



Nursing Program Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process:

Q. How do I apply to the Nursing Program at the Maricopa Community Colleges?

A. The Newsletter and the Information & Application packets are on the web site: www.nursing.maricopa.edu. The directions and the admission process are described in the packet. Applicants may turn in completed applications with the required documents to the college that has your transcripts and Student Information Form. The application is to the nursing program and not for a specific college. You will be able to select the colleges of your choice once your application is verified and you are entered into the data base. One application is all you need to be considered for placement at any one of the Maricopa Community Colleges offering the nursing program.

Q. How does the nursing admission and placement process work?

A. Effective January 2, 2008 the nursing program will no longer accept provisional applications. Only applications that meet all admission requirements are accepted. To avoid the potential of waiting lines, complete applications are accepted at any time. At the end of each application period listed in the Information & Application Packet, the campus advisor enters the application into a computer data base. All applications received during that period will receive a random date and time stamp.

Applicants are placed in the program depending on the date and time stamp and their choices of sites. When a position becomes available at one of your choices, you will receive a letter and/or email notifying you of your placement. To accept the placement, you must sign and return the form as directed in the letter.

Q. How do I monitor my application and/or change my choices?

A. Once you meet the requirements of the admission process, you can monitor your application at the Application Status page at www.nursing.maricopa.edu. You can change your choices as often as you choose.

The college sites and types of schedules change twice per year and the current list is on the web site under Prospective Students, Program Options (<http://www.nursing.maricopa.edu/pdfdocs/ProgramOptions.pdf>). Notices are sent to the applicants by e-mail when the new schedules appear and are open for new choices. When on the Application status page, make sure your e-mail address, home address, and phone numbers are correct.

General Admission/Waiting List

Q. Is the admission process for the Nursing Program competitive? How long does it usually take to be accepted into the program?

A. The Nursing Program does not have a competitive acceptance process. Once a student meets the admission requirements and the application is accepted, the applicant will receive admission to the college that he/she chooses. The nursing program has a placement waiting list, not a true waiting list. The advantage to the applicant is placement at the college of choice. Because this is a placement process, there is no way to tell applicants exactly when they can expect admission because the wait depends on the choices made by the applicant and all other applicants. Generally the waiting time is totally dependent on the applicants' flexibility in choosing among the sites and willingness to explore the many partnership options available.



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Q. What can I do while I am waiting for placement in one of the colleges?

A. The applicants waiting for placement should check one of the RN to BSN completion programs at <http://nursing.maricopa.edu/Resources.php>. Applicants can begin taking the additional courses necessary for transferring to the universities. All pre-nursing students are eligible to sign up for the ASU/MCCD Nursing Alliance at <http://www.maricopa.edu/alliance/> for specific assistance in completing the necessary courses for the BSN degree.

Admission - Transcript Evaluation

Q. I have taken courses at colleges and universities other than through the Maricopa Community Colleges. How will I know if the nursing program will accept my courses?

A. There is a two-step process to determine whether your courses will transfer. First, you must have the college you attended send an official transcript directly to **one** of the nine Maricopa Community Colleges listed in the Information & Application Packet. Choose the college that you will submit your nursing application to as the college of your first choice. Second, contact the Admissions and Records office at the college you have chosen and request an evaluation of your transcripts. The Admissions and Records office will determine which of your courses transfer in as course requirements or electives. Maricopa Community Colleges accept all eligible courses regardless of age of course.

Admission - Out of County or State

Q. I am requesting information on the nursing program. I live in another state and was wondering if it is possible to have an over the phone advisement session?

A. Please check the nursing web site for information about the program and locations within the Maricopa Community Colleges www.nursing.maricopa.edu/. Start with the Newsletter. This document gives the information you need to apply and is updated each January and July. You can also check out <http://www.rio.maricopa.edu/> for all your on-line needs such as on-line advising.

Admission - NET Exam

Q. If I take the NET test at a school outside of the Maricopa Community Colleges will you accept it or do I have to take the NET at one of the Maricopa Colleges?

A. An applicant may take the NET at a location outside of the Maricopa Community Colleges only if the scores are sent directly from the administering school or agency to the admissions office at one of the colleges. The admissions office will only accept NET scores that can be verified by a letter from the nursing program administrator at the college administering the exam.

Q. Are all NET scores verified and what happens if the college staff cannot verify my results?

A. Yes, the college staff verifies all NET scores. If the staff discovers that your NET scores were altered, your application will be denied and returned to you. All applicants must provide truthful and accurate information to be eligible for entry into the professional nursing program.



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Clinical Experiences:

Q. Where do the students do their clinicals and what hospitals does the nursing program use?

A. The Maricopa nursing students attend over 100 different clinical agencies. Once you receive placement, you will receive an admission packet from the college. In most cases, your schedule will be in the packet for the first semester. Often the clinical locations are not available until the start of the semester. You will receive information about your clinical assignment once you begin the nursing classes and the sites are confirmed by the individual hospitals.

Transfer Among The Maricopa Colleges

Q. Once I am admitted to the program, can I transfer to another one of the colleges if I move to the other side of the Valley or if I find that I need a part-time schedule?

A. The nursing students have the ability to transfer to another college site or a different type of program according to the guidelines in the Nursing Student Handbook. You will receive this handbook during your orientation to the nursing program.

Financial Aid:

Q. I submitted my application at the college of my first choice, but was placed at a different college. What will I need to do about my Financial Aid and other pertinent records?

A. Regarding your financial aid, contact the financial aid office in which you submitted your application. They should be able to provide information on transferring your financial aid records to the college at which you were placed. In regards to other pertinent records (i.e. Nursing Program application), your records will be transferred upon receipt of your Confirmation of Intent letter, indicating you accept your placement.

Q. If I attend a partnership program, accelerated option or part-time option, how will it affect my financial aid?

A. Partnership programs do not generally affect your financial aid awards. The accelerated program is 16 to 18 months and this is equivalent to three semesters, not 4. Students in accelerated programs generally receive 3 semesters of financial aid. The part-time programs are obviously on a part-time schedule so generally receive a partial financial aid award in any one semester.

Disability:

Q. If a potential nursing student has a disability and needs academic accommodations that would not alter the essential skills of the class, should they work with the college disability office or should they go through the college's nursing program for their accommodations?

A. The Essential Functions guidelines are on the web site: www.nursing.maricopa.edu for the physical requirements of the nursing program. You will find the document under "Prospective Students." Each college has a disability coordinator and the student makes contact with this person first to gather proper documentation. The disability coordinator works with the nursing director at the college to determine if the accommodations are reasonable for nursing and are in compliance with the policies of the hospitals for the required clinical experiences in patient care.



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Criminal History

Q. If I have a current shoplifting criminal record, will it affect my admission to the nursing program? Will it affect my ability to get a license?

A. The nursing program does not answer specific questions about criminal records. Our requirement is for you to have a valid and current fingerprint card through the Department of Public Safety. Once you receive one and it is current and valid, you will meet this requirement of the nursing program.

The nursing program cannot answer specific licensing questions. Licensure is the exclusive right and responsibility of the State Board of Nursing. Students must satisfy the requirements of the Nurse Practice Act: Statutes, Rules and Regulations, independently of any college or school requirements for graduation. See http://www.azbn.gov/documents/applications/RN_LPN%20Exam%20Packet.pdf, or Page 1 of the application for LPN and RN Licensing Exam for information on the Felony Bar.

An additional barrier to admission may be the OIG Exclusion list. All applicants must prove clearance upon admission and during enrollment in the nursing program. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) was established in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify and eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse in the Department's programs and to promote efficiency and economy in Departmental operations. You can check your status at <http://exclusions.oig.hhs.gov/>.

All students attending the nursing program are tested for drugs and will undergo a background check. Any student unable or unwilling to provide clearance according to the health and safety guidelines will not be permitted to continue in any nursing class.

Continuing Education – RN to BSN Program

Q. When I transfer to the university to complete my BSN, do I need to take CHM 130 and CHM130LL even if I was exempt due to my high school course?

A. Many of our graduates go on to complete their BSN. The requirements differ for each of the many colleges/universities accepting students into the RN to BSN program. Some of the universities require that you take a college level chemistry and some do not.

If you are interested in attending ASU, we have a partnership with them called the Alliance. See this web site for the check list of courses required for the ASU RN to BSN Program.

<http://www.maricopa.edu/alliance/nursing/>

MCCD Nursing Program Contacts:

Web Page: <http://www.nursing.maricopa.edu>

E-mail: nursing@domail.maricopa.edu

Hot line: 480.731.8264