



The University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), Advanced Practice - Doctor of Nursing Practice (APRN DNP) Frequently Asked Questions

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General Information:

Does the School of Nursing Graduate Programs offer any on-line or distance learning courses or degrees?

No, all programs are offered in the classroom or in clinical settings, though some courses are delivered via a hybrid modality.

What DNP-APN concentrations does the School of Nursing Graduate School offer?

The School of Nursing offers the following programs of study:

- 🦋 Adult Gerontology—Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
- 🦋 Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- 🦋 Primary Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PC PNP)
- 🦋 Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (AC PNP)
- 🦋 Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practitioner (PMHNP)

Does the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) offer specialty tracks?

No, the MSN degree is a generalist degree that focuses on Leadership in Diverse Settings (LeaDs). The LeaDs program equip graduates with a comprehensive set of skills to lead in patient-centered healthcare, community, and educational settings.

Must I have a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree to enter the MSN or APRN DNP programs?

No, students may enter the master's and APRN-DNP programs with:

- 🦋 Bachelor of Science in Nursing or
- 🦋 An associate degree in nursing (ADN) or nursing diploma **and** a non-nursing bachelor's degree

Where are the School of Nursing and the Graduate Student Services Office located?

The School of Nursing is located at 1710 Red River, Austin, Texas 78712. The Graduate Student Services Offices are on the main entrance floor (2nd level) reception 2.400.

Can you mail me a packet of information?

Information packages are not provided as all of the information available to prospective students may be found on the [School of Nursing website](#).

Admission Requirements and the Application Procedures:

Graduate Admissions process graduate program applications. To apply for graduate admission to the School of Nursing the admissions application must be completed electronically using the [Graduate School Application for Admission](#) during the open application period of **September 1 through November 1**.

The following documents must be uploaded via the [Application Status Check](#) page by the APPLICATION **DEADLINE** of **November 1**:

- ✎ **Application** - The Graduate Admissions Office process applications for graduate admissions. Applications are to be completed and paid using the [Graduate School Application for Admission](#). For additional information on Graduate admissions, please visit the [University of Texas at Austin Graduate School](#) webpage.
- ✎ **Official Transcript(s)** from **each academic institution** you have attended and the transcript for the associate's degree in nursing, if applicable. **Every university/college attended must be entered on the online application.** Accuracy in the dates attended is important. Upload a copy of official transcripts dated one year or less; if admitted official, hard copy, transcripts are required. Open transcripts are acceptable.
- ✎ Current **Curriculum Vitae (CV)** indicating educational background, professional experience, volunteer experience and other relevant information (e.g. publications, scholarship and awards, professional organizations, and community activities).
- ✎ **Statement of Purpose (SOP)**
 - **MSN applicants** should be uploaded on the Status Check page. *The SOP must be double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point, and maximum length of 2 pages, addressing the following:*
 - Discuss the development of interest in nursing **graduate** education.
 - Explain the basis for choosing MSN Leads and how this program contributes to your personal and professional goals.
 - Provide any information that you believe your application would be incomplete without and that sheds more light on your unique potential to succeed in a graduate nursing program and contribute to the University community and the nursing profession.
 - **APRN DNP applicants** should be uploaded on the Status Check page. The SOP must be double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point, and maximum length of 2 pages, addressing the following:
 - Discuss the development of interest in nursing **graduate doctoral** education.
 - Identify the clinical specialty and the basis for the choice as well as personal and professional goals.
 - Provide any information that you believe your application would be incomplete without and that sheds more light on your unique potential to succeed in a graduate nursing program and contribute to the University community and the nursing profession.
- ✎ **Three Recommendations** – Provide the name, position, and email address for **only** three recommenders on the admissions application. Using our secure, personalized form, three (3) professional recommendations attesting to the applicant's academic ability, professional competency, and personal character via skills ratings and two narrative questions is submitted

electronically by each recommender. **Instructions are sent via email directly to recommenders.**

- Written recommendations are not accepted.

 **International applicants** must provide an official English Proficiency report taken within the last two years from the date of application. The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS).

Is there a minimum GPA required for admission?

The Graduate School at the University of Texas at Austin requires a GPA of at least a 3.0. This requirement is calculated based on the grades earned in upper-division (junior and senior level) undergraduate and graduate courses.

Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 may be admitted with conditions. Conditions may be placed by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, or by the Graduate Admission and Progression Committee (GAPC) in the School of Nursing.

Do I have to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to be admitted?

No, the GRE is not required.

How much weight is given to the statement of purpose?

The statement of purpose is considered very carefully. Applicants are encouraged to highlight relevant experiences and professional goals as part the statement of purpose. See the admission requirements above for details in writing the statement of purpose.

What is most important to the Graduate Admission and Progression Committee?

The committee considers each applicant holistically based on admissions materials. Admission materials are evaluated on a value-point system.

When are admission decisions sent out?

Applicants may expect to receive admission decisions by early March.

How many students are admitted yearly?

-  LeaDs: 15-20
-  Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist: 4-6
-  Family NP: 10-12
-  Psychiatric Mental Health NP: 4-6
-  PC Pediatric NP: 4-6
-  AC Pediatric NP: 4-6

Prospective Student Information:

What are the prerequisites?

Statistics (3 credit hours) –Completed prior to enrollment

When does the program start?

The fall semester ONLY; typically, late August or early September.

How long will it take to complete the program?

The minimum time to complete the MSN program is two calendar years for full-time students.
The minimum time to complete the DNP-APN is three calendar years for full-time students.

Can I attend the program as a part-time student?

The program can be completed part-time with program director and graduate advisor approval; however, part-time study will extend the length of time necessary to complete the degree.

I've been out of school for more than 10 years. Is this too long to try such a rigorous graduate program?

No. Students in the program have completed previous degrees as long as 20 years ago and as recently as one semester ago.

What is the difference between RN licensure and NP or CNS certification?

RN licensure is controlled by a regulatory agency in each state and assures the public that the individual has the basic competency to practice professional nursing as a generalist. The NP & CNS certifications are national designations awarded to qualified individuals who demonstrate competency for advanced practice nursing in a particular specialty area. Refer to the [Texas Board of Nursing](#) website for eligibility details.

Once Admitted:

When are Nursing courses offered?

Courses are typically scheduled between the hours of 8:00 am and 7:00 pm on weekdays.

Must I be enrolled as a full-time graduate student?

No. Graduate students may be enrolled part-time (8 credit hours or less) with program director and graduate advisor approval; however, all degree requirements must be completed within six years.

Will I be able to work while enrolled in a graduate program?

Even though the workload is heavy, some full-time students do work part-time while enrolled in courses. However, students who work full-time generally cannot carry a full course load.

What grades are expected of graduate students?

The Office of Graduate Studies requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 (B average) for admission to, retention, and graduation from the University of Texas at Austin. The APRN DNP programs require a 'B' grade in all APRN core courses.

If I have started a graduate program at another institution, will I be able to waive my credits if admitted to your program?

Possibly. A student seeking to use coursework from another institution must provide the School of Nursing with an official transcript, and the course syllabus from the institution at which the course/s were completed. If the courses are deemed appropriate for the degree plan, the course requirement will be waived for the student's program of work.

Waived courses **must** meet the following criteria:

-  Depending on the course, the student must have earned a grade of B or C or better in the course.
-  The course must be graduate level. If the course is open to both undergraduates and graduate students, the student must provide proof that extra work was required for graduate credit, that only graduate students were enrolled in the course, or that the course is required for a master's degree.
-  The course may not have been used to fulfill requirements toward another degree.
-  If approved, the course must be used within a six-year time limit.

I live in another state now. Will I be considered a Texas resident after I finish a year of graduate school?

Possibly. Please visit the UT Austin [Texas Residency](#) for additional information.

Financial Considerations:

How much are tuition and fees?

Tuition and fee information can be found online on the Texas One Stop's [Tuition Rates](#) webpage. Graduate tuition and fees are a flat rate based on the number of hours taken per semester. Most full-time students take an average of nine credit hours per semester.

Does the School of Nursing offer any financial assistance for graduate students?

The School of Nursing offers scholarships, in limited amounts, ranging from approximately \$300-\$3,000 per semester. Competitive fellowships also are offered through the Office of Graduate Studies for continuing students. There also are a limited number of Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant positions available. Some tuition assistance is provided to students who are awarded fellowships and to students holding Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, and Assistant Instructor positions.

Applicants are encouraged to begin searching for financial resources at least nine months prior to the semester in which you enroll.

Is Financial Aid available?

To apply for financial assistance, students are required to complete either the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or the [Texas Application for State Financial Aid \(TASFA\)](#). The FAFSA should be completed by students who are U.S. citizens or eligible noncitizens. The TASFA should be used by non-citizens who are classified as Texas residents; the Financial Aid website has more information on the TASFA.

Contact Information:

Graduate Student Services

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