

Notes from the Graduate Studies Information session:

Masters of Science in Nursing

- The thesis route – 2 year program
- Oldest Masters program in Canada
- This program is for those who are most interested in the research side of Nursing
- This is a great time to get into Masters/PhD, a lot of job opportunities in Universities and research
- The first year of the program you take 4 core courses: 9611, 9661, 9662, 9663, and you would have a field study course. You also get to take 3 electives (total 8 courses)
- You do not need to know what your thesis would be right away. You can figure that out within your first term, and the core classes you must take will help you build part of your thesis project
- The aim of your thesis is to eventually get it published in a peer reviewed journal
- Usually your thesis topic would fall within the area that your supervisor studies.
- Programs around the province have different names - MSCN doesn't necessarily mean thesis programs.
- If you only do a Masters - some limitations - at the university level. If you want tenure - you need PhD. If you want full time, you should get your PhD so PhD is highly recommended after your masters if your goal is to do teaching/research.

Masters of Nursing – Advanced Nursing Practice

- Meant to give people the opportunity to do a masters without a thesis
- Shorter timeframe
- 4 terms
- Best suited for people who are interested in leadership positions (management, teaching). More focused on course work as it relates to their practice
- It is possible to do PhD with this Masters option
- You still take the 4 core courses, and you have a research practicum - doesn't need to be a publishable project
- 2 electives - in the nursing program or outside
- Includes a field study course and a consolidation course called Knowledge Synthesis (total 9 courses)

Nurse Practitioner:

- You start with the same 4 courses, and the research practicum in the summer
- NP can: diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications, perform medical procedures, order tests (just not CTs and MRIs)
- Direct care to people at every stage of life
- Brings together the medical knowledge and values of nursing.
- Emphasis on Health promotion and disease prevention- more health teaching
- You need to work first (2 years), and then another 2 years of education.

- Areas of work: family practice, community health centres, pre-conception to grief counselling. Get to work with people throughout their whole life span, emergency rooms, student health centres, public health, nursing homes, hospitals, private practice
- You need to have a BScN degree, valid CNO license, 3640 hours of RN practice. You might not have them all when applying, but you need them all by the time you start your degree.
- In second year you do the NP courses
- Courses that test your knowledge- Actors as standardized patients - script to figure out what is wrong with them. This is for diagnosis
- Summer of second year - full time clinical placement
- You can also do masters first and then do the NP program (certificate afterwards). Students can potentially switch over. Since all masters programs have the same first year with the same core courses, you could do your masters first, and then later on do a one year Nurse Practitioner certification.

Christine: Nurse Practitioner Student

- She is second year of NP program
- Graduate RN in 2014 - worked for 3 years as an RN - went into NP program.
- Wanted to gain more independence in the nurse field and challenge herself
- She did Pathophysiology in the summer (recommend getting some of the NP courses under your belt) second year is very busy for the NP
- Worked part time throughout entire program. Works one 12 hour shift a week. NP schooling is very busy!
- NP placement - she is at a family health team clinic in first semester. Will have a full-time placement in the summer.
- It takes a while to build the application, so start early when thinking about applying
- Research practicum- you can request someone or get paired up – she worked at Parkwood with clinical nurse specialist. Did some research (120 hours over 2 months).
- Challenges- 1st year you write a lot of essays. 2nd year - Placement is intimidating and challenging. You learn something new everyday. Classes are small so its easier to get to know the professors

Ryan: PhD Student and finished Masters of Science in Nursing

- He was first inspired in his undergraduate degree taking different courses, and this is how he met his supervisor Dr. Richard Booth. This is where the conversations started about doing a Masters
- He started right from undergrad to masters, to PhD
- His focus began with nursing education
- His area of study is more involved in technology and health informatics. Did it full time while working part time.
- Was able to do most courses in first year, so that second year could be mostly focused on writing thesis.

- If you are at a point of feeling unsure of which program you want to go in- there is a bonus to all of them. It depends on what you want and what your goals are.
- Wide variety of thesis topics. Supervisor(s) will be able to support you with their expertise
- Usually depending on who your supervisor is it helps you narrow down what type of topic you would like to focus on
- When doing research for thesis, usually you will analyze existing data. Takes a bit longer to analyze new data → Ethics approval takes a while
- PhD- some people build on their master's topic, and some people pick something new to research..
- The research courses are designed to help you build your proposal

Admissions:

- 78% average in the last 2 years. If you do AY4- they will look at last 10 graded credits - might take some from second year (will use the best ones to reach 10).
- Once you hit the 78% you move forward to the next round of processing applications
- Ask for references ahead of time- get to know some of your profs
- For NP its 1 academic and 1 professional reference
- For MScN and MN-ANP it is 2 academic references
- Participate in classes in undergrad – it is a lot easier to write a good reference for them
- Admissions → you write a personal essay - what are your goals.
- Resume, proof of RN registration
- Applying for Graduate school:
- Applications are done online through SGPS - login for application. You can come and go for them.
- Scholarships- Ontario Graduate Scholarship - 15,000 per year → deadline mid to late January. Need to submit your program application in before you can start scholarship application
- Canadian Graduate Scholarship - CGSM - \$17,5000 - deadline is for early December. Need to submit program application before you can start scholarship application