

California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA)
Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing (PACSON)
Graduate Program Application Information & Requirements

Applications are only accepted for the FALL term
Be aware of both PACSON and Cal State LA deadlines

Before you apply, review the roadmap for the option you are interested in:
<https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>

All programs are full-time, and courses are only offered during the indicated terms. Current tuition information can be found on the University cashiers' website:
<http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office>

1. MSN Graduate Applicants

To be eligible for the MSN Graduate program, you must have:

- a. Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from an accredited (NLN or CCNE) program
- b. Minimum 3.0 BSN GPA
- c. Current, unrestricted license to practice nursing in California 3 Pre-requisite Courses (must be completed prior to starting the program):
 - 1) Statistics: inferential statistics course.
 - 2) Health Assessment course: lecture & lab.
 - 3) Nursing Research: undergraduate/baccalaureate level.

2. Post-Master's (PM) Certificate Applicants

To be eligible for the post-Master's program has the following admission requirements:

- a. Master of Science in Nursing from an accredited (NLN or CCNE) program
- b. Current, unrestricted license to practice nursing in California.
- c. Minimum 3.0 MSN GPA
- d. The following core courses must be completed prior to starting the program:
 - 1) APRN Role/Healthcare Policy
 - 2) Advanced Pathophysiology - including general principles that apply across the lifespan
 - 3) Advanced Pharmacology - which includes pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacotherapeutics of all broad categories of agents; and includes Schedule II updates as required by the BRN:
<https://www.rn.ca.gov/pdfs/regulations/npr-b-59.pdf>
 - 4) Advanced Physical/Health Assessment with lab - which includes assessment of all human systems, advanced assessment techniques, concepts and approaches.

NOTE:

- Current licensed practicing nurse practitioners applying for the PM cert-NP program should have completed the 4 graduate-level courses listed above and meet the criteria to apply.

- MSN PM applicants who are nurse practitioners, but do not have a valid furnishing number – must take an advanced pharmacology course, that includes Schedule II medication updates, within **5 years** of starting the program.
- MSN RNs, who are not nurse practitioners – must complete advanced pharmacology and physical assessment courses within 5 years before entering our program, advanced pathophysiology does not have to be completed within 5 years.
- As appropriate, transcripts and course syllabi for core courses, will be reviewed by a subcommittee of CSULA nursing faculty members.
- For PM Certificate applicants that are not currently certified Nurse Practitioners: Documentation from school (except for courses completed at Cal State LA) that the following courses were completed at the Advanced Practice level and meet the CA BRN and National Certification standards: 1)Health Assessment 2)Pathophysiology 3)Physical/Health Assessment. This must be in the form of a letter on letterhead or official email communication from an official School representative such as a Director, Chair, advisor or faculty.

APPLY:

Applicants must apply to both the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing and Cal State LA via the following link:
<https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply>.

You can refer to the CSU Apply guide on the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing website for step-by-step instructions.

NOTE: If you are re-applying to the PACSON, you must submit a new application. Your previous transcripts and letters of recommendation may be used, but you have the right to submit new documents.

For information regarding University deadlines please visit the following website:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines>

For International students, please see additional requirements below.

TRANSCRIPTS:

1. UNIVERSITY: ALL **official** transcripts must be mailed to the university graduate admissions office (international transcripts must be original & sealed, no exceptions) or submitted electronically within 3 weeks of Cal State Apply application submission. Cal State LA grads who have not attended any other institution do not need to submit any additional transcripts to the Admissions Office. International transcripts must include an evaluation report by IERF or WES.

NOTE: Sealed transcripts must be received by Cal State LA admissions within 1 year of the document's issuing/print date (within 2 years for international transcripts).

Mailing address:

Cal State LA Admissions Office
 c/o Graduate Admission
 5151 State University Drive
 Los Angeles, CA 90032

For more information regarding options for submitting documents visit the university admissions page:

<https://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/submitting-documents>

2. **PACSON:** In addition to submitting your transcripts to California State University's Admissions Office, the Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing (PACSON) also requires copies of ALL official transcripts or printed unofficial transcripts. These transcripts **must be uploaded to the "Documents" tab on CSU Apply**. International transcripts must include an evaluation report by IERF or WES if the transcript is not in English and/or the grading system is not letter based (A/B/C/D/F).

International Students:

The University has an International Admissions Office that has additional paperwork requirements including but not limited to: Financial Affidavit form required and an English proficiency exam.

International students cannot be admitted unless they are cleared by the international admissions office.

Please go to: <http://www.calstatela.edu/graduateadmissions/international-students> for more information

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

Course descriptions for each of the pre-requisite courses must be included, with the exception of courses taken at CAL STATE LA or if the courses are listed on the PACSON pre-requisite chart. Course descriptions may be found in the school's catalog or syllabus. The PACSON will not contact any schools on behalf of the student.

NOTE: If your course is listed on the pre-requisite chart, select "course listed on pre-req chart" (this includes if your course was taken at Cal State LA)

GPA:

A GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for Cumulative and Nursing

1. Cumulative GPA: on the application you will be asked to enter your CUM GPA. This is pulled from your BSN or MSN transcript and is usually located on the last page.
2. Nursing GPA: on the application you will also be asked to enter your Nursing GPA.
 - Post Masters certificate students: This is the same as your CUM GPA since graduate school is all Nursing courses you do not need to enter another GPA
 - MSN applicants: You will use the online GPA calculator <https://gpa-calculator.com/college> to enter all of your Nursing courses only to calculate your NURS GPA. Keep clicking "Add Course" until you have entered all of your courses. Once you have entered all of your courses click on "save result" and select "Download file (.pdf)" you will upload this pdf to the "Documents" tab on CSU Apply.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:

Three letters of recommendation must be included with your application and written by a nursing professional, physician, NP, or professor that can attest to your academic, interpersonal, and work skills. You will enter three professional references under the "Recommendations" tab and an email request will automatically be sent to the recommender on your behalf.

NOTE: Your recommenders have until the deadline to submit their letter. *DO NOT* wait for your recommenders to submit their letters to submit your application. Submit your application as soon as it is complete so it can be processed in a timely manner. You will not be penalized for submitting without completed letters as long as they are received by the deadline. CSU Apply sends reminders to your recommenders and it is strongly recommended that you follow up with them as well to submit before the deadline. If you are re-using letters, you can upload them to the Documents tab under “Other” but you will still need to enter 3 names and 3 emails in the recommendation section.

ESSAY:

The essay prompt will be located on the CSU Apply online application under the “Documents” tab. The essay should not be longer than 3 pages.

INTERVIEW:

If selected as a possible candidate for admission, the application process also involves an on-campus or virtual interview. The date will be posted on the PACSON application webpage when available.

REQUIREMENTS IN PROGRESS:

If CA RN license, degree, or any coursework is in progress, you can still apply but it must be indicated on the application and the most recent documentation must still be submitted. Admission into the program will be based on the condition that the requirement(s) are completed by the beginning of Fall term (August). Degree and/or pre-requisite(s) completion must be provided via copy of an official transcript. For coursework or degrees completed at Cal State LA, an unofficial transcript is acceptable.

Please do not call the PACSON regarding the status of your application. All communication is sent via the email you provided on your application. Our office will update you if we receive your application and forms are missing or incorrect. Applicants are notified of the PACSON's decision via email. If admitted, confirmation of acceptance of admission offer will be required.

No application documents will be accepted after the deadline.

All incomplete applications will be denied.

For any further questions please review our FAQ's

Thank you for choosing CAL STATE LA!