

NURSING Frequently Asked Questions

What is the EAC Nursing Program?

The EAC Nursing program prepares students for entry level employment as staff nurses providing direct patient care.

Does entry into the nursing program require prior admission? Yes, there is an application process with admission requirements.

How long will it take to complete the prerequisites to get in the program?

The prerequisites and application requirements may take the student two-three semesters depending on prior coursework completed.

How long will it take to complete the nursing training?

The program is designed to be completed in four semesters (two years) once a student is accepted into and starts the nursing program.

How long is the CPR card valid?

A current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) card is required for all EAC nursing students. These cards are valid for two years. An EMT 121, 0.50 credit, one-day Saturday course fulfills the requirement for the CPR card.

What is a typical weekly schedule like?

Students intending to pursue nursing should expect to spend a minimum of 45 hours per week for each nursing course, to include skills labs, clinicals, and study. If additional pre- or co-requisite classes are needed, additional time will be required for successful completion. All nursing courses must be passed with a "B" or better and all pre and co-requisites must be passed with a minimum of a "C" to remain in the program. Thus, any additional activities or employment should be limited.

How are applicants selected into the program?

- Students are selected and ranked according to a point scale. Points are awarded for the following:
 - Prerequisite and co-requisite courses.
 - Attendance at Eastern Arizona College/Gila Community College:
 - 1-2 courses – 1 point
 - 3 or more courses—2 points.

- **TEAS Entrance Exam**
- Recommended score of **proficient** or higher
 - Points for TEAS test as follows:
 - 3 points for exemplary (90.7 to 100% individual composite score)
 - 2 points for advanced (78.0 to 90.0% individual composite score)
 - 1 point for proficient (58.7 to 77.3% individual composite score)
 - No points for anything lower than proficient

When do you want students to take the TEAS Admission Exam? When is the ideal time?

Student should take the entrance exam several months prior to the Application due date. Test results must be within 12 months of application deadline. The policy for the TEAS exam is to have results within a year of application and no more than **four** attempts total to get the results of proficient.



What are the TEAS Admission Testing dates? Testing dates in Thatcher for nursing entrance will be the last Friday of the Month in January, and August, and all Fridays in February and September. Other dates may be added as needed. Globe and Payson campuses have different testing dates. All dates for testing will be posted in the Nursing Education Center and in the Counseling Offices. Registration at www.ATItesting.com along with the fee is required prior to the testing date. Registration must be complete by Wed. midnight prior to the Friday testing date.

What are the requirements to be admitted or start in the program?

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS – Must be completed for Application



- **Completed Nursing Program Application for Admission submitted prior to application date: October 1 for spring admission and March 1 for fall.**
- **EAC Reading Competency Test with a converted score of 76 or greater**
- **TEAS Nursing Entrance Exam with a minimum average of proficient. For information about testing dates and time call 928-428-8396 for the Thatcher campus and 928-425-8481 for Globe and Payson. Study guides are available at the EAC Nursing Building.**
- **Background check through Corporate Screening— www.VerifyStudents.com.**
- **Applicants working in healthcare, desiring credit toward admission, may provide a letter from their employer indicating position held, work quality, responsibility, and duration at that healthcare facility. The work in healthcare must be within the previous 2 years.**

Which classes are weighted to give more points for admission?

- Courses that help provide foundational information for nursing are weighted and thus given more points. These include:
 - CHM 130 (Fundamental Chemistry) or CHM 138 (preferred) or higher
 - BIO 201 (Anatomy and Physiology 1)
 - BIO 202 (Anatomy and Physiology 2)

HCE 240 (Human Pathophysiology)
 NUR 219 (Pharmacology for Nursing)--must have at least a "B" to be accepted or
 continue in program
 BIO 205 (Microbiology)

Are points assigned depending on the student's grades?

Students are selected on a point scale. Points are awarded for pre- and co-requisite courses. Higher points are awarded for good grades and some courses are weighted. In-progress courses do not receive points.

Weighted classes (sciences): A=4, B=3, C=1

Non-weighted classes: A=2, B=1.5, C=0.5

Sample Application Pointing:

Examples	Student all A's	Student all B's	Student all C's
PSY 101	2	1.5	0.5
MAT 100 or higher	No points awarded	No points awarded	No points awarded
CHM 138	4	3	1
BIO 201	4	3	1
BIO 202	4	3	1
BIO 205	4	3	1
NUR 219	4	3	1
HCE 240	4	3	1
ENG 101	2	1.5	0.5
ENG 102	2	1.5	0.5
HCE 241	2	1.5	0.5
Work Exp	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	33	25	9

In the instance of applicants having the same number of points there are other criteria we use to determine who would be chosen to be admitted to the program. They could include the following:

- EAC Compass or Accuplacer Reading Competency Test with a converted score of 76 or greater
- Entrance Exam Composite Score, particularly the science section
- Overall GPA, particularly in the weighted classes (Chemistry, A&P, Pharmacology, Micro, Pathophys)

After being Accepted into the Program:

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS – Must be completed prior to Admission to Program

(Documentation of admission requirements are due in the Thatcher Nursing office 2 business days prior to the start of the semester or the applicant's admission slot is forfeited.)

- Meet admission requirements for Eastern Arizona College
- Current American Heart Association **BLS** CPR card
- Current Arizona **Licensed Nursing Assistant** number in good standing
- Placement test score(s) as established by District policy that places the student into MAT 154 or successful completion of MAT 100 or higher with a grade of “C” or higher
- Meet the minimum math requirements set forth by the Nursing Program by demonstrating competency through testing or course completion by either taking HCE 116 Medical Dosage Calculations or achieving an 80% on the challenge exam .
- Upload Through ImmuniTrax: Complete Immunization Record, urine drug screen and Nursing Physical Form-(**after acceptance**)
- Transcript verification of the following **prerequisites with grades of “C” or better:**
 - CHM 130 or higher (CHM 138 Preferred)
 - MAT 100 Applied Mathematics or math placement score into MAT 154.
 - PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology
 - BIO 201 Anatomy & Physiology I

What type of uniforms do I need?

Nursing students wear scrubs designed for our program with the insignia of EAC Nursing Program. The tops must be purple, pants can be black, purple, or white. See Nursing Handbook for further details.

Am I required to have healthcare insurance?

Yes—some of our clinical partners require our students to carry personal healthcare insurance, so it is a requirement of our Program.

Are there physical limitations of which I should be aware?

It is essential that nursing students are able to perform a number of physical activities in the clinical setting. At a minimum, students will be required to lift fifty pounds, stand for several hours at a time, and perform bending during patient care. A physical exam must be completed prior to starting the program. Part of the entrance requirements also include a urine drug screen, which may not be covered by the student's insurance. Students are responsible for costs associated with these requirements. It is recommended the physical exam and urine drug screen be completed when students are accepted into the program—**this is not required for the Nursing Application.**

How many times a year do you accept applications into the program?

All three campuses (Thatcher, Globe and Payson) accept applications for the fall semester. Thatcher also accepts new students in the Spring. The Nursing Application must be received in the Nursing Office at Eastern Arizona College, 615 N. Stadium Avenue in Thatcher, AZ 85552 no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 1 for spring admission and March 1 for fall admission.

How many students are accepted in the fall and how many in the spring?

In Thatcher, 30 students are accepted in both the fall and spring semesters. The Globe and Payson campuses accept 24 students in the fall. We usually have more applicants than available space for the entering nursing students for any given application time.

How long is the wait to get in the program? We do not maintain a waiting list. Students not accepted must reapply.

Is there an “alternate” list for acceptance into the program?

Yes. A list of alternates is maintained until the beginning of the semester. Alternates are then ranked and may be accepted should space become available.

If I have lower grades in some classes do you recommend I retake some or all of those classes for a better grade? Will a “C” keep me out of the nursing program permanently?

Yes. Higher grades give the candidate higher overall points which increases chances for acceptance and more importantly provide increased foundational knowledge and success in the program. A "C" will not keep a student out of the nursing program.

Do you have to have at least a B average? Nursing courses (NUR 120, 130, 219, 240 and 250) require a grade of “B” or higher for successful completion. All other courses required for the AAS Nursing Degree must be a “C” or higher.



When can I expect to hear if I have been accepted into the program?

Applications are due Oct 1 for spring entry and March 1 for fall. All applications are checked for eligibility before submission to the selection committee. Top ranking applicants are presented to the College President for final approval. The process takes several weeks.

What type of degree will I earn from EAC?

Upon completion of the nursing program, you will be awarded the Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) in Nursing. An online application for graduation must be submitted approximately 2 months prior to graduation. The current fee is \$25 and that fee includes your cap and gown. Formal graduation ceremonies only take place in May of each year for summer, fall, and spring graduates. Students who do not petition to graduate will have the ability to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam delayed until the petition has been cleared for meeting graduation requirements.

Is the EAC Nursing Program Accredited?

Yes. The EAC Nursing Program is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Eastern Arizona College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

Will there also be a pinning ceremony for nursing?

Yes, in May for spring semester graduates and December for fall semester graduates.

What is the NCLEX-RN?

The NCLEX is the national exam that proves competency as a Registered Nurse. After successful completion of the nursing program, students are eligible to make an application to write the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

CHM 138, Introduction to General and Organic Chemistry is the preferred prerequisite chemistry class. Will any other chemistry class count in its place? Yes, CHM 130, CHM 151 and CHM 152 at EAC will suffice.

HCE 116-Medical Dosage Calculations. How can I prepare to take the challenge exam so I don't have to take the class? *"Calculate with Confidence"* is the textbook for the class. The text is on reserve in the EAC Library. Because it is on reserve, the text book may not be removed from the library at EAC.

Complete test or course Medical Dosage Calculations within 6 months of enrollment, not admissions. Do not do it too early.

PREREQUISITE QUESTIONS:

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT/LICENSED NURSING ASSISTANT

See an explanation at the Arizona State Board of Nursing website for the difference between CNA and LNA at <https://azbn.gov/licensure-certification/licensed-nursing-assistant/>

Can the Licensed Nursing Assistant class be "in-progress" at the time I apply?

Yes, but you must have your license number at least 2 business days prior to the beginning of the nursing program (NUR 120.) NUR 100 Nursing Assistant and a lab is the course one must take at EAC to become either a C N A or LNA.

At what point should I take the nursing assistant class (NUR 100)?

It must be complete and you must have successfully passed the testing and have a LNA number at least 2 business days prior to the beginning of the semester. Students must pass both the written and skills portion of the licensed nursing assistant examination prior to sending the

application for the LNA license to the Arizona State Board of Nursing. The application process could take up to two months or longer before final licensure.



Does the LNA license ever expire?

The Nursing Assistant license is good for two years. A student in the nursing program must have the LNA prior to starting classes when nursing admission has been approved. The student does not need to maintain the LNA certification unless it is needed for work.

Are you required to have a CPR card to be a LNA?

Yes. Your CPR certification must be American Heart Association, BLS level.

How many Saturday labs are required for the Nursing Assistant (NUR 100) course?

At least 5 clinical days which may be Saturdays and several skills lab days.

How long do I have from completion of the Nursing Assistant course to obtain the LNA license?

Two years from completion of the Nursing Assistant course.

Are there other ways to obtain a LNA license other than taking NUR 100 plus the lab (6 credits) through EAC?

Yes, you can train in any program that is approved by the State Board of Nursing as a LNA training program. You must have a valid LNA number in good standing to attend the EAC Nursing program.

I have already worked as a CNA but let my license lapse. Do I have to retake the class or can I challenge the Arizona LNA test?

The Arizona State Board of Nursing does not allow anyone to challenge the exam. Therefore, new training must take place. The student must also take the state test for licensure. If you have a CNA you must obtain the LNA prior to entrance into the program.

What if my CNA is from another state?

CNA Certification from another state must be transferred to the Arizona State Board of Nursing and you must get the Arizona LNA. The applicant would complete the C N A or LNA Endorsement Application Packet. Transcripts can be sent to the EAC Records department for course equivalency evaluation.

Is EAC considering eliminating the Licensed Nursing Assistant certification requirement?

Not at this point. The Licensed Nursing Assistant certification must be in place with an actual license number 2 business days prior to the first day of nursing classes (NUR 120).

Students desiring to take the NUR 100 course and lab must now obtain a background screening prior to starting the NUR 100 course. The cost is \$48.00. Students will go to www.VerifyStudents.com to register and enter EAST5884 when prompted.

SELECTION PROCESS



I took the CLEP exam and got credit for ENG 101 but no grade is assigned.

If there is no grade, a “B” is assigned.

Can prerequisite courses be in progress?

Yes, as long as the course is complete with an official transcript showing completion available prior to the beginning of the start of the nursing program.



If I placement test into MAT 154 and don't take a class, how are points assigned?

Points are not assigned for those who use placement testing to meet this requirement. MAT 100 and HCE 116 receive no points when the class is taken in place of testing.

How long will selection criteria remain in effect?

The nursing faculty reserves the right to make changes as needed.

What is the difference between 20702 Nursing-BSN Track and 20702 Nursing-RN Track

The Nursing-BSN Track degree prepares the student to enter the Concurrent Bachelor of Nursing Program. The Nursing -RN Associate of Applied Science degree prepares the student to apply to take the NCLEX exam and the graduate has met the requirements to work in the role of Registered Nurse.

Major Declaration: For financial aid purposes, if you intend to pursue a BSN, choose the 20702 Nursing-BSN major. If you qualify, this allows financial aid to pay for higher level math classes.

Will volunteer work help a student be accepted into the nursing program?

Working in the healthcare field allows an additional point to be added to the application, but currently volunteer hours do not affect an applicant's score for admission.



Are there questions not answered here that you would like see included? If so, please e-mail carolyn.mccormies@eac.edu.