The University of New Mexico
College of Nursing

Masters of Science in Nursing
Nursing Education Concentration
Admission Advisement Guide

Spring 2016 Application Cycle Updated 9/3/15
July 24- September 15, 2015
Program Information

The University of New Mexico College of Nursing (UNM CON) offers a Master’s of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Nursing Education (MSN Education). This program is for student who currently hold a bachelor’s degree and a RN license.

The MSN Education concentration provides a primary focus on the pedagogies and core competencies of nurse educators in a variety of roles and settings. It is expected that the nurse will also apply advanced nursing knowledge and skills based on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) master’s essentials to an identified area of clinical practice. Graduates will be prepared to function as faculty in schools of nursing at associate and baccalaureate degree levels, and be prepared to pursue certification as a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). Graduates will also be prepared to function as nursing leaders in inter-professional education, staff education, as unit based educators, patient educators, and nurse educators in community agencies or clinics. The Program of Studies has been designed for the student to develop advanced knowledge in educational theories, teaching-learning strategies, assessment strategies, curriculum development and program evaluation as well as advanced knowledge and skills in an identified area of nursing practice. The courses are sequenced and culminate in the synthesis of knowledge and application of skills in
areas of clinical interest in education. Full time or part time studies are offered to complete 39 credit hours for the master’s degree in nursing education.

The National League for Nursing (NLN) has identified core competencies for nurse educators and developed a certification exam for nurse educators to become recognized for excellence as Certified Nurse Educators (CNE). Qualifications for taking the exam are based on experience and completion of certain curricula. Based on the new AACN requirements along with the NLN competencies for Nurse Educators and supporting NLN certification requirements, our newly revised curriculum reflects these competencies and current standards for nurse educators.

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 Education Concentration, applicants must:

- Hold a bachelor’s degree (e.g., B.S.N.) from an accredited college or university, with an upper-division major in nursing. (Graduates from non-accredited programs [N.L.N. or C.C.N.E.] and RN’s with baccalaureate degrees in non-nursing fields are considered on an individual basis.)
- Have a minimum grade point average for baccalaureate work of B (3.0) or better.
- Submit evidence of RN licensure with NursingCAS. If NCLEX results are pending at time of application, applicant should indicate this in the personal statement.
- Submit one letter of intent with NursingCAS.
- Submit three references with NursingCAS.
- Submit one current resume or CV with NursingCAS.
- Complete the NursingCAS application from July 24- September 15, 2015.
- Send official college transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for processing. (See Address)
- Be eligible for graduate admission to UNM. Visit www.unm.edu/apply to submit a graduate application and transcripts to UNM Graduate Admissions.
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/](http://www.registrar.unm.edu/residency/)

**Timeline for Spring 2016 Admission**

- July 24, 2015: The MSN Education NursingCAS application period opens.
- September 15, 2015, by 9:59 MST: The MSN Education Spring 2016 NursingCAS application closes, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
- September 15, 2015: Official transcripts must be received by NursingCAS. This is not a postmarked deadline.
- November 30, 2015: Applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision by the end of November via the email they used on their application of the UNM CON MSN Education. All admission decisions are final.
- January 2016: Classes start.

**How to Apply**

The UNM CON utilizes NursingCAS for all MSN applications including Education.

We require:

- The applicant to submit all official transcripts to NursingCAS for verification and processing. 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 a GRE or another entrance exam.

**Transcript Requirements**

Transcripts must meet the following requirements to be considered “official” by NursingCAS:

1. A Registrar's seal and/or legible signature must be included on the transcript.
2. The transcript must be mailed directly to NursingCAS from the Registrar's Office of the school where the course was taken.
3. The transcript cannot be marked “Issued to Student” or “Student Copy.”
4. The transcript must reflect all relevant, correct information for the applicant identified on the application.
5. Transcripts cannot be gathered by the student and then mailed to NursingCAS. As stated above, they must come directly from the institution’s Registrar’s Office.

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

**NursingCAS Address for Transcripts**

You will be sending your official transcripts directly to NursingCAS. Their address is:

**NursingCAS Transcript Processing Center**

P.O. Box 9201

Watertown, MA 02471

**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 which 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 NursingCAS under the “Documents” tab.

**Letters of Recommendation**

Applicants are required to submit three letters of recommendation with their MSN Education NursingCAS application. References need to be professional in nature and need to convey your maturity and experience in pursuing graduate education. References will be entered in the “Supporting Information” section of NursingCAS. Applicants will enter in all Reference’s Information including: first name, last name, email address and the due date of 09/15/15.

**Resume or CV**

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

**Licensure and Certifications**

Applicants are required to submit a copy of their current Registered Nurse 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 in your academic history for the MSN Education application.

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

Yes, you still need to send all official transcripts to NursingCAS for processing. The UNM CON will not accept application transcripts under any circumstances.

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 Education Program

What courses must I attend on campus at UNM?

All required courses as listed can be taken entirely on the Web with the exception of: a) practicum related hours in NURS 523 and NURS 592, and NURS 595 fieldwork. Practicum and fieldwork hours are conducted (if resources available) in an appropriate setting close to you.

What is the fieldwork for this concentration?

The NURS 595 course (fieldwork) is 4 credit hours, which translates to 192 clock hours. Fieldwork involves teaching in academic, staff development, and/or patient education settings. Fieldwork hours are completed near the end of the program. Specific decisions about the fieldwork experience are negotiated with your advisor/instructor.

If I complete this master’s degree, can I teach at the university level?

Most universities employ Master’s and Doctorally prepared faculty. Master’s prepared faculty typically have different assignments than Doctorally prepared faculty.

Is there any particular order in which I should take my courses?

Students will be required to complete core courses and all other course work as per the Plan of Study designed on admission.

How fast can I complete this concentration?
See specific plan of study (part time or full time) to determine time to complete the program.