

Frequently Asked Questions the FNP and A-GNP Program At UMass Lowell

- **What programs are offered at UML?**
 - Master of Science: Family Health Nursing – FNP, Adult/Gerontological Nursing – A-GNP. Both programs prepare the NP for primary care/outpatient/ambulatory or long term care settings.
 - FNP patient population is infants to older adults, including pregnant adults
 - A-GNP patient population is age 13 to older adults, excluding pregnancy (preparation as an Adult Gerontological Primary Care NP).
 - We do not offer an acute NP track.
- **Can I go Full or Part time?**
 - Full time and part -time degree progression is available. Occasionally full time admission is limited due to capacity in a program. You should indicate your intent for full or part time status on your application.
- **Can I work full time and complete a MS?**
 - This depends on your works schedule. It is generally not a good idea to carry full time credits (9 or more credits) and work full time. Many students arrange work hour reductions when they are doing practicums (last 3 semesters).
- **When are classes and are any offered online?**
 - Most classes are offered in the Fall and Spring semesters. Many courses are available online or in blended format. Face to face classes are typically scheduled on Wednesday or Thursday
- **How long to complete the degree?**
 - You have five years to complete the MS degree. Once you matriculate (start classes) you need to either take a minimum of one course every semester or consult with your academic advisor regarding your options for continuation in the program. If you take more than 2 semesters off, then you need to reapply to the program. It is important that you have a discussion with your academic advisor every semester on your course of study.
 - A full-time program will take 4 semesters to complete. A part time program on average takes 3-4 years to complete. Many of the courses are offered in specific semesters and will have pre or co-requisites
- **Tell me more about the practicums**
 - The NP program at UMass Lowell requires 600 hours for completion of course practicum requirements There are 3 specialty courses with designated practicum placements of 180 hours each. We also have 60 hours of simulation during Advanced Health Assessment.
 - Finding quality clinical practicums for NP students is challenging. Students are expected to secure their own clinical placements with direction and approval from faculty and the Director of Clinical Resources. Additional details about clinical practicums will be reviewed at orientation. Prospective students are encouraged to begin exploring potential clinical sites and preceptors upon acceptance to the NP program.
- **Can I transfer in courses at other schools?**
 - Courses taken prior to matriculation can be transferred if the student achieves a grade of B or better, the course is 3 credits and it is taken at an accredited school.
 - The maximum number of credits that can be transferred from non-UMass Lowell programs is 6 credits. Prospective students can take up to an additional 6 credits from UMass Lowell prior to matriculation.

- Students should receive course approval from the Coordinator of the MS/NP program prior to taking a non-UMass Lowell course. Course descriptions and syllabi from non-UMass Lowell courses must be submitted to be evaluated for equivalency prior to taking the course.
 - Advanced Health Assessment and Specialty courses cannot be transferred.
- **How much do courses cost? A complete list of tuition and expenses can be found at.**
<https://www.uml.edu/thesolutioncenter/bill/tuition-fees/default.aspx>
- **Checklist for application materials:**
 - **Resume** summarizing educational and professional nursing experience and any other related honors, special skills or certifications.
 - **Official transcripts** from undergraduate nursing courses and degrees. Include transcripts of any graduate coursework completed. Evidence of undergraduate statistics with earned grade should be on your transcript.
 - **Three recommendations**, preferably from nursing faculty, supervisors or nurse leaders in your organization. All recommendations should be sent to graduate admissions using the link and **if addendum documents are attached they should be on hospital/school/agency letterhead and signed by the author of the recommendation along with their credentials and title.** Recommendations should address your academic and professional qualifications as well as your potential for success in a graduate NP program.
 - Copy of **current Massachusetts license**. Out of state RN licenses are accepted for application review but all accepted students will need to obtain Massachusetts License prior to practicum courses.
 - **Goal statement** that briefly describes (1-2 pages) your professional goals as an advanced practice nurse. This statement should demonstrate your understanding of the scope of the NP role but also clearly aligns your desired population (FNP or A-GNP) with your career goals.
 - GRE's are not required for our MS NP program
- **When will I hear about my acceptance?**
 - Admissions are on a rolling basis until we have reached capacity in our specialty tracks. Occasionally your application may be positively reviewed but put on a wait list pending available space in the program. You may be contacted for clarification on aspects of your application via phone call or interview. Interviews are generally not required for most applicants. Interviews are required for internal Fast Track BS-MS and RN-BS-MS students.
 - You should check with Graduate School of Admissions on the status of your application using your password and login provided upon submission of your application. The MS admission committee only reviews completed applications. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Include transcripts from all college and university courses (undergraduate and graduate). Undergraduate statistics course grade must be available for review.
 - An orientation session is usually scheduled prior to the start of your semester (early May for Fall matriculation and mid-January for Spring matriculation) to allow for course registration and other questions.
 - The Coordinator of the MS/NP program- Dr. Valerie King is available for additional questions regarding your application and for academic advising prior to matriculation. Her contact information is Valerie_King@uml.edu.