

# Nursing Program FAQs:

***I think I am interested in the Cerritos College Nursing Program. What should I do?***

- Review the [Technical Standards and Essential Functions](#) to ensure that Nursing is a career for you.
- Review the [Nursing Program Information Sheet](#). This will provide you with essential information regarding prerequisite and general education coursework and GPA requirements. The [Nursing Program Road Map](#) should be reviewed for insights into timelines. [General Education Requirements](#) for the various academic pathway goal options should also be reviewed.
- Take Nursing 3 (Preparing for Nursing) course in Spring semester.
- Obtain healthcare volunteer hours during this time.
- Complete the required science pre-requisites with a grade of “C” or higher and overall prerequisite GPA of 2.5 or higher.
- Study for and take the required ATI – [TEAS 7 Examination](#) (score of 62% or higher is required).
- Complete coursework in the [Medical Assisting Program](#) to improve your medical knowledge (*highly recommended*).

***Does the Cerritos College Nursing Program accept international students?***

Yes. The Cerritos College Nursing Program does accept international students. You must have a Social Security or Tax Identification Number (TIN). You must meet all of the same requirements and clearances and must register with our [Office of International Student Services Department](#) (OISS). Please be advised that registering with the OISS does not guarantee admission into the Nursing Program.

***When is the application cycle for the Nursing Program? Do you have a separate application period for Spring admission?***

The application cycle opens in January and closes in February of each year. This would be for possible admission to the following Fall and Spring cohorts.

***How do I apply to the Nursing Program?***

[Electronic Application Instructions for Option A](#), and for [Options C & D](#), as well as an [Application Video](#) are posted to the Nursing and [Counseling](#) portions of the website with instructions and information on how to complete the application and how to submit it electronically. Watching the Application Video is a mandatory part of the application process. Application workshops will NOT be offered. Please note that applying to Cerritos College and declaring Nursing as your major does not mean that you have applied to the Nursing Program specifically. The Cerritos College Nursing Program has a separate application and requirements that must be completed to be considered for admission.

***I have read the Application Instructions and watched the Application Video but I have follow-up questions about the application. Who can I contact?***

Application drop-in sessions will be offered for Nursing applicants for quick questions on a first come first serve basis. These drop-in sessions are offered through the [Counseling Office](#). Dates and sign-ups will be posted on the Counseling webpage at [https://www.cerritos.edu/counseling/ho/dh\\_nrsrg.htm](https://www.cerritos.edu/counseling/ho/dh_nrsrg.htm).

***Do applicants have to meet with a Health Occupations Counselor?***

An applicant is not required to meet with, but can speak to a Health Occupations Counselor during application drop-in or regular drop-in for quick questions. Nursing applications do not require a Counselor's signature.

***My prerequisites will not be completed by the application cycle window. Can I still apply with prerequisites in progress?***

No. All prerequisites (and additionally required "bridge" courses for options C and D) must be completed and final grades posted on transcripts that are submitted with the application. Applications for options [A](#), [C](#) and [D](#) are only accepted during the application window (January to February) each year for possible admission to the following Fall and Spring semesters.

***Can I repeat a prerequisite course for a better grade?***

Only ONE of the prerequisite courses (Anatomy, Physiology, English, Microbiology) can be repeated for a grade of "C" or higher. Two or more repeated prerequisites due to grades of "D" or "F" will disqualify the applicant.

If an applicant repeats a prerequisite for "recency" but passed the prerequisite with a "C" or higher the first time taken, that is not considered a "repeat prerequisite".

***Does a "W" received for a prerequisite count as a repeat?***

If you received a "W" it will not be considered a repeated course.

***Does the Nursing Program have a recency requirement?***

No. The Cerritos College Nursing Program does not have a recency requirement but recommends that science courses be completed 6 years from the time of application.

***What courses are accepted for the Prerequisite and/or General Education requirements?***

The science prerequisites of Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, and Microbiology, must be at least a 4-units and include a lab. If you are not sure about a course, you may use <https://www.assist.org/> or <https://tes.collegesource.com/>. If a student took integrated anatomy and physiology courses, they could use them to apply as long as they completed the sequence. For example, they cannot mix an integrated anatomy/physiology I course with a physiology course.

Math: Math 80, 80B, or transfer level math is acceptable to apply to the nursing program. Math 112 or PSYC 210 are highly recommended as that is what most Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs require. If a student took Math 75 summer 2021 or earlier, they could use it to apply to the nursing program. If a student took Math 75 fall 2021 or later, they cannot use it to apply to the nursing program.

AP Credit: AP scores can be used to apply to the nursing program. If using AP English credit to apply the core GPA will be calculated using only anatomy, physiology, and microbiology.

***What accrediting bodies does Cerritos College accept?***

Cerritos College accepts units accredited by the following bodies:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- The Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

- Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges

***What version of the TEAS exam is required?***

The Nursing Program is only accepting TEAS 7 at this time.

***Is TEAS/HESI exam required to apply?***

Yes. A copy of the applicant's score must be submitted with the application. Score must include composite (overall) score and clearly show the applicant's name on the result. TEAS score must be  $\geq 62\%$ . HESI must be  $\geq 70\%$  and must include a science component.

***Does Cerritos College offer the TEAS or HESI testing?***

Cerritos College offers the TEAS exam only. Dates and available seating are limited. Please check the [TEAS](#) navigation tab on the Nursing Program website for further details and information.

***Do students need to turn in unofficial transcripts for coursework unrelated to nursing?***

No. Unofficial transcripts for verification of completed prerequisite courses as well as for any courses you would like considered for points should be submitted with the application. Unofficial transcripts from other schools, regardless if courses have been "transferred" to Cerritos College, must be included with the application submission. When admitted to the Nursing Program, the student will then supply OFFICIAL transcripts to Admission and Records.

***Do I need a Cerritos College Student ID number to apply to the Nursing Program?***

You do not need a Cerritos College Student ID (CCSID) number to submit your application however, if you have a CCSID number already, you may include it on your application.

***I am an LVN that will be applying to your program. How recent does my acute care experience need to be?***

Your experience must be for at least one year within the previous two years.

***How are students selected?***

OPTION A: Applicants are evaluated according to the number of points accrued in the areas designated on the MultiSelective Criterion (see [application](#)). Applicants are ranked according to points accrued. The Nursing Program will fill the first 50% of admission seats with the applicants having the highest point totals. The remaining applicants will be placed into a Random Selection (Lottery) process and the next 50% of admission seats will be filled through the lottery. A small pool of alternates is also selected from both the MultiSelective Criterion and the Random Selection process.

OPTIONS C and D (LVN-RN): Applicants are selected for admission based on space availability and are notified on an individual basis. [Option C](#) and/or [Option D](#) applicants often have a waiting period of approximately 2-3 semesters for enrollment.

***How and when am I notified of my admission status?***

Admission status notifications (for Option A applicants) are sent via email from the Nursing Program Application email ([nursing-apps@cerritos.edu](mailto:nursing-apps@cerritos.edu)) and the typical time frame for notifications is during the month of May. You will receive notification no matter your admission status (admitted, alternate, not admitted).

***What if I am not admitted to the Nursing Program?***

Applicants (of Option A) who are not admitted to the Nursing Program but have continued interest, must reapply the following application cycle. You should include a new application and all required supporting documents including any new coursework, TEAS score (if 365 days or more from previous test), work experience, etc.

***Is there an orientation for the Nursing Program?***

When students are admitted to the program, a mandatory orientation is scheduled and must be attended. Information regarding the date and time is included on admission notifications and is only for those students that have been admitted. Non-attendance of this orientation will result in removal from the admitted student listing.

***When does Fall and/or Spring semester start?***

Fall semester usually begins mid-August and the Spring semester usually begins early January.

***How long is the Nursing Program?***

The core curriculum of the Nursing Program (Option A) will take 4 semesters (or approximately 2 years) to complete. This does not include any prerequisite or general education coursework that needs to be completed.

***Do you have a part-time, evening or online program?***

No. The Cerritos College Nursing Program is considered a full-time, day program. While some lecture courses may be online or hybrid, there may be scheduled on ground activities required with your lecture. Additionally, there will be skills lab and clinical hours that must be completed in person either on campus or at your assigned clinical site. You can expect to be in class 4 to 5 days a week. There may be instances in which your clinical assignment could be or go into the evening hours and/or be on the weekend for an 8- or 12-hour shift.

***What is the cost of tuition?***

Current tuition rates can be found by going to the Admissions and Records webpage and selecting the [Fees](#) tab. There, you will find the tuition rates for California residents and non-California residents. Please be advised that many classes also have a lab fee which varies from course to course (if applicable). Also found on this page, you will see other related student fees such as Student Health, ASCC Student Activities, Student Representation Fee, and Parking. An estimated [cost](#) breakdown based on California resident tuition rates can also be found on the FAQ portion of the nursing webpage.

***Once I complete the Nursing Program and apply to the California (CA) Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) for state licensure, can I work as a Registered Nurse (RN) in another state?***

A graduating student from Cerritos College must apply to the CA-BRN to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) in the state of California. Once the student takes and passes the NCLEX-RN Exam, the student will be provided a RN license for the state of CA. If a licensed RN in CA chooses to move and work in another state, the RN must apply for "licensure through endorsement" in that state, through their board of nursing. Each state has their own specific application requirements and timelines, however, there are some commonalities:

- a) you must show proof of graduating from a state approved nursing program, usually by submitting your official transcripts and degree.
- b) Provide verification of no criminal background / convictions
- c) current RN license with no disciplinary actions
- d) current CEUs towards license renewal

Most states will not require a licensed RN from CA to retest in their state, as the NCLEX-RN exam is a national based examination.

There are currently 34 states in the nation who are a part of the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC). This compact is an agreement between the states involved in the compact that nurses are permitted to practice in the state in which they are licensed, as well as any other state in the compact. Currently, California is NOT a part of this compact. Therefore, RNs licensed in CA who move to another state, must apply for "licensure through endorsement" in that state.

***I am a Licensed Psychiatric Technician, LPT OR I wish to seek Advanced Placement due to Military education/experience (Option B) OR I wish to transfer (& challenge) (Option E) OR I am a nurse from a foreign country and the BRN has referred me to complete course work to become an RN in California (Option F). How can I apply to the Nursing Program?***

Beginning in the Fall of 2024, the Cerritos College Nursing Program is launching a major curriculum revision. The Program will be "teaching-out" the current curriculum while "teaching-in" the new curriculum. During this time (Fall of 2024 through Spring of 2026), we will not be accepting applications for these options (B, E or F). Please continue to check the Nursing Program webpage for updates to these options.