

Patricia A. Chin School of Nursing
Graduate and Post Masters Certificate Programs
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

1. What are the requirements?

Review the “[Application information and requirements](https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs)” link on our webpage
<https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>

2. What if I am international student or I have a degree that is not from the U.S.?

Your BSN/MSN will be honored as long as it is verified by the international admissions office. In addition, all graduate and post baccalaureate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English, must demonstrate competence in English. Test scores are to be turned in to the international admissions office and must be no more than 2yrs old.

Acceptable English Language Exams and Scores: (institution code 4399)

TOEFL: 80 ibt or higher

PTE: 53 or higher

IELTS: Band 6 or higher

The University has an International Admissions Office that has additional paperwork requirements such as: Financial Affidavit form required in addition to English proficiency exam.

The School of Nursing (SON) cannot admit any international students unless they are cleared by the international admissions office. The SON must receive notice of clearance by the application deadline.

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

3. How do I apply?

- Apply to University and the School of Nursing via <https://www2.calstate.edu/Apply>
(no documents are to be mailed to the school of nursing)

4. When can I apply?

- Applications are only accepted for every Fall (August) term.
- The application window period is October to January.
- **Check website for exact dates/deadlines:**
<https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>

5. Can I turn in anything after the deadline?

No. CSU Apply will not allow applicants to submit incomplete applications.

6. Can I have requirements in progress when I apply?

Yes, however if admitted, you will receive conditional admission and will be dropped from the program if the pending requirements are not met. They must be completed no later than the day before school starts (August) and you will be required to provide proof of completion on or before the day of orientation.

7. Can I take any missing pre-requisite courses at Cal State LA?

If you need a Health Assessment refresher course because it has been more than 5 years you can use the “Approved Pre-Requisite Chart” on our webpage: <https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>

We do not have any space available in our undergraduate courses. Online HA refresher courses are acceptable.

If you are applying to the Post Masters program and need to complete Advanced Pharmacology, Physical Assessment, Pathophysiology or Role, you can apply to take the courses through Open University <https://www.calstatela.edu/openuniversity/how-register>

Adding the courses will be determined on space available basis. An email must be sent to each faculty teaching the course(s) needed asking for permission to add which will serve as their consent for Open University enrollment.

NOTE: All pre-requisite courses must be completed before the start of the program

8. Does applying early affect your chances?

NO

9. How are Post Masters Students considered?

Post Masters students are compared only against other PM applicants.

10. Where do I get course descriptions for my pre-requisite courses?

Contact your school or go online to their catalog. We will not contact any schools. Any missing course descriptions will make the course invalid unless it has been previously approved or is on our chart of approved pre-requisite courses.

11. How many sets of transcripts do I need?

UNIVERSITY: ALL **official** transcripts must be mailed to the university graduate admissions office (international transcripts must be original & sealed no exceptions). CAL STATE LA grads who have not attended any other institution do not need to submit any other documentation to admissions. NOTE: sealed transcripts must be received by Cal State L.A. admissions within 1 year of the document’s issuing/print date (within 2 years for international transcripts).

MAIL TO: **California State University, Los Angeles**
Attn: Graduate Admissions office
5151 State University Dr.
Los Angeles CA, 90032

For more information regarding options for submitting documents visit the university admissions page: <https://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/submitting-documents>

SCHOOL OF NURSING: Copies of official transcripts or printed unofficial transcripts must be uploaded to the “Documents” tab. International transcripts must include an evaluation if the transcript is not in English and/or the grading system is not letter based (A/B/C/D/F).

12. How are candidates selected?

MSN Applications are reviewed by the option coordinator. If the applicant is not selected, their file is then forwarded to the option coordinator of their second choice ONLY if the option of their second choice needs more candidates. If the candidate is not selected by either option coordinator they will only get a rejection letter via email from their first choice.

MSN & Post Masters Cert candidates are screened based on a qualitative assessment of experience, academic skills and references.

13. How many applications are received and how many slots are available per program?

Each MSN option receives about 60 to 80 applications and admits 20 to 30 applicants depending on availability.

Each Post Masters option receives about 10 to 20 applications and admits 5 to 10 applicants depending on availability.

14. Is the interview Mandatory?

The second phase of the application requires an interview, the date is posted the application webpage. Applicants are expected to save the date and will receive an invitation for interview via email if selected. The interview is part of the application process and attendance is required.

15. Who should I ask for letters of recommendation?

A nursing professional, physician or professor that can attest to your academic, interpersonal and work skills.

16. How will I be notified of acceptance?

You will receive an email prior to your official acceptance letter and be required to provide confirmation of attendance to the program you have been admitted to. Once you have confirmed that you accept the admission offer the University admissions office will complete a final evaluation of your application and send you an official email of acceptance.

17. How many clinical hours are completed per option?

Refer to the roadmaps for the total amount of clinical hours and the number of clinical hours per semester: <https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>
Each option has its own drop down towards the bottom of the webpage.

18. How long is each program?

MSN: 2yrs

Post Masters: 1yr

Refer to roadmaps:

<https://www.calstatela.edu/hhs/nursing/graduate-and-certificate-programs>

19. How many days a week are classes held and what times do students typically come to campus for class?

- First year: minimum 2 times per week
- Second year: minimum 3 times per week (class is one day per week and clinical is 2 times per week). Clinical hour completion is negotiated between student and preceptor.

20. Are students responsible for finding their own preceptors?

The School of Nursing has a clinical placement office that finds placements for students however, students may request to find their own placement. A contract between the University and the agency is required.

21. Can you deviate from the set option schedule?

Any changes from the published sequence must be approved by the option coordinator.

22. Can you attend part-time?

Our programs are set up for full time attendance and courses are offered in particular sequences/order (i.e. theory and clinical courses are to be taken concurrently).

23. Are any courses offered online?

No, we are an in person program but have some courses have hybrid options.

24. Can you change options once you are in the program?

No, students are strongly encouraged to fully explore the option(s) they are interested in prior to applying. Your application is expected to reflect this thoughtful consideration of what is a best match for you.

25. Can you work full time during the program?

It is extremely important to balance school, family and work. Working full time is not recommended however, most of our students work while attending school. The students who are working are usually part-time or per diem.

26. Can you substitute coursework from other universities?

YES. You can substitute with approval from the graduate advisor or option coordinator.

NOTE:

No more than 9 units taken before the program start date can be credited towards the degree.
No more than 9 units of 500 level coursework may be taken through extended education.

27. How much does the program cost?

CSULA is a semester system and tuition is due before the beginning of each semester. For the most up to date tuition information go to the CSULA cashiers home page:

<http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office>

multiply current tuition by # of semesters required for the program you are interested in (additional coursework may be required- Family and Psych options require Summer term)

28. Where can I find the University Deadlines?

It is important that you abide by University deadlines or your application will be invalid. Go to the following website and select the appropriate term: <http://www.calstatela.edu/admissions/deadlines>

29. How long do I have to complete the MSN program?

MSN programs are 2 years and Post Masters programs are 1 yr. However, in the event a student falls behind due to extenuating circumstances, the University requires all Masters degrees to be completed within 7yrs.

30. What if my Nursing and/or my CUMULATIVE GPA is below a 3.0?

For applicants with a CUMULATIVE GPA below a 3.0, a calculation of the last 90 or 60 semester units GPA will be calculated to give the applicant the opportunity to achieve the 3.0. If this GPA does not result in a 3.0, the applicant has the option to take additional courses to raise their GPA.

Applicants with an upper division Nursing GPA below 3.0 may also take additional upper division nursing courses to raise their GPA.

31. How are repeated courses calculated within the GPA?

The failing grade is replaced by the passing grade.

32. What if I do not get in to the program?

You may re-apply to the program and meet with the option coordinator to review your application before the new application period begins.

33. If I am accepted to the program what happens next?

- There will be a mandatory CSULA School of Nursing Orientation (before Fall begins). Notifications will be sent via email. All pending documentation will be due on or before this date.
- In addition to having a Campus Identification Number (CIN) and 4 digit pin to login to GET, a USER ID and password is needed to log on to campus computers (library, computer labs). This ID will also be used to create a CSULA email address which is mandatory for the program. This must be done before orientation. link: <https://id.calstatela.edu/user/anonmain.jsp>
- You will **not** be able to register unless you pay your tuition first. For fee and payment information go to: <http://www.calstatela.edu/sfinserv/cashiers-office> The courses you are to register for are listed on your acceptance letter.
- You will be assigned a registration date/time which will appear on GET under self-service. For any issues with your enrollment date or registration errors, call enrollment services 323-343-3840.
- To register for courses log on to GET: <https://get.calstatela.edu/> Click eagle I view sign in. Registration tutorial links are available on this page on the right hand side of the webpage. You will need your CIN and your 4 digit pin. If you have any log in issues you can contact the GET helpline at 323-343-7438.
- For issues with registration such as course overlap, course permission, or requirements not met, contact Nursing Administration 323-343-4700.
- Obtain a CSULA student photo I.D. from Golden Eagle Service Center 323-343-6800. You must have your CIN, California I.D., have paid tuition and registered for classes.
- For text book information please go to University Bookstore website: <http://calstate-la.bncollege.com>

Have more questions???

Consider visiting our online University Catalog: <http://ecatalog.calstatela.edu/index.php>