



Accelerated Nursing Program FAQs

Didactic Course Work

- **Are classes online or in-person?**
 - o The Accelerated Bachelor's in Nursing (ABSN) is a hybrid program option with online courses and required in-person lab simulations and clinical placements in the Greater Boston area. Students must live within commuting distance from the UMass Boston campus.
 - o Our didactic courses are instructional lectures held online only. The curriculum includes didactic lessons (pre-recorded lectures delivered by faculty), simulation experiences in our Center for Clinical Education and Research (CCER) on campus, and a variety of on-ground 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.
 - o There are three semesters of four courses each. Upon completion of Semester 3 there will be a required three-day ATI 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?**
 - o You will be required to come to campus 4-8 times each semester for lab sessions in the Center for Clinical Education and Research (CCER). During these labs, students perform hands-on clinical skills to ensure they are prepared for the on-ground clinical experience. Throughout each semester, open lab sessions are available for students to practice their skills. 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?**
 - o It is strongly recommended that students 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. Students can spend 60-80 hours per week on coursework combined with clinical and CCER time. It is suggested that students who must work, work no more than 20 hours per week. Due to the intensity and academic rigor of the Accelerated program, it is very

likely that a student working full-time will not be successful. 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.
 - Concept-based curriculum avoids content saturation that can overwhelm students in such an accelerated program, while improving thinking skills.
 - It involves examining concepts that link to the delivery of patient care. An example is studying chronic pain across the lifespan of a patient.
 - 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. Typically, a student will take approximately 98 hours per semester for a total of 292 total clinical hours, though these hours can vary and are subject to change. 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/on weekends?**
 - 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. Typically, clinical placements occur on a set day every week throughout the semester. 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 the state of Massachusetts, most in the Greater Boston Area. Some of our clinical locations include South Shore Hospital, Boston Medical Center, Spaulding Rehab, St. Elizabeth's, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Lowell General, Boston Children's Hospital, Mass General Hospital, and Franciscan Children's Hospital.
- **How will clinical placements be selected? Will I get to choose my clinical placements?**
 - The ABSN Program Director and Clinical Placement Coordinator are responsible for selecting clinical placements. Students are not able to choose their placement, however, student preference is taken into account when choosing placements, though their choices cannot be guaranteed. If a student has a hardship which requires accommodation, they will need to contact the ABSN advisor and Clinical Placement Specialist to discuss their situation.
- **What departments will we be placed in for clinical placement? 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, oncology, behavioral health, OR, cardiac, hospice, maternity, and pediatrics.
 - Clinical placements in the first semester teach fundamental skills in regional hospitals in the state, in the second semester they are med-surg units in metropolitan hospitals in the greater Boston area, and students will specialize in their final semester. The third semester also offers students the chance to apply for a spot on a dedicated education unit (DEU), similar to a preceptorship, it follows a nurse's schedule rather than attending on a set day. Students are also able to apply for a 1:1 preceptorship experience in their final semester.

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 by June 1st.
- **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 [list](#) of the specific courses you need. You may also schedule a transfer credit advising meeting with Undergraduate Admissions.

Specific Prerequisite questions:

- **Can prerequisite lab courses (Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Microbiology) be completed online?**
 - Yes, those courses can be completed online, but they must include a lab component for 4 credits.
- **Can I use two or more courses to complete the Human Growth and Development requirement if multiple 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, from infancy to geriatrics.
- **What courses satisfy the Social Sciences Elective?**
 - Only Introduction to Psychology or Introduction to Sociology satisfy the Social Behavioral Science Elective prerequisite.
 - We do accept a 4 or higher on AP Psych (must have official documentation).
 - CLEP credit accepted if minimum score of 50 is met for Psychology or Sociology (must have official documentation).
- **What courses satisfy the Statistics Elective?**
 - Please see the list on p. 4 of the [Accelerated Nursing Program Prerequisite Guide](#) to match the course description.
 - We accept a 4 or higher in AP Stats (must have official documentation).

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.
- We do accept Portage courses for all 7 of our required Nursing prerequisites:
 - BIOD151 Essential Human Anatomy & Physiology I w/ Lab
 - BIOD152 Essential Human Anatomy & Physiology II w/ Lab
 - BIOD171 Essential Microbiology w/ Lab
 - MATH110 Introduction to Statistics
 - PSYC140 Developmental (Lifespan) Psychology
 - BIOD121 Essentials in Nutrition
 - PSYC101 General Psychology -or-
 - SOCI180 Introduction to Sociology
- 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 \(WES\)](#)
 - [Credential Evaluation Services](#)
 - [Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. \(ECS\)](#)
 - [Education Evaluators International](#)
- **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 to Undergraduate Admissions.
- **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 48 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 is 3.7+.
- **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](#) under the tab How to Apply.

Program Statistics

- **What is the NCLEX pass rate?**
 - 97% first time test takers.
- **What is your retention/completion rate?**
 - 90-95% retention/completion rate
- **What is your job placement rate?**
 - 100% job placement for students who pass the NCLEX

Other

- **Are there additional textbook costs, or are all the learning materials included on the Laptop?**
 - A Microsoft Surface Laptop is included for each student as part of the program cost. Students will receive access codes for 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), stethoscope, BP cuff, and must have a watch with a second hand.
- **Is there a payment plan available?**
 - The Financial Aid office works with students to create payment plans and award financial aid packages.
- **Are there any mandatory requirements for the program?**

- If accepted to the ABSN program, attendance at **mandatory** in-person orientation on campus at UMass Boston and an online virtual orientation are required.
- Orientation dates will be sent with acceptance letters, approximately one month following the application deadline.
- Spring 2025 semester In-person Orientation date is Monday Dec. 9th.
- Summer 2025 semester In-person Orientation Monday April 7th
- For Fall 2025 semester In-person Orientation will be planned for the 2nd or 3rd week in July.
- Virtual Orientation is also required, typically a week or two before the start of the semester.
- Attending in-person On-ground clinical placements is a mandatory requirement of the program.
- Attending in-person lab sessions at the CCER on campus is required 4-8 times a semester.
- Students are required to attend a 3-day Live Online ATI NCLEX prep course following completion of the program (typically following the third semester's final exams, and occasionally scheduled after degree conferral.)
- **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 will need to work with the [BORN of the state](#) they plan to test in. They can also work with the Program Assistant and Director to apply for license reciprocity in the desired state. *Students intending to test in another state must contact that state's Board of Nursing for their testing regulations and to see if UMB's ABSN program meets their state's clinical hours or other requirements for licensure.
- **How do you support students in finding a job after graduation?**
 - Career services at the Academic and Career Engagement and Success Center ([ACES](#)) can work with students to assist with job placement upon graduation. Additionally, the department hosts Transition to Practice events as graduation dates approach which assist students in networking and learning about RN residency programs and new nursing positions.