

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1: *What exactly is the Associate to Bachelor's (ATB) Degree in Nursing Option at CCBC?*

A: ATB is designed for qualified associate degree nursing students who begin bachelor's coursework at one participating university while enrolled in the two year CCBC A.S. (Associate of Science) degree Nursing Program. In this year round study option, students take the NCLEX-RN licensure exam upon meeting the associate degree requirements, begin employment as registered nurses and then complete remaining courses for the B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degree, part-time, in approximately 2-3 additional semesters.

Q2: *Which universities are part of the ATB Option with CCBC and how often would I travel to their campus?*

A: CCBC Nursing is pleased to have four university partners participating in the ATB Option: **Frostburg State University** (completely online classes), **Notre Dame of Maryland University** (primarily face to face classes), **Stevenson University** (early face to face progressing to hybrid to online classes) and **Towson University** (offers face to face, hybrid and some online classes). If taking a face to face course, students typically travel once a week.

Q3: *Do I really need a B.S. degree in nursing? Can't I become a registered nurse with just the A.S. degree?*

A: While you can become a registered nurse upon successful completion of your A.S. degree, more and more, Maryland hospitals prefer their nurses to hold Bachelor's degrees. This trend to prefer nurses who hold Bachelor's degrees is based on research showing B.S. nurses help produce better patient outcomes. This means that earning your Bachelor's at the start of your career will give you an advantage in your job search and help you go further, faster.

Q4: *Will I need to take additional pre-requisite courses for the ATB Option?*

A: Yes, in order to be accepted into the ATB Option you will need to take pre-requisite courses for CCBC's Associate Degree Nursing Program **plus** a few more required by the ATB University of your choice. Most often the universities require Chemistry, Nutrition, Statistics and possibly Sociology as additional pre-requisite courses. The required courses vary by university so it is recommended that students view each university's specific requirements by clicking on the university name under the ATB Nursing Degree drop down menu on the website <http://www.ccbcmd.edu/Programs-and-Courses/Schools-and-Academic-Departments/School-of-Health-Professions/Nursing.aspx>

Q5: *If I already have a Bachelor's degree in another major, would I want to pursue the ATB Option?*

A: Yes, hospital employers will want to hire nurses with a Bachelor's in the nursing major. A previous degree will most likely help you meet several pre-requisite course requirements. Students with prior degrees should apply to CCBC (free application!) and have their transcripts evaluated to determine which courses would transfer in.

Q6: *If I decide to apply to CCBC's Evening Weekend or Online Hybrid RN program, can I still participate in the ATB Option?*

A: Yes, we have students in each of those RN program options who are also enrolled in ATB. Depending on their daytime availability, evening-weekend or online hybrid students should seek the advice of one of the ATB Coordinators to determine which ATB university may offer classes during times that would fit their schedules. Please email one of our ATB Coordinators at atbnursing@ccbcmd.edu to discuss which university may be a best fit for you.

Q7: *How much will the ATB Option at CCBC cost?*

A: Students can expect to save significant money by earning a B.S. degree through the CCBC ATB Option when compared to attending a university for four years. The associate degree (70 credits) portion of the program along with additional ATB pre-requisite courses (10 – 13 credits) can all be taken at CCBC with its low tuition rate. ATB students typically take a minimum of 30-33 credits at the university tuition rate to complete the B.S. degree. Students should search for most current tuition rates and fees at each university website and at CCBC's website: <http://www.ccbcmd.edu/costs-and-paying-for-college/tuition-and-fees>

Q8: *Am I eligible to receive financial aid as a CCBC nursing student in the ATB Option?*

A: Yes. All students who wish to receive federal financial aid should fill out the "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" or "FAFSA" form by going to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to determine their eligibility. Students taking their nursing pre-requisite courses at CCBC should list CCBC as the receiving institution on their FAFSA. Once accepted to the ATB Option, students must add their university to their FAFSA and financial aid will be dispersed through their ATB University. Students must then use their university awarded aid to pay their CCBC tuition. For very specific questions concerning financial aid, students should contact the financial aid office at the university they are interested in attending.

Q9: *How do I apply to CCBC's ATB Nursing Degree Option?*

A: Students must file **two applications** if they wish to be considered for the ATB Option. First, they must apply to the CCBC Associate Degree Program using the CAS application where they must select campus (Catonsville or Essex) and Program (Day, Evening or Online Hybrid). Second, they must apply separately to the ATB university or universities of their choice using the university specific applications. Instructions for both applications can be found in the ATB Admissions Packet at:

http://www.ccbcmd.edu/~media/CCBC/Programs%20and%20Courses/Schools%20and%20Academic%20Departments/SHP/PDFs/ATB/ATB_Admissions_Packet.ashx

Q10: *How can I learn more about CCBC's ATB Option?*

A: One of the very best ways to learn more is to attend one of our ATB Nursing Information Sessions offered every January, April, August and October on both the Catonsville and Essex campuses. Come and meet your CCBC ATB Program Coordinator and hear from representatives from CCBC's four partner universities. Bring all your questions and leave feeling much more informed about your various options to pursue a career in nursing! For specific dates/times/locations of upcoming ATB Information Sessions, please email atbnursing@ccbcmd.edu

ATB *A Bachelor's in Nursing made incredibly affordable.*