Fast-Track UMASS Lowell Master’s to PhD Program

Students currently matriculated in the Master’s of Science program in nursing may apply for admission to the Fast-Track Master’s (MS) to Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) Program. This innovative option allows students to “double count” two courses – for both degrees, saving time and money upon completion of the PhD program.

Admission Requirements:

- Completion of 12 UMass Lowell credits in the Master’s of Science Nursing program
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 in the MS program at the time of application
- A final GPA of 3.5 after completion of the MS program
- Satisfactory GRE Scores
- An interview with PhD nursing faculty
- Three letters of recommendation
- Graduate application (graduate application fee will be waived)
- Personal statement letter of professional goals and research interests
- Curriculum vitae

**Before graduating from the MS program**, accepted students must meet with the PhD program Director and develop a course plan for the PhD program.

Up to six credits of graduate-level (700) courses may be taken by a student in the UMass Lowell Master’s degree program to be counted toward both the Master’s and PhD degrees. Courses credited to the PhD degree require a grade B or higher.

Recommendations for courses to be counted for both programs include:*  

1) The Required MS Research for Evidence-Based Practice course (NURS.6010) may be replaced with one of the following doctoral courses:
   a) The required PhD course NURS.7070 Epidemiology (online) or
   b) The required PhD course Quantitative Research Methods and Grantsmanship NURS. 7300 (online or blended)

2) The MS level Research Project course and/or the MS program elective may be replaced by one of the following required PhD courses:
   - NURS.7130 Curriculum and Teaching in Nursing (blended) (3 cr.)
   - NURS.7020 Theoretical Foundations of Health Promotion (blended) (3 cr.)
   - NURS.7160 Qualitative Research (blended) (3 cr.)
   - NURS.7310 Health Promotion Research (blended) (3 cr.)

- Other courses choices would need to be approved on a case by case basis by the MS Coordinator and the PhD Program Director.

**Note:** Courses that were taken as part of the UMass Lowell Fast-Track BS to MS program cannot be counted again as a course for UMass Lowell Fast-Track MS to PhD program. If a student was accepted in the MS to DNP Fast-Track and then opted to apply to the PhD program instead, prior to starting the DNP program, those courses may be allowable, if applicable to the PhD program.