



How to Become a Nurse in California

1. Is Nursing the right career for you?

- a. Registered nurses provide and coordinate patient care and educate patients and the public about various health conditions. Nurses must possess many important qualities such as critical-thinking skills, communication skills, compassion, detail oriented, emotional stability, organizational skills, and physical stamina. To learn more about the field of nursing click [HERE!](#)
- b. You can also learn more about similar occupations in the medical field by clicking [HERE](#) and/or take a healthcare career assessment to see if there are other areas of the medical field that may also interest you by clicking [HERE](#).

2. Educational Paths to Nursing

- a. **Associates Degree in Nursing**- Typically takes 2 years after completing nursing program prerequisites. Offered at many community colleges. Prepares you to provide registered nursing care in numerous settings.
- b. **Bachelor's Degree in Nursing**- Typically takes 2-3 years after completing nursing prerequisites. Offered at many California State Universities and some private colleges. Prepares you to provide registered nursing care in numerous settings and to move to administrative and leadership positions.

3. What universities offer my major? The short answer is lots and lots. Here are some online tools to help you get started with your search. You can also schedule an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center and/or a Counselor for assistance finding the right university for YOU!

- a. Click [HERE](#) to access Associate Degree programs in California.
- b. Click [HERE](#) to access Baccalaureate Degree programs in California.

4. Decide on which nursing programs you want to apply to early so that you and your counselor can work together to make sure you fulfill the required prerequisite courses for the program. Not all nursing programs have the exact same prerequisites, therefore, it is important to decide early to ensure you complete the admissions requirements in a timely manner.

5. Take good notes and stay organized. As you decide on which nursing programs you want to apply to, take good notes and write down important information such as GPA requirements, course requirements, application deadlines, and any tests that are required for admission.

6. Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). Many, but not all, nursing programs require students to take the TEAS exam and receive a minimum passing score to be considered for admission to a nursing program. The TEAS is designed to assess a student's preparedness entering the health science fields. The test is comprised of 170 questions set up in a multiple-choice format with four-option answers. Questions are designed to test the basic academic skills you will need to perform in class in the areas of: Reading, Math, Science, and English and Language Usage.

- a. Keep in mind that approximately 40% of students have to take the TEAS more than once, so prepping for the TEAS is crucial. Click [HERE](#) to see all your ATI test prep options.



It is highly recommended that you book an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center and attend as many workshops as possible. You can contact the Transfer & Career Center by emailing transfer@barstow.edu or click [HERE](#) to watch a short video on how to schedule an appointment with the Transfer & Career Center through College Central Network.

You should also meet with your Counselor consistently to establish career/educational goals and to stay on track with completing your certificate and/or degree. You can schedule an appointment with a counselor by logging into your Viking Portal and clicking "Schedule a Counseling Appointment"; select "Transfer" as the appointment reason or click [HERE](#) to watch a short video on How to Schedule a Counseling Appointment.

- **Attend Information Sessions** for the schools and/or programs you are interested in. You can visit the school website or email the school, department, or representative/advisor to see when there will be an information session.
- **Gather Important Information** such as cost per unit, length of program, and estimated total cost of completing the entire program. Use this information to compare universities and make your decision as to which universities you want to apply to. It is recommended that you apply to 3-4 universities.
- **Check for Application Fee Waivers** by inquiring with university advisors/representatives. Almost all universities have an application fee waiver process, especially for low-income students. In addition, the [CSU](#) and [UC](#) admissions applications has the fee waiver criteria built into the application in order to make it an automated process.
- **Stay Organized** by keeping all the information you collect in an easily accessible place such as a Word document or bookmark important websites on your computer.
- **Don't Miss a Deadline** or you might live to regret it! Keep track of the application deadlines for each school. The CSU's and UC's Fall applications are from October-November. Spring Applications are between May-August.