

Master of Science Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Program ~ *Online*

The Master of Science Degree Program in Nursing at the University of Massachusetts Amherst builds on previous nursing education and clinical experience, and prepares students for advanced education nurse generalist role in a variety of healthcare settings, and lays a foundation for doctoral education.

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) masters concentration prepares nurse leaders who design, provide, manage and coordinate health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention and illness management services to individuals and clinical populations.

The CNL is accountable for the application of research-based information and the efficient and cost effective use of resources to improve clinical and environmental care outcomes and effect change in health care organizations.

The graduate is prepared to lead both intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary health care teams, and to function across all clinical settings in order to meet the demands of a complex care delivery system.

The Master of Science Program in the School of Nursing was created through the collaborative efforts of faculty in the School of Nursing and local leaders in nursing practice.

This program addresses the competencies and knowledge specified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing for Masters Education and for the specific Clinical Nurse Leader focus. The School of Nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The graduate is prepared to take the CNL certification examination prepared by The American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC).

The CNL program is a distance accessible program offered through a mixed delivery method (coursework predominantly online with some campus visits required). All course work is offered through Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) www.umasslearn.net.

Clinical Nurse Leader Program Objectives

At the completion of the program the graduate will be prepared to:

1. Implement the CNL role in a variety of clinical settings.
2. Apply advanced knowledge (pharmacology, pathophysiology, health assessment) and core competencies (critical thinking, communication, nursing technology/resources) to the development and evaluation of a plan of care for individuals or populations at the point of care.
3. Assume accountability for the efficient and cost effective use of human, environmental and national resources by applying principles of healthcare policy, finance, economics and ethics to care delivery.
4. Integrate knowledge of informatics, human diversity, and ethics to address and manage variation in population outcomes and ensure culturally relevant care.
5. Implement evidence-based practices and professional standards of care to affect change in health care organizations and improve outcomes of care.
6. Apply principles of leadership and collaboration to improve the health outcomes of individuals and clinical populations.
7. Improve clinical practice and optimize healthcare outcomes through use of information systems and other technologies.
8. Advocate for the client, interdisciplinary care team, and profession in legislative and regulatory arenas.

Admission Criteria

Students must meet the general requirements of both the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School and the School of Nursing, and must have a baccalaureate degree from a nationally accredited school of nursing or be a registered nurse with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree.

The School of Nursing uses the degree-granting institution grade point average (GPA) as one measure of an applicant's academic potential. A successful applicant will typically have a GPA of 3.0 or above. If the GPA is less than 3.0, the applicant may still apply and be considered for admission, but might wish to submit a Graduate Record Exam (GRE) score if they feel that their GPA does not accurately reflect their abilities.

Applicants must also provide official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended, documentation of RN licensure, TOEFL scores (if needed), and evidence of courses in undergrad level Health Assessment (or equivalent) and Elementary Statistics. Applicants should provide a sample of their own scholarly writing, a written statement of professional goals, and two letters of recommendation.

Application Deadline is February 1 each year.

Course Requirements

The MS/CNL concentration requires completion of 37 credit hours of course work. Selected courses include practicum/project hours. The curriculum consists of: 27 didactic credit hours, 10 practicum credit hours (4:1 ratio; 56 contact hours per one credit hour = 566 contact hours), and a 60 hour fieldwork experience in N690L Leadership in Public Health Systems. N690C Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning has a mandatory workshop, a “Competency Leveling Workshop” that is a 3 day experience using 24 contact hours of laboratory time for the course.

Credit Transfer

Students who have taken non-degree courses at the University of Massachusetts Amherst may transfer a maximum of six credit hours from these courses. Up to six additional credits may be transferred from institutions other than the University of Massachusetts Amherst. These courses must have been taken within the last three years and a grade of B or better achieved. The completion of graduate courses taken as a non-degree student does not guarantee admission into the program. Students admitted and matriculated into the program may enroll in all courses; non-degree students may enroll on a space-available basis and by permission of the instructor. Only matriculated students may enroll in clinical practicum.

Cost per credit is variable, and may change. Please check UMASS Online website for current cost each semester (Click on CNL Program and then “tuition and fees”bar).



Master of Science Clinical Nurse Leader Requirements for Graduation

Course Name	Credits
N630 Research Methodology in Nursing	(3)
N603 Theoretical Components of Nursing Science	(3)
PubHlth 630 Principles of Epidemiology	(3)
N790J Healthcare Informatics	(3)
N690L Leadership in Public Health Systems	(3)
N690C Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	(3)
N698A Practicum: Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning	(1)
N615 Advanced Pathophysiology	(3)
N690D Advanced Pharmacology	(3)
N690S Healthcare Quality	(3)
N698N Clinical Practicum: Clinical Nurse Leader	(3)
N798N Practicum: Clinical Nurse Leader	(6)
Total credits	37

Please visit our website at www.umass.edu/nursing for application and requirements.

Information Sessions

Visit the prospective student section of our website www.umass.edu/nursing to find out when and where the School of Nursing Information Sessions are being held. Please RSVP so that we may better serve you.

For program inquiry and application information:

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- 1) Visit the UMass online website at <http://www.umassonline.net/Home.html>
- 2) Contact Academic Services, School of Nursing via e-mail at cnl@nursing.umass.edu.
- 3) Please visit our website at www.umass.edu/nursing for more information on our program. Feel free to see what an online course is like at <http://www.umassonline.net/CourseDemo.cfm> and to see if online learning is the education choice for you. Support is available for those new to online learning.