

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree
Most frequently asked questions

1. What programs does the nursing department offer?

The nursing department offers both a Basic/Trimester Bachelor of Science and a Entry Level Master of Science. The Basic/Trimester BSN Program is for students who **have not earned** either a BS or BA in any field. The Entry Level MSN Program is for students who **have already earned** either a BS or BA in another field.

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. For the Entry Level MSN Program, refer to the packet for Fall 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.

“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. Due to impaction, the Basic BSN program is for undergraduate applicants only and the Entry Level MSN is for post BS/BA applicants only.

9. Is it difficult to get into the program?

Yes! More students apply to the CSULB Nursing Program 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 Nursing Department when you have completed them or are enrolled in your LAST prerequisite course.

10. How does the Nursing Department 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 G E 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 department 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 90 students to begin Basic/Trimester BSN classes each fall and spring semester. We admit 48 Entry Level MSN each fall.

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. Don't assume that the courses you took will be equivalent CSULB's courses. If the course is not listed at assist.org, submit the course syllabus to the Nursing Department for evaluation.

12. Do I have to take the prerequisite courses at CSULB?

No. You 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.

13. Is there a time limit on when I took my prerequisites?

Yes. All natural sciences should have been taken within the last five years and social sciences within ten years.

14. 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.

15. **What courses can I take after my prerequisite course work is completed?**
Many students like to get their general education courses out of the way 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.
16. **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. You must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 in each your science and your general education prerequisite courses. However, the science GPA average of the last cohort was 3.55. The higher your grades the better your chances are of being admitted to the program. Entry Level MSN applicants must have earned a CUM GPA of 3.0 or better in their BS/BA degree.
17. **How many students do you accept, and how often are students admitted?**
We admit 90 students to begin Basic/Trimester BSN classes each fall and spring semester. We admit 48 Entry Level MSN each fall.
18. **How long will it take me to complete the BSN Program?**
Once you are admitted to the Basic BSN Program, it will take six semesters to complete the nursing courses. If you are in the Trimester program, it takes 4 semesters and two summers. If you are in Entry Level MSN Program, it takes 4 semesters. You must get a C or better in any course to continue the sequence of nursing classes. If you receive less than a C, you may repeat that course when space is available.
17. **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 a student 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.
18. **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..
19. **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.
20. **What if I have my LVN already?**
LVNs, who are accepted for admission, can have Nursing 200 & 200L waived. Two spaces are reserved each semester for LVN admissions. You must speak with an LVN nursing advisor who will help you plan your program and get on the LVN waiting list.
21. **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. 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.
22. **Are there nursing classes in the summer?**
Yes, students in the Trimester option and Entry Level MSN will attend in the summer.
23. **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 through the department office if you have additional questions.
24. **Does acceptance into the program mean that I am automatically accepted to the University?**
No. You must file two separate applications by the deadlines required for each. Check the CSULB website (www.csulb.edu) for the University application deadline.
25. **Where do I send my official transcripts?**
It is recommended that you have your official transcripts sent directly to you and that you attach one set of official unopened transcripts to your nursing program application, and submit one set to the University.
26. **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. We will use the test date that will yield you the highest rating.
27. **When is the TEAS offered?**
The TEAS is offered the second week of August and January and spring break. It is also offered once on a Friday in May, July and December. If the TEAS was not taken at CSULB, applicants must arrange to have official TEAS scores sent by atitesting.com to CSULB.
28. **What if I want to transfer from another nursing program to your program?**
Transfer students are taken on space availability only. 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. Fill out a transfer application. After your file is reviewed, the Undergraduate Director will meet with you to discuss your options.
29. **Do I need to submit letters of references?**
Letters of reference and testimonials are not a factor in the basic BSN or ELM application process. Please do not submit these items.
30. **For the Entry Level MSN, do I need to take the GRE?**
No. The GRE is not a factor in the ELM application process.