



INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO  
METROPOLITAN CAMPUS  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS  
CARMEN TORRES DE TIRBUCIO NURSING DEPARTMENT

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 1. How do I apply for the nursing program?

Applicants for admission to the Inter American University of Puerto Rico Metropolitan campus must:

1. Obtain an application for admission from the University's Admissions Office, from a high school advisors, other authorized personnel or through the university's webpage at the following address:

<https://iaupr.elluciancrmrecruit.com/Admissions/Pages/Welcome.aspx>

2. Submit the completed application to the Admissions Office, preferably by
  - a. May 1 to apply for the fall semester,
  - b. November 15 to apply for the spring semester and
  - c. April 15 to apply for the summer session.

Send mail to the following address:

Inter-American University of Puerto Rico Metropolitan Campus  
Admission Office  
PO Box 191293  
San Juan, PR 00919- 1293

3. Arrange for an official transcript from high school to be sent by an authorized representative of that school directly to the Admissions Office.
4. For high school students, arrange for SAT test results to be sent to the University's Admissions Office.
5. Submit an updated certificate of vaccination if the student is less than 21 years old
6. For admission to the Nursing Program, all application documents for admission must be submitted no later than:

July 1 for Semester starting in (August of each year)

### 2. What are the prerequisites to apply for the nursing program?

Admission Requirements

1. Comply with the admissions requirements established in the General Catalog.
2. Must have a minimum grade point index 2.50.
3. If a candidate holds an Associate Degree in Nursing, students must:

- a. Present evidence of Associate Degree certification from an accredited and recognized institution of higher education; completing all degree requirements established by the institution that awarded the degree.
- b. Must have a minimum grade point index 2.50.
- c. Present at the time of admission evidence of permanent licensure.

### 3. Is this an accredited nursing program? How does that affect me?

Yes, the Carmen Torres de Tirbucio Nursing Program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission of Education in Nursing (ACEN) for both the Associate of Science in Nursing Degree (ADN) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree (BSN) Programs. In addition, the Inter-American University is licensed by the Puerto Rico Board of Education (PRCE) and accredited by the Middle State of Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

Choosing an accredited nursing program ensures you are receiving a high-quality nursing education, are qualified to sit for the NCLEX- RN or PR nursing boards, and will have a respected nursing degree recognized by future academic institutions and employers.



Associate Degree in Nursing



Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing

### 4. How will I know if I'm accepted into the nursing program?

For admission to the Nursing Program, all application documents for admission must be submitted no later than:

July 1 for Semester starting in (**August**) of each year

Notification of admission to the university will be received no later than three weeks after all application documentation has been received by the university. If for any reason the university requires more time, the applicant will be notified.

Admission student will receive an acceptance letter which will be sent by mail or electronically; be sure to verify email inbox or spam/ junk folder for notifications from the university.

If for any reason, you do not receive any communication back from the university after 5 weeks of your admission application submission; please contact the nursing department at 787-250-1912 ext. 2159, 2202 or 2182.

## 5. When is the start date to enter into the nursing program?

There is only one start date for the nursing program which begins in

- a. August of each year for new enrollments
- b. Transfer students with approved nursing course credits will be evaluated on an individual based and oriented about start dates for August or January of each academic term.

## 6. Is it possible to transfer non-nursing & nursing credits from another college?

Transfer credits may be allowed for existing programs within the Inter American University, but credits may also apply as electives provided that the courses are within the general fields of existing academic departments of the university. No grade below “C” will be accepted as a transfer credit. If the other institution uses a different grading system, the convalidation of the course will depend on that institution’s official clarification of its grading system. The Inter American University will determine the corresponding equivalencies. The credit-hours granted will be those that are specified in the university catalog for the course. Once students have been enrolled, no further consideration of previous credits from other institutions will be accepted, except for courses in progress.

Students who hold a bachelor's degree from another institution are exempt from taking general education courses and are only required to take the GECF 1010 - Introduction to the Christian Faith, a three (3) credit course, at Inter American University if it has not been approved at the institution of origin.

## 7. Is there an option to study nursing in English?

Yes, our nursing curriculum is offered in a semester modality, where nursing course can be taken in either English or Spanish.

Nursing classes in English are given in the evening and the Spanish nursing courses are offered during the daytime (morning or afternoon sessions).

## 8. I won't qualify for financial aid, why should I fill out the FAFSA?

The University awards financial aid, within the limitations of available funds, to students who meet the specific requirements established by those offering the aid; to award federal, state and institutional funds to eligible students. Applicant eligibility for such aid is reviewed each academic year.



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid may be completed via Internet at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Military service personnel, veterans and other qualified individuals may use their Veterans’ benefits under the applicable legislation. Information on these programs may be obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs’ Website or in the Registrars’ Offices on campus.

Even if you think your family makes too much money to qualify for financial aid, you should still fill out the FAFSA. You need to complete the FAFSA to be eligible for certain loans that don't rely on income such as the unsubsidized Direct Student Loan the PLUS loans for parents.

## **9. What are the differences between Associate's and Bachelor's Degree in Nursing?**

Bachelor's level (BSN) and the associate level (AASN) both practice as RNs; however a BSN is considered a professional degree versus AASN is considered a technical degree. The difference is that an Associate degree trains someone mostly on clinical skills, while a Bachelor's degree is focused on leadership, nursing research, management as well as clinical skills training.

Registered Nurses (RNs) deliver various types of treatment, care, counseling, and health information to patients. They are educated, trained and certified in a wide range of skill-sets and specialties, however all have in common being registered and licensed nurses by passing the National Council Licensure Examination for RNs (NCLEX-RN) or the Junta Examinadora de Enfermeria Revalida (only for Puerto Rico licensure).

- **Associate Degree (AASN)**

Can be acquired in 2 years at a university, community college, vocational school or even some hospitals. An ADN training program readies nurses to deliver direct patient treatment or carry out other qualified nursing duties and responsibilities inside the field of health care. This 2-year degree can be the groundwork for more advanced nursing academic options like a bachelor's or master's in nursing.

- **Traditional Bachelors (BSN)**

Typically takes 4 years to acquire (from time of entry as a freshman to graduation) at most of the universities and colleges that offer these programs. The BSN readies nurses to perform in most medical environments. While the job environments for RN's with BSN degrees may be almost identical to that of RN's with an ADN degree, those who completed BSN programs have additional preparation and training for clinical jobs that could include management, fiscal duties, medical personnel scheduling, administration, leadership and research roles.

## **10. How long does it take to earn a BSN or AASN Degree?**

### **ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING REQUIRES**

24 credits General Education

41 credits Major

Total 65

The associate degree (AASN) can be acquired in two (2) years; or four (4) semesters as a full time student.

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING REQUIRES**

45 credits General Education  
72 credits Major  
3 credits Elective  
Total 120

The Bachelor of Science (BSN) can be acquired in three and half (3 1/2) years; or seven semesters as a full time student.

### **11. Where is the university located?**

Inter-American University of Puerto Rico Metropolitan campus is located in the capital city of San Juan, the metropolitan area. The university is an institution with Christian roots and it's located in the most urban location within all the Inter-American University systems. The university is approximately fifteen (15) minutes from the Luis Munoz Marin International Airport.

Direction:

Carretera #1 Km 16 3 Esq Calle Francisco Sein  
San Juan, PR "00919-1293"

Google map Location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/tcXFwrWofA5287uB6>

### **12. What are the required documents that I need for my clinical rotation?**

*The clinical documents included on this list are required in the first nursing course NURS 1111 Fundamentals of Nursing; however the contracting clinical agencies may require additional documents depending on the clinical scenario assigned. It is the student's responsibility to keep these documents in a binder for their personal records and provide a copy of these documents with evidence of originals to their professor. These documents must be updated throughout your program of study and must not expire during the clinical rotation. The clinical documents are required by the clinical agencies with which the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico Metropolitan Campus has binding contracts. Contracting clinical agencies, after verifying clinical documents are responsible for making final decision on accepting students in clinical/practicum sites according to their established regulation and policies.*

**Effective for Fall 2019**

**"Failure of students to provide evidence of the listed clinical documents' required for NURS 1111 will result in non-compliance with the evaluation component if not completed by the due date established during the term."**

□ 1. **HEALTH CERTIFICATE:**

To obtain a Health Certificate which must be done in Puerto Rico, a (VDRL) test to detect syphilis, (PPD) test to detect tuberculosis and evidence of COVID 19 vaccination are required. The health certificate can be acquired from a doctor's office or any authorized provider providing this service in Puerto Rico.

- 2. **HEPATITIS B IMMUNIZATION**: STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING:

**SCENARIO “A”**: If you have received the 3-step vaccination; less than ten (10) years old. You must provide supporting documentation that includes:

1. Documentation of three doses of Hepatitis B vaccine
  - Dose 1 – Need date of immunization
  - Dose 2 – Need date of immunization
  - Dose 3- Need date of immunization

**SCENARIO “B”**: If you have never received the 3-step vaccination, you will need to begin the process in the following order and provide documentation of each step:

1. 1st dose prior to beginning nursing course work;
2. 2nd dose should be received one month after the 1st dose;
3. 3rd dose should be received 5 months after the 2nd dose (the series must be completed 6 months after the first dose in order to continue in clinical activities).
4. Titer 1 – 2 months after dose #3 (if NEGATIVE, see SCENARIO “C”)

**SCENARIO “C”**: If you have received the 3-step vaccination and/or ten (10) years has passed since your last vaccination; and your Hepatitis B Titer is NEGATIVE:

1. Get a Hepatitis B booster;
2. Titer 1 – 2 months after booster (if NEGATIVE, see SCENARIO “D”)

**SCENARIO “D”**: If your titer remains negative, you may be a “NON-responder.” In this case, provide documentation from your healthcare provider identifying you as a non-responder and include all supporting documentation.

- 3. **VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX)**: STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING:

**SCENARIO “A”**: If you have received the 2-step vaccination of Varicella vaccine, four (4) weeks apart.

1. Documentation of two dose of Varicella vaccine
  - Dose 1 – Need date of immunization
  - Dose 2 – Need date of immunization

**SCENARIO “B”**: If you contracted “**CHICKENPOX**” and your Varicella Titer is “**REACTIVE**”. You must provide supporting documentation that includes:

1. The date of the titer;
2. The actual lab results of the titer; and
3. Clear indication of immunity.

**SCENARIO “C”**: If you have never received the 2-step vaccination, or have had only one doses, you will need to begin the process in the following order and provide documentation of each step:

**No dose**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> dose prior to beginning nursing course;
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> dose should be receive 4-8 weeks after the first dose

**One dose**

1. 2<sup>nd</sup> dose needs to be administered prior to beginning nursing course.

□ **COVID 19:** STUDENTS MUST PROVIDE **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING:

**SCENARIO “A”:** If you have received the 2-step vaccination of Pfizer three (3) weeks apart or Moderna vaccine four (4) weeks apart.

Documentation of two dose of vaccine (Pfizer / Moderna)

- Dose 1 – Need date of immunization
- Dose 2 – Need date of immunization

Documentation of one dose of vaccine

- Dose 1 – Need date of immunization ((J&J/Janssen)

□ **4. FLU SHOT:**

A mandatory flu shot is due annually as soon as it’s available at the beginning of flu season, which is typically around September for the following year. This is a mandate by our contracted clinical facilities.

□ **5. CPR (CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION):**

Proof of current certification from the American Heart Association for “Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers.” Copy must include a front and back copy of your signed CPR card. **CHECK WITH THE NURSING DEPARTMENT FOR DATES OF CPR CLASSES; NO OTHER CPR COURSE OR CERTIFICATION ASSOCIATION WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

□ **6. LAW 300:**

Verification for history of abuse or sexual abuse of minors, for persons providing services to children, people with disabilities and health professionals which was implemented in September 2, 1999. To solicit this certification you must fill out the application in the link below. In addition, to the application you must submit

- 2 (2x2) photos;
- Evidence of physical address (light /water bill);
- Identification with photo (passport or driver’s license) and
- Good conduct certificate.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3kKYv0l2wB9LWkyRldOY1M4Mmc/view>