

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences

Frequently Asked Questions: Graduate Studies

1. I need counseling before applying for admission so I will know if I have met all the prerequisites. Whom should I contact?

You should contact the FCS Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Jacqueline Lee, at (562) 985-4545 to make an appointment for a conference. You can also contact the Graduate Assistant at (562) 985-5176 or stop by FCS 007A. Bring a copy of all available transcripts so you can receive an evaluation of your prerequisite courses (undergraduate and graduate). Following that initial conference, you will need to talk with a faculty advisor in your area of study about areas of specialization, but that can usually wait until you are accepted to the program.

2. What grade point average is required for admission?

A grade point average of 2.5 is required for admission as an undeclared major in graduate studies at CSULB. In order to be admitted to the M.A. degree program in Family and Consumer Sciences or the M.S. in Nutritional Sciences degree program, an undergraduate overall grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 and a GPA of at least 3.0 in the last 60 undergraduate semester units.

3. If my grades are not high enough for admission to the M.A. or M.S. program, can I take courses to bring up my average?

If your average is at least 2.5, you can consider taking at least 3 qualifying courses which will be planned with your graduate area advisor in order to demonstrate your ability to maintain a B average in graduate level study.

4. If my bachelor's degree was earned several years ago, do I have to repeat courses?

If prerequisite courses are more than seven years old, you will be expected to update the undergraduate prerequisite course before beginning graduate study. However, you may petition to waive some prerequisite courses by examination. Discuss specific courses with the Graduate Coordinator.

5. Do I need a teaching credential as well as a master's degree in order to teach in California?

Under the Ryan Act, a single subject (FCS) teaching credential is required at the junior and senior high school levels. This requires a fifth year of study, a broad background in all areas of family and consumer sciences, and several education courses. Only the graduate level courses in family and consumer sciences may be applied to the M.A. in Family and Consumer Sciences degree program; therefore you should discuss your career goals with both the FCS Graduate Coordinator and the Education Coordinator.

Because of its narrow specialization in foods and nutrition, the Single Subject Credential in FCS and the M.S. degree program are not compatible.

6. Is the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) required for graduate students?

The GRE is required for students applying for admission to both the M.A. and the M.S. programs. GRE results should not be more than five years old. An official copy of the GRE results with a minimum score of 4.0 on the Analytical Writing section of the GRE is required, and also satisfies the Writing Proficiency Exam/Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement. M.S. applicants need a combined minimum score of 900 on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE.

7. How many units may be transferred from a previous graduate program?

Only 6 semester units of appropriate graduate level courses may be transferred from any other program. Courses will be disqualified after 7 years; so a student may only use courses that have been completed during the 7 years preceding graduation. This policy applies to courses taken at CSULB as well.

8. How may I secure a CSULB Catalog, Schedule of Classes, and an application form?

The current [CSULB Catalog](#) and [Schedule of Classes](#) may be secured at the Forty-Niner Bookstore (562) 985-5093, or online at <http://csulb.edu/bookstore>

The same application is used for all California State Universities, and one may be secured from any campus by writing to the Admissions Office, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA 90840 or online at <http://csumentor.edu>

9. How do I proceed with the application to become enrolled in the program?

After completing the application, submit it with your official transcripts and GRE score to the University Office of Admissions and Records. You can also submit your application through <http://csumentor.edu>

In addition, a copy of your application to the University Admissions and Records, official transcripts, three letters of recommendation (at least 2 from academic instructors), and the official GRE score must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences:

California State University Long Beach
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
ATTN: Graduate Coordinator
1250 Bellflower Boulevard
Long Beach, CA 90840-0501