivalent course. Anthropology is not equivalent to Sociology 100.

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