

Frequently Asked Questions about the programmatic changes occurring in the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing Programs at MassBay.

The Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs at MassBay Community College have aligned their admission criteria, requiring completion of English Composition I, specific math placement, science courses within five years, and a minimum GPA of 2.5 based on prerequisite and corequisite courses, with TEAS scores used for holistic ranking but no minimum score required; immunizations must be completed prior to enrollment but not for admission, and these changes are effective immediately for Fall 2026 applicants.

Q. Why are the practical nursing and associate degree nursing programs making changes at this time?

A. Nursing programs must adapt to regulations, accreditation standards, and professional best practices—sometimes with advance notice, other times with minimal adjustment time.

Q. What is the purpose of these policy changes?

A. The purpose of this policy is to establish clear, equitable, and consistent guidelines for the admission, selection, and enrollment of students to MassBay Community College Nursing Programs. This policy supports the institution's commitment to academic excellence, inclusivity, and holistic evaluation by outlining the criteria and procedures used to assess applicants' academic qualifications, readiness for nursing education, and potential for success.

Q. What is the biggest change to the Admission Requirements for the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing Program?

A. The biggest change is that the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs will now share the *same* Admission Criteria. Below is a summary of the updates.

- Both programs now require completion of English Composition I with a grade of C or higher,
- Placement into a 200-level math course. Students who do not meet this requirement of placement into a 200-level math course must complete a 100-level math course with a grade of C or higher.
- Admission GPA will be calculated using only the prerequisite and corequisite courses required for the nursing programs.
- Minimum TEAS scores will no longer be required. All applicants will be evaluated using a ranking system to support a holistic review process.
- Immunizations will not be required for admission, but they will be required prior to enrollment; therefore, immunization status will not be considered in admission decisions.

Q. What are the Admission Criteria for both the Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs?

A.

Education: Applicants must have earned a high school diploma from an accredited school or equivalent or have earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited college or university.

Coursework:

- Successful completion of English Composition I (EN 101) with a grade of C or higher.
- Completion of a 100-level math course with a grade of C or higher or placement into a 200-level mathematics course.
- Completion of BI 215 Anatomy and Physiology I and BI 217 Anatomy and Physiology II within a five (5) year time frame with a grade of C+ or higher at the time student records are reviewed for matriculation into the nursing program
 - (Note: students may repeat each science course only once to achieve a C+ within the required 5-year period).
 - For applicants who have completed BI 215 and/or BI 217 with a grade of C+ or higher outside of the required 5-year period, the college offers a competency exam to waive the 5-year requirement.

GPA: A minimum overall college GPA of 2.5 is required for admission, calculated solely from all completed prerequisite and corequisite courses.

Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS): Each applicant must submit scores from the TEAS for Nursing Students. Students may repeat the test a total of two times within 12 months of taking the exam. Results are valid for three years. TEAS results are considered as one aspect of the applicants' admissions profile. No minimum score is required.

Evaluation:

All required components will be compiled into an admission ranking data sheet and reviewed by the Nursing Admission and Progression Committee. Applicants will be ranked based on the following criteria:

- Admission GPA (calculated from required prerequisite and co-requisite courses only)
- Average grade of Anatomy & Physiology I and II
- TEAS Composite Score
- TEAS Reading Score
- TEAS Science Score
- TEAS Math Score
- TEAS English & Language Usage Score

Q. If I do everything listed under the Admission Criteria, does that mean I will be accepted into the Practical Nursing or Associate Degree Nursing Program?

A. Completion of all admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Q. When do these Admission Criteria changes go into effect?

A. These admission criteria changes are effective immediately. We recognize that some students are currently in the application cycle, and we will work closely with those who have already applied or who plan to apply this spring to develop an individualized plan for meeting the updated requirements.

Students applying in Spring 2026 for entry into the Fall 2026 Practical Nursing or Fall 2026 Associate Degree Nursing programs will be considered under the revised admission criteria.

Q. Are there any course changes that may impact me in applying to the Practical Nursing Program?

A. Yes, students applying to the Fall 2026 Practical Nursing Program must complete the following prerequisite courses:

- **BI 215 – Anatomy & Physiology I with Lab** (grade of C+ or higher)
- **BI 217 – Anatomy & Physiology II with Lab** (grade of C+ or higher)
- **EN101 – English Composition I** (grade of C or higher)
- **In addition, applicants must either place into a 200-level math course or complete a 100-level math course with a grade of C or higher.**

Q. I did not know I needed to take an English Composition I class to get into the Practical Nursing program. I thought I was ready to apply to the program and had taken all the pre-requisite classes I needed. How am I supposed to do this and still apply to the program?

A. The Practical Nursing Program realizes that this requirement to complete English Composition I and place into a 200-level mathematics course or complete a 100-level math course will be new information to some applicants. For this reason, an applicant applying for fall 2026 admission will be able to take those courses during spring 2026 and/or summer 2026 and still be considered. If you cannot take those courses in spring 2026 or summer 2026, you can take them as corequisites in fall 2026.
Note: If you are not successful in either course, you will not be able to progress in the PN program.

Q. I'm planning to apply to the Practical Nursing Program in Spring 2027 for entry into the Fall 2027 program. Can I take English Composition I and Math as corequisites in the first semester of the PN program?

A. No, English Composition I must be completed as a prerequisite, and you must place into a 200-level mathematics course or complete a 100-level math course.

Q. I want to see the Nursing Admission Scoring/Grading/Ranking Rubrics to see what I need to do to get into the nursing program. Will you show me the Rubrics?

A. You can see it using this [link](#).

Q. Is it true that I don't need to take Chemistry to get into the Associate Degree Nursing Program?

A. Yes, this is true. Chemistry is not a requirement for either nursing program.

Q. I heard that even if a student is accepted into the PN or ADN program, if they did not have all their health and immunization records completed and submitted by the due date stated in their acceptance letter, they could not start the program. Is this true?

A. Yes, this is true. Upon admission, students are required to demonstrate compliance with immunization and immunity verification standards. Evidence of immune status is mandatory for all students prior to enrollment in any nursing courses.