YOUR APPLICATION FOR MN STUDIES FACULTY OF NURSING

Dr. Kara Schick-Makaroff
Associate Dean Graduate Studies

Tracy Quigley
Anna Hnit
Graduate Program Administrators
The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.
AGENDA

Why pursue master’s studies in Nursing at the University of Alberta?

What does the MN program look like?

What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

How do I submit my application?
Why pursue master’s studies in Nursing?

- Re-energize your nursing career and pursue career aspirations!
- Develop skills to advance nursing practice in your area of focus/expertise
- Move quickly into leadership roles in diverse settings
- Continue your studies toward PhD for academic and research career pathways
Why pursue graduate studies in Nursing at the University of Alberta?

NURSING

1st in Canada 5th in the world
Why pursue graduate studies in Nursing at the University of Alberta?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rich faculty history!</th>
<th>Long-standing track record &amp; reputation for graduate programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Nursing school established in 1918  
  • Baccalaureate program opened in 1923 | • MN program established in 1975  
  • PhD program established in 1991  
  (first PhD Nursing in Canada) |
Establish relationships with top Canadian Nursing faculty
  • Award winning researchers and teachers
  • High impact programs of research (e.g. aging, frailty, social inequity, global health) addressing current health issues

Talented classmates become your professional network as distinguished alumni
  • Classmates bring diverse perspectives and experience of nursing
  • Build life-long professional network for mentoring, support, and opportunities

Why pursue master’s studies at the University of Alberta?

Reputation and Top Nursing Talent

Become a UofA Nursing Alumna!
What does the MN program look like?

Both course-based and thesis-based options offer preparation for studies at the doctoral level.

Part-time and full-time options:
- Part-time – usually 3 years to completion
- Full-time – complete within 20 months

Flexible scheduling includes daytime and evening classes, and blended/hybrid classes. Students must be available to participate in regularly scheduled classes and seminars.

- Credit loads vary slightly
  - Course based: 36
  - Thesis based: 30
  - NP Course-based: 42
  - NP Thesis-based: 39
MN Conceptual Framework – “Connected Curriculum” (Fung, 2017)

• Assumes that inquiry and research are intimately linked with learning & practice

• Connect students to each other, to faculty, to faculty research, to questions and issues in nursing, and to diverse ways of knowing and inquiring

• Students engage in “Community of Inquiry” courses to develop progressive skills: ask good questions, analyze information and current literature, and move through structured, guided, and independent approaches to research and inquiry.

• Courses build toward completion of capstone and thesis projects.
Three Clusters of MN Course work for both thesis and course-based students:

1. **Core Courses** (3 Credits each)

   - NURS 595 FOUNDATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP/CRITICAL THOUGHT
   - NURS 596 RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS
   - NURS 597 UNDERSTANDING COMPLEX SYSTEMS
   - NURS 598 TRANSLATING KNOWLEDGE
   - NURS 599 PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS IN NURSING INQUIRY
2. Community of Inquiry courses

- **NURS 589/590/591**
  - Community of Inquiry I, II, III
  - (1 Credit each)
  - Engaging with Nursing Scholarship
  - Research Question & Literature Review
  - Building Collaborative Inquiry

- **NURS 593/594**
  - Applied Inquiry I & II
  - (3 credits each)
  - Framing the Inquiry Focus
  - Grand Challenge Questions

- **Capstone (NURS 900) or Thesis Project (THES credits)**
  - NURS 900 for course-based students
  - Thesis credits for thesis-based students
3. Students select one of four Advanced Focus areas of study

2 courses (6 credits)

*Clinical-NP (8 courses - 24 credits + 800 clinical hours)

- **Education**
  - NURS 558: Perspectives on Nursing Pedagogy
  - NURS 559: Approaches to Learning and Teaching Innovation in Nursing

- **Leadership**
  - NURS 568: Advanced Nursing Leadership in Health Systems
  - NURS 569: Nursing Power and Policy in Health Care Leadership

- **Research** (Thesis option only)
  - NURS 578: Knowledge Synthesis
  - NURS 579: Operationalizing Research Design

- **Clinical-NP** (Adult, Family All Ages, Neonatal)
## Example Timetable for Full-time Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 595 Foundations of Scholarship/Critical Thought</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 596 Research Foundations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 593 Applied Inquiry I: Framing the Inquiry Focus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 597 Understanding Complex Systems</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 598 Translating Knowledge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 599 Philosophy &amp; Ethics in Nursing Inquiry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Focus A (Leadership OR Education OR Research)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Focus B (Leadership OR Education OR Research)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 594 Applied Inquiry II: Grand Challenge Questions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 588 Community of Inquiry I: Engaging with Nursing Scholarship</td>
<td>1 Credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 580 Community of Inquiry II: Topic &amp; Lit Review</td>
<td>1 Credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 591 Community of Inquiry III: Building Collaborative Inquiry</td>
<td>1 Credit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course based students:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 900 Capstone</td>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective (1 course)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thesis Based Students:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Highly successful MN students may apply to bypass to PhD by the end of Year 1

**MN Bypass to PhD**

- Complete core MN courses and progress to PhD program after first year of MN studies
- For MN students with outstanding academic achievement on admission & in core MN courses
- Students apply during first year of MN with support of a graduate supervisor willing to supervise the proposed PhD program of studies
Post-Masters Nurse Practitioner

• Graduates of MN programs who subsequently wish to pursue NP studies and licensure may apply to complete Advanced Clinical-NP Focus courses after completing their MN studies in another advanced focus stream or at another university
  • This route enables new grads to complete an MN while working to meet the prerequisite of 4500 clinical hours in advance of NP studies
• 8 clinical courses (24 credits) and 800 clinical hours
• Studies completed over 20 consecutive months
• Graduate students in nursing are strongly encouraged to be prepared to self-fund their studies as there is no guaranteed funding for graduate students.

• The University of Alberta has a significant award and funding program for graduate students, with awards offered both by the Faculty and the University. Please consult the website of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research for additional information.

• Graduate student funding may be available from the Faculty of Nursing through a program of graduate teaching and research assistantships.

• Some graduate supervisors may be able to provide funding through the external grants that support their research projects.

• Graduate supervisors will assist students to apply for funding from sources that are appropriate to the student’s program of studies and level of academic achievement.
Tuition and Fees

Domestic students: approximately $12,000 - 15,000

International students: approximately $22,000 - 24,000

- Fees are for the entire program
- Includes instructional and non-instructional fees. Does not include cost of living estimates
- Based on 2023-2024 tuition rates
- Difference in fees could be attributed to focus area, distance or on-campus non-instructional fees, thesis-based or course-based program

Tuition and Fees:
https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/tuition-and-fees/index.html
Application & Admissions Process
APPLICATION DEADLINE
for admission for graduate studies
commencing Fall 2024:

January 15, 2024
Admission Requirements for MN studies

• An undergraduate degree in Nursing with an admission GPA of at least 3.0 on the 4-point scale from the University of Alberta, or an equivalent institution (calculated on the last ★ 60 credits of graded coursework completed).

• Three letters of reference.

• An undergraduate course in each of statistics and research methods, with a minimum grade of B (or equivalent), preferably completed within the past six years.

• Where applicable, applicants must provide proof of English Language Proficiency

• Advanced Clinical – Nurse Practitioner focus – Must provide evidence of 4500 hours of RN experience and hold a current RN license from a Canadian jurisdiction throughout the program.
What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

- Grade Point Average (3.0 – 4.0)
- Grades achieved in undergraduate research and statistics courses
- Do the reference letters offer a compelling description of a candidate who can be successful in the program?
- Is the information provided on the “Background document” presented in a complete, concise and compelling manner?
- Find a balance between offering thorough answers and limiting answers to ~½ page per question.
The “Background Document” is your introduction to the Admissions Committee

- Has the applicant described their past experience and motivation for graduate studies?
- What are the applicant’s short- and long-term career plans?
- Evidence of leadership and professional engagement:
  - Involvement in nursing activities such as projects and committees in the employment or community settings?
  - Participation in professional nursing organizations or specialty groups?
  - Experience on research projects, research assistantships, quality improvement projects?
  - Recognition and scholarship awards received?
  - Teaching experience as a preceptor, community speaker, guest lecturer?
- Explain how these activities have been meaningful to you or raised questions that have prompted your curiosity.
How do I submit my application?

• Application deadline: January 15, 2024

• All documents, including all reference letters must be received by this date

• Application to Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
  • Create an account and submit all required documents as pdf online
    • [https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/prospective-students/apply-for-admission/index.html](https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/prospective-students/apply-for-admission/index.html)

• Required background document for Master of Nursing
  • Entire application is reviewed by Faculty of Nursing Admissions Committee

• $135 non-refundable application fee
Choosing referees for your reference letter:

• Three reference letters are required
  • Normally two academic references; one personal/work reference

• Examples of possible referees:
  • An academic who supervised your work/volunteer contribution on a project.
  • A faculty member who taught you a class and can speak to your academic excellence.
  • An academic who knows of you through committee work or student leadership activities.
  • A clinician who supervised you in clinical practice (eg. Practicum, UNE or other employment).
  • A former teacher or community service organization leader who can attest to your strengths/contributions.

• An email with a secure link will **only** be sent to your referees **after** you submit and pay for your application.

• Reference letters need to be in PDF and must be on your referee's institutional or business official letterhead or it will not be accepted.
MN Admission Criteria and Application Process

Contact:
Faculty of Nursing Graduate Office
Nursing.graduate@ualberta.ca