

## 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.