



COLORADO MESA
UNIVERSITY

Department of Health Sciences

AAS

Degree in Nursing

(Associate of Applied Science, in Nursing)

Information Packet



The Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AAS) program prepares students to achieve a balance between general college and nursing education. Upon completion of the program, students are able to sit for their NCLEX RN Exam. RNs who have earned their AAS, in nursing, are prepared to be direct caregivers in hospitals, long-term facilities and ambulatory care clinical settings.

CMU Student Learning Outcomes	AAS in Nursing Student Learning Outcomes
<p>CMU Outcome #1 Locate, gather, and organize evidence on an assigned topic addressing a course or discipline-related question or a question of practice in a work or community setting. Specialized knowledge; Applied learning</p>	<p>AAS Outcome #1 Exhibit professional nursing care to diverse patients across the life span. Cultural Awareness</p>
<p>CMU Outcome #2 Use program-level mathematical concepts and methods to understand, analyze, and explain issues in quantitative terms. Quantitative Fluency</p>	<p>AAS Outcome #2 Utilize health information systems to provide safe patient care throughout the health care environment. Information Management</p>
<p>CMU Outcome #3 Make and defend claims in a well- organized, professional document and/or oral presentation that is appropriate for a specific audience. Communication Fluency</p>	<p>AAS Outcome #3 Incorporate therapeutic communication into all interactions. Communication</p>
<p>CMU Outcome #4 Identify and gather the information/data relevant to the essential question, issue and/or problem and develop informed conclusions. Critical Thinking</p>	<p>AAS Outcome #4 Incorporate evidence-based practice in the application of care to provide safe quality outcomes. Logical Reasoning</p>
<p>CMU Outcome #5 Reflect on and respond to ethical, social, civic, and/or environmental challenges at local, national, and/or global levels. Personal and Social Responsibility</p>	<p>AAS Outcome #5 Utilize principles of leadership and management skills in caring for patients throughout the lifespan. Leadership in Health care</p>
<p>CMU Outcome #6 Identify, utilize and cite various sources of information in academic assignments, projects or performances. Information Literacy</p>	<p>AAS Outcome #6 Display accountability utilizing ethical reasoning. Incorporate compassionate and empathetic behaviors while providing care. Professionalism/Caring</p>

Professional Resources

Faculty use professional standards and guidelines as a basis for curriculum development and program evaluation. The rationale for choosing these guidelines is that they are the most comprehensive and widely used in the United States. 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.

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. (2024). *Accreditation commission for education in nursing*. <https://www.acenursing.org/>

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

Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) (2022). *Competencies*. <https://www.qsen.org/competencies>

State of Colorado. (2023). *Colorado revised statutes 2023: Title 12 professions and occupations, article 255: Nurses and Nurse Aides*. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14oArZBhbhVoeY-kUTb3t-tm1mCK2BEyg/view>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2020). *Healthy People 2030*. <https://health.gov/healthypeople>

Associate of Applied Science in Nursing

Admission Criteria

- GPA is calculated using all completed required prerequisite courses for the AAS program. All courses must be completed or in progress as of the semester of application. In progress courses are not used in calculation.
- Prerequisite, foundation and Essential Learning course requirements must be completed or in process of completion by the application deadline (i.e., ENGL 111, ENGL 112, Math 110, KINE 100, KINA 1XX) (CMU specific courses). Please see [prerequisite requirements](#) AAS program.
- Must pass all in progress courses with a “C” or higher.
- Personal interviews will be held for selected candidates.
- Successful completion of a criminal background investigation and pre-admission drug screening taken at applicant’s expense after conditional admittance post interview.
- See detailed admission criteria found at the following [link](#).

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, non-nursing program requirements (i.e. [Essential Learning course requirements](#)), and completion of, or in process of completing, pre-requisite and foundation classes.
- 4) Complete and submit the Application for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing form electronically per submission requirements listed on the Application and/or Application Check-off Form. Please see the following website for a complete check-off list for application: <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences/undergraduate/nursing/apply.html>.

The Department of Health Sciences’ email address has a generic automatic reply. The automatic reply does not indicate receipt of any required documents. Processing starts near, but generally AFTER application deadline. During processing, each applicant will receive an individualized email indicating official receipt of application materials (generally within 7-days after the application deadline). Please do not contact the department for the status of your application, unless you haven’t received the official receipt email by the 8th day post application deadline.

¹Every candidate who applies for a Colorado Registered Nursing License will be asked the following questions: Have you ever: (a) had any adverse action taken against you by any licensing agency in another state or country, any peer review body, health care facility, governmental agency, law enforcement agency or court of law? (b) surrendered a license or other authorization to practice nursing in another state or jurisdiction, or surrendered staff privileges while under investigation by any of these authorities or bodies? (c) been convicted, pled no contest/nolo contendere, pled guilty to or been granted a deferred judgment or sentence with respect to a felony, misdemeanor or petty offence other than minor traffic offenses? (d) had paid on your behalf any final judgment, settlement or arbitration award to malpractice? (e) been denied nursing malpractice insurance or had your nursing malpractice insurance coverage terminated by action of the insurance carrier?

COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

Department of Health Sciences

Common Questions & Answers about the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Program (FAQs)

Please read all application materials and the section of the catalog that pertains to the Nursing Program, as well as the AAS Program section of <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences/index.html>. Many of your questions may be answered there.

Does everything have to be submitted to the Department of Health Sciences Office by the 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 5pm (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.

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 Essential Learning and program specific pre-requisite courses. Please review the Academic Requirements for Associate of Applied Science in Nursing located on the CMU website:

<https://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/nursing-aas/#suggestedcourseplantext>.

Please Note:

- PSYC 150: General Psychology and PSYC 233: Human Growth & Development are program pre-requisites that also meet Social & Behavioral Science Essential Learning requirements for 6 credit hours.
- 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).

Prerequisite requirements must be completed or be in the process of completion by the end of the semester of application. All essential learning courses must be completed by the end of the semester of application, to be considered a candidate for the AAS program.

Are there any scholarships specifically for AAS students?

Yes, scholarships are available for AAS students. For specific scholarship information, please see

<https://www.coloradomesa.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/index.html>.

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. The AAS courses are sequential and must be taken as outlined in Academic Requirements for the Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AAS) please review the website listed here: <https://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/nursing-aas/#suggestedcourseplantext>.

How long is the AAS program?

The AAS program is four (4) semesters post admission to the AAS program. All Essential Learning and pre-requisite/foundation courses must be completed or in the process of being completed by the end of semester of application for the 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: <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/student-accounts/expenses.html>.

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 an open advising session that is listed on the Department of Health Sciences' website at: <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences/> (please check our website for current dates/times). Once you've attended an open advising session, you can contact your primary advisor for further advice.

Do you give credit for health care related certification?

Yes, we will review specific health care related certifications/licensures (MA, CNA, EMT, Paramedic) as part of the application process.

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

Yes. In addition to the PN program, we also offer a Licensed Practical Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (LPN-BSN) and a traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. For those who already have an Associate Degree in Nursing or want to continue for the Bachelor of Science in nursing degree, you may be interested in our online RN-BSN program. For more information on all our programs, please see the Department of Health Sciences' website at: <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences/>.

Can I go part time?

While you are completing your Essential Learning/pre-requisites/foundation courses, you can go part time. However, if accepted to the AAS program, you are expected to attend full time.

How do you choose candidates?

We review your overall grade point average from all required courses (Essential Learning, pre-requisites/foundation courses), as well as any information requested on the AAS application. The 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?

No, we do not. If an applicant is not accepted for one semester and wishes to be considered for the next semester, they must reapply.

How much does a credit hour cost?

Please visit the CMU website: <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/student-accounts/expenses.html> for the most recent tuition and fees.

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 preparing.

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

You should refer to the Academic Requirements for Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AAS): <https://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/nursing-aas/#suggestedcourseplantext> or review the CMU Baccalaureate and Associate (AA/AS) Degree Requirements listed on the next page. Only selected 100 and 200 level classes listed in the specific sections are acceptable for fulfilling Essential Learning requirements.

Do I need my own computer?

Many 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. 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.

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

MATH 110* College Mathematics
¹MATH 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

¹MATH 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
²PSYC 150 General Psychology
²PSYC 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

²PSYC 150, PSYC 233 are pre-requisites 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
***³BIOL 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 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.

<i>1st Semester:</i>	New		Incidental Costs:
<i>NURS 244/L</i>			PRIOR TO STARTING PROGRAM:
• Lippincott Bundle (used in more than one class)	920.00		• Complio (includes Background/Drug Screen, immunization and documentation service; program length) ~170.00
<i>NURS 246</i>			• myClinicalExchange (immunization/documentation service for clinical sites; ~\$75/yearly) ~150.00
• None			• Nursing Kit ~140.00
<i>NURS 247/L</i>			
• None			
TOTAL	\$920.00		LAB & UNIFORM ITEMS: (APPROXIMATE PRICES)
<i>2nd Semester:</i>			• White Closed Heel/Toe Shoes 70.00
<i>NURS 248/L</i>			• Nursing uniform scrubs 100.00
• Medical Surgical Nursing Textbook	173.00		• Short White Lab coat 40.00
<i>NURS 252/L</i>			• AAS Patches x2 16.00
• Davis Advantage for Townsend's Psychiatric/MH Nursing 115.00			• Name Tag 10.00
• Travel Expenses ~200.00			• Stethoscope ~90.00
<i>NURS 250/L</i>			• CMU polo shirts 30.00
• Lippincott/Course Point 300.00			• Khaki or black slacks 30.00
TOTAL	\$778.00		IMMUNIZATIONS & DOCUMENTATION:
<i>3rd Semester:</i>			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 .
<i>NURS 251/L</i>			• Varicella (Chicken Pox) Immunization 197.00
• Sherpath Digital Learning Package (Elsevier) \$250.00			• Hepatitis B Immunizations (\$60 x 3) 180.00
<i>NURS 253/L</i>			• Meningococcal (suggested) immunization 188.00
• Maternal Child Nursing \$250.00			• Tdap (if needed) 90.00
TOTAL	\$500.00		• TST (TB Skin Test/PPD) Testing 10.00
<i>4th Semester:</i>			• COVID Vaccinations 30.00
<i>NURS 249</i>			• Influenza vaccine 20.00
• None			• Liability insurance (yearly) ~50.00
<i>NURS 255/L</i>			• Personal health insurance (optional/yearly) ~1800-6000.00
• None			
<i>NURS 256/L</i>			
• None			
TOTAL	\$0		TOTAL, Incidentals \$3411-\$7611
TOTAL, Books	\$2198.00		The following classes also are assessed fees:
			NURS 244 Introduction to Adult Concepts of Health 50.00
			NURS 244L Introduction to Adult Concepts of Health Lab 35.00
			NURS 246 Pharmacological Concepts I 50.00
			NURS 247 Fundamentals of Nursing 50.00
			NURS 247L Fundamentals of Nursing Lab 35.00
			NURS 248 Adult Concepts of Health I 50.00
			NURS 248L Adult Concepts of Health I Lab 35.00
			NURS 249 Pharmacological Concepts II 50.00
			NURS 250 Health Assessment for Nurses 50.00
			NURS 250L Health Assessment for Nurses Lab 35.00
			NURS 251 Adult Concepts of Health II 50.00
			NURS 251L Adult Concepts of Health II Lab 35.00
			NURS 253 Family Nursing Obstetrics and Pediatrics 50.00
			NURS 253L Family Nursing Obstetrics and Pediatrics Lab 35.00
			NURS 252 Mental Health Concepts in Nursing 50.00
			NURS 252L Mental Health Concepts in Nursing Lab 35.00
			NURS 255 Adult Concepts of Health III 50.00
			NURS 255L Adult Concepts of Health III Lab 35.00
			NURS 256 Capstone 50.00
			NURS 256L Capstone Lab 35.00
			TOTAL, Lab Fees \$865.00

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	Spring Semester	Hours
ENGL 111	English Composition I	ENGL 112	English Composition II
PSYC 150*	General Psychology	PSYC 233	Human Growth and Development
BIOL 209/209L	Human Anatomy & Physiology 1 & lab	BIOL 210/210L	Human Anatomy & Physiology II & Lab
MATH 110	Mathematical Investigations	BIOL 241	Pathophysiology
KINE 100	Health and Wellness		Total Credits 14
KINA xxx	Activity Course		
	Total Credits 15		

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Fall Semester	Hours	Spring Semester	Hours
NURS 244	Introduction to Adult Concepts of Health	NURS 248	Adult Concepts of Health I
NURS 244L	Introduction to Adult Concepts of Health Lab	NURS 248L	Adult Concepts of Health I Lab
NURS 246	Pharmacological Concepts I	NURS 250	Health Assessment for Nurses
NURS 247	Fundamentals of Nursing	NURS 250L	Health Assessment for Nurses Lab
NURS 247L	Fundamentals of Nursing Lab	NURS 252	Mental Health Concepts in Nursing
	Total Credits 12	NURS 252L	Mental Health Concepts in Nursing Lab
			Total Credits 14

JUNIOR YEAR

LEVEL I	Hours	LEVEL II	Hours
NURS 251	Adult Concepts of Health II	NURS 249	Pharmacological Concepts II
NURS 251L	Adult Concepts of Health II Lab	NURS 255	Adult Concepts of Health III
NURS 253	Family Nursing Obstetrics & Pediatrics	NURS 255L	Adult Concepts of Health III Lab
NURS 253L	Family Nursing Obstetrics & Pediatrics Lab	NURS 256	Capstone
	Total Credits 12	NURS 256L	Capstone Lab
			Total Credits 12

Please visit the following website:

<https://www.coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences/documents/aas-nursing-application-pdf>

***for the most up to date version of the
AAS Program Application forms.***