Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to wait until the Application Deadline to apply to the program?

No. If you feel you have completed many of the required courses and may be eligible to enter the program, we recommend that you visit the Extended Studies website, submit the Pre-Admission Advising Application (http://www.csusm.edu/el/acceleratedbsn/how_to_apply.php), the $50 application fee, and a copy of your transcripts. Submission of the Pre-Admission Advising Application will allow the School of Nursing and Extended Learning to provide you with an educational plan for program acceptance. Each applicant will receive an individualized advising worksheet showing course requirements completed and outstanding requirements that need to be met.

2. Is there a time limit on how long ago science pre-requisite courses have been taken and can still be used to meet your entrance requirements to the program?

No, there is no time limit. We will accept courses regardless of how long ago they were taken.

3. What Chemistry courses will articulate, or be equivalent, to your CHEM 100 and CHEM 100L?

Articulation agreements with local Community Colleges for the Pre-Nursing Core are available on the Assist Web site (www.assist.org). Select Cal State San Marcos 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. If an integrated chemistry course with a lab that covers inorganic, organic and biochemistry, is not available at your institution, ideally we are looking for an Intro to Chemistry course with lab (not an Intro to General Chemistry) and an Intro to Organic and Biochemistry with lab. We will also accept an Intro to Chemistry or General Chemistry course (not an Intro to General Chemistry course) and lab and Organic Chemistry and lab as equivalents to our CHEM 100 and CHEM 100L.

5. I noticed that the Anatomy and Physiology courses at Cal State San Marcos are offered as a year-long sequence. Will you accept separate Anatomy and Physiology courses?

Yes. We will accept these courses for the Pre-Nursing Core as long as each Human Anatomy or Human Physiology course is taken separately as a 4-5 semester unit course that includes a lab. We will not accept a single semester of combined Anatomy/Physiology intended as a 'stand alone' course. It must be a two semester sequence of Anatomy & Physiology I and Anatomy & Physiology II, or separate semesters of Human Anatomy and Physiology, both with labs.
6. Can I meet with a Counselor or Advisor at Cal State San Marcos to review my transcripts?

Unfortunately we do not have the "manpower" to meet individually with prospective students to review transcripts. If you feel you have completed many of the required courses, we recommend that you visit the Extended Studies website, submit the Pre-Admission Advising Application (http://www.csusm.edu/el/acceleratedbsn/how_to_apply.php), the $50 application fee, and a copy of your transcripts. At that time, your transcripts will be evaluated and we will be able to help you develop your educational plan.

7. Do you offer Information Sessions?

Yes. Information Sessions are offered every month for prospective students who are interested in learning more about the Accelerated BSN program. Please see the following link for details:  http://www.csusm.edu/nursing/nursing_info_sessions.htm. At the end of each session, additional time is provided for individual questions. Reservations are not required to attend the Information Sessions, however, seating is on a space-available basis.

8. I have completed college coursework or a degree outside of the United States. How will I know which of these credits will be accepted at Cal State San Marcos?

You will need to have your coursework evaluated by an independent evaluation company. Please see our webpage on How To Apply for a list of foreign transcript evaluation companies that have been approved by CSUSM. You may choose any evaluation company on the list. Once you receive the official evaluation, please send a photocopy of the evaluation to:

Cal State University San Marcos
Extended Learning
333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd.
San Marcos, CA  92096
Attn: ABSN

The University will not accept Area A courses (A1, A2, and A3) from institutions outside of the country.

9. Will you accept a degree from Maric College?

The CSU campuses only accept units from institutions which are regionally accredited through WASC (Western Association of Schools & Colleges), or other associated regional accrediting agencies such as Middle States, North Central, etc. We do recognize any academic units earned through Maric College for the pursuit of any Nursing Licensure, to be applied towards a BSN degree at Cal State San Marcos, until such time as the institution achieves WASC accreditation. Furthermore, if Maric College obtains WASC accreditation in the future, only those units completed by a student after the date of accreditation was awarded would be considered for transfer credit here.
10. When does the program begin?

At this time, the ABSN program begins each fall. Please see [http://www.csusm.edu/el/acceleratedbsn/how_to_apply.php](http://www.csusm.edu/el/acceleratedbsn/how_to_apply.php) for more information regarding Admission Deadlines.

11. Do I need to take the TEAS Exam?

Yes. The TEAS Exam, or Test of Essential Academic Skills, is designed as a predictor of success for Nursing program applicants. Applicants must score a minimum composite score of 71.0% on this exam in order to be eligible for being admitted into the ABSN program. Points are awarded from composite scores ranging from 71.0% to 100%, as part of the Supplemental Admission Criteria for admission to the program. Please see ATI Testing ([www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com)) for information about review books and online practice exams. The University Career Center administers this test on campus throughout the year for students interested in Nursing programs. To sign up for the TEAS Exam, please visit: [http://www.csusm.edu/testingcenter/](http://www.csusm.edu/testingcenter/). You do not need to be an admitted student at the University in order to take the exam here. For more details on this exam, please contact our Testing Center at 760-750-4940.

12. I have heard that all Bachelor degree students at the University must complete a Language Other Than English Requirement. Is this true?

Yes. A graduation requirement for all Bachelor Degree students at the University is the Language Other Than English Requirement. This requirement applies to 2nd Bachelor degree students as well. Please visit the following University Web site to learn more about this requirement: [http://lynx.csusm.edu/llc/](http://lynx.csusm.edu/llc/).

13. Since I already have a Bachelors degree, will I be required to complete any other classes aside from the Nursing courses?

Yes. Students admitted to the program are required to complete the 3, CSU Upper-Division GE courses in residence at CSUSM. These courses are considered part of the ABSN program and will be scheduled through Extended Learning for the cohort. Each cohort will begin the ABSN program during fall semester by taking the required upper-division courses listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>GE Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BB BIOL 323</td>
<td>The Physiology of Nutrition &amp; Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC PHIL 345</td>
<td>Bioethics and Medical Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD ANTH 301</td>
<td>Culture &amp; Medicine Healers &amp; Healing Practices</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
14. Is acceptance to the program based solely on GPA?

No. Acceptance to the program is based on a number of items:

A. Completion of the Pre-Nursing Core

B. Completion of the Additional BRN, lower division GE coursework and Additional Graduation Requirements

C. G.P.A. in the Pre-Nursing Core

D. G.P.A. in the last 60 units

E. Score on TEAS Exam

F. Grades for science courses

Please see [http://www.csusm.edu/el/pdfs/Accelerated%20Point%20System.pdf](http://www.csusm.edu/el/pdfs/Accelerated%20Point%20System.pdf) for more information regarding the admissions point system.

15. I still have Biology and Chemistry courses to complete. Can I start the program and finish these classes later?

No. The Pre-Nursing Core must be completed prior to being admitted to the program. Furthermore, we anticipate that students will have completed the Additional BRN, lower division general education and additional graduation requirements prior to being accepted into the program.

16. May I continue to work during the program?

No. The Accelerated BSN is a full-time program and will require a major commitment of time to complete. Each student will be required to complete 65 semester units of study within the five academic-term program. Approximately 26 units of the program consist of clinical study, which begins as early as 7:00 a.m. or extends as late as 11:00 p.m. Prospective students should take into consideration the demanding nature of this program prior to submitting an application for admission. Clinical rotations may vary by day and time each month; therefore, students should not plan on working while enrolled in this program.

17. Are classes offered during the day or evening?

Depending on the semester class schedule and clinical rotations, courses will be held in during the day and in the evening.
18. Am I eligible to receive Financial Aid as a 2nd Bachelor Degree student?

Yes. All persons seeking Financial Aid must submit a FAFSA, Renewal FAFSA or FAFSA on the Web, between January 1 and March 2 for the following academic year to receive priority consideration for funds. Applications are accepted after March 2; however, funding options may be limited. Applications are available in the CSUSM Financial Aid and Scholarship Office and other colleges or local high schools. Be aware that in order to apply for any type of financial aid, all males between the ages of 18 and 26 are required to register with the selective service. CSUSM's Title IV School Code is 030113. Please visit http://www.csusm.edu/finaid/ for more information.