EAC Nursing Program Frequently Asked Questions

Section 1: General Overview of the Program and Accreditation

What is the EAC Nursing Program?
The EAC Nursing Program is a two-year dynamic program that includes in-person classroom, clinical experiences, skills lab, simulation, and online components. Students are prepared for entry level employment as a Registered Nurse to provide direct patient care.

Is the EAC Nursing Program Accredited?
The EAC Nursing Program is approved through Arizona State Board of Nursing (AZBN) and is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). Eastern Arizona College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

What is the difference between 20702 AAS in Nursing -BSN Track and 20702 AAS in Nursing-AAS Track
By requiring MAT140 or higher, the AAS Nursing-BSN Track degree prepares the student to enter a concurrent Bachelor of Nursing Program through a partnering university or for most RN to BSN programs after graduation. The Nursing-AAS RN track requires the minimum MATH course (MAT100) for admission. Both tracks will award the Associate of Applied Science degree and prepares the student to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam to work in the role of Registered Nurse.
Major Declaration: For financial aid purposes, if you intend to pursue a BSN, choose the 20702 AAS Nursing-BSN Track option as your major. If you qualify, this allows financial aid to pay for higher level math classes.

Section 2: Application and Admission Processes

When is the Nursing Program Application for Admission due?
Nursing Applications must be submitted by the current deadline in the **Nursing Program Application for Admission**. Typically, it is around April 1 for the Fall semester start, or November 1 for the Spring semester start.

What requirements must be completed to submit a nursing program application?
- Meet admission requirements for Eastern Arizona College
- Read the Nursing Application and Information Guide
- Complete Nursing Program Application for Admission submitted prior to the deadline (typically April 1st for fall admission and November 1st for spring admission)
- For courses completed at institutions other than Eastern Arizona College, students must request Official Transcripts be sent to EAC. This should be done as soon as possible because it can take 2-3 weeks for evaluation of transcripts. Course work will not be included in the applicant's points until it is evaluated
- EAC Reading Competency / Placement Test demonstrating reading competency at the 12th grade level or above

- ATI TEAS Nursing Entrance Exam with a required score of **Proficient** or higher
- [DPS Fingerprint Clearance Card](#)
- Meeting with an EAC Academic Advisor is highly recommended prior to enrolling in courses for the nursing program or submitting an application

Can pre-requisite courses be in progress?
Yes, as long as the course is showing completion with an official transcript available prior to the start of the Nursing Program.

How are applicants selected for admission?
Students are ranked and selected according to an established point scale. Unique numbers are assigned to each student's file and selections are made without names. The process is anonymous and based solely on points. Successful students typically have good grades and several pre-requisite and co-requisite courses completed when they apply. Students who are considering the nursing program are highly encouraged to meet with an Academic Advisor.

- General Education Courses: PSY 101, ENG 101, ENG 102
  - 2 pt = A   1.5 pt = B   0.5 pt = C

- Science and Nursing courses: CHM 130 or higher, BIO201, BIO 202, BIO205, HCE 240, NUR 219* (grade of "B" or higher required for credit; it is a pre- requisite for NUR130)
  - 4 pt = A   3 pt = B   1 pt = C

- Course(s) in progress will not receive points until a grade is awarded

- Attendance at Eastern Arizona College:
  - 1 pt = 6 or more credits

- TEAS Entrance Exam: required score of <u>proficient</u> or higher:
  - 3 pt = Exemplary (90.7 to 100% individual composite score)
  - 2 pt = Advanced (78.0 to 90.0% individual composite score)
  - 1 pt = Proficient (58.7 to 77.3% individual composite score)
  - No points awarded for individual scores lower than proficient (Basic = <58.7%)

If applicants have equal points, criteria used to determine admittance include:
- EAC Placement test scores
- ATI – TEAS Nursing Entrance Exam Composite Score
- Overall GPA with special consideration to Science and Nursing classes (CHM 130, BIO 202, HCE 240, NUR 219)

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.

When can I expect to hear if I have been accepted into the program?
Each application received before the deadline is checked carefully for eligibility and point attribution. This process is repeated by the Admission and Progression Committee for final checks and ranking. The process takes several weeks *after* the application deadline. Applicants who are admitted are notified by email (provided on the application form and/or their MonsterMail) and sent their Admission Packet.

What are the <u>admission</u> requirements after being accepted into the Nursing Program?
All the criteria on the application is required and is used for selections. Although it is recommended that students already have the requirements listed below when they apply, some may have been "In Progress" during the application process. For these, students must be actively working towards completing them prior to the first day of NUR120.
- Current American Heart Association CPR Basic Life Support (BLS) card
- One of the following credentials is required:
  - Arizona Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) number that is current and in good standing OR a transcript copy showing NUR100 in progress (with an LNA number must be received prior to beginning NUR120) OR AZBN receipt

showing LNA application is "in progress."
- o Certified or Registered Medical Assistant (MA)
- o NREMT – Paramedic License
- HCE116 Medical Dosage Calculations course completion or achieve 70% or better on the challenge exam
- A negative background check and urine drug screen through Corporate Screening
- Required Immunization record and/or approved exemption(s) per our clinical partners
- Physical health screen (forms provided by the Nursing Program in Admission Packet)
- Transcript verification of the following **prerequisites with grades of "C" or better**:
    - o Placement test score(s) as established by District Policy that places the student into MAT154 or successful completion of MAT 100
    - o CHM 130 or higher (CHM 138 Preferred)
    - o PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology
    - o BIO 201 Anatomy & Physiology I

Documentation of admission requirements are due in the Nursing Office according to the due dates on the students' Admission Packet, or the admission slot is forfeited.

How many students are accepted into the Nursing Program each semester?
The Thatcher campus typically accepts 30 - 36 students each semester. Final determination is made based on faculty, clinical, and skills lab availability.

Is there a 'wait list' to be admitted into the Nursing Program?
EAC Nursing does not maintain a waiting list. Applicants who are not admitted must reapply the following semester. Students interested in reapplying the following semester should keep a copy of their submission materials – the Nursing Office does not maintain copies.

What does "alternate" status mean?
During the application selection process, several "alternates" are designated according to the point system. Alternates are re-ranked at the end of the semester when in-progress (IP) courses have been awarded grades. Alternates may be accepted due to points and course seat/clinical availability.

Is it recommended to retake courses to achieve a better grade or what should I do if I am not accepted into the Program?
Higher grades give the applicant greater overall points which increases the chance for acceptance into the Program. Perhaps more importantly, retaking a course may provide increased foundational knowledge and likely success in the Program.

Will volunteer work help a student be accepted into the Nursing Program?
Working in the healthcare field or volunteer hours do not increase points or affect an applicant's score for admission.

Section 3: Navigating the Nursing Program

How long will it take to complete the prerequisites of the Program?
The prerequisites and application requirements may take the student two to three semesters, depending on prior completed coursework and placement testing results.

How long will it take to complete the Program?
Once a student starts the nursing program, it is designed to be completed in four semesters (two years) after admission.

What is a typical weekly schedule?
Students should expect to spend a minimum of 20 to 40 hours each week in class, skills labs, clinicals, and study. If co-requisite classes are necessary, additional time will be essential for successful completion. All nursing courses (NUR-prefix) must be passed with a "B" or better and all pre and co-requisites must be completed with a minimum of a "C" to remain in the program. Because of the time commitment as a nursing program student, any additional activities or

employment should be carefully considered.

What is the uniform requirement?
Black scrub pants and purple scrub top with embroidered logo are the required uniform for the clinical component of each course. Purple scrub tops with the EAC logo may be purchased from the EAC Campus Bookstore. See Nursing Student Handbook for further details.

Am I required to maintain health insurance?
Although every reasonable effort is made to keep students safe, clinical experiences and related activities may place students at risk for illness and injury. Students are required to carry health insurance. Students are responsible for any occurrence of their own medical care related to illness and injury.

Are there physical limitations of which I should be aware?
During clinical experiences nursing students must be able to perform essential physical activities. At a minimum, students must be able to lift 50 pounds, stand for several hours, perform bending activities, hear and differentiate heart and breath sounds, and identify variation in skin tones. At times, the clinical experience may induce significant mental and emotional stress as students undertake responsibilities and duties that impact clients' lives. Students should be prepared to demonstrate rational and professional behavior under demanding conditions. Individuals should carefully consider the mental and physical demands of the program prior to applying.

Do I need to maintain at least a "B" average to complete the Nursing Program?
Nursing courses (NUR 120, NUR 130, NUR 219, NUR 240 and NUR 250) require a grade of "B" or higher for successful completion and eligibility to advance to the next nursing course. All other courses required for the AAS Nursing Degree must be a "C" or higher.

What is the cost estimate for the Nursing Program?

Item	Amount
DPS Criminal Background Check	$70
CPR Course	$50
Background & Toxicology Screening	$110
Physical Exam/Immunizations	Varies
Required Textbooks / Online resources	$1,395
Lab & Technology Fee (per semester)	$575
ATI fee per semester	$190
Tuition Az res 2025-2026AY 9credits/12credits	$882/$1176
Uniforms/Shoes/Clinical Supplies	Approx $150
Licensing in NUR250	$550
Travel for out-of-town clinicals: fuel, food, lodging (per semester)	Varies

Additional fees include but are not limited to: Health insurance and additional credit hours for tuition or out of state tuition for classes. The cost of tuition is based on the number of credit hours you enroll in each semester. The tuition you pay is determined by whether you are an in-state resident or a non-resident. Refer to Admission Tuition and Fees. Travel expenses vary greatly based on distance from clinical site and lodging situation.

What degree will I earn from EAC after I complete the Nursing Program?
Upon completion of the Nursing Program all degree criteria, students will be awarded the Associate of Applied Science degree (AAS) in Nursing. Students should file a petition for graduation through the student portal at my.eac.edu online system. Once degree eligibility is confirmed, the student is eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam.

What is the NCLEX-RN?

After successful completion of the Nursing Program, students are eligible to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). The NCLEX-RN is the national exam that proves competency as a registered nurse.

How long is the BLS CPR card valid?
A current American Heart Association Basic Life Support (BLS) Healthcare-Provider certification is required for all nursing students. EMT 121 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (0.5 credit) may fulfill the requirement for CPR certification. Certification is valid for two years.

Section 4: Questions about the Licensed Nursing Assistant license and requirements

Can the Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) class be "in-progress" at the time of application?
NUR 100: Nursing Assistant may be in-progress at the time of application, but you must have a license number before the first day of NUR 120. The course must be complete with successful pass of the written and skills portion of Arizona State Board testing and application for LNA to the Arizona State Board of Nursing in order to receive an LNA number. The issuance of an LNA number from the state board may take several months. Students may be accepted into the program with the course completion and successful pass of the exam, but since the LNA number must be issued before the first day of class, it is suggested that students take NUR 100 at least one semester prior to application.

When does the LNA license expire?
An LNA certification is valid for two (2) years. A student in the Nursing Program must have a current LNA number prior to the start of classes, however, students are not required to maintain the LNA certification as part of the Program.

How long do I have from completion of the NUR 100: Nursing Assistant course to obtain an LNA license?
Students are required to test for LNA within two (2) years of completion of the Nursing Assistant course.

Is there another way to obtain a LNA license besides NUR 100: Nursing Assistant?
Applicants may train in any Nursing Assistant program approved by the Arizona State Board of Nursing.

I let my LNA license expire. Can I test out of the course?
The Arizona State Board of Nursing does not allow for testing out of the course for renewal. Therefore, new training, testing, and licensure must take place. If you have a CNA you must obtain the LNA prior to entrance into the program.

What if my Nursing Assistant credential is from another state?
CNA certification by Endorsement means that you have graduated from an approved nursing assistant program, taken the state nursing assistant exam, and have been granted CNA certification by another state. If you wish to apply for CNA certification in Arizona, you will need to complete the [CNA Endorsement application](). You must apply for the Arizona LNA.

Section 5: Additional Information / Contacts

- If you have questions about the order in which you should register for courses, please contact the **Academic Advising** office at 928-428-8332 or email [academicadvisingoffice@eac.edu]()

- If you have questions about **Financial Aid** please contact 928-428-8287 or email [finaid@eac.edu]()

- If you have questions about registration or declaring Nursing as your major, please contact the **Admissions and Registration** office at 928-428-8270 or email [records@eac.edu]()

Additional questions? Contact the nursing office at 928-428-8396 or by emailing [nursing@eac.edu]()