



Accelerated Nursing Program FAQs

Didactic Course Work

- **Are classes online or in-person?**
 - Classes are held online only. Online class is asynchronous meaning there are no live lectures. Rather, students complete the assignments, reading, and video recordings based on the course syllabus.
- **How much time do you have to spend on campus?**
 - You will be required to come to campus 4-5 times each semester for lab in the CCER- Center for Clinical Education and Research. During these labs, students perform hands on clinical skills to ensure they are prepared for the on-ground clinical experience. If a student demonstrates that they are not yet prepared for the on-ground experience they will practice these skills with tutors and may be requested to return to campus for additional practice.
- **Can you work while completing the program?**
 - This program is a full time commitment. It does not have a set schedule and the courses and clinical assignments could be held on any day of the week (Sunday through Saturday) and at any time within a 24 hour period. In addition to course and clinical time, there are numerous assignments to be completed. It is strongly recommended that students do not work while attending this program.
- **How do final exams work? Are they at a set time? Are they offered online or in person?**
 - All exams, finals included, are held online at a set time. Your syllabus will contain exam dates and times. Students will be proctored for exams.
- **What does a concept-based curriculum mean? How does this differ from other nursing programs?**
 - It is an approach that moves away from subject-specific content and instead emphasizes “big ideas” that span multiple subject areas or disciplines. For example, in the course “Introduction to Nursing Concepts” students learn about the concept of communication and how it differs across the lifespan and in various situations such as an expecting mother or a patient in hospice. Though most other nursing programs in the area have a curriculum that silos information (courses specific to maternity, pediatrics, geriatrics) there is a trend in programs moving toward a concept-based curriculum.

Clinical Experience

- **How many total clinical hours are there?**
 - The Massachusetts Board of Nursing does not have a specific number of clinical hours that students need to complete, so for that reason our number of clinical hours can sometimes vary. All students do complete three components of clinical:
 - Virtual (online, 2 hours weekly)
 - Lab/Simulation (about 20-25 hours each semester)
 - On Ground (about 48 each semester *subject to change, based on availability in our hospital partners).
- **What times will clinical shifts be offered? Will I work at night/onweekends?**
 - Clinical shifts vary each semester. Shifts will happen on both weekdays and weekends. Clinical shifts are typically day shifts anytime between 6am and 9pm. Most clinical shifts are either 8 or 12 hours in length.
- **Are the clinical locations only in Boston, or do you have locations in other areas of Massachusetts/out of state?**
 - Clinical locations are all inside of Massachusetts and in the Greater Boston Area. Some of our clinical locations include South Shore Hospital, Boston Medical Center, Dana Farber, St. Elizabeth's, Boston Children's Hospital, Mass General Hospital, Tufts Medical Center, Innovive Health, and Norwood Hospital.
- **How will clinical placements be selected? Will I get to choose my clinical placements?**
 - The Director of Clinical Education and the Clinical and Internship Office are responsible for selecting clinical placements. Students are not able to choose their placement.
- **What departments will we be placed in for clinical immersion? Is there a different site for each rotation?**
 - Clinical sites and clinical departments do rotate. Some clinical departments include, but are not limited to, med-surg, community health, behavioral health, orthopedics, cardiac, hospice, maternity, and pediatrics.

Prerequisites (general)

- **Can you apply to the program with your prerequisite courses in progress?**
 - All your prerequisite courses must be complete by the application deadline. You can start your application with your prerequisite courses in progress, but you must provide us with a transcript with grades for all those courses for your application to be complete.
- **Can I apply if my bachelor's degree will not be conferred by the application deadline?**
 - Your bachelor's degree must be conferred by the application deadline and listed on your transcript accordingly.
- **Can prerequisite courses be taken during graduate school?**
 - Yes, prerequisite courses can be taken during graduate school. If you took any prerequisite courses during graduate school, please make sure to send us your official graduate school transcripts.
- **Can I send you my transcript(s) to see if I've taken the required prerequisite courses?**
 - Students can utilize UMass Boston's Transfer Credit Database, [Transferology](#), to confirm if the correct prerequisites are completed.

Specific Prerequisite questions:

- **Can prerequisite lab courses (Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Microbiology) be completed online?**
 - Yes, those courses can be completed online.
- **Can I use two courses to complete the Human Growth and Development requirement if both courses combined cover the entire lifespan?**
 - Yes, this will complete the Human Growth and Development requirement.

Application Process

- **What are the GPA requirements for the program?**
 - Competitive candidates typically have a cumulative GPA above a 3.0 and a prerequisite GPA above a 3.3. Students that do not meet this threshold are still welcome to apply.
- **When should you expect to hear a decision on your application? Is the program rolling admission?**
 - You will hear a decision on your application approximately one month after the application deadline. The program does not have rolling admissions, but we encourage you to get all application materials in as soon as possible to avoid missing the deadline.
- **Do include consider courses from graduate school/doctoral work in your cumulative GPA calculation?**
 - We do not consider graduate or doctoral work in the cumulative GPA calculation. You only need to send us work from graduate school if you completed one of your prerequisites there.
- **Do you accept coursework from Geneva College/Portage Learning?**
 - Yes, we accept coursework from Geneva College/Portage Learning.
- **Can I apply if I completed my bachelor's degree outside of the United States?**
 - Yes, you could apply if you completed your bachelor's degree outside of the United States. If this is the case, make sure you have your transcript evaluated by a service such as CED or WES and have that evaluation sent to us.
- **Can I apply as an international student?**
 - Students interested in applying for or maintaining the following Visas are not eligible to apply for the program – F1, F2, B2, and J1. Students with questions about whether or not they are eligible to apply for the program are encouraged to reach out.
- **Is the TEAS exam required for admission?**
 - No, we are TEAS optional for the accelerated nursing program. This means that we will consider your TEAS scores if you submit them, but we do not require you to submit them to be considered for the program. Not submitting TEAS scores will not put you at a disadvantage in terms of admissions. If you are submitting TEAS scores, we recommend a 75 or higher in each section.

Admissions Statistics

- **How large is each cohort?**
 - Our cohort sizes are between 42-72 students but we are expected to grow to 90 students per cohort in the future.
- **How competitive is the program? What is your acceptance rate?**
 - The program is very competitive but is also increasing in size. We currently have around a 25% acceptance rate.
- **How many people apply to the program each cycle?**
 - We receive approximately 300-400 applications each cycle. This number varies each applicant cycle.
- **What are the average cumulative and prerequisite GPAs for admitted students?**
 - The average cumulative GPA for admitted students is 3.5. The average prerequisite GPA was 3.8.
- **Are internal applicants (students who have attended UMass Boston as a matriculated student in the past) given preference for admission?**
 - No, internal applicants are not given preference in admission.

Program Statistics

- **What is the NCLEX pass rate?**
 - 95% first time test takers.
- **What is your retention/completion rate?**
 - 96% retention/completion rate

Other

- **Are there additional textbook costs, or are all the learning materials included on the iPad?**
 - Textbooks will be included as e-books. If students would like hard copies of these textbooks they are available for purchase at the bookstore. Students will be responsible for covering the cost of their clinical uniform (approximately \$50) and stethoscope. Students are not required but encouraged to purchase a protective case for their iPad.
- **Is there a payment plan available?**
 - The Financial Aid office works with students to create payment plans and award financial aid packages.
- **Can the program prepare you for licensure in another state?**
 - The program prepares students to take the NCLEX and apply for licensure in Massachusetts. Students interested in nursing licensure in other states can work with the ABSN faculty and Program Director to apply for license reciprocity in the desired state.
- **How do you support students in finding a job after graduation?**
 - The Career Services and Internship office works with students to assist with job placement upon graduation. Additionally, the ABSN Program Assistant shares job fair and nurse networking events as graduation dates approach.