

MN and PMNP Admissions Q&A Workshop – Tuesday, Dec. 5th, 2023

Application Process

Q: When do we specify what emphasis (primary health, adult health) we are applying to?

You don't! We anticipate that all successful applicants to the Fall 2024 intake of the Nurse Practitioner and Post-Master's certificate programs will be entering a **single emphasis Nurse Practitioner program**.

The Canadian Council for Registered Nurse Regulators (CCRN) had endorsed a new model for NP regulation and that implementation plans are in progress (<https://www.ccrnr.ca/npr-fipp.html>). Given these regulatory changes, we anticipate that all successful applicants to the Fall 2024 intake of the Nurse Practitioner and Post-Master's certificate programs will be entering a **single emphasis Nurse Practitioner program**. The single emphasis program will prepare students to provide care to clients and patients of all ages in a number of settings including primary care. This change is planned in anticipation of the new NP entry-to-practice registration exam that is scheduled to take effect in 2026. (Changes to admissions for Fall 2024 program entry will not impact current NP students.)

Eligibility

Q: Can international students apply?

Absolutely! We welcome international applications and we admit international applicants to all of our programs.

Q: My clinical experience is primarily within acute care hospital settings, but I'm really interested in the Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program, do I still stand a chance?

Please note that Bloomberg Nursing will no longer offer a Primary Care NP program but rather will offer a single emphasis Nurse Practitioner program. Within the single emphasis program, strong preference is given to candidates with RN experience in a direct clinical practice setting with a strong clinical foundation. Some candidates will have varied experiences with clients of all ages, which would strengthen their application, however, good clinicians with only an acute care focus will also be competitive. We are looking for strong clinicians!

Q: I believe my average is B and B+ in the last 2 years. Is this good enough for the MN program?

The minimum requirement is a B average. Last year the cut-off was B+.

Q: I completed my BScN over 10 years ago, and graduated with grades that are less than the admission requirements. How heavily weighted are university grades versus experience? What can I do to make my application more appealing?

Applicants MUST meet the minimum admission requirements to be eligible to apply. If your grades fall below the requirement, you will need to complete a year of upgrading in order to be eligible. This means take a full courseload of upper year courses that make sense for the program you're applying to (e.g. Health assessment, stats, etc.). You will want to demonstrate that you can manage a full-time courseload and be successful academically as this is what you'll be facing when enrolled in our MN programs – a full-time, rigorous graduate-level program. We want to ensure those who enrol will be successful.

Q: How heavily weighted is actual bedside experience as a Registered Nurse vs GPA?

We don't weight components of the application. Applications are reviewed holistically. Ideally we'd like to see both strong grades and professional development, leadership, and RN experiences!

Q: If your nursing degree was accelerated and completed in 3 years rather than 4, how does that factor into admissions?

We also offer an accelerated BScN here at Bloomberg Nursing. It doesn't impact you or the admission process in any way.

Q: I am a nurse from Quebec. On my attestation of hours worked I have the number of hours worked as an RN (nurse) and RN (nurse clinician) indicated separately. Both hours combined allows me to meet the minimum requirements. The hours from both were obtained after getting my RN license. Is this sufficient or does the hours as a nurse clinician only count?

Applicants from Québec should list their post-BScN RN hours only. Applicants to the NP program from Québec should be aware that Québec is the only province that has decided not to move towards a single emphasis NP model, and we currently do not know how an Ontario NP licence will translate to a Québec licence.

Q: I am currently studying psychiatric nursing at an international university and will become a registered psychiatric nurse after graduation. If I want to apply for U of T's Master of Nursing degree in the future, will registered psychiatric nurses also meet your admission requirements?

As long as applicants meet the admission requirements, they can apply:

- Applicants must hold a BScN degree (a BN or BSN or BNSc is considered equivalent), and have obtained at least a mid-B (75% or 3.0 GPA) standing in the final year of undergraduate study and, in addition, must have obtained at least a B standing in their next to final year.
- Applicants seeking admission to the Nurse Practitioner field must also have a minimum of 3,900 direct care clinical hours (equivalent to two years of experience) as an RN completed by August 15, 2024 in order to begin the program in September 2024 (clinical placements in the BScN program cannot be counted).
- Applicants seeking admission to the Health Systems Leadership and Administration program must also have a minimum of 3,900 hours of RN experience (equivalent to two years of full-time experience) by August 15, 2024 in order to begin the program in September 2024 (clinical placements in the BScN program cannot be counted).
- Applicants must hold current registration as a Registered Nurse (RN).

Q: I will complete the required clinical hours for the program by August 2024. Does not having completed 3900 hours at the time of my application place me at a disadvantage?

If you do not meet the requirement of having 3,900hrs of clinical practice as an RN at the time you apply and you are offered admission, the offer will be conditional on completing the outstanding hours by August 15, 2024. If you are not able to do this then the admission offer would be rescinded.

[Letter of Intent and CV](#)

Q: How does an applicant stand out in their personal statement with only 200-300 words? What does the admissions committee look for in an application?

Please be very specific in answering the statement/essay questions. Demonstrate that you've done your research on advanced practice nursing and graduate prepared roles (i.e. leadership positions, CNS, nurse educators, etc.). If you're applying to the NP program, for instance, are you able to outline the scope of the NP role and explain why this role interests you? If applying to the HSLA or Clinical field, what is your career goal and how will completing the specific MN field of study help you to reach your goal?

Q: What is the expectation with the essay application and criteria?

The statement is divided into specific questions. You won't write one, long essay. You'll respond directly to each question in the space provided.

Q: Can you provide a template for the letter of intent? Who do we address the letter of intent to?

Don't use up your word count on formal addresses! Jump directly in to answering each question. Be specific and speak about your own experience and goals.

NP Essay Questions:

- In ~200 words please describe how your previous health studies, and your professional and clinical leadership experiences have led you to pursue the NP program.
- In ~200 words please describe your short and long-term career objectives and how they will be advanced by the Nurse Practitioner program.
- In ~200 words please outline what you hope to gain from your clinical placements.

Clinical & HSLA Essay Questions:

- In ~300 words please describe your short and long-term career objectives and how they will be advanced by the MN degree.
- In ~300 words please outline any leadership contributions (formal or informal), at the undergraduate or professional level, that are important for the Admissions Committee to know about.

Q: As a young nurse who has less than 5 years of work experience, how can I make my application and CV competitive versus someone who has 10+ years experience?

Graduate school is an extension of your career and a way to build on the excellent foundation you have as a nurse - portray this foundation in your application. Even if you're novice, are you able to demonstrate leadership (or leadership potential)? Do you have strong clinical skills? Focus on what you have achieved so far (research, continuing education, teaching, quality improvement projects, membership in relevant organizations, program evaluation activity, relevant volunteer activities, research, community activism, etc.) and highlight those accomplishments. Overall, the committee is looking for people who care about nursing, clients, and their community - and articulate this in the application.

Q: How detailed does the CV need to be? Should it include clinical experience and professional experience?

There is no page limit! This is a component of the application where including more detail is helpful. Please do not include clinical placements details from your schooling. But, please do include details about your professional roles and clinical experiences.

Use the categories listed below to help develop your CV. If a particular heading does not apply, you may leave it out.

- Academic education (post-secondary degrees, diplomas, certificates)
- Continuing education (including workshops, professional development)
- Awards and honours (e.g., practice awards from employing organization, bursaries, scholarships)
- Professional employment (Please note whether roles were full-time, part-time, or casual)
- Relevant presentations / publications / research
- Current membership in professional organizations
- Committees (e.g., work-related, professional)
- Clinical / administrative / practice innovations (please provide brief descriptions or examples)
- Membership in research-oriented organizations (please specify role)
- Relevant volunteer activities

Q: Do I need to address my CV to someone? Do I need to include the questions in my CV?

No need to address your CV to anyone or include the essay questions. We suggest that you use the categories listed below to help develop your CV. If a particular heading does not apply, you may leave it out.

- Academic education (post-secondary degrees, diplomas, certificates)
- Continuing education (including workshops, professional development)
- Awards and honours (e.g., practice awards from employing organization, bursaries, scholarships)
- Professional employment (Please note whether roles were full-time, part-time, or casual)
- Relevant presentations / publications / research
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- Relevant volunteer activities

References

Q: What is the best way to obtain an academic reference if you have been out of school for 5 years?

You are applying to an academic program. You need one reference to be able to comment on your academic abilities (read, research, academic writing, presentations, etc.). Ideally you will be able to get a reference from someone who taught you during your previous degree.

If not, think about someone you know from the nursing community -- work or committee involvement, etc. -- who can comment on your ability to do reading, research, academic writing, oral presentations, etc. You might ask an instructor from a continuing education course, a senior figure in the nursing community whom you know through research work or committee work, etc. Please provide a one-sentence explanation for your choice of reference if you are not able to get a traditional academic reference.

When you request a reference, be sure to provide the referee with information they can use to provide a strong recommendation. We suggest that you provide the following to the person you are asking when you request a reference:

- your CV
- your statement of interest/essay question responses
- unofficial transcripts
- a copy of the work you have done for this person (academic reference) e.g. graded essay

Q: Does the employer reference have to be current employer or can it be from a previous employer?

Ideally your professional reference will come from your current manager or direct supervisor. If you're in a situation where that is not possible (e.g. you just started a new job and your manager doesn't yet know you and isn't familiar with your clinical work), then asking a previous manager or supervisor would make sense. Be sure the person is a superior (not a colleague) and be sure they can speak to your capacity as a *clinician* (e.g., not work as a CI or preceptor).

Transcripts

Q: Can I submit unofficial transcripts during application process and provide official transcripts when/if I am accepted to the program?

Yes! Please be sure to include the transcript legend with your submission as these are not always included with unofficial transcripts.

Q: How do we submit transcripts from Universities who don't utilize the mycreds website?

Please have the institution mail the official transcripts to us:

Admissions – Bloomberg Nursing
University of Toronto
155 College St., Suite 130
Toronto, ON M5T 1P8

Q: Is it necessary to submit official transcripts from post-secondary institutions abroad?

Yes. The School of Graduate Studies requires applicants to submit ALL post-secondary transcripts.

Q: I am a previous UofT student, do I still need to submit transcripts.

UofT applicants should still upload their unofficial UofT grades. They do not need to submit official UofT transcripts. They do need to submit all non-UofT post-secondary transcripts, even if they have previously submitted those for other applications/programs.

Admissions Stats

Q: How many people usually apply for MN?

In 2023 we received 437 applications to our MN programs.

Q: Approximately how many seats are offered for the MN Nurse Practitioner program Fall 2024 intake?

We anticipate admitted 105 students to the MN-NP and 15 to the PMNP. The MN-NP program normally receives about 7 times the number of applicants as does the PMNP. The applicant and admission numbers are proportional.

Q: Average GPA requirement in last round of admissions for PMNP applicants.

The cut-off was B+.

Other

Q: What makes the MN Clinical Stream unique from other Masters of Nursing Programs?

The Clinical Nursing field of study prepares graduates to take on the diversity and complexity of several Advanced Practice roles such Professional Practice Lead, Nurse Educator, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and research positions. MN Clinical is the only field of study that is delivered through in-person classes, which attracts many applicants who appreciate this learning environment. In addition, MN Clinical is the only field of study that allows students to take course electives to tailor their graduate education to their professional, scholarly, or intellectual interests. Students take one nursing level elective and have another opportunity to take an elective in the health sciences outside of nursing (i.e., public health, social work, technology, and health, etc.).

Q: Are there resources on how to make a strong application?

Current students and alumni should reach out to their Career Centre, which normally offers this type of service. There is also a free resource on the U of T Career Centre's website:

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/task/write-your-personal-statement/>.

Q: Does having a previous Master's degree (not MN/MScN) place me at a disadvantage for the selection process?

Not at all! You'll want to highlight the additional qualification and, if your previous graduate education has helped position you for success (e.g. you have demonstrated your ability to be successful in a graduate program; you have gained knowledge that will position you for success in the MN, etc.), highlight that as well!

Q: I completed 1 year of the Master of Nursing (nurse practitioner primary care). Can some courses be omitted?

Applicants must first apply for and be admitted to a program prior to requesting transfer credits or credit exemptions. The School of Graduate Studies outlines the rules around these requests:

<https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/253/2020/01/TransferCredit.pdf>

Please note that we charge tuition by program (not by course). So, even if credit transfer or course exemptions are granted, students will be charged the same tuition fees.