

FAQs – Applicants to the MS Program and MS portion of the BS-DNP Program
2017-04-17

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1. Is the program offered in an online format? Are there any on campus requirements? Are out-of-state student eligible to attend?

The NNP Track is offered online, with 3 in-person simulation experiences in Storrs CT. Please see here: <http://neonatal-nursing.online.uconn.edu/>. Out of state students are accepted and expected to complete all online asynchronous courses and the 3 on campus experiences.

The AGACNP, AGPCNP, and FNP tracks are not offered solely online, most of the core courses are online. Core courses are courses that all MS students take, such as statistics, research and evidence-based practice, theory, advanced pathophysiology, etc. All of the APRN courses and the core courses for Masters that are in person meet on Wednesdays. The first semester of clinical for AGACNP, AGPCNP and FNP students, students are on campus for classes each Wednesday and also have 2 days of clinical weekly. During the 2nd and 3rd semester the AGPCNP and FNP students continue with this schedule, and the AGACNP students have classes on Monday afternoons/evenings. Out of state students are accepted and expected to attend in-person courses on campus.

2. Are there any state restrictions for the MS program?

In terms of licensure, students need to hold an active RN license for the state in which their clinical experiences are held.

The online NNP Track operates in specific states, please see the NNP webpage for more information: <http://neonatal-nursing.online.uconn.edu/>

3. Is the program offered for Fall semester entry only?

The NNP track admits for Fall (FT and PT options), Spring (PT only), and Summer (PT only) semesters.

The AGACNP, AGPCNP, and FNP tracks admit for the Fall semester only.

4. How long does it take to complete the program?

The program generally takes 2 years to complete as a full-time student and 3 years as a part-time student.

5. Is the program offered part-time?

Yes. Part-time plans of study are usually across 3 years.

6. How many credits is the program?

The number of credits varies by track from 44 to 48 credits. A plan of study is available for each track on the individual track webpages: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care: <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/adultgero-acute-care/>, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care: <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/adult-gerontological-primary-care-nurse-practitioner/>, Neonatal Nurse Practitioner tracks: <http://neonatal-nursing.online.uconn.edu/>, Family Nurse Practitioner <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/family-nurse-practioner/>, Clinical Nurse Leader <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/clinical-nurse-leader/> and Master of Science <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/>.

7. What is the cost of the program? Cost depends on which Track the student is applying for. All tracks except the NNP track are tuition-based programs. (Please see below for information on the fee-based NNP track).

Please visit bursar.uconn.edu, then click on "Students/Parents," then "Graduate Students" to find tuition information for the upcoming academic year.

The NNP Track is offered on a fee-based system. Costs are outlined on the NNP Track webpage, available at: <http://neonatal-nursing.online.uconn.edu/tuition-fees/>.

8. Are students required to arrange their own clinical sites?

Faculty work with students to identify preceptors. We have accumulated an extensive list, and we are always expanding it. We are happy to collaborate with students to credential and develop contact with a new preceptor if a student has encountered someone that they would like to work with.

For AGACNP, AGPCNP, and FNP students, the potential preceptor must be a Master's or Doctorally prepared NP, an MD/DO, or a PA within the student's area of focus and licensed in the state where the student is attending clinical.

For NNP students, the potential preceptor must be a Master's or Doctorally prepared NNP or neonatologist and licensed in the state where the student is attending clinical.

9. What are the current graduation certification passing rates?

Over the past 3 years, 100% of the graduates who have taken national certification exams have passed, over 96% passed on the first try.

10. What is the application process and deadlines?

January 15th is the application deadline for Fall entry. If there is still space available in a specific Track, admission applications will continue to be accepted until the Track is full. Please note that most Tracks fill early, and completed applications are reviewed as they are received – thus, submitting a complete application early will increase the likelihood of acceptance. Applications are opened in early September for the AGACNP, AGPCNP and FNP Tracks.

The NNP Track accepts admissions for Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters on a continuously rolling basis. The application deadline for Fall is July 15, for Spring is Nov 15, and for Summer is April 15th.

For all Tracks, all required documents must be submitted in order for the application to be considered complete, including:

- personal statement (discuss why the applicant is a good fit with the UConn program specifically, why the specific Track is requested, what makes the applicant uniquely qualified, and plans for post-graduation work),
- RN license,
- three letters of reference (one academic reference from a former faculty member, two professional), and
- the applicant's curriculum vitae or resume.

11. Can an applicant be accepted without having a 3.0 GPA?

For the Master's degree, applicants need an earned bachelors in Nursing or its equivalent from an accredited college or university and a GPA of 3.00 or above. For the BS-DNP degree applicants need an earned Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from an accredited college or university and a GPA of 3.00.

Occasionally, applicants with other superior qualities can be accepted on a "provisional" basis until 12 credits have been completed. Provisional acceptance means that the student must maintain a B (83%) or better in every course taken. Once the provisional time has passed and if the B or better is maintained in every course, the student automatically becomes a regularly matriculated student.

12. Is each applicant interviewed?

Once the application is complete it is reviewed by the Track Director. Applicants who are invited to interview will then be notified. The time frame for when an applicant receives notification for an interview depends on the number of applications received. The Track Directors make every effort to act upon completed applications by the end of February.

13. How long does it take for an applicant to be notified of acceptance after submitting a complete application?

Admission decisions are made after the applicant has been interviewed. Every effort is made to send notification by March 30.

14. Do applicants have to take GRE's?

No, the UConn School of Nursing graduate programs do not require the GRE.

15. Can students change tracks?

In rare instances it may be possible to change tracks. The student must consult with the Track Director for the track they are currently in as well as for the desired track. Depending on the stated rationale for wanting to change tracks and if space is available in the desired track, a student might be granted permission to change tracks.

16. How many days do classes meet?

NNP courses are all offered online, with 3 in-person experiences in Storrs, CT.

In-person classes for the AGACNP, AGPCNP, and FNP tracks are held one day a week. Classes are scheduled from 8AM to 8PM. While this can be a long day, the schedule is purposefully held to one day to facilitate clinical schedules and students who need to work part-time.

AGACNP, AGPCNP, and FNP clinical didactic and clinical seminar courses during the first clinical semester meet on Wednesdays.

During the second and third clinical semesters, courses meet on Monday afternoons/evenings for the AGACNP students, and remain on Wednesdays for the AGPCNP and FNP students.

17. How many students are accepted?

We accept from 12 to 18 students per Track.

18. What kind of financial aid is available?

Financial Aid is available through the office of financial aid: <http://financialaid.uconn.edu/>.

Traineeships may be available for primary care students depending on grant funding.

Graduate assistantships are available for full time students. Graduate Assistants (GAs) are considered full-time if they are taking 6 credits. GA's receive a tuition waiver and are eligible for health care benefits through the university. GA's receive a \$10,000 stipend in exchange for working 20 hours per week as assigned. There are multiple places a GA can be assigned: with a faculty member doing research, assisting a faculty member with their course, assisting with simulation labs, leading a clinical seminar group, etc. The specific assignment depends on the School of Nursing's needs and the GAs interests. GA position applications open in March and are determined before the summer. There are 12 positions available.

19. What kind of scholarships are available and when are the application deadlines?

There is a list of scholarships that are offered through the School of Nursing on our website: <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/financial-assistance/>. There are also scholarships

offered through the university: <http://gradcatalog.uconn.edu/grad-school-info/assistantships-fellowships-other-aid/>. If a student is from out of state, the New England Regional Student Program may provide an opportunity: <http://www.nebhe.org/programs-overview/rsp-tuition-break/overview/>.

20. Can acceptance be deferred?

If an applicant has been accepted for matriculation, they may defer matriculation into the graduate program for one year.

21. Can courses be started before starting the graduate program? How does a student enroll?

Yes, several of the core courses can be taken by non-matriculated students. A student can transfer in up to 3 core School of Nursing graduate courses that have been taken as a non-matriculated student.

Non-matriculated students may enroll in one of the core course, provided there is still space, two weeks prior to the start of the semester. The student needs a permission number and enrolls through <http://nondegree.uconn.edu/>.

22. Can courses taken at other Universities be transferred in?

Sometimes. A course can be transferred in if it was not used toward another degree and if it matches the description and objectives of the required course at the School of Nursing. A syllabus must be submitted to the Track Director for review on a case-by-case basis.

23. Can a transfer student apply all of the courses/credits already taken in another school to the UConn MS program?

Up to 25% of the MS program credits may be considered for transfer into UConn. Typically, this is between 6 – 9 credits. Transfer credits/courses may be considered if they were not used toward another degree (please see FAQ #22).

24. Can potential applicants schedule an appointment to discuss which specialty track might be best and to have their transcripts reviewed prior to applying to UConn?

Due to the high number of potential applicants, faculty are not able to meet individually with potential students. The website provides extensive information and several useful links are also included in the FAQs to assist potential applicants with finding answers to their questions.

25. Can a potential applicant with a bachelor's degree that is not in nursing apply for the APRN programs at UConn?

You must have a Bachelor's of Science degree in some discipline AND be an RN to apply to the MS program. You would need to have complete the pre-requisites that are listed on the web page: http://nursing.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/939/2014/09/MS_AdmissionRequirements.pdf. UConn does not currently have a bridge program – that which admits a non-Bachelors prepared individual and move them through to an MS. If you do not have a bachelor's degree in some discipline you will need to attend a bachelors completion program and then would meet the admission requirements for UConn graduate nursing programs. UConn does have an RN to MS program that can meet this need: <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/rn-to-masters/>.

26. Does UConn have a direct entry program for non-RN's to become APRNs?

UConn does not have a direct entry program for non-RN's to become APRNs. UConn does have a Certificate of Entry into Nursing (CEIN), which is an accelerated BS/RN program that is completed in 12 months.

New RNs are eligible to apply for the MS Program. However, a minimum of 1 year of full time work as an RN is required before a student can begin the advanced health assessment and clinical courses.

27. Is there a minimum amount of RN experience needed before a candidate can apply for the UConn APRN graduate programs?

Yes, a minimum of 1 year of full time RN work experience is required prior to taking the advanced health assessment and clinical courses. If an applicant is accepted before completing a year of full time work as an RN, the student can take non-clinical courses while continuing to work as an RN to build up to the full year.

NNP applicants are required to have at least 1 year of level III or level IV NICU staff nurse experience (with ongoing practice) for admission. A minimum of two years experience is required prior to commencing clinical practica in the NNP student role.

28. What type of RN experience is needed to be eligible to apply to the UConn APRN programs?

RN experience must include direct patient care with assessment and planning.

NNP applicants are required to have at least 1 year of level III or level IV NICU staff nurse experience (with ongoing practice) for admission. A minimum of 2 years NICU experience is required prior to commencing clinical practica in the NNP student role.

29. For interested applicants with an Associate Degree in nursing; are there any specific pre-requisites that need to be completed prior to admission to UConn APRN programs?

A Bachelor's degree is required for entry to the MS program. Information for Associate Degree RNs can be found on the RN to MS program page:

<http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/rn-to-masters/>.

30. For applicants who have a MS in Nursing already, what post-master's programs does UConn offer?

UConn offers a post-MS Certificate for nurses with a clinical Master's degree in the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care: <http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/adultgero-acute-care/>, Adult-Gerontology Primary Care:

<http://nursing.uconn.edu/program-info/master-of-science-ms/adult-gerontological-primary-care-nurse-practitioner/>, and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner tracks: <http://neonatal-nursing.online.uconn.edu/>.