DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Nursing

Information Packet

The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing program prepares students to enter professional nursing practice in a wide range of healthcare settings. Through a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on clinical experience, students learn to apply scientific principles directly to patient care. Graduates leave the program with the knowledge and skills to provide safe, competent, high-quality care, and a strong foundation for those who choose to continue their education in a bachelor's degree nursing program.

The program uses a holistic admissions process that considers completion of prerequisite coursework and overall GPA. Qualified applicants may be invited to participate in an interview as part of the selection process. Additional details about admissions can be found on the Department of Health Sciences, nursing programs website. The AAS program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

Professional Resources

Faculty use professional standards and guidelines as a basis for curriculum development and program evaluation. Additional standards and guidelines are integrated into specific courses as identified in the course syllabus. Currently, the following nursing standards and guidelines are utilized to guide individual courses to enhance learning materials and to help guide student learning and are aligned with the AAS Program Learning Outcomes.

American Nurses Association. (2025). Code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements. https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/nursing-excellence/ethics/code-of-ethicsfor-nurses/

Quality and Safety Education for Advanced Nursing Practice. (2022). *QSEN institute competencies, https://www.qsen.org/competencies*

Associate of Applied Science in Nursing

Admission Criteria

- Current AAS Checklist and Eligibility Criteria can be found on the Colorado Mesa University *How to Apply to Undergraduate Nursing Programs* webpage.
- GPA is calculated using all completed required Essential Learning Requirements, Lower Division Requirements, and Program Prerequisite Courses for the AAS program.
- Please see AAS Program specific prerequisite requirements.
- Completed application and all supporting documents must be submitted by the deadline.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA in nursing prerequisite courses is required.
- All AAS prerequisite classes must be completed or in progress (IP) to apply.
- If a student is accepted to the program and fails an IP course, the student will need to reapply for the program.
- Top applicants will be invited for an interview based on the total number of points accumulated for GPA and personal criteria (Colorado western slope counties, current license in specific health care field and for completing 50% of prerequisites at CMU).
- Applicants will be invited for admission to the AAS program based on the total number of points accumulated from GPA, personal criteria, and interview. Successful completion of a criminal background investigation, immunization requirements and/or exemptions, and pre-admission drug screening taken at applicant's expense after conditional admittance post interview.

Application Process

1) Submission of a completed Colorado Mesa University application, through the CMU Admissions Office, or a reactivated application file if you have missed one or more semesters at Colorado Mesa University, declaring Associate of Applied Science of Nursing (Pre-AAS) as area of emphasis.
2) Completion of, or in process of completing, pre-program requirements (i.e. required Essential Learning Requirements, Lower Division Requirements, Program Prerequisite Courses).
4) Complete and submit the AAS Application Form electronically per submission.

Student Learning Outcomes

AAS Program Learning Outcomes	CMU Associate Degree Student Learning Outcomes	ANA Code Of Ethics	QSEN Competencies
1. Implement patient-centered care strategies to promote patient outcomes in a variety of settings. (Critical thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility, Communication Fluency)	3, 4, 5	Provision 1, 2, 3, 8	Evidence-based practice Patient-centered care Quality improvement
2. Demonstrate professional nursing care as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team to achieve quality patient care. (Communication Fluency, Personal & Social Responsibility, Critical Thinking)	3, 4, 5	Provision 3, 4, 6, 8	Informatics Safety Teamwork and Collaboration
3. Incorporate evidence-based practice and clinical guidelines to optimize patient outcomes. (Specialized Knowledge/Applied Learning, Information Literacy, Critical Thinking)	1, 4, 6	Provision 1, 2, 7	Patient-centered care Teamwork & collaboration Evidence-based practice
4. Identify areas for improvement that enhance patient safety and care effectiveness in a variety of settings. (Quantitative Fluency, Critical Thinking, Specialized Knowledge)	1, 2, 4	Provision 3, 5, 7	Evidence-based practice Quality improvement Informatics
5. Explain error prevention strategies to minimize the risk of harm to patients and healthcare providers across a variety of care environments. (Personal & Social Responsibility, Critical Thinking, Communication Fluency)	3, 4, 5	Provision 4, 6, 10	Teamwork & collaboration Quality improvement Safety
6. Utilize healthcare information systems to communicate decision-making processes when delivering safe patient care. (Information Literacy, Communication Fluency, Critical Thinking, Quantitative Fluency)	2, 3, 4, 6	Provision 2, 4, 8, 9	Patient-centered care Teamwork & collaboration Safety
Updated October 2025; Spring 2026			

Frequently Asked Questions About the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Program

The AAS Program posts their most up to date curriculum prerequisites (Emphasis/Degree Options), program outcomes, the AAS Program Handbook, eligibility requirements, and the AAS application deadlines on their website. Many of your questions may be answered there or below. In addition, feel free to reach out to your Admissions Counselor to assist with general questions.

Is this program located in Grand Junction too?

No, this program is only located on the Montrose campus. There are times you may have clinicals in Grand Junction too.

Does everything have to be submitted to the Department of Health Sciences Office by the application deadline?

Yes, you must be fully admitted to CMU as an associate degree seeking student prior to applying to the AAS program. The AAS application, all college transcripts, transcript evaluations (if you have classes from other colleges/universities), and any other items requested as a supplement to the application, must be submitted no later than the 11:59pm (MST) on the deadline date.

*If you are a transfer student and give the CMU Registrar's Office appropriate time to process any transcripts from another institution, please make sure you've been accepted at CMU and have had transcripts reviewed at least one month prior to application deadline. If you have any problems with this process, please contact the Program Coordinator **prior** to the deadline.*

Does the Department of Health Sciences have an admission fee?

No. However, there is a fee to apply to Colorado Mesa University.

Should I take any courses prior to being accepted into the AAS program?

Yes, you are required to complete all program specific prerequisites, Essential Learning & Lower Division requirement courses. Please review the Academic Requirements for Associate of Applied Science in Nursing. Please Note:

- *All program specific prerequisites, Essential Learning & Lower Division requirement courses must be completed or be in the process of completion by the end of the semester of application for the AAS program.*
- *All Biology (BIOL) courses have a 10-year time limit. A 10-year limit means that if you took it more than 10 years or longer from your application to the AAS program, then those courses MUST be retaken (BIOL 209/BIOL 209L, BIOL 210/BIOL 210L and BIOL 241).*

Are there any scholarships specifically for AAS students?

Yes, scholarships are available for AAS students as listed through the CMU Scholarships webpage.

Do I have to be accepted at Colorado Mesa University *before* I can apply and be accepted into the AAS program?

Yes, you must be admitted to CMU as a pre-associate degree in nursing seeking student for the semester you are applying to start the AAS program.

When do the AAS courses start?

Associate of Applied Science in nursing (AAS) courses begin fall semesters, every other year in even years (i.e., 2026, 2028). The AAS courses are sequential and must be taken as outlined in Academic Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AAS)

How long is the AAS program?

The AAS program is four (4) semesters post admission to the AAS program.

How many students are accepted into the AAS program each year?

We accept up to 20 students every other year.

How much does the AAS program cost?

Tuition and fee information is located on the CMU website. There is also a projected expenses page in this AAS Info Packet, though it is subject to change.

Should I apply to the AAS program before I ask for a transcript to be sent?

You should submit your AAS application documents electronically as per the instructions. You must contact the Registrar's Office at 970-248-1555 to have any transfer credits evaluated for possible acceptance at Colorado Mesa University. Transfer transcripts should be evaluated at least a month prior to the application deadline, so that your application documents can be fully evaluated. Transcript evaluations must be completed prior to the application deadline, so that the admissions committee can pull those documents for review.

Should I speak to an advisor before I sign up for classes?

We suggest that you attend a Drop-in Advising session that is listed on the Department of Health Sciences' website. Once you've attended an open advising session, you can contact your primary advisor as listed in DegreeWorks.

Do you give credit for health care related certification?

The AAS Eligibility Criteria (AAS Program Application Information) sheet discusses specific applicant criteria and point allocation.

Does Colorado Mesa University have a Practical Nurse (PN) program?

Yes, there is a PN program on both the Montrose and Grand Junction campuses. Colorado Mesa University offers a variety of nursing programs and degree pathways towards a baccalaureate degree.

Can I go part time?

While you are completing coursework prior to admission to the AAS program, you can go part time. However, if accepted to the AAS program, you are expected to attend full time.

How do you choose candidates?

The AAS Program Application Information (AAS Eligibility Criteria) sheets delineates point allocation for applicants. Applicants who meet all requirements, with the highest accumulation of application points, are invited to an interview with the admissions committee. Final selection is based on the cumulative total of points between application and interview.

Do you use a waiting list?

Applicants applying may be placed on a waitlist for that specific cohort's start date. After the beginning of the semester, any applicant remaining on a waitlist must reapply. Waitlists are cohort-specific and are not considered for the next application cycle without reapplying.

How much does a credit hour cost?

General tuition and fees are set forth by Colorado Mesa University. Program specific fees are estimated in this info packet.

Do you have night AAS classes?

Classes are during the day, but evening, overnight, and/or weekend clinicals/labs may be required.

Can I work while I take classes?

We have students who work while attending nursing school. However, we do not recommend working, especially full-time. You should consider that for every hour of class, it is expected that the student spends two hours outside of class preparing.

What classes can I take to fulfill the essential learning requirements?

Students are required to take specific courses for the AAS program. You should refer to the Academic Requirements for Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AAS) also listed on our Suggested Course Plan for specifics.

Do I need my own computer?

All students should have access to a computer whether through CMU resources (i.e., library, computer labs) or their own personal computers. All courses include computer and internet-based assignments. Having your own computer gives you more freedom in completing course assignments. Computer labs are available on campus for student use; however, students may be required to use their own personal computer for testing purposes during class time. As a student, you are provided with an email address, which you will be required to access regularly. CMU also provides each student Office 365 which includes access to Microsoft Word and PowerPoint for up to five platforms (iPad, computer, etc.) for free.

What are the expected physical requirements as a student in the AAS program?

With or without reasonable accommodations, students must be able to lift, push, pull; have sufficient strength to move and carry equipment, transfer patients, perform CPR, and be able to ambulate, bend, stoop, reach, and stand for long periods of time with coordination and balance. Fine motor skills are necessary to perform skilled procedures and manipulate equipment. Must have sufficient vision (with or without glasses/contacts) and hearing (with or without devices) and be able to communicate clearly and effectively.

Colorado Mesa University Baccalaureate and Associate (AA/AS) Degree Requirements

A. Essential Learning Core – 29 credit hours

All CMU essential learning core courses are approved by the Colorado Department of Higher Education for statewide guaranteed transfer except courses marked with + which are not yet approved. ® Cannot be substituted for ESSL 200.

English – 6 credit hours

Option 1

ENGL 111*	English Composition; and
ENGL 112*	English Composition; or

Option 2

ENGL 112*	English Composition; and
ENGL 219*	Introduction to Professional Writing

*A grade of "C" or higher is required for graduation

Mathematics – 3 credit hours

[1]MATH 110*	College Mathematics
MATH 113*	College Algebra
MATH 113R*	College Algebra w/Review
MATH 119*	Pre-Calculus Mathematics
MATH 119A*	Algebra for Calculus
MATH 149*	Honors Mathematics
MATH 151*	Calculus I
MATH 205*	Elements of Mathematics II

*A grade of "C" or higher is required for graduation

[1]MATH 110 or higher is required for admission to the AAS program.

History – 3 credit hours

HIST 101, 102	Western Civilization
HIST 131, 132	United States History
HIST 225	History of Colorado

Humanities – 3 credit hours

ENGL 131, 132	Western World Literature I & II
ENGL 150	Introduction to Literature
ENGL 222	Mythology
ENGL 254, 255	Survey of English Literature I and II
ENGL 261, 262	Survey of American Lit I and II
HIST 101, 102	Western Civilization
HIST 131, 132	United States History
HIST 225	History of Colorado
MASS 110	Mass Media Impact and History
PHIL 105	Critical Thinking
PHIL 110	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 120	Ethics
PHIL 130	Philosophy of Religion
+®SPCH 102	Speechmaking

Social and Behavioral Sciences – 6 credit hours

ANTH 202	Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 220	Principles of Archaeology
ANTH 222	World Prehistory
ANTH 231 & 231L	Survey of Biological Anthropology and Lab
+CSCI 100	Computers in Our Society
ECON 201	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 202	Principles of Microeconomics
GEOG 102	Human Geography
GEOG 103	World Regional Geography
POLS 101	American Government
+POLS 151	Introduction to Political Ideas
POLS 261	Comparative Politics
+POLS 270	World Politics
[2]PSYC 150	General Psychology
[2]PSYC 233	Human Growth and Development
SOCI 101	Intro to LGBT+ Studies
SOCI 102	Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
SOCI 120	Technology and Society
SOCO 144	Marriage and Families
SOCO 260	General Sociology
SOCO 264	Social Problems
+®SPCH 101	Interpersonal Communication

[2]PSYC 150, PSYC 233 are program specific requirements for the AAS program.

Fine Arts – 3 credit hours

ARTE 101	Two-Dimensional Design
ARTE 102	Three-Dimensional Design
ARTE 103	Digital Art and Design
ARTE 115	Art Appreciation
ARTE 118	History of Art, Prehistory to Renaissance
ARTE 119	History of Art, Renaissance to Present
DANC 115	Dance Appreciation
FINE 101	The Living Arts
MUSA 220	Music Appreciation
MUSA 266	History of Popular Music
MUSA 267	Jazz History and Literature
THEA 141	Theatre Appreciation
THEA 145	Introduction to Dramatic Literature

Natural Sciences – 7 credit hours (must include 1 lab)

***BIOL 101, 101L	General Human Biology and Lab
***BIOL 105, 105L	Attributes of Living Systems and Lab
***BIOL 108, 108L	Diversity of Organisms and Lab
***[3]BIOL 250, 250L	Intro to Medical Microbiology and Lab
CHEM 100	Chemistry and Society

CHEM 111	Introduction to Concepts of General Chemistry
***CHEM 121, 121L	Principles of Chemistry and Lab
***CHEM 122, 122L	Principles of Organic Chem and Lab
***CHEM 131, 131L	General Chemistry and Lab
***CHEM 132, 132L	General Chemistry and Lab
***CHEM 151, 151L	Engineering Chemistry and Lab
ENVS 101	Introduction to Environmental Science
GEOL 100	Survey of Earth Science
GEOL 103	Weather and Climate
GEOL 104	Oceanography
GEOL 105	Geology of Colorado
GEOL 106	Introduction to Dinosaurs
GEOL 107	Natural Hazards & Environ. Geology
GEOL 108	Water, People & Environment
***GEOL 111, 111L	Principles of Physical Geology & Lab
***GEOL 112, 112L	Principles of Historical Geology & Lab
***GEOL 113, 113L	Field-based Intro to Phys Geology & Lab
PHYS 100	Concepts of Physics
PHYS 101	Elementary Astronomy
***PHYS 103, 103L	General Astronomy and Lab
***PHYS 111, 111L	General Physics and Lab
***PHYS 112, 112L	General Physics II and Lab
***PHYS 131, 131L	Fundamental Mechanics and Lab
***PHYS 132, 132L	Electromagnetism & Optics and Lab

B. Wellness Requirements – 2 credit hours

KINE 100	Health and Wellness
KINA 1XX	_____

Any KINA 1XX level course(s), DANC 154, 160, 169, 174, 177, 180; MUSP 147 (credit bearing course only); OREC 104, 105, 108, 109, 110, 112, 135 may fulfill the Kinesiology activity requirement. Only one varsity sport course numbered KINA 180-189 may be used to meet the activity requirement.

Essential Learning Capstone only applies to Bachelor's degree

C. Essential Learning Capstone – 4 credit hours
The Essential Learning Capstone must be completed between 45-75 credit hours.

****ESSL 200	Essential Speech
ESSL 290	Maverick Milestone

****ESSL 200 is a co-requisite course with ESSL 290 and must be taken together in the same semester.

Projected Expenses for the AAS Program

Required and optional books are listed. You may get a discount if you purchase used, digital, or a bundle package from the publisher (if offered). Check with the CMU bookstore for any additional books that may have been added or deleted since this page was created. This list has been provided as a guide to assist students in budgeting but is not guaranteed to be accurate. May change without notice. We attempt to use Direct Digital resources as much as possible to reduce the cost of textbooks to students. This does not include travel costs to and from clinical sites or classes.

1st Semester: **New**

NURS 243L

- Bundle (Direct Digital):
  Davis's Nursing Skills Videos 1 yr
  Treas, Davis Adv for Wilkinson's Funds of Nursing 5e 2VSet 5e
  Davis Nsg Consult App 2yr ~$348.00
- Swearingen's All-in-One Nursing Care Planning Resource Direct Digital ~$46.00

NURS 246

- Calculation of Drug Dosages: A Work Text ~$100.00
- Sherpath for Lilley Pharmacology and the Nursing Process (Direct Digital) ~$225.00
- Basic Calculator ~ $5.00

NURS 247/L

- No Text Required – Already purchased in the bundle

NURS 250/L

- Sherpath Vantage for Jarvis Physical Examination and Health Assessment (Direct Digital) ~$320.00
- Study Guide & Laboratory Manual for Physical Examination & Health Assessment ~$56.00

Total $1100.00

2nd Semester:

NURS 248/L

- Lewis's Medical-Surgical Nursing 2 volumes (Direct Digital) ~$123.00
- Clinical Companion to Lewis's Medical Surgical Nursing (Direct Digital) ~$38.00
- Study Guide for Lewis's Medical-Surgical Nursing ~$30.00
- Lab Manual, Drug Guide, and Swearingen's (purchased in semester 1)

NURS 252/L

- Davis Advantage for Townsend's Psychiatric/MH Nursing (Direct Digital) ~$142.00
- DSM-5-TR Overview: A Quick Study Laminated Reference Guide ~ $9.00

TOTAL *$342*

3rd Semester:

NURS 255/L

- No Text Required: Uses same books as NURS 248/L

NURS 253/L

- Sherpath for Lowdermilk Maternity (Direct Digital) ~197.00
- Davis Advantage for Pediatric Nursing (Direct Digital) ~125.00

TOTAL *$322*

4th Semester:

NURS 249

- No Textbook Required: Uses previously purchased book

NURS 258

- None

NURS 256L

- No Textbook Required: Uses previously purchased book

TOTAL *$0*

Entire Program Books estimate TOTAL $1764

Incidental Costs:

PRIOR TO STARTING PROGRAM:

- Complio (includes Background/Drug Screen, immunization and documentation service; program length) ~170.00
- myClinicalExchange (immunization/documentation service for clinical sites; ~$75/yearly) ~150.00
- Nursing Kit ~140.00

LAB & UNIFORM ITEMS: (APPROXIMATE PRICES)

- Solid-colored Closed Heel/Toe Shoes ~$70.00
- Nursing uniform scrubs ~$100.00
- Short White Lab coat ~$40.00
- AAS Patches x2 ~$16.00
- Name Tag ~$10.00
- Stethoscope ~$90.00
- CMU polo shirts ~$30.00
- Khaki or black slacks ~$30.00

IMMUNIZATIONS & DOCUMENTATION:

Most private insurance plans cover recommended vaccines but if you do not have health insurance or certain vaccines are not covered, you can get no to low cost vaccines from a provider enrolled in a federal vaccine program or from the Mesa County Health Department.

- Varicella (Chicken Pox) Immunization ~$197.00
- Hepatitis B Immunizations ($60 x 3) ~$180.00
- Meningococcal (suggested) immunization ~$188.00
- Tdap (if needed) ~$90.00
- TST (TB Skin Test/PPD) Testing ~$10.00
- COVID Vaccinations ~$30.00
- Influenza vaccine ~$20.00
- Liability insurance (yearly) ~$50.00
- Personal health insurance (optional/yearly) ~1800-6000.00
- Health Care Provider Release Exam ~variable

Incidentals TOTAL $3411-$7611

The following classes also are assessed fees:

NURS 243L	Foundational Nursing Skills Lab	$35.00
NURS 246	Pharmacological Concepts I	$50.00
NURS 247	Fundamentals of Nursing	$50.00
NURS 247L	Fundamentals of Nursing Clinical	$35.00
NURS 248	Adult Concepts of Health I	$50.00
NURS 248L	Adult Concepts of Health I Clinical	$35.00
NURS 249	Pharmacological Concepts II	$50.00
NURS 250	Health Assessment for Nurses	$50.00
NURS 250L	Health Assessment for Nurses Lab	$45.00
NURS 253	Family Nursing Obstetrics and Pediatrics	$50.00
NURS 253L	Family Nursing Obstetrics and Pediatrics Clinical	$45.00
NURS 252	Mental Health Concepts in Nursing	$50.00
NURS 252L	Mental Health Concepts in Nursing Clinical	$45.00
NURS 255	Advanced Adult Health	$50.00
NURS 255L	Advanced Adult Health Clinical	$35.00
NURS 256L	Capstone Clinical	$45.00

Lab Fees TOTAL $685.00

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING FOR A MAJOR IN NURSING

This is a recommended sequence of course work. Certain courses may have prerequisites or are only offered during the Fall or Spring semesters. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the assigned advisor and check the 2-year course matrix on the Colorado Mesa website for course availability.

FRESHMAN YEAR

Fall Semester		Hours
ENGL 111	English Composition I	3 credits
PSYC 150*	General Psychology	3 credits
BIOL 209/209L	Human Anatomy & Physiology 1 & lab	4 credits
MATH 110	Mathematical Investigations	3 credits
KINE 100	Health and Wellness	1 credit
KINA xxx	Activity Course	1 credit

Total Credits 15

Spring Semester		Hours
ENGL 112	English Composition II	3 credits
PSYC 233	Human Growth and Development	3 credits
BIOL 210/210L	Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab	4 credits
BIOL241	Pathophysiology	4 credits

Total Credits 14

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Fall Semester Hours		
NURS 250	Health Assessment for Nurses	3 credits
NURS 250L	Health Assessment for Nurses Lab	1 credit
NURS246	Pharmacological Concepts I	3 credits
NURS 247	Fundamentals of Nursing	3 credits
NURS247L	Fundamentals of Nursing Clinical	2 credits
NURS 243L	Foundational Nursing Skills Lab	1 credit

Total Credits 13

Spring Semester		Hours
NURS 248	Adult Concepts of Health I	4 credits
NURS 248L	Adult Concepts of Health I Clinical	3 credits
NURS 252	Mental Health Concepts in Nursing	3 credits
NURS 252L	Mental Health Concepts in Nursing Clinical	2 credits

Total Credits 12

JUNIOR YEAR

Fall Semester		Hours
NURS 255	Advanced Adult Health	4 credits
NURS 255L	Advanced Adult Health Clinical	3 credits
NURS 253	Family Nursing Obstetrics & Pediatrics	4 credits
NURS 253L	Family Nursing Obstetrics & Pediatrics Clinical	2 credits

Total Credits 12

Spring Semester		Hours
NURS 249	Pharmacological Concepts II	3 credits
NURS 256L	Capstone Clinical	5 credits
NURS 258	Transition to Nursing Practice	4 credits

Total Credits 12

***Please visit the AAS Program website or* the *How to Apply to Undergraduate Nursing Programs* website for the most up to date version of the AAS Program Eligibility Criteria and Application form.**