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 Basic/Trimester Bachelor of Science, a Entry Level Master of Science and a RN to Bachelor of Science. The Basic/Trimester BSN Program is open to both undergraduate and second degree seekers. The Entry Level MSN Program is for students who have already earned either a BS or BA in another field. 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 Basic and Trimester BSN Programs, refer to the packet for Spring and Fall application deadlines. The Entry Level MSN Program only admits every three years. The next projected entry will be for Fall 2016. Please refer to the packet for deadlines. You may submit an application with only one prerequisite course in progress. You must receive a grade of C or higher in the course that is in progress to be admitted.

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?**
The program can only admit 2 international students a semester to the Basic/Trimester BSN Programs. The top two international students will be offered admission into the program. The Entry Level MSN Program is for California residents only.

6. **AB 540 Students**
At this time, we cannot consider AB 540 students for admission into our Nursing Program. However, if the AB 540 student has received a C-33 and a Social Security Number allowing the applicant to work, the applicant can be considered for admission.

   “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)

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

8. **Can I apply to both the Basic BSN program and the Entry Level MSN?**
No. We can only process one application at a time from an applicant.

9. **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.

10. **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 10 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.) General Assessment Math Score (2 points max)

   Candidates with the highest cumulative scores, based upon their personal profile, must participate in a mandatory faculty interview. The interviews will be held approximately thirty days after the nursing application deadline. After the interviews, successful candidates will be offered admission into the program.

11. **How many students do you accept, and how often are students admitted?**
We admit 70 students to begin Basic/Trimester BSN classes each fall and spring semester. We admit 48 Entry Level MSN each fall when funding is available.

12. **What if I took a prerequisite course at another college or university?**
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.

13. **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 brochure. Many equivalencies are obtained by submitting a course description and course syllabus to our nursing department.

14. **Can I take a second GE course in each category to improve my pre-nursing GPA calculation?**
Yes. Students receive credit that the requirement has been met. However, we calculate students’ ratings without these courses.

15. **Is there a time limit on when I took my prerequisites?**
Yes. All natural sciences should have been taken within the last five years.

16. **If I have more than one prerequisite in progress, can I still apply for admission?**
No, you can only have one prerequisite in progress on the application deadline date. The course in progress is considered a C for rating calculation.
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.

18. What GPA do I need to apply to the nursing program?
For both the Basic/Trimester and Entry Level MSN, all prerequisite courses must be C 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 Fall 2013 was 3.85. The higher the grades the better the applicants’ chances are of being admitted to the program. The Entry Level MSN applicants must have earned a CUM GPA of 3.0 in their BA/BS or MS/MA degree.

19. How long will it take me to complete the BSN Program?
Students admitted after Fall 2014 to the Basic BSN Program take five semesters to complete the nursing courses. The Trimester program takes 4 semesters and two summers. The Entry Level MSN Program takes 4 semesters. The RN to BSN program takes approximately 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. For the Entry Level MSN program, each semester is scheduled for 22-23 units. Entry Level MSN students attend summer and winter intersessions.

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. Two spaces are reserved each semester for LVN admissions. After you have submitted an LVN application, official transcripts and TEAS results, you will speak with the LVN nursing advisor who will help you plan your program and get you on the LVN waiting list.

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 year 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 option and Entry Level MSN 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.

27. Does acceptance into the program mean that I am automatically accepted to the University?
No. You must file three separate applications (two for CSULB and one for the SON) by the deadlines required for each. Check the CSULB website (www.csulb.edu) for the University application deadline.

28. Where do I send my official transcripts?
Students admitted after Fall 2014 to the Basic BSN Program take five semesters to complete the nursing courses. The Trimester program takes 4 semesters and two summers. The Entry Level MSN Program takes 4 semesters. The RN to BSN program takes approximately 4 semesters to complete.

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