Frequently Asked Questions - 2nd Degree Accelerated Program

1. How long does the program take to complete?
   18 months—5 semesters including two summer semesters. The accelerated program always begins in May and ends in December a year and half later.

2. When is the application deadline?
   February 1. The College of Nursing application will be available 90 days prior to the deadline. Two applications are involved—one through Nursing CAS, which is for the College of Nursing program and the other is the ETSU application. You only need to send transcripts to Nursing CAS. We suggest completing the application as soon as possible. You do not have to wait until you have taken the TEAS V entrance test or until you are accepted to ETSU to begin your Nursing CAS application. Both applications can be done in the same time frame. For more information, visit the website: http://www.etsu.edu/nursing/undergrad/bsn_second_degree.aspx

3. When does the program begin?
   Once a year in Mid-May, which is our Pre-Summer Semester (some schools call it “Maymester”).

4. How many students do you accept?
   30 students out of approximately 150-200 applicants

5. Can I apply to this program with a completed Associate Degree in any field?
   No. Applicants need to have a completed Bachelor’s Degree in any field. Students who have completed Master’s degrees and beyond are also eligible to apply.

6. Do I get extra points for a degree in a related field such as Public Health or Microbiology?
   No. The program is open to students who hold a Bachelor’s Degree in ANY field.

7. What are the four Pre-requisite classes that need to be completed?
   Two Anatomy and Physiology classes with labs. These can either be Anatomy and Physiology I and II OR a course in Human Anatomy and a course in Human Physiology. One Microbiology with lab: Introduction to Microbiology or General Microbiology course and one Statistics class. Many students take Probability and Statistics or Introduction to Statistics, but we also accept Statistics for any of the Social Sciences, Biostatistics, or any class that includes a large statistical emphasis. Also courses in Virology or Bacteriology can substitute for Microbiology. Providing a catalog course description is helpful for determining whether classes fulfill the requirement.

8. Can I take the pre-requisite classes online or at a community college?
   Yes, they can be taken at any accredited college or university, including accredited online programs.
9. My pre-requisites are older than five years, or ten years. Do I need to re-take them?
   No. Pre-requisite classes do not “expire” although we recommend that the student has competent recall of the material, and suggest re-taking them if you do not feel confident about your grasp of the material.

10. Do all four of the pre-requisites need to be completed when I apply?
    At least **THREE** out of the 4 classes need to be completed. You can have **one pre-requisite course in progress** when you apply. There are no exceptions to this requirement.

11. Do I still need to take the TEAS V even though I already have a Bachelor’s Degree?
    Yes. No one is exempt from the TEAS V admission requirement. It is part of the admission score. The **GRE is not accepted** as an alternate test. For more information about the TEAS V, go to [www.atitesting.com](http://www.atitesting.com)

12. Is the program offered online, part time or nights/weekends?
    No. The Accelerated 2nd Degree program is on ground full time only.

13. Does full time mean I will be in class or clinicals five days a week from 8 to 5?
    No. Academic and clinical hours will vary each semester, but your schedule will never be all day every day. Lecture classes are usually on a Tuesday/Thursday or Monday/Wed./Friday schedule, and clinicals are generally 2 days a week. You may have a Saturday clinical, but there are no late night hours.

14. Can I work and be successful in the program?
    We strongly discourage working and enrolling in the Accelerated 2nd degree BSN program. Some students work part time in a health care related field, and are successful, but ideally, you should plan to be work free for the 18 months of the program.

15. Do I need to have shadowing experience to be eligible to apply?
    No. However, we do encourage students to be sure that they understand what is involved in a nursing career before investing time and money into pre-requisite classes.

16. Do I need to provide letters of recommendation for the application process?
    No.  We evaluate applicants according to objective criteria only: Overall GPA, Pre-requisite courses GPA, TEAS V Overall Adjusted Individual Score, and TEAS V Reading Adjusted Individual Score. Each one of the 4 criteria is worth up to 100 points, for a possible maximum of 400 points. Please see admission criteria at [http://www.etsu.edu/nursing/bsncriteria](http://www.etsu.edu/nursing/bsncriteria) for the scale.

17. Do you conduct interviews as part of the application process?
    No. Please see answer to question 16.

18. What is the difference between the traditional program and the accelerated program?
    Basically the summer semesters are the difference. Both programs are 5 semesters, but the accelerated program has 2 summer semesters, so it is completed in a year and half. The traditional program also is 5 semesters, but only fall and spring—so that same 5 semesters takes two and half years to complete. **2nd degree**
students are welcome to apply to the Traditional Program. We actually encourage students to apply to BOTH programs, as the Traditional one is not quite as competitive.

19. **When will I be notified about acceptance to the program?**
   We evaluate all applications after the February 1 deadline, and letters concerning the admission decision are usually sent out the first week of March. We do not have a Waiting List designation, however if accepted students decline their spaces, we will admit additional students in point order.

20. **What is the cost of the program?**

    ETSU charges per credit hour, so each semester will cost a different amount. There are also course fees, books and supplies that add to the cost. To calculate the approximate tuition (either in state or out of state) go to [http://www.etsu.edu/fa/fs/bursar/tuitioninfo/Undergrad_Fees.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/fa/fs/bursar/tuitioninfo/Undergrad_Fees.aspx) to see the cost per credit hour.

21. **Is financial aid or scholarship money available for 2nd degree students?**

    We suggest that you talk with a financial aid counselor about your individual qualifications for federal student aid. 2nd degree students may qualify for loan money, but are not eligible for grant money. There are scholarships offered through the College of Nursing, but not specifically for 2nd degree students. There are no “full ride” scholarships available to any student through the College of Nursing.