YOUR APPLICATION FOR MN STUDIES

FACULTY OF NURSING

Dr. Kara Schick-Makaroff
Associate Dean Graduate Studies

Tracy Quigley
Anna Hnit
Graduate Program Administrators

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

The University of Alberta respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

AGENDA

Why pursue master's studies in Nursing at the University of Alberta?

What does the MN program look like?

What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

How do I submit my application?

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Why Pursue Master's Studies in Nursing?

Re-energize your nursing career and pursue career aspirations!

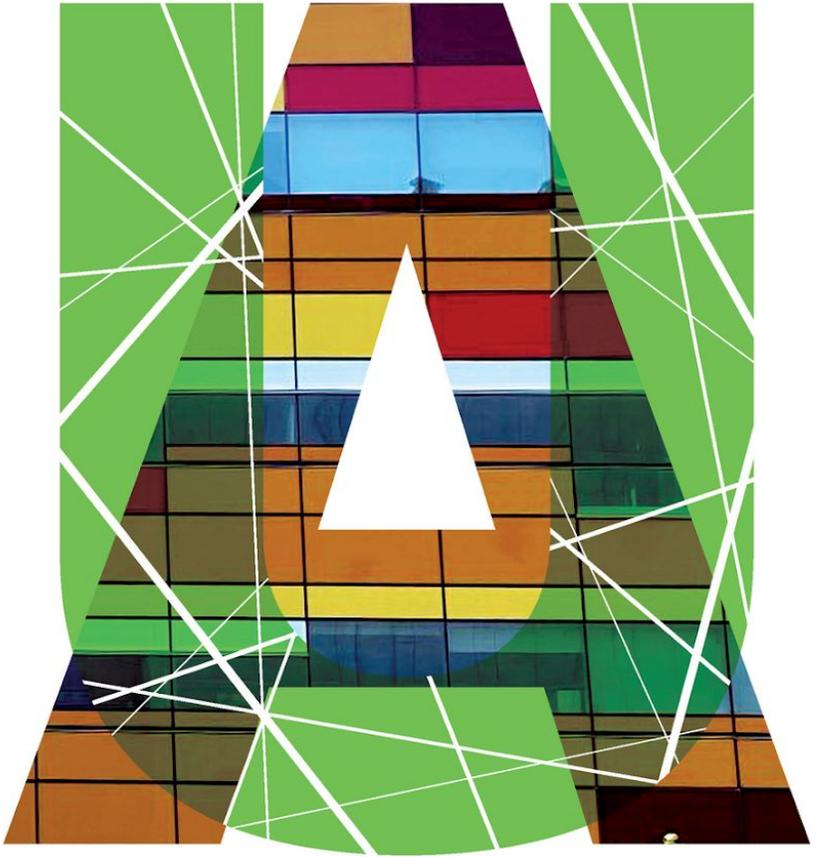Develop skills to enhance nursing practice in your area of focus/expertise

Move quickly into leadership roles in diverse settings

Continue your studies toward PhD for academic and research career pathways

NURSING

1st in Western Canada

7th in the world

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Rich Faculty History

- Nursing school established in 1918
- Baccalaureate program opened in 1923

Long-standing track record & reputation for graduate programs

- MN program established in 1975
- NP programs offered since 1971
- PhD program established in 1991 (first PhD Nursing in Canada)

Reputation and Top Nursing Talent

Become a UofA Nursing Alumna!

Establish relationships with top Canadian Nursing faculty

- Award winning researchers and teachers
- High impact programs of research (e.g. aging, frailty, social inequity, global health) addressing current health issues

Talented classmates become your professional network as distinguished alumni

- Classmates bring diverse perspectives and experience of nursing
- Build life-long professional network for mentoring, support, and opportunities

What does the MN program look like?

Both course-based and thesis-based options offer preparation for studies at the doctoral level

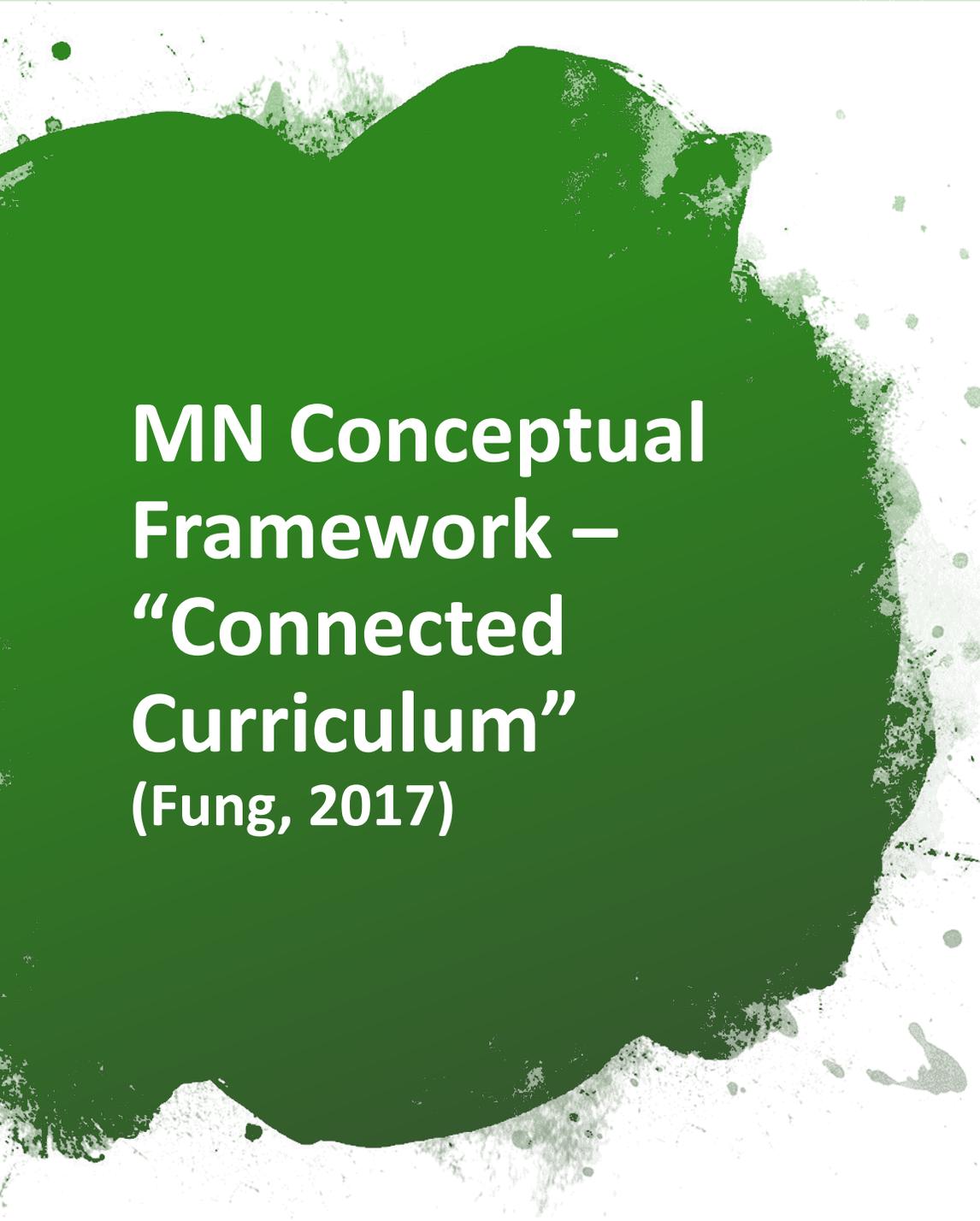Part-time and full-time options:

Part-time – usually 3 years to completion

Full-time – complete within 20 months

Flexible scheduling includes daytime and evening classes, and blended/hybrid classes. Students must be available to participate in regularly scheduled classes and seminars.

Credit loads vary slightly
- Course based   36
- Thesis based   30
- NP Course-based 42
- NP Thesis-based   39
- Post MN   24

MN Conceptual Framework – "Connected Curriculum"
(Fung, 2017)

- Assumes that inquiry and research are intimately linked with learning & practice

- Connect students to each other, to faculty, to faculty research, to questions and issues in nursing, and to diverse ways of knowing and inquiring

- Students engage in **"Community of Inquiry" courses** to develop progressive skills: ask good questions, analyze information and current literature, and move through structured, guided, and independent approaches to research and inquiry.

- Courses build toward completion of capstone and thesis projects.

Three Clusters of MN Course work for both thesis and course-based students:

1. **Core Courses** (3 Credits each)

NURS 595
FOUNDATIONS OF
SCHOLARSHIP/CRITI
CAL THOUGHT

NURS 596
RESEARCH
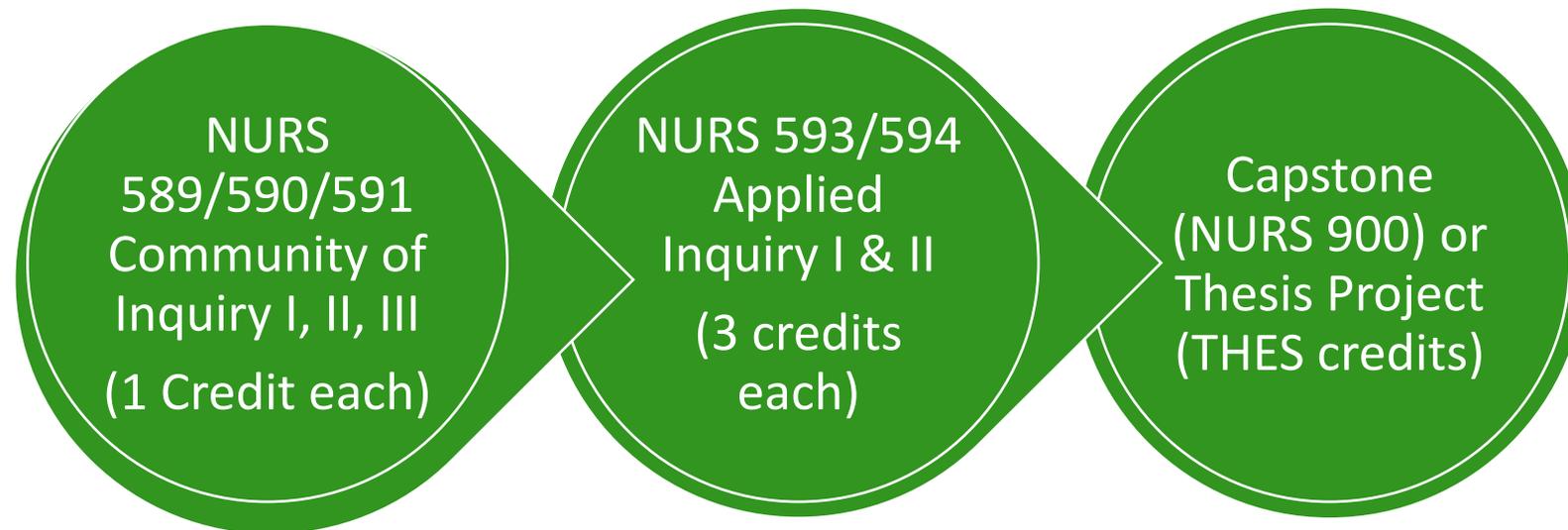FOUNDATIONS

NURS 597
UNDERSTANDING
COMPLEX SYSTEMS

NURS 598
TRANSLATING
KNOWLEDGE

NURS 599
PHILOSOPHY &
ETHICS IN NURSING
INQUIRY

2. Community of Inquiry courses

NURS 589/590/591 Community of Inquiry I, II, III (1 Credit each)

NURS 593/594 Applied Inquiry I & II (3 credits each)

Capstone (NURS 900) or Thesis Project (THES credits)

- Engaging with Nursing Scholarship
- Research Question & Literature Review
- Building Collaborative Inquiry

- Framing the Inquiry Focus
- Grand Challenge Questions

- NURS 900 for course-based students
- Thesis credits for thesis-based students

3. **Students select one of four Advanced Focus areas of study**
2 courses
(6 credits)

*Clinical-NP (8 courses - 24 credits + 800 clinical hours)

- **Education**
  - NURS 558: Perspectives on Nursing Pedagogy
  - NURS 559: Approaches to Learning and Teaching Innovation in Nursing
- **Leadership**
  - NURS 568: Advanced Nursing Leadership in Health Systems
  - NURS 569: Nursing Power and Policy in Health Care Leadership
- **Research** (Thesis option only)
  - NURS 578: Knowledge Synthesis
  - NURS 579: Operationalizing Research Design
- **Clinical-NP** (Adult, Family All Ages, Neonatal)
  - See NP presentation for details

FULL TIME - MN Advanced Focus Education, Leadership or Research with Program Start Date in Odd Years (2025, 2027, 2029, etc.)

	Core Courses
	Community of Inquiry
	Advanced Focus

Program starts in odd year (2025, 2027, 2029, etc)	Year 1				Year 2			
Course Name	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
NURS 595 Foundations of Scholarship/Critical Thought	595							
NURS 596 Research Foundations	596							
NURS 593 Applied Inquiry I: Framing the Inquiry Focus	593							
NURS 597 Understanding Complex Systems		597						
NURS 598 Translating Knowledge		598						
NURS 599 Philosophy & Ethics in Nursing Inquiry		599						
Advanced Focus A (558 Education OR 568 Leadership OR 578 Research)					558/568/578			
Advanced Focus B (559 Education OR 569 Leadership OR 579 Research)						559/569/579		
NURS 594 Applied Inquiry II: Grand Challenge Questions						594		
(OR 600 level research methods elective for Advanced Research Focus)								
NURS 589 Master's Community of Inquiry I 1 Credit	589							
NURS 590 Master's Community of Inquiry II 1 Credit		590						
NURS 591 Master's Community of Inquiry III 1 Credit			591					
Course based students:								
NURS 900 Capstone					900			
Elective (1 course)					Elective	OR Elective		
Thesis Based Students:								
Thesis				Thesis				

Highly successful MN students may apply to fast-track to PhD by the end of Year 1

MN Fast-track to PhD

- Complete core MN courses and progress to PhD program after first year of MN studies
- For MN students with outstanding academic achievement on admission & in core MN courses
- Students apply during first year of MN with support of a graduate supervisor willing to supervise the proposed PhD program of studies

Post-Masters Nurse Practitioner

- Graduates of MN programs who subsequently wish to pursue NP studies and licensure may apply to complete Advanced Clinical-NP Focus courses **after** completing their MN studies in another advanced focus stream <u>or</u> at another university
  - This route enables new grads to complete an MN while working to meet the prerequisite of 4500 clinical hours in advance of NP studies
- 8 clinical courses (24 credits) and 800 clinical hours
- Studies completed over 20 consecutive months

Graduate student funding

- Graduate students in nursing are strongly encouraged to be prepared to self-fund their studies as there is no guaranteed funding for graduate students.

- The University of Alberta has a significant award and funding program for graduate students, with awards offered both by the Faculty and the University. Please consult the website of the [Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#) (GPS) for additional information.

- Graduate student funding may be available from the Faculty of Nursing through a program of graduate teaching and research assistantships.

- Some graduate supervisors may be able to provide funding through the external grants that support their research projects.

- Graduate supervisors will assist students to apply for funding from sources that are appropriate to the student's program of studies and level of academic achievement.
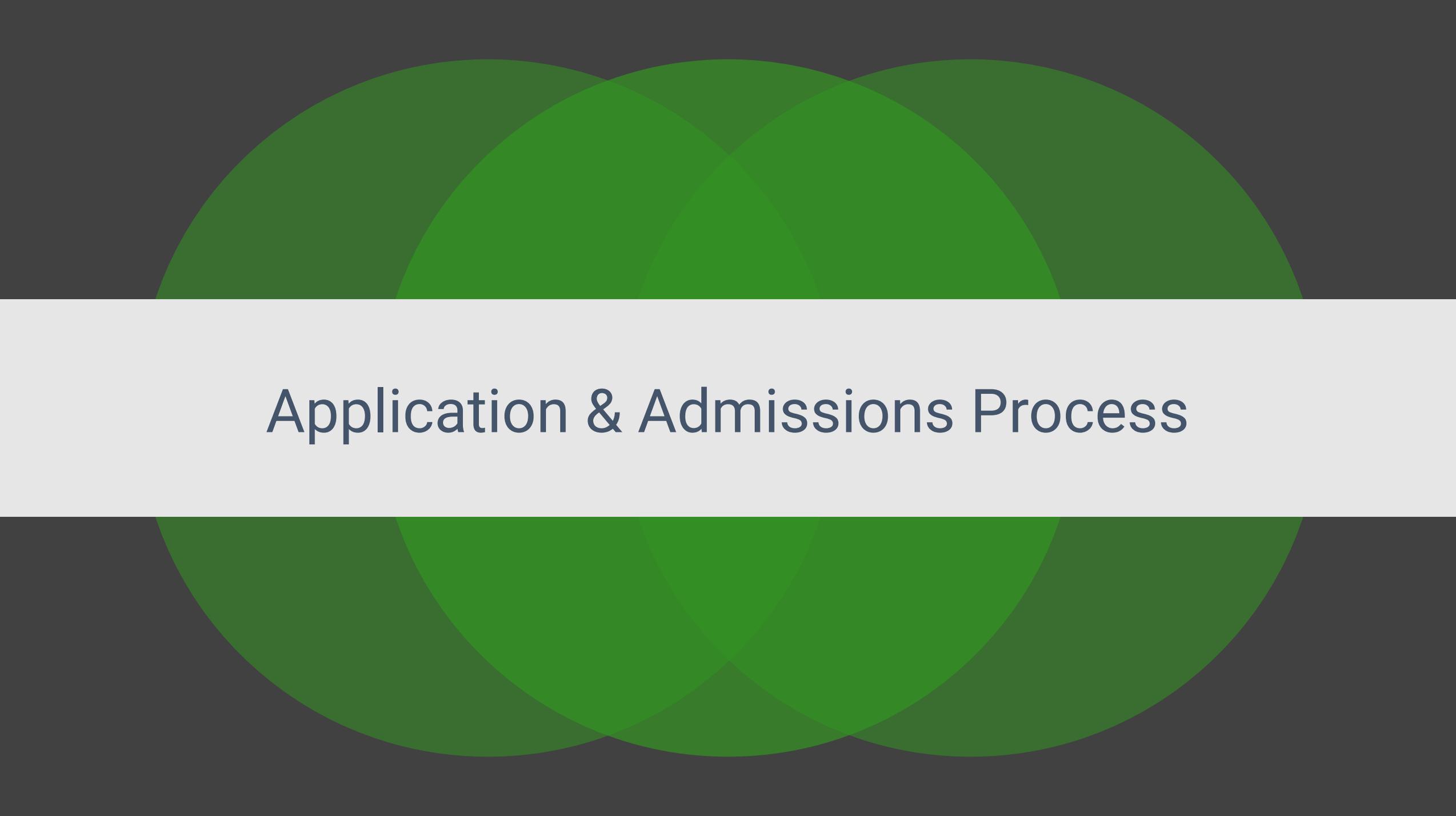
Tuition and Fees

Domestic students: approximately $12,000 - 15,000

International students: approximately $22,000 - 24,000

- Fees are for the entire program

- Includes instructional and non-instructional fees. Does not include cost of living estimates

- Based on 2023-2024 tuition rates

- Difference in fees could be attributed to focus area, distance or on-campus non-instructional fees, thesis-based or course-based program

Tuition and Fees:
https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/tuition-and-fees/index.html

Application & Admissions Process

APPLICATION DEADLINE
for admission for graduate studies
commencing Fall 2025:

January 15, 2025

Admission Requirements for MN studies

- An undergraduate degree in Nursing with an admission GPA of at least 3.0 on the 4-point scale from the University of Alberta, or an equivalent institution (calculated on the last ★60 credits of graded coursework completed).

- Three letters of reference for MN and 2 letters of reference for Post MN.

- An undergraduate course in each of statistics and research methods, with a minimum grade of B (or equivalent), preferably completed within the past six years.

- The Faculty of Nursing requires proof of English Language Proficiency (ELP) prior to admission when the primary, official language of the country is not English.

- Advanced Clinical – Nurse Practitioner focus – Must provide evidence of 4500 hours of RN experience and hold a current RN license from a Canadian jurisdiction throughout the program.

What is the Admissions Committee looking for?

- Grade Point Average (3.0 – 4.0)

- Grades achieved in undergraduate research and statistics courses (does not apply to Post MN)

- Do the reference letters offer a compelling description of a candidate who can be successful in the program?

- Is the information provided on the "Background document" presented in a complete, concise and compelling manner?

- Find a balance between offering thorough answers and limiting answers to ~ ½ page per question.

The "Background Document" is your introduction to the Admissions Committee

- Has the applicant described their past experience and motivation for graduate studies?
- What are the applicant's short- and long-term career plans?
- Evidence of leadership and professional engagement:
  - Involvement in nursing activities such as projects and committees in the employment or community settings?
  - Participation in professional nursing organizations or specialty groups?
  - Experience on research projects, research assistantships, quality improvement projects?
  - Recognition and scholarship awards received?
  - Teaching experience as a preceptor, community speaker, guest lecturer?
- Explain how these activities have been meaningful to you or raised questions that have prompted your curiosity.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Graduate Applications

- AI
    - at its most simple: Grammarly
    - more complex: ChatGPT
- AI can be used in Graduate applications for brainstorming or to inform structure
- AI cannot be used in Graduate applications to replace your "voice," ideas or statements in your graduate application
    - To do so is a breach of the UofA Code of Applicant Behaviour (see 11.8.4.1)
- For more about Generative AI use this link.

About Generative AI

How do I submit an application

Follow instructions carefully here for submitting an application:
https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/prospective-students/apply-for-admission/index.html

We aim to let all applicants know of admission decisions by April 1, 2025

Step 1: Start early - **Application Deadline is January 15, 2025**

- References are due by the application deadline and referees do not receive the link to complete the reference until your application is submitted. Referees are given 2 weeks to complete the reference

Step 2: Choose your graduate program - *focus area is selected in the supporting documentation*
- Master of Nursing (Crse) - course-based program
- Master of Nursing (Thes) - thesis-based program
  - For Education, Leadership, Research - choose part time or full time
  - For Research - thesis option only
  - For NP - full time option only for Fall 2025

Step 3: Review graduate entrance requirements
- Baccalaureate degree in Nursing with a minimum GPA of 3.0 ('B') on the UofA's 4pt scale (based on the most recent 60 credits of graded coursework)
  - Pass/fail course credits are not used
  - All coursework, including spring and summer are included in the calculation

How do I submit an application

Continued…

Step 4: Prepare your application documents
- MN Background Information Document
  - Found in Admission Documents on the [Nursing Forms & Guidelines webpage](#)
- Transcripts, Degree Certificates - *pay special attention to Document Preparation: https://www.ualberta.ca/en/graduate-studies/admissions-programs/apply/document-preparation.html - documents that do not meet the criteria will not be accepted. Common errors include:
  - Canadian and American transcripts must have a recent print date (Sep 2024 or later)
  - Transcript must include front and back pages, including grade scale
  - Degree certificate required only if degree confer date is not noted on the transcript
  - Transcript must include: your full name, institution name, program, grading legend, names and numbers of courses, year and term of attendance, credits and grades received.
- If you are ordering a transcript through MyCreds, you can share it with gradnurs@ualberta.ca
  - Official transcripts used for the application cannot also be used to clear conditions on admissions
- Confirmation of nursing hours and registration

Step 5: Create account (in GSMS) - remember your password!

Step 6: Apply online and pay non-refundable application fee ($135)
- You are applying to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS). The Faculty of Nursing will assess your application and for successful applicants, recommend admission to GPS

FAQ: How should I choose referees for my reference letters?

- Three reference letters for MN/NP
  - Normally two academic references; one personal/work reference

- Two reference letters for Post MN
  - Normally one academic reference; one personal/work reference

- Examples of possible referees:
  - An academic who supervised your work/volunteer contribution on a project.
  - A faculty member who taught you a class and can speak to your academic excellence.
  - An academic who knows of you through committee work or student leadership activities.
  - A clinician who supervised you in clinical practice (eg. Practicum, UNE or other employment).
  - A former teacher, community service organization leader who can attest to your strengths/contributions.

- An email with a secure link will **only** be sent to your referees **after** you submit and pay for your application.

- Referees complete on online reference form as well as upload a letter in PDF that is on institutional or business official letterhead in order to be accepted.

MN Admission Criteria and Application Process

Contact:
Faculty of Nursing Graduate Office
Student Service Portal