



## Accelerated Nursing Program FAQs

### Didactic Course Work

- **Are classes online or in-person?**
  - The Accelerated Bachelor's in Nursing (ABSN) is a hybrid program option with online courses and required in-person lab simulations and clinicals in the Greater Boston Area. Students must live commuting distance from the UMass Boston campus.
  - Our didactic courses are instructional lectures held online only. The curriculum includes didactic lessons (lectures delivered by faculty), on-ground simulation experiences in our Center for Clinical Education and Research, and a variety of clinical experiences in a variety of patient care settings. Online class is asynchronous meaning there are no live lectures. Rather, students complete the assignments, reading, and video recordings based on the course syllabus.
  - There are three semesters of four courses each. Upon completion of Semester 3 there will be a required three-day Kaplan virtual Test Prep course designed to augment students' course learning as they prepare to sit for the National RN licensure examination (NCLEX).
- **How much time do you have to spend on campus?**
  - You will be required to come to campus 4-5 times each semester for a 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?**
  - It is strongly recommended that students do not work while attending this program. Because the ABSN program option is a full-time commitment, students who are working full-time will not be able to devote themselves fully to this intensive program. 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. If you need to continue working full-time, we suggest pursuing UMass Boston's other Nursing [program options](#), which operate under a standard academic schedule.
- **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 judgment sessions throughout each semester support the course concepts and allow students to build competence in course content. Clinical judgment refers to the means by which nurses make decisions based upon nursing knowledge, critical thinking, and clinical reasoning

### **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 lecture
    - Lab/Simulation at the UMass Boston Center for Clinical Education & Research/CCER
    - On-ground placements with hospital partners in the Greater Boston area. Clinicals hours vary and are subject to change, based on the availability of our hospital partners.
- **What times will clinical shifts be offered? Will I work at night/onweekends?**
  - The on-ground clinical schedule aligns with the 12-14 weeks of clinical didactic courses. Clinical shifts vary each semester. Shifts will happen on both weekdays and weekends. Clinical shifts are typically day shifts anytime between 6am and 9 pm. 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 completed by the application deadline (deadlines are Feb 1 for Summer start, May 1 for Fall start, and Sept. 1 for Spring Start).** You can start your application with your prerequisite courses in progress, but you must provide us with a transcript with final missing prerequisite grades by the deadline.

- **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 the date of your degree conferral listed on your transcript accordingly. However, if your degree will be conferred by May 31st, you are still eligible to apply for our May 1 deadline. You must then make sure your college/university sends us an updated transcript with proof of your degree.
- **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?**
  - Visit UMass Boston's Transfer Credit Database, [Transferology](#). Note you must make an account, which is quick and easy. Enter your courses and select UMass Boston as the university you are checking for accepted credits. You can then view which courses can transfer. Please see this [ABSN Prerequisite Guide](#) for a list of the specific courses you need.

#### **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. For example, you may possibly use two or three separate courses that cover the entire lifespan.

#### **Application Process**

- **What are the GPA requirements for the program?**
  - Applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least a 3.0 and a prerequisite GPA of at least a 3.3. Students who do not meet this threshold are not considered eligible.
- **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. We do not start to review applications until after the application deadline passes.
- **Do you 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. Note that we do not accept coursework from StraighterLine.
- **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 with a professional course-by-course evaluation. To obtain such an evaluation, please contact one of the following organizations:
  - [World Education Services \(WES\)](#)
  - [Center for Educational Documentation \(CED\)](#)
  - [Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. \(ECS\)](#)
  - [National Association of Credential Evaluation Services \(NACES\)](#)
  - [SpanTran](#) - UMass Boston partners with SpanTran to provide a streamlined application for evaluating your credentials
- **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 size is currently 42 students.
- **How competitive is the program? What is your acceptance rate?**
  - The program is among the most competitive at the University. We currently have around a 15% acceptance rate. Every admissions cycle, many outstanding applicants who meet or exceed our admissions criteria are not offered a spot due to the space limitations of the program.
- **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. To apply as an internal applicant, see [instructions here](#).

### **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?**
  - A Surface Pro Tablet is included for each student as part of the program cost. Students will receive access codes to all of their learning materials. 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 tablet.
- **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.