The University of New Mexico
College of Nursing

University of New Mexico College of Nursing
Masters of Science in Nursing
Nurse Midwifery
Admission Guide
Summer 2017 Application Cycle
August 25- October 1, 2016
# Table of Contents

- Program Information ................................................................. 2
- Contact Information .................................................................. 2
- Minimum Application Requirements .......................................... 3
- New Mexico Residency ............................................................... 3
- Timeline for summer 2017 Admission ........................................ 3
- How to Apply ................................................................................. 4
- Transcript Requirements ............................................................ 4
- NursingCAS Address for Transcripts ........................................... 4
- UNM Office of Admissions Address for Transcripts .................. 5
- Letter of Intent ............................................................................. 5
- Letters of Recommendation ....................................................... 5
- Resume or CV ................................................................................ 5
- Interview ........................................................................................ 5
- Licensure and Certifications ....................................................... 5
- FAQs Regarding the NursingCAS Application ......................... 5
- FAQs Regarding the MSN CNM Program ................................. 6
Program Information

The mission of the Nurse-Midwifery concentration (CNM) is to educate graduates to serve the needs of rural and underserved populations. To meet this mission, students must expect to be placed outside of the Albuquerque metropolitan area for 2/3 of the clinical rotations.

The Nurse-Midwifery concentration is a sequential 6-term, full-time graduate program of studies consisting of 55 credit hours including more than 1000 hours of clinical experience. The degree to be awarded at completion of the program is the Master of Science in Nursing. Graduates will be eligible for national nurse midwifery certification and licensure in New Mexico and all other U.S. states after successful completion of the American Midwifery Certification Board’s certification exam.

Because graduate education in nursing builds on the baccalaureate curriculum, students are expected to enter the program with prerequisite coursework and clinical nursing competence. Specific areas that will be built upon, but not repeated at the graduate level include: basic anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology; introductory pharmacology; basic growth and development; basic physical and psychosocial assessment; basic statistics; interviewing and development of therapeutic relationships; and community health nursing. Students who seek admission without some of these competencies will need to take personal responsibility for acquiring them. The College of Nursing and the University of New Mexico have coursework, clinical opportunities, and faculty available to assist students, if necessary, prior to entering the program.

Contact Information

UNM
College of Nursing
(505) 272-4223
HSC-CON-StudentServices@salud.unm.edu or jbelsher@salud.unm.edu
http://nursing.unm.edu

NursingCAS
(617) 612-2880
nursingcasinfo@nursingcas.org
www.NursingCAS.org
Minimum Application Requirements

To be considered for the UNM CON MSN CNM Concentration, applicants must:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree (e.g., Bachelor of Science in Nursing) from an accredited college or university, with an upper-division major in nursing. (Graduates from non-accredited programs [NLN or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education] and RNs with baccalaureate degrees in non-nursing fields are considered on an individual basis.)
- At least one year of experience as a registered nurse.
- Have a minimum grade point average for baccalaureate work of 3.0 (B) or better.
- Be registered in or eligible for nursing licensure in New Mexico with a New Mexico RN license obtained within the first term enrolled.
- Submit one letter of intent to NursingCAS.
- Submit three letters of recommendation to NursingCAS.
- Submit one current professional resume or CV to NursingCAS.
- Submit the NursingCAS application from August 25-October 1, 2016. See the application guidelines for further information.
- Upload or send unofficial college transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for processing (see address on page 4).
- Submit a UNM Graduate Admission application by October 1, 2016. Visit www.unm.edu/apply to submit a graduate application to UNM Graduate Admissions.
- Send official college transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for verification and processing by October 1, 2016.

Failure to complete any of the above steps will result in ineligibility, and your application will not be processed.

New Mexico Residency

The UNM CON abides by the policies set forth by the UNM Office of the Registrar regarding all residency issues and decisions. For more information, visit www.registrar.unm.edu/residency

Timeline for summer 2017 Admission

- October 1, 2016, by 9:59 MST: The MSN Nurse Midwifery summer 2017 NursingCAS application period closes, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
- October 1, 2016: Unofficial transcripts must be received by NursingCAS or uploaded. This is not a postmarked deadline.
October 1, 2016: UNM Graduate Application must be submitted and paid for.
October 1, 2016: Official transcripts must be received by UNM Office of Admissions. This is not a postmarked deadline.
October - November 2016: Applicant Interviews by invitation and appointment.
November 2016: Applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision via the email they used on their application to the UNM CON CNM program. All admission decisions are final.
May 2017: Classes start.

How to Apply
The UNM CON utilizes NursingCAS for all MSN applications, including CNM.

We require:
- The applicant to submit or upload all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS for processing and all official transcripts to UNM Office of Admissions. The UNM CON no longer accepts transcripts for applications.

We do not require:
- The applicant to enter any academic history under the “Academic History” section within NursingCAS.
- The applicant to take the GRE or any other entrance exam.

Transcript Requirements
NursingCAS: For the MSN FNP application, you must submit or upload unofficial transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for application purposes.

UNM Office of Admissions: For the UNM Graduate application, you must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended to UNM Office of Admissions for application purposes.

All questions regarding transcripts must be directed to NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions, as the UNM CON does not have access to them until they have been received and processed by NursingCAS or the UNM Office of Admissions.

NursingCAS Address for Transcripts
To send your unofficial transcripts directly to NursingCAS. Their address is:

NursingCAS Transcript Processing Center
P.O. Box 9201
Watertown, MA 02471
UNM Office of Admissions Address for Transcripts

You will be sending your official transcripts directly to UNM Office of Admissions. Their address is:

**UNM Office of Admissions**
PO Box 4895
Albuquerque, NM 87196-4895

Letter of Intent

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent that outlines and conveys the experiences and events in your academic and professional life that have led you to desire an academic graduate education. It should be no more than two pages in length. Your letter of intent will be uploaded in the “Program Materials” section of the NursingCAS application, under the “Documents” tab.

Letters of Recommendation

Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation with their MSN CNM NursingCAS application. The letters of recommendation need to be from professional contacts and need to convey your maturity and experience in pursuing graduate education. The contact information for the individuals providing the letters of recommendation will be entered in the “Supporting Information” section of the NursingCAS application, including: first name, last name, email address, and the due date of 10/01/16.

Resume or CV

Applicants are required to submit either a current resume or CV with their MSN CNM NursingCAS application. This will be uploaded under the “Program Materials” section of NursingCAS.

Interview

Top scoring applicants will be invited to participate in an interview. Interviews will be held at the UNM CON with dates and times to be determined.

Licensure and Certifications

Applicants are required to submit a copy of their current RN license under the “Supporting Information” section of NursingCAS.

FAQs Regarding the NursingCAS Application

**Do I have to enter my entire academic history?**
No, you do not need to enter your academic history for the MSN Nurse Midwifery application.

**If I have already sent my official transcripts to UNM, do I still need to send them to NursingCAS?**

No, you will only need to upload or submit all unofficial transcripts to NursingCAS. The UNM CON will not accept application transcripts under any circumstances. Transcripts sent to NursingCAS can be unofficial or official.

**Do I have to submit my high school transcript?**

No, we do not require high school transcripts. The only transcripts we require are official college transcripts sent directly to NursingCAS for processing. See above for the official transcript requirements.

### FAQs Regarding the MSN CNM Program

**What is your graduation rate?**

100%. Eight out of eight students graduated in 2016.

**How do Nurse-Midwifery graduates perform on the national certification examination?**

Over the past three years UNM has had a 100% American Midwifery Certification Board pass rate. The program’s aggregated annual American Midwifery Certification Board (ACMB) pass rates for all test takers is 98% first-time pass rate. The retake rate at UNM is 100%. In comparison to all other U.S. programs the AMCB nation pass rate on the certification exam for first-time candidates was 89%, which is consistent with previous years.

**What is the typical class size?**

The average class size of a nurse-midwifery class is 8 - 10 students.

**I need to continue to work and be a part-time student in this program. How can I do this?**

This is only a full-time program. Admitted students commit to finishing their course and clinical work in two years (six terms). The program is very rigorous and students are strongly encouraged to NOT work in order to make themselves available for all learning experiences. Since the program requires rural site clinical placements, travel and a flexible student schedule preclude employment. Some applicants tell us "I worked while I did my undergraduate nursing program and got married and had kids. I'm sure this won't be much different. I've been blessed with a good brain, so I'm sure I'll be able to do it with a lot of planning and organization.” However, they state later they really had no idea of the challenges posed by graduate school and the taking-on of an
What kind of financial aid is available for Midwifery?

We are one of only a few totally state supported programs in the US. Because we are a state institution, tuition for a UNM nurse-midwifery education is one of the most reasonable in the country.

However, total educational costs should also include housing costs accrued in distant clinical sites. Occasionally, free student housing is provided in a community, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

Out of state students can cut costs by:

- Moving to New Mexico and establishing residency before beginning the program.
- By taking N526 Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice Nursing and/or N543 Pharmacological Principles of Clinical Therapeutics on a space-available basis. Students may take up to 9 credit hours before declaring a major, and the total course of study can take no longer than 7 years.
- By becoming a Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant during the first year.
- By taking up to 9 hours of transferable MSN core classes in your home state before attending UNM.
- The caveat regarding taking classes early is that in order to be eligible for student financial aid, students must take at least 6 credit hours/term. Federal financial aid requires 9 hrs/term. Federal nursing stipends come under this category.

If I live in a rural New Mexico community, do I have to move to Albuquerque to go to school?

Many students from rural areas of New Mexico have attended this program and kept their main residence in their home town. First term classes are web classes enabling students to live at home. All but one Term 2 classes are on the web as well. The one on the ground class and its lab are given on one day so that the student only spends this time in Albuquerque. During the clinical terms, the classroom teaching is grouped into 1-
3 week long blocks interspersed with clinical blocks of 4-5 weeks. The faculty tries to provide a least 1/3 of a rural student’s clinical experience near the student's hometown. We believe that students from rural areas will likely start nurse-midwifery practices in these areas. Our students are pioneers.

Nearly a third of all births in New Mexico are attended by midwives. Why are CNMs so successful in New Mexico?

There are many contributing factors:

- There is a very long history of midwifery in New Mexico beginning in the Spanish Colonial times with the use of traditional Hispanic Midwives (parteras). The first U.S. university-affiliated Nurse-Midwifery education program was the Catholic Maternity Institute (CMI) in Santa Fe.
- The New Mexico Department of Health’s Maternal/Child Health Division supports the practices of and licenses Certified Nurse-Midwives and Licensed Midwives.
- A strong, cohesive CNM presence at the UNM Department of OB/GYN's Division of Midwifery has educated several generations of physicians to support and value CNM care.
- New Mexico was one of the first states to legislate third-party insurance reimbursement for CNMs, and Medicaid reimbursement for both CNMs and LMs.
- Indian Health Service CNMs have made a positive impact on the care of this state's American Indians for many years.
- The state chapter of the ACNM has embraced an inclusionary policy for all CNMs believing that there can never be too many choices for women in New Mexico.
- Many CNMs are pioneers and understand that jobs are not found in the want ads but are MADE in places where no CNM has gone before.
- A professional organization (ACNM V/I) that supports a strong nurse-midwifery culture, and where CNMs speak with one voice.
- A fully funded Nurse-Midwifery education program that educates graduates to solve health care needs in this state.

Regarding the letter of intent for midwifery, what is the faculty looking for?

Please discuss your “midwifery path.” We are looking for applicants who are people of passion for this profession. Our mission is to educate midwives for work with rural or underserved populations. How do YOU meet our mission?

I understand that you prefer Bachelor's prepared applicants who have a year of nursing experience before applying, but that you occasionally admit a new graduate RN. Should I apply right out of my RN program or should I get experience first?
Generally, we prefer that inexperienced RN applicants have some experience with birth, women's issues, international health, public health etc. prior to obtaining a nursing degree. Other successful applicants have been CPMs, doulas, lactation consultants, community organizers, Peace Corps volunteers etc. Applicants with decision-making experience and some work history are preferred as well.

Inexperienced applicants should consider whether they are observational/hands-on learners. Such people often do better with some nursing experience before starting the program. Those who are visual (books) and auditory (classroom lecture) learners sometimes elect to apply without RN experience. Important skills acquisition needed by students before starting N550: Intrapartum Care in Term 5 are:

- Familiarity with the process of birth (observations of childbirth) and the culture of intrapartum care in the hospital (sights, sounds, smells, intensity level).
- Electronic fetal monitor (EFM) strip interpretation.
- Medications used in labor for pain, hemorrhage, tocolysis, induction etc.
- Psychological and physical support of a woman and her family in labor. (Can you labor-sit?)
- Vaginal examination of the laboring woman (station/ effacement/ dilatation)

It is strongly encouraged that any student without these skills take an independent study credit during Term 4 to acquire them.

Some midwifery preceptors cannot precept a student who is inexperienced or who has no labor and delivery experience, and therefore, these students may have fewer clinical sites from which to choose.

New nurse graduates are often experienced test takers, are more familiar with academics (Internet, word processing, research skills) and they usually qualify for larger financial aid than RNs with a larger income the year before starting the program. They may also more easily embrace the low tech/low intervention model and philosophy of nurse-midwifery care than RNs who have only been employed in high-risk tertiary care centers for most of their careers.

Experienced RNs are usually more adept at routines, use of technology and more understanding and tolerant of the hospital birth culture. Their learning curve may not be as steep in relation to new manual skill acquisition.

**How does the UNM midwifery education program rank among other US programs?**

US News and World Reports has ranked the UNM nurse-midwifery education program among the top 15 in the US since April 2002.