The University of New Mexico
College of Nursing

University of New Mexico College of Nursing
Masters of Science in Nursing
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Concentration
Admission Advisement Guide
Summer 2016 Application Cycle- Updated 9/3/15
July 24- November 1, 2015
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Program Information

Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNP) provide primary care to infants, children, and adolescents. The focus of the PNP concentration at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing (UNM CON) is on providing primary care for children especially for underserved populations. Individuals from New Mexico and those interested in providing primary care for underserved children are particularly encouraged to apply. Year round full time study begins in the Summer term for six consecutive terms. The degree to be awarded at completion of the program is the Master of Science in Nursing. Graduates will be eligible to become certified as Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. After successfully passing the certification exams graduates will be eligible to become certified in New Mexico and nationally.

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 PNP 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.)
- Have a minimum grade point average for baccalaureate work of 3.0 (B) or better.
- Submit evidence of RN licensure to NursingCAS. If NCLEX results are pending at the time of application, indicate this in the personal statement.
- Submit one letter of intent to NursingCAS.
- Submit three letters of recommendation to NursingCAS.
- Submit one current resume or CV to NursingCAS.
- Submit the NursingCAS application from July 24-November 1, 2015.
• Send official college transcripts from all institutions attended to NursingCAS for processing (see address on page 4).
• 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/

Timeline for Summer 2016 Admission
• July 24, 2015: The MSN PNP NursingCAS application period opens.
• November 1, 2015, by 9:59 MST: The MSN PNP Spring 2016 NursingCAS application period closes, meaning that applications must be completed and paid for by the indicated day and time.
• November 1, 2015: Official transcripts must be received by NursingCAS. This is not a postmarked deadline.
• Early 2016: Applicant Interviews by invitation and appointment
• Early 2016: Applicants will be notified of the UNM CON admission decision via the email they used on their application to the UNM CON PNP program. All admission decisions are final.
• May 2016: Classes start.

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

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 the GRE or any other 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 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 PNP NursingCAS application. The letters of recommendation need to be from professional contacts and need to convey your maturity and experience in pursuing graduate education. Information about the references 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 11/01/15.

Resume or CV
Applicants are required to submit either a current resume or CV with their MSN PNP 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 PNP 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 PNP Program
Can I take the PNP concentration part time?
No, the PNP concentration is a full time program.

What nonclinical courses are required for the PNP concentration?
The nonclinical core courses include:
NURS 501 Nursing Theory 3 hours
NURS 503 Nursing Research 3 hours
NURS 505 Health Care Policy 3 hours
NURS 504 Evidence Based Practice in Nursing and Health Care 3 hours

Are the non clinical courses offered on the Web?
Yes.
What are the clinical core courses?
The following courses are clinical core courses:
NURS 526 Advanced Pathophysiology 3 hours
NURS 539 Advanced Pediatric Health and Developmental Assessment 4 hours
NURS 543 Pharmacology 3 hours

Are any of the clinical core courses offered on the Web?
NURS 526 Advanced Pathophysiology and NURS 543 Pharmacology are both offered on the Web.

What are the PNP clinical courses?
The PNP clinical core courses are:
NURS 539 Advanced Pediatric Health and Developmental Assessment 48 clinical hours
NURS 549 Adolescent Health 72 clinical hours
NURS 542 Ambulatory Pediatrics I 72 clinical hours
NURS 547 Pediatric Chronic Illness/Special Needs 144 clinical hours
NURS 546 Ambulatory Pediatrics II 96 clinical hours

When does clinical rotation start?
We do not offer every PNP clinical course every semester, so students must take the courses in sequential order (see PNP Curriculum Plan). The PNP clinical core courses are taught in a block format.

Students attend lecture for 3 weeks straight, then they go to their clinical sites for 4 to 5 weeks, then they return for lectures for 2 weeks, then they do another 4 to 5 weeks of clinical rotation, and then they return for a final 1 week of lectures. During the time they are in the didactic block, they are usually in lecture 8 hours every day. The block schedule varies every semester.

What is the total number of clinical hours?
This concentration has a total of 720 clinical hours.

Will I get to visit any rural sites?
We use a variety of sites, including sites in rural areas. All students in this concentration are expected to travel outside of the Albuquerque area for a minimum of two clinical rotations in a 2-year period. It is the responsibility of the faculty to place students. If students are from a rural area, we make every effort to place them in that area for their clinical rotation; however, we cannot guarantee clinical site rotations.
If I have an MSN, how can I get a PNP?

Students with an MSN will have already completed the core courses. They will be responsible for taking the remaining PNP courses. They must have taken graduate level pathophysiology and pharmacology courses within the past 5 years. Faculty will review any advanced pediatric health assessment courses on a case-by-case basis.