FAQ’s Information Sessions/Website

• What are the required pre-requisites for the nursing major?
  o **Sciences:** Organic OR Biochemistry 3 units, Anatomy w/lab = 4 units, Physiology w/lab = 4 units, and Microbiology w/lab 4 units.
  o **Non-Science:** English composition, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Statistics
  o Look for the pre-licensure “Information Roadmap” on the CSUS University web site located in the nursing link.

• Will the pre-requisites I’ve taken at a community college count for admission?
  o Yes! Check the Equivalence Grid (HECC) on the website to see which local community college courses match up with the CSUS requirements, or log onto www.assist.org to check other community college equivalencies for the state.

• Why do I have to take 2 Chemistry courses at the community college?
  o We require Organic Chemistry for our program; generally Inorganic Chemistry is a pre-requisite for Organic Chemistry at most community colleges.

• Why do I have to take so many science courses?
  o The nursing major is a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree. Nursing is defined as “the scientific art of using knowledge of unitary human beings who are in mutual process with their environments for the well-being of people” (Barrett, E. M., 2010)

• How are students selected for the program?
  o Applicants earn points based on 1) overall GPA, 2) Science & non-science GPA, and a 3) TEAS test score. Minor points are awarded for, 4) 2nd language ability, 5) healthcare experience, 6) residing within the 6 county service area, and 7) being a current CSUS student.
  o A score is assigned for each of the 7 areas, and an overall score is calculated. The admission list is generated by the overall score, with the top candidates and alternates. All applicants will receive a letter notifying them of their status.

• What if I’m an alternate?
  o Traditionally we have had to go to the alternate list. Because nursing is an impacted program everywhere, students apply from all over the state. Oftentimes students accept offers closest to their home - resulting in an opening for another student.
  o If you are an alternate and still need to complete a course for admission, complete that course as you may be the next candidate on the alternate list when a space opens up. If you haven’t completed all the pre-req’s you won’t be able to begin the program.

• What is a TEAS test and what is the average admission score?
  o This is a multiple-choice assessment of your basic academic knowledge in reading, mathematics, science, English, and language usage. The objectives assessed on the TEAS exam are those which nurse educators nationally deemed most appropriate and relevant to measure entry level skills and abilities of nursing program applicants.
There is a time limit of 209 minutes to take the computerized test. The questions are “four-option” multiple-choice with 170 total questions. Calculators may NOT be used for the test.

Average admission scores range: 84% - 87%. A minimum of 75% (TEAS IV) or (67% TEAS V) is required to apply.

You may retake the TEAS test only twice (a total of 3) for our admission to our program.

- **How do I sign up for the TEAS test, what does it cost, and where is it held?**
  - Complete the application on the *nursing website* on the ATI-TEAS website link.
  - The application form will direct to the TEAS website for you to obtain an “ATI” Identification (ID) number that will become *your* permanent ID number.
  - The test requires a Money Order for payment.
  - Register for the TEAS test in the nursing department.
  - The test is scheduled on the CSUS campus once a semester, and is also held on other university and community college campuses that use TEAS testing.

- **How many students apply to the program?**
  - Fall applications number over 200
  - Spring applications number over 150

- **How many students are admitted to the program each Semester?**
  - Currently 30 students are admitted each Fall & Spring

- **What is the GPA range of the students admitted to the program?**
  - Overall GPA scores range: 3.4 – 3.76
  - Science GPA scores range: 3.30 – 3.82

- **How long is the program?**
  - The actual nursing courses take 3 years to complete; however, completion of prerequisites is NOT included in those 3 years.
  - There is time “built-in” to the nursing program for the completion of General Education requirements, check out the Roadmap on the Nursing website to see where you might be able to fit extra classes into your schedule.
  - *If* the Roadmap is followed exactly - the timeframe including pre-requisites is exactly 4 years.

- **Can I take nursing courses in any order I want?**
  - No, the program is sequential; each course builds upon another throughout the program.

- **What if I become ill, or for some reason I can’t continue the nursing program?**
  - If you leave the program in “good standing” you may apply to rejoin the next cohort where you left off, on a “space available” basis.

- **What is a cohort?**
  - A cohort is what we call a group of students admitted together each semester based on the year & semester that they will graduate.

- **When do I get actually go into the hospital and take care of patients?**
  - You begin clinical at the end of the 1st semester. The classes you complete in the first semester prepare you with the essential skills and knowledge you need to be safe in the clinical setting.

- **Do I need a uniform, how much does it cost and where do I get it?**
o There is a school uniform and it costs about $150.00 for the set of scrub pants, scrub top and lab coat that are purchased in the University Bookstore.

o You will also need a black pair of leather work shoes, a watch with a second hand and a stethoscope for the clinical setting.

- **Where are the hospitals that the program uses for clinical?**
  o We have clinical placements in Modesto & Turlock, and as far south as Madera and north up to Stockton.

- **Can I pick which hospital I want to have for clinical?**
  o No. We strive to rotate students through each of the clinical sites in order to provide students with diverse experiences available within the Central Valley.

- **What is the passing rate for CSUS students taking NCLEX?**
  o Our passing rate for first time test takers is an average of 97%!

- **Is the CSU Stanislaus nursing program accredited?**
  o We are proud to say that we were accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) in 2006. Our program received a 10 year accreditation, which is the highest recognition earned.

- **Why should I get a B.S.N. degree?**
  o Many RN positions, especially those with supervisory roles, require applicants to have a B.S.N.
  o The B.S.N. curriculum gives students a broad knowledge of professionalism, nursing theory, and research, which lays the foundation for further study and prepares you to be tomorrow’s nursing leaders.
  o B.S.N. graduates can work in almost any setting, including in traditional healthcare facilities such as clinics, nursing homes, and hospitals; in businesses such as book publishers, pharmaceutical and insurance companies, and law firms; and in other places, such as schools, psychiatric units, and home-care agencies.
  o The B.S.N. degree also opens the door for professional certification in specialty areas of nursing practice and leads to an expanded role as a provider, designer, manager, and coordinator of patient care as well as provides the foundation for graduate education.

- **What else do I get with my B.S.N. degree?**
  o You will also earn Public Health Nurse Certification which allows you to apply/work in the Public Health setting.

- **What’s the difference between a B.S.N. and A.D.N. Degree?**
  o The main difference in study between an A.D.N. and B.S.N. is the emphasis on additional education in professionalism, leadership and management, wellness, research, and community nursing.
  o B.S.N. prepared nurses possess greater knowledge of health promotion, disease prevention, and risk reduction as well as illness and disease management, and are prepared to assist individuals, groups, and communities to prevent disease and achieve optimum levels of wellness.

- **Shouldn’t every nurse be a B.S.N.?**
  o That’s an individual choice each person needs to make for themselves, but there is an increased emphasis on baccalaureate education for nursing.
  o Increased education leads to increased responsibilities and increased career opportunities which give rise in turn to increased pay.
• **Why should I come to CSU Stanislaus?**
  o Our small cohort size encourages closeness and provides support for students in the difficult major of nursing.
  o Our NCLEX passing rate is in the 95-100% range.
  o We have very little attrition from our program, most students who start in our program – finish our program.
  o You will complete 871 hours of clinical experience in our program, which gives you lots of “hands-on” patient care practice.
  o We have a diverse makeup in our student cohorts, with about 50% of our students coming from ethnic minorities.
  o The faculty will support you through your journey to becoming a registered nurse.

• **What is the approximate overall cost for the program?**
  o Tuition for 4 years approximately $22,000.00 but can change each year.
  o Books cost approximately $100 - $500.00 semester
  o Course Fees – range from $9.00 to $150.00 each semester.
  o Miscellaneous fees are your uniform & shoes, a watch with a second hand, a stethoscope, and gas to & from clinical.

• **Is there financial aid available for nursing?**
  o The University Financial Aid department has many resources available, their information and forms are located on the University website under financial aid.
  o There also are scholarships available through the Financial Aid/Scholarship Department.