



## **Nursing Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the GilaCC Nursing Program?**

The GilaCC 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.

### **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 November 1 for the Spring semester start or April 1 for the Fall semester start.

### **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?**

The Nursing Program is designed to be completed in four semesters (two years) after admission.

### **What Degree will I earn from GilaCC 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 must file a petition for graduation. Once degree eligibility is confirmed, the student is eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam.

### **What is the cost estimate for the Nursing Program?**

#### **Nursing Program Fees 2025-2026 Academic Year**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Tuition and Fees for In State Students</b>	\$98/credit. Program estimate \$7350
<b>Nursing Lab Fee per semester/program</b>	\$575/\$2,300

<b>Textbooks/Online Resources</b>	\$600
<b>ATI Total Program Cost</b>	\$4,000 (1,000/semester)
<b>TEAS Entrance Exam</b>	\$120
<b>DPS Criminal Background check</b>	\$70
<b>Background/Toxicology Check</b>	\$120
<b>Physical/Immunizations</b>	Varies
<b>MyClinicalExchange per semester/year</b>	\$20/\$80
<b>Supplies (stethoscope, watch, etc.)</b>	\$150
<b>Uniform</b>	\$300
<b>NCLEX PN® (optional)</b>	\$550
<b>NCLEX RN®</b>	\$550
<b>Travel for out-town clinicals per semester</b>	Varies Per Semester (hotel, gas, food)
<b>Testing Security Technology</b>	\$25/\$100
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>	\$15,440 or 15,990 with LPN

**\*\*\*Program fees are subject to change. All Fees are approximations\*\*\***

### **Is the GilaCC Nursing Program Accredited?**

The GilaCC Nursing Program has state approval through Arizona State Board of Nursing (AZBN) and GilaCC is nationally accredited by ACCJC.

### **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.

### **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. Consequently, any additional activities or employment should be carefully considered.

### **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.

- Non-weighted courses: PSY 101, ENG 101, ENG 102, HCE 241
  - 2 pt = A 1.5 pt = B 0.5 pt = C
- Weighted courses: CHM 130, BIO 202, HCE 240, NUR 219\* (grade of "B" or higher required for credit; it is a prerequisite 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 Gila Community College:
  - 1 pt = 1-2 courses or 2 pt = 3 or more courses
- TEAS Entrance Exam: required score of proficient 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%)

### **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 Selection 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 student email) and mailed their Admission Packet via postal service.

If applicants have equal points, criteria used to determine admittance include:

- Placement test scores
- Entrance Exam Composite Score
- Overall GPA with special consideration to weighted classes (CHM 130, BIO 202, HCE 240, NUR 219)

### **Is it recommended to retake courses to achieve a better grade?**

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.

### **How many students are accepted into the Nursing Program each semester?**

The Payson and Globe each accept up to 24 students in each cohort. Final determination is made based on faculty, clinical, and skills lab availability.

### **Is there a 'wait list' to be admitted into the Nursing Program?**

GilaCC 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.

### **What do I need to know about the ATI TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) Exam?**

Applicants must take the ATI TEAS exam prior to the application deadline. Applicants who wish to improve their score may have up to two (2) attempts per semester and no or more than four (4) attempts per year. Test scores are valid for two (2) years. Applicants must register and pay testing fees at least 48 hours before the selected exam time. Register through [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com)

### **What requirements must be completed for application?**

- o Completed Nursing Program Application for Admission submitted prior to the deadline (typically April 1st for fall admission and October 1st for spring admission)
- o For courses completed at institutions other than Gila Community College, students must request Official Transcripts be sent to GilaCC. 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.
- o Reading Competency / Placement Test demonstrating reading competency at the 12th grade level or above
- o ATI TEAS Nursing Entrance Exam with a required score of Proficient or higher

- o DPS Fingerprint Clearance Card

**What are the admission requirements after being accepted into the Nursing Program?**

- Meet admission requirements for GilaCC
- Current American Heart Association CPR Basic Life Support (BLS) card
- Current Arizona Licensed Nursing Assistant number in good standing
- HCE116 Medical Dosage Calculations course completion or achieve 75% 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:
  - Placement test score(s) as established by District Policy that places the student into MAT154 or successful completion of MAT 100
  - CHM 130 or higher (CHM 138 Preferred)
  - PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology
  - BIO 201 Anatomy & Physiology I

Documentation of admission requirements can be submitted on either campus in the office and faxed to the nursing secretary. Documents are due in the Payson Nursing Office according to the due dates on the students’ Admission Packet, or the admission slot is forfeited.

**What is the uniform requirement?**

We are working to find a partner for this process. We will be requiring grey scrub pants and scrub top with embroidered logo are the required uniform for the clinical, lab and volunteer hours. As there are many shades of grey, we ask that students do not purchase scrubs until this process has been clarified and you receive directions from your instructors. Please see the Nursing Student Handbook for further details on uniform and attire guidelines.

**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.

**Are there physical limitations of which I should be aware?**

During clinical experiences nursing students must be able to perform essential physical activities. 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. Please see the nursing student handbook for requirements.

**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.

**How do I test out of HCE 116: Medical Dosage Calculations?**

Prior to admission, medical math proficiency is demonstrated by completion of HCE 116: Medical Dosage Calculations. However, students may opt to test out of the course by successfully passing the Medical Dosage Calculation challenge exam with a 75% or higher. Students may prepare for the exam using the HCE116 course textbook: Calculate with Confidence by Deborah C. Gray Morris. There is a text on reserve at the EAC Library.

**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.

**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 NUR110. The course must be complete with successful pass of the written and skills portion of Arizona State Board testing 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 two (2) semesters 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 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 CNA 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. 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 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.

**Additional questions? Contact [megan.martinez@gilacc.org](mailto:megan.martinez@gilacc.org)**