



2026 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ASSOCIATE DEGREE REGISTERED NURSING (RN) ACCELRRATED PROGRAM

Apply June 2026/Program Start January 2027/Complete December 2027

Online applications accepted June 1, 2026, at 9:00 am through June 30, 2026, at 4:00 pm

Admission criteria are subject to change from year to year. It is the applicant's responsibility to meet current requirements and due dates.

The Cuesta College RN program is approved by the California Board of Registered Nurses (BRN). The program graduates students with an associate degree in nursing (ADN).

Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), leading to licensure as a Registered Nurse (RN). RN program licensure exam pass rates are listed at: www.rn.ca.gov/education/passrates.shtml.

Class selection is determined through an evaluation of academic preparation, TEAS score, work experience, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement to determine the most qualified applicants to be selected to interview. There are no points and no waitlist associated with this application. Applicants not admitted to the program must reapply in a future application cycle.

IMPORTANT DATES

May 31, 2026	Deadline to complete prerequisite courses
June 1-30, 2026	Online applications accepted for Spring 2027 admission
June 30, 2026	Deadline to submit official transcripts from non-Cuesta colleges attended
June 30, 2026	Deadline to complete LVN work experience
July 31, 2026	Deadline to take ATI TEAS assessment test
July 31, 2026	Deadline to submit official ATI transcript with TEAS score
August 7, 2026	Notification of interview invitation status
September 15, 2026	Notification of admission status
October 2026	Orientation for the Accelerated RN Class of 2027
December 31, 2026	Deadline to complete additional BRN and associate degree required coursework

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Refer to the Application Instructions on the next page for more detailed information.

1. Prerequisite coursework must be completed and grades posted on transcripts prior to applying . Must have a combined GPA of 2.50 or higher in Microbiology, Human Anatomy, and Human Physiology. No grade lower than a 'C' in any of the prerequisite courses.

Prerequisite Courses	Credits
BIO 204 - Microbiology with lab or equivalent course taken at another college*	5 Credits
BIO 205 - Human Anatomy with lab or equivalent course taken at another college*	4 Credits
BIO 206 - Human Physiology with lab or equivalent course taken at another college*	5 Credits
ENGL 201A - English Composition or equivalent course taken at another college*	4 Credits

*All non-Cuesta prerequisite courses are reviewed for equivalency to Cuesta College prerequisite courses. (See Application Instructions, step 3 of this packet for prerequisite equivalency evaluation information).

- Online science labs are not accepted, unless completed Spring 2020-Spring 2022.
- "In Progress" prerequisite courses are not accepted. Completed courses must be posted on transcripts.
- Grades of 'C minus' and below are not accepted in any prerequisite coursework.
- To convert quarter credits to semester credits (Quarter credits X .667 = Semester credits).

2. California LVN License, current and in good standing.
3. Minimum 550 hours of LVN work experience within the past 2 years. completed by June 30, application deadline.
4. Completion of ATI TEAS Test (Version 7) taken within the timeframe: August 1, 2025-July 31, 2026. Official score must be submitted no later than July 31, 2026.
 - Only the first test score in the timeframe above can be accepted.
 - Minimum accepted score is 62%.
5. Official transcripts from ALL non-Cuesta colleges attended submitted by application deadline.
 - International transcripts must be formally evaluated.
6. Supplementary requirements
 - Professional Resume
 - Two letters of recommendation from healthcare supervisor
 - Personal Statement
7. Additional Required Coursework completed by December 31, 2026
It is highly recommended that the additional required coursework below is completed prior to applying.

- **Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) Required Courses for licensure.**
Important -BRN Licensure courses may not be waived for any reason and must be completed with a grade "C" or higher.
 - Introduction to Sociology/Cultural Anthropology
 - Speech/Communication
 - General Psychology
- **One Current General Education Pattern (GE Pattern)**
Important- In Fall 2025 GE Patterns changed, with additional coursework added. Please see an academic counselor to ensure you meet or are on track to meet one of the GE patterns below.
 - Cuesta College General Education Pattern for AS Degree
 - Cal-GETC Certification – Transfer General Education Pattern
 - CSU General Education Pattern
 - IGETC General Education Pattern

OR

 - Completion of a Bachelor's Degree or Higher

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. [Apply for admission to Cuesta College](#)

- You will receive a Cuesta College student ID number and Cuesta email address when you apply to Cuesta.
- Assure your my.cuesta.edu email address is current and active throughout the application cycle. All communication regarding your nursing application and admission status will use your Cuesta email. No personal emails can be used.

2. Submit ALL official transcripts to Cuesta College Records Department

- Submit **All** official transcripts from non-Cuesta Colleges/Universities and AP College Board.
- Transcripts must be received at Cuesta College by the nursing application deadline. No exceptions, so submit early.
- Transcripts submitted previously that reflect in-progress coursework must be resubmitted once the course is completed and a final grade is posted for the coursework to be considered eligible.
- [Submitting Transcripts to Cuesta College, including international](#)
- [International Applicant Transcript FAQ](#)

3. Prerequisite coursework equivalency evaluation.

- Students are strongly encouraged to have their non-Cuesta RN prerequisite coursework evaluated for equivalency to Cuesta College prerequisite courses prior to submitting their application. To do this, first submit all transcripts, then schedule an appointment with a [counselor](#). You must have a Cuesta College student ID number to schedule a counseling appointment.
- Students can also request evaluation of non-Cuesta RN prerequisite coursework transcripts by clicking the following link. [Evaluation of Non-Cuesta Transcript Request](#)
- If you are unable to have your non-Cuesta RN prerequisite coursework evaluated by a counselor before the application cycle, you are still able to apply. Your non-Cuesta coursework will be evaluated during the selection process if your most current, official transcripts are on file by the application deadline.
- Prerequisite coursework done at other colleges must be approved as equivalent to Cuesta College prerequisite courses. Do not assume a class is equivalent because it has been accepted by another nursing program.
- To convert quarter credits to semester credits (Quarter credits X .667 = Semester credits).

4. Complete and submit the online LVN to RN application, including all supporting documentation, by the application deadline.

- Upload your supporting documents with your online application. ***All documents uploaded to the application must be saved in PDF format.***
 - California LVN license (active and unencumbered showing date issued and expiration date)
 - Professional resume (include education and healthcare experience)
 - LVN work experience form (included in this packet)
 - Two letters of recommendation from healthcare supervisors
 - Personal statement (see instructions on page 7)
- Upon successful submission, a confirmation email with an application summary will be sent to your Cuesta email account. This notification confirms the receipt of your application only and does not reflect program eligibility or acceptance into the program.
- Review the application summary to verify application is complete and all attachments are uploaded and open successfully.
- If you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours after submitting your application, or your supporting document attachments do not open, it is your responsibility to contact NursingAdmissions@cuesta.edu to verify the status of your application before the application deadline. Inquiries after the application deadline cannot be considered, and you will need to reapply in a future application cycle.
- Print and save a copy of your application and confirmation number for your record.

5. Take the ATI TEAS assessment test.

- ATI TEAS (Version 7)
- Test within the timeframe of August 1, 2025-July 31, 2026.
- Create an account with atitesting.com.
- Register for a TEAS test (See grid below for explanations on the testing options available).
 - Through atitesting.com (If testing online or in-person at PSI testing center)
 - Through [Cuesta Nursing Website](https://www.cuesta.edu/nursing) (If testing in-person at Cuesta). Dates and registration link will be available on the nursing website in June.
- Submit official TEAS transcript. Deadline to submit official score is July 31, 2026. **NOTE:** If testing online or at a PSI testing center, it may take up to 4 days for you to receive your score from ATI before you can request that ATI submit your score to Cuesta by the July 31st deadline.
- Applicants must test with each application cycle. Only the first test score within the timeframe above will be accepted. TEAS assessment scores submitted outside of the timeframe will not be accepted.
- A total score of 62% or higher is required for program eligibility. A completed remediation is required for any TEAS score lower than 62%, now or previously, in order to be an eligible applicant. If this applies to you, email NursingAdmissions@cuesta.edu to request remediation information or provide evidence of a successful remediation. **NOTE:** If you test within the timeframe above and score below 62%, and then remediate, you are still ineligible to apply for this application cycle as we only accept the first score within the required timeframe.

It is advisable to study for the TEAS; study materials are available for purchase from the [ATI webpage](https://atitesting.com).

Proctored By	Testing Location	Create Account	Register for TEAS Testing	Cost	Dates	Deadline to Submit Score	Submit TEAS Test Score	DSPS Accommodations
ONLINE Proctored by ATI	Online exam with a remote proctoring service. (Can be taken at home)	Create account with ATI atitesting.com	Through ATI atitesting.com	\$120	Test at your convenience between August 1, 2025- July 31, 2026	July 31, 2026	atitesting.com Follow their process to submit results to Cuesta College ADN	Atitesting.com Follow their process to receive accommodations
IN-PERSON Proctored by PSI	On-site exam at PSI testing center with in-person proctor	Create account with ATI atitesting.com	Through ATI atitesting.com	\$120	Test at your convenience between August 1, 2025- July 31, 2026	July 31, 2026	atitesting.com Follow their process to submit results to Cuesta College ADN	Atitesting.com Follow their process to receive accommodations
IN-PERSON Proctored by Cuesta	On campus exam with an in-person proctor	Create account with ATI atitesting.com	Through Cuesta Nursing webpage (Registration link available In June)	Free for Cuesta College ADN applicants only	Specific test dates in July 2026 (available dates will be posted on Nursing webpage in June)	Automatically submitted to Cuesta on testing date if test taken through Cuesta	Automatically submitted to Cuesta	Instructions will be posted on the Nursing webpage

If testing through Cuesta - A “TEAS Test Day Information” link will be available on the Nursing website, starting in June.

6. Check your *myCuesta* email for the IMPORTANT DATES listed on Page 1.

Missed deadlines due to non-receipt of emails cannot be accommodated. If email notifications have not arrived in your my.cuesta.edu mailbox by the dates provided, you must email NursingAdmissions@cuesta.edu within 2 days.

7. Complete one current General Education (GE) pattern (see page 2) and BRN required courses. If this coursework is not completed prior to applying, it must be completed by December 31, 2026. If not completed by the deadline, your space in the program will be forfeited, and you will need to reapply in a future application cycle.

8. Updating your contact information

If there have been any changes to your name, address, email, or phone number after submitting your application, you must update this information immediately by emailing to: NursingAdmissions@cuesta.edu . Updating your information in myCuesta Portal will not update your nursing program application.

INELIGIBLE APPLICANT SITUATIONS

Applicants are **INELIGIBLE** for admission in the following situations:

- Failure to submit **ALL official transcripts** from non-Cuesta Colleges/Universities and AP College Board by the due date.
- A combined prerequisite science GPA of less than 2.50, with no rounding.
- A grade less than 'C' in any prerequisite.
- Prerequisite courses not meeting equivalency to Cuesta College prerequisite courses.
- International courses that are not formally evaluated by ACEI or NACES member.
- Coursework that is not posted to transcripts by the deadlines in this application.
- Failure to meet the ATI TEAS requirements.
- Incomplete or in-progress applications.
- Failure to meet deadlines and/or respond to time-sensitive emails.



LVN TO RN ADN PROGRAM
CALIFORNIA LVN LICENSE & WORK EXPERIENCE VERIFICATION

No form variations will be accepted

Applicant instructions:

1. Complete Sections A – E below
2. Ask your employer(s) to complete Section F (if more than one employer, use a separate form for each)
3. Scan this completed form and submit it with your online application along with the required documents below:
 - A copy of your current unencumbered California LVN license
 - Professional Resume (include education and healthcare experience)
 - Personal Statement (Instructions on page 7)
 - Two Letters of Recommendation from Healthcare Supervisors

ALL scanned documents must be saved in pdf format before submitting with application.

A. California LVN License Verification			
<i>(A copy of your current California LVN License must be scanned and submitted with your online application)</i>			
Name _____			
California LVN License Number: _____		Expiration Date: _____	
B. Professional Resume - Reflecting relevant LVN work experience. Be sure to include education and certifications			
C. Personal Statement – See page 7 for instructions.			
D. Letters of Recommendation - Two professional letters of recommendation on official letterhead			
E. Employer Information (if more than one employer, submit additional forms)			
Name of Healthcare Agency:			
Type of Healthcare Agency:			
Agency Address:			
<small>number & street</small>	<small>city</small>	<small>state</small>	<small>zip code</small>
Agency Phone Number: ()			
F. Supervisor – Please verify a minimum 550 hours LVN Work Experience in the past two years.			
Employee Start Date:		End Date:	Dept (if applicable):
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time	<input type="checkbox"/> Part-time	Total hours worked:	
Supervisor Name:		Title of Supervisor:	
Email:		Phone: ()	
Supervisor’s Signature:			



PERSONAL STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

General Guidelines:

Length: 500 words or less

Format: Typed

Focus: Be specific, use your real-life experiences, and demonstrate why you are prepared for this transition

Include: Name, Student ID, Cuesta Email, Phone Number

Your personal statement is an essential part of your nursing application. It allows you to highlight your motivation, experience, and goals as you transition from an LVN to an RN.

Your personal statement must address three (3) of the questions provided below.

1. What inspired you to pursue a career in nursing, and what motivates you to transition from LVN to RN?
2. What personal qualities do you possess that will help you succeed as an RN?
3. How do you plan to manage the demands of the RN program, considering your personal and professional responsibilities?
4. Can you describe a time when you utilized critical thinking skills during your LVN education or practice?
5. Can you provide an example of a challenging situation you have encountered as an LVN and how you managed it?
6. What do you think will be the most significant challenges in transitioning from LVN to RN, and how do you plan to overcome them?
7. Describe a time when you advocated for a patient or improved patient outcomes?
8. What learning strategies have you found most effective in your nursing education, and how will you apply them in the RN program?
9. How has your experience as an LVN prepared you for the transition to an RN role?

Save your personal statement as a PDF and upload with your LVN to RN application.