

Frequently Asked Questions

Admissions and program questions

- 1) How many students are accepted into the program, and what was the *average* GPA of the students who were accepted into the program last year?**

36 students are chosen from our applicant pool for summer and fall. The average BA/BS GPA of students who were accepted into the program last year was a 3.56, and the average prerequisite science GPA was a 3.92. Please note: For fall/summer 2009 over 600 students inquired, roughly 400 applied, 50 applicants were interviewed, & 36 were accepted (18 in the summer & 18 in the fall). Please be aware that this is a very competitive program. Applicants should take into consideration the demanding nature of the program prior to submitting an application.

- 2) I will complete my prerequisites by the end of spring 2010, can I still be considered for summer and fall 2010 admissions?**

No. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of fall 2009 semester/quarter to be considered for summer/fall 2010 admission. If one or more of your prerequisite courses are in progress during spring 2010, you will be eligible to apply for the following year--summer/fall 2011.

- 3) Do you offer Informational Sessions?**

Yes. Information Sessions are offered twice a month for prospective students who are interested in learning more about the Accelerated BSN program. The Informational Sessions provide an excellent overview of the A-BSN program. These sessions are designed to assist prospective students, and usually answer the majority of questions. At the end of each session, additional time is provided for individual questions. No appointment is necessary to attend. Please visit our website: <http://www.csun.edu/~nursing/> and click on A-BSN Info Session Schedule (on the right hand side) to view our schedule.

- 4) Do you admit students for the spring semester?**

No. We admit students in the summer and fall semesters.

- 5) Is there a waiting list?**

No, there is no waiting list. New applications must be submitted for any given application period.

6) What are the Admissions Requirements?

The admission requirements can be found by visiting our website: <http://www.csun.edu/~nursing/>

Requirements for admission to the A-BSN track include the following:

- ✓ Applicants must have an earned Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better. The degree and ALL prerequisites must be completed by the end of fall 2009.
- ✓ All science prerequisites must have been completed within the past 7 years (Anatomy with lab, Chemistry with lab, Microbiology with lab, and Physiology with lab). All science courses must have a lecture and lab.
- ✓ Applicants must have a minimum grade of C in all prerequisite courses. A grade of C- or less will not be accepted.
- ✓ A personal interview may be requested.
- ✓ Computer competencies documented on resume or COMP 100 or equivalent.

7) How long is the program?

The A-BSN is a 15-month (4 semesters) program.

8) May I attend as a part-time student?

No. The A-BSN is a full-time, intensive program.

9) Is acceptance to the A-BSN program based solely on my G.P.A.?

No, it is based on a number of items:

- a) BA/BS from an accredited institution;
- b) BA/BS GPA (Minimum of a 3.0 or higher);
- c) Completion of all necessary prerequisite courses (minimum grade of C);
- d) Meet CSUN admission and general education requirements;
- e) Grades for science courses (anatomy with lab, physiology with lab, chemistry with lab, and microbiology with lab);
- f) Personal Interview (may be requested from applicants); and
- g) Documented computer competency.

10) In addition to the A-BSN program admission requirements, how can I be a better candidate?

Repeat your science courses if you wish to raise your current grades; experience or volunteer work in the health care field over time is important; and letters of recommendation from both a former Supervisor/Employer and a Faculty person who know you well enough are important, too.

11) Are classes offered during the day or evening?

Depending on the clinical rotation schedule of availability, classes may be held during the day and/or evening.

12) Do I have to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and/or the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) Exams?

No the GRE and/or TEAS Exams are not required for the A-BSN program.

13) My undergraduate GPA was a 2.8; can I still apply to the program?

The minimum BA/BS GPA is a 3.0 or higher. You may still apply but please note that the average BA/BS GPA of students who were accepted into the program last year was a 3.56, and the average prerequisite science GPA was a 3.92. Given that, please be aware that many who qualify for admission are not necessarily admitted. The prerequisites and requirements and the interview and experience in the field are all qualifiers, but do not guarantee admission-- even for those with high grades.

14) What are the application procedures and deadlines?

The A-BSN program only accepts applications once a year. There are two basic steps for applying:

- ✓ Submit a CSUN **Graduate Admission** Application using CSU Mentor (www.csunmentor.org)-For the entire CSU system, the priority application filing period for fall is from October 1st through November 30th. Please note: The fall 2010 graduate admission application applies to summer 2010 admission as well. Please select **Health Sciences-Pre-Nursing B.S.** as your **Major/Program Objective**.
- ✓ Submit an Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (A-BSN) application. The application can be found on our department webpage www.csun.edu/~nursing. The department application deadline is Tuesday, December 1st, 2009 no later than 4:00pm.

15) May I continue to work during the program?

No. This is a full-time, intensive program and you are expected not to be employed during the program. Please take into consideration the demanding nature of this program. Classes and clinical experiences may be scheduled at any time during the 7 days of the week or 24 hour nursing care times. The program must schedule clinical times in collaboration with clinical agencies, who are constrained by patient consensus, presence of other students in their facility, and other variables not under the control of the University.

16) Do we choose where we want to be placed for our clinicals?

Geographic location is taken into account when clinical placement decisions are being made; however, your first choice is not guaranteed.

17) What is the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) passing rate for your students?

We have had one cohort complete the NCLEX thus far with a 100% pass rate.

Prerequisites

18) Do I have to complete all of my prerequisites to be admitted to the program?

Yes. All prerequisites must be completed by the end of fall 2009 semester/quarter to be considered for Summer/Fall 2010 admission.

19) Do I have to complete all of my prerequisites before applying to the program?

No, prerequisites do not have to be completed **at the time of application**-they may still be in progress; however, they must be completed **by the end of fall 2009**. Please request a progress report from your professor(s) (e.g., grade after midterm) and submit it along with your application materials. Please send us your official transcripts, as soon as your final grade(s) are posted.

20) What are the prerequisites for the A-BSN program?

	Prerequisite Courses	Semester Units	CSUN Course	CSUN Catalog Descriptions [*] http://www.csun.edu/catalog/
1.	**Introductory Chemistry <i>WITH</i> lab	4	Chem 103	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/chemistryandbiochemistry.html#CHEM103L
2.	**Human Anatomy <i>WITH</i> lab	2 + 1 = 3	Bio 211 & 212	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/biology.html#BIOL100L
3.	**Human Physiology <i>WITH</i> lab	3 + 1 = 4	Bio 281 & 282	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/biology.html#BIOL100L
4.	**Introductory Microbiology <i>WITH</i> lab	2 + 2 = 4	Bio 215 & 215L	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/biology.html#BIOL100L
5.	Written Communication - (CSU General Education Basic Skills course) (this is a freshman composition course)	3	Engl 155 or equivalent	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/generaleducation.html#basicskills
6.	Oral Communication (this is a Speech/Public Speaking course) - (CSU General Education Basic Skills course)	3	COMS 151/L or equivalent	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/generaleducation.html#basicskills
7.	Introduction to Sociology	3	Soc 150	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/sociology.html#SOC150
8.	Principles of Human Behavior (this is an Introductory Psychology course)	3	Psy 150	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/psychology.html#PSY150
9.	Introduction to Lifespan Psychology	3	Psy 200	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/psychology.html#PSY200
10.	Introductory Statistics	4	Math 140	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/mathematics.html#MATH140
11.	⁺ Critical Thinking - (CSU General Education Basic Skills course)	3	Logic and Reasoning	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/generaleducation.html#basicskills
12.	⁺ Epidemiology	3	HSCI 488	http://www.csun.edu/catalog/healthsciences.html#HSCI131

**** Must have been completed within 7 years prior to admission**

⁺ Can be completed before admission, or concurrently with nursing courses.

21) Are there any prerequisites that can be taken concurrently with the program?

Yes, the CSU requires students to take a Critical Thinking (CSU General Education Basic Skills) course. You cannot graduate without this course, but you may complete it at any time. It is best and a benefit for you if you complete it prior to entering the ABSN program since you will have such a heavy load. If you wait, it may delay your graduation. In addition, epidemiology (HSci 488) is one of our requirements and you may complete it before you begin the program; however, it is scheduled to be taken the 4th semester.

22) May I substitute courses I took elsewhere for the prerequisite courses?

Possibly. To get an idea of what course(s) may satisfy our prerequisite course requirements, you can utilize the following resources:

1. www.assist.org - is an online student-transfer information system that shows how course credits earned at one public California College or University can be applied when transferred to another. ASSIST is the official repository of articulation for California's public colleges and universities. Select *California State University, Northridge* from the first drop-down menu, select the *Community College* you wish to attend or have attended from the second drop-down menu, choose *Select by Major*, and then select *Nursing* from the list of majors.
2. If you have other classes (from out of the region, state, or country), you can try to compare the course descriptions with CSUN's (i.e., compare catalogs). There is an online version of the catalog on the CSUN website <http://www.csun.edu/catalog/>.
3. You may also write or call our A-BSN Advisor, Selina Zadeh-Asadouri, at absn@csun.edu or (818) 677-7702, including the name of the course, a course description, and the college/university name, to check for prerequisite course equivalencies (**excluding the CSU General Education Basic Subjects courses**) before the application period.

23) Do I have to complete the Title 5 requirements and the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Examination (UDWPE)?

No. According to Education Code 66055.8 (2nd Baccalaureate BSNs and Higher), we are no longer to hold 2nd Baccalaureate candidates in Nursing for the Title 5 requirements in American Institutions nor for the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam.

24) May I complete prerequisite requirements at a Community College?

Yes. Articulation agreements with California Community Colleges for prerequisite requirements are available on the Assist website (www.assist.org). Select *California State University, Northridge* from the first drop-down menu, select the *Community College* you wish to attend from the second drop-down menu, choose *Select by Major*, and then select *Nursing* from the list of majors.

25) Will College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and/or Advanced Placement (AP) exams count as credit for certain prerequisites?

No. We do not accept CLEP and/or AP exams.

26) Is there a time limit on completion of science courses (anatomy with lab, chemistry with lab, physiology with lab, and microbiology with lab)?

Yes, all science courses must have been completed within the past seven (7) years at the time of application. For example, if you completed chemistry in fall 2002 or before, then you would need to repeat the course.

27) May I complete science courses which include online virtual labs?

No. Online labs are not accepted for science courses.

28) How can I complete prerequisite courses at CSUN before I am admitted to the A-BSN program?

You may complete the prerequisites by enrolling through our Open University option-a program of the Tseng College of Extended Learning- Please call (818) 677-2786 or you may refer to their website:

<http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/openuni.html> for enrollment information.

Transcripts

29) Can I meet with an Advisor at Cal State Northridge to review and evaluate my transcripts?

Unfortunately, there is no mechanism to sit down with an evaluator for individualized assessment. Transcripts are evaluated by Admissions & Records upon applying to CSUN. The evaluation process occurs when you apply to CSUN on www.csumentor.org and send your official transcripts to CSUN. Furthermore, since there are typically hundreds of applicants interested in the A-BSN program, we do not meet with prospective students to provide individualized advisement; however, to get an idea of what course(s) may satisfy our prerequisite course requirements, you can utilize the above-stated three (3) resources (please refer to question #22).

30) I already submitted my official transcripts to CSUN Admissions & Records; do I need to submit them again with my department application?

Yes. The Department of Health Sciences also requires official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.

31) If I received my Bachelor's Degree from CSUN, do I include my official transcripts with my department application?

Yes. The Department of Health Sciences will need official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended, including CSUN.

Other application material questions

32) How long should my personal statement be?

Your personal statement should be no longer than two pages-double spaced-describing your background and professional goals.

33) May I submit official transcripts or recommendation letters separately?

Yes; however, since there are typically hundreds of applications, it is highly advised that you put all materials listed on the "Application Checklist Form" together in one packet. The application packet must arrive by the application deadline. We do not want you to be at a disadvantage in the admissions process if you submit materials separately.

34) Do letters of recommendations have to be from professors?

No, not necessarily. Letters of recommendations from both a former Supervisor/Employer and a Faculty person who know you well enough to answer the questions on the recommendation forms are important.

35) Are there any exceptions to the application deadline?

No. Late applications will NOT be accepted. No exceptions. Application packets must be received by--not postmarked by--the Department of Health Sciences Office, Jacaranda Hall 2500 **no later than 4pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2009.**

36) What if my application packet is postmarked by the application deadline but the department receives it later, will it be accepted?

No. There are no exceptions. Please ensure that your application packet is mailed early enough to arrive in the Department of Health Sciences Office--not the campus mailroom--by the deadline.

37) What is the mailing address for my completed A-BSN application?

ATTENTION: Accelerated BSN Admissions
Department of Health Sciences, Jacaranda Hall 2500
California State University, Northridge
1811 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330-8285

38) May I submit my department application packet in person?

Yes. Application packets must be submitted directly to the Department of Health Sciences Office in Jacaranda Hall, Room 2500.

Interviews

39) Are all applicants interviewed?

No. You will be notified in early March 2010 if you are to be interviewed or not.

40) When do the interviews take place?

We cannot guarantee, but anticipate interviews will begin in March 2010 and the selection process will be completed as soon as possible.

41) When will I know if I have been accepted?

By mid-April 2010, you will be notified.

International Students

42) I am a foreign graduate, am I eligible to apply?

If you are a student who has completed a Bachelor's degree equal to a U.S. Bachelor's degree, then you are eligible to apply for a second Bachelor's degree at CSUN. You must submit EVALUATED and TRANSLATED transcripts: 1 with the A-BSN application and 1 to CSUN Admissions and Records.

43) Where do I translate and evaluate my foreign transcripts?

You must contact independent international evaluation services. A few of these services are listed below.

Academic Credentials Evaluation Institute

P.O. Box 6908
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Telephone: (310) 275-3530, (800) 234-1597
Fax: (310) 275-3528
Website: www.aceil.com

E-mail: eval@ece.org
Website: www.ece.org

Educational Records Evaluation Service (ERES)

601 University Avenue, Suite 127
Sacramento, CA 95825
Telephone: (866) 411-3737, (916) 921-0790
Fax: (916) 921-0793
E-mail: edu@eres.com
Website: www.eres.com
Silicon Valley Office
830 Hillview Court, Suite 200
Milpitas, CA 95035-4562
Telephone: (408) 719-0015
Fax: (408) 719-0017
E-mail: edusv@eres.com

Academic & Professional International Evaluations, Inc.

P.O. Box 5787
Los Alamitos, CA 90721-5787
Telephone: (562) 594-6498
Website: www.apie.org

American Education Research Corporation

P.O. Box 996
West Covina, CA 91793-0996
Telephone: (626) 339-4404
Fax: (626) 339-9081
Website: www.aerc-eval.com

International Education Research Foundation, Inc. Credentials Evaluation Service (IERF)

P.O. Box 3665
Culver City, CA 90231-3665
Telephone: (310) 258-9451
Fax: (310) 342-7086
E-mail: info@ierf.org
Website: www.ierf.org

Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. (ECE)

P.O. Box 514070
Milwaukee, WI 53203-3470
Telephone: (414) 289-3400
Fax: (414) 289-3411

44) Where can I obtain more information about applying to CSUN as an International Student?

Please contact International Admissions and Evaluations, Bayramian Hall, Room 150 at (818) 677-3760. You may also visit their website for more information- <http://www.csun.edu/anr/intl/apply/intlapplygrad.html>.

Accreditation

45) What accreditation does your program hold?

The program is accredited by the Collegiate Commission for Nursing Education (CCNE), approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN), and is administered within the Department of Health Sciences (HSci). In addition, the University is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Program Cost and Financial Aid and Scholarships

46) What type of financial aid is available to A-BSN students?

Financial assistance as well as a variety of scholarships are available to qualified students. For information, please contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at (818) 677-4085 or visit their website at <http://www.csun.edu/finaid/>. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is located in the Student Services Center on the 1st floor of Bayramian Hall, west of the Oviatt Library.

47) What is the cost of the program?

The cost of the program is roughly \$15,000 (excluding housing, books, and supplies), although this amount is subject to change. Please visit http://www-admn.csun.edu/ucs/fall_2009_feepay.htm#graduate for tuition fees.

Nursing Information

48) What is the difference between an Associate degree in Nursing (ADN) and a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing (BSN)?

The BSN is a 4-year degree obtained from a 4-year college or university, whereas the ADN is a 2-year vocational degree obtained from a 2-year college. Basic nursing content is the same; however, there are some areas that are covered more extensively, such as leadership, nursing research, and community health.

49) What are the advantages of obtaining a BSN degree instead of attending a 2-year nursing program?

According to recent surveys, nurse executives in U.S. hospitals are seeking more staff nurses with Baccalaureate-level preparation in order to meet the complex demands of today's health care environment. Other study outcomes suggest that patient morbidity and mortality may be reduced by increasing the number of BSN-prepared nurses on staff. Most hospitals will hire RNs with associate's degrees, but prefer RNs with BSN degrees. BSN prepared nurses also have more career options and job flexibility available to them. With a BSN, you are more marketable in the health care arena. Also, earning your BSN may be a stepping-stone to earning your MSN.

50) What other degrees can be pursued in the field of Nursing?

Beyond the Baccalaureate degree is the Master's degree, Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Nursing Doctorate Degree (PhD), and the Doctor of Nursing Science (DNSc).

51) What other Nursing resources are available to me?

Discover Nursing= www.discovernursing.com

California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) = <http://www.rn.ca.gov/schools/programs.shtml>