The University of Massachusetts Amherst College of Nursing offers the nationally recognized Masters in Nursing degree with the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) role concentration. The program prepares nurse leaders as Advanced Education Nurse Generalists who design, provide, manage, and coordinate health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention, and illness management services to individuals at the point of care 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 healthcare organizations.

Leading Intradisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Teams

The College of Nursing offers the Doctor in Nursing Practice (DNP) degree to prepare advanced practice nurses at the highest level for complex evidence-based nursing practice. This professional nursing preparation will include advanced coursework in leadership, health policy, research translation and advanced public health knowledge and skills. This DNP role is driven by evolving nursing roles in an increasingly complex health care system, new scientific knowledge, and ongoing concerns about the quality and outcomes of nursing in our health care system.

Preparation for CNL Certification

This program addresses the knowledge and competencies specified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) for Masters Education and for the specific Clinical Nurse Leader role focus. The College 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 Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC) through AACN.

The CNL program is a distance-accessible program offered through predominantly asynchronous delivery methods. All course work is offered through Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) www.umassulearn.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 healthcare 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 the use of information systems and other technologies.
8. Advocate for the client, interdisciplinary care team, and profession in legislative and regulatory arenas.

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**Admission Criteria**

Applicants to the CNL program must meet the entrance requirements of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School. Each applicant must be a graduate of a nationally-accredited school of nursing and hold a current professional license.

Applicants must present evidence of the following:

- Official transcripts from colleges/universities attended
- Baccalaureate or master's degree in nursing, or an associate degree in nursing and a non-nursing baccalaureate degree
- Grade Point Average of 3.0 (B) or higher
- Two letters of recommendation
- Scholarly writing sample e.g., scholarly paper, publication (see application for instructions)
- Statement of professional goals (see application for instructions)
- Current Resume or CV
- Documentation of professional licensure and certifications
- Evidence of completion of undergraduate statistics and health assessment course or equivalent if required by specialty
- TOEFL scores where applicable

*See application for instructions*
Clinical Experience

All students are required to secure their own clinical practicum sites and preceptors in this program. Our Clinical Placement Coordinator will assist students as needed. Practicum arrangements are made prior to beginning selected courses and must be approved by the College of Nursing faculty, the Clinical Placement Coordinator, or the Program Director. These arrangements are made prior to beginning selected courses and must be approved by the College of Nursing faculty.

Core Courses

The MS/CNL concentration requires completion of 37 semester credit hours of course work. Selected courses include practicum/project hours. The curriculum consists of 27 didactic semester credit hours and 10 practicum credit hours (4:1 ratio; 56 contact hours per one credit hour = 560 contact hours). An individually tailored plan of study will be created by transcript review after admission, but students are expected to complete either a two-year, full-time plan of study or a three-year, part-time plan.

(All courses are 3 credits unless otherwise noted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Course Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N630</td>
<td>Research Methodology in Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N603</td>
<td>Theoretical Components of Nursing Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBHLTH 630</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N735</td>
<td>Informatics for Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N615</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
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<td>N619</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>N614</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>N698A</td>
<td>Practicum: Advanced Health Assessment and Clinical Reasoning (1 credit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>N701</td>
<td>Healthcare Quality</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>N725</td>
<td>Leadership in Public Health Systems</td>
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<td>N698N</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum: Clinical Nurse Leader</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N798N</td>
<td>Practicum: Clinical Nurse Leader (6 credits)</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total credits: 37
Credit Transfer

Students may transfer credit hours once matriculated into the program. Please see the Graduate School website for their Transfer Credit Policy at http://www.umass.edu/gradschool/handbook/under Educational Records. Courses taken as a non-degree student do not guarantee admission to the program.

Students who have taken courses as non-degree students at the University of Massachusetts Amherst may transfer a maximum of six credit hours into CNL. 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. 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 practica.

Accreditation

The Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), a national nursing education accrediting body and approved by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing. In addition to graduation, the Board of Registration in Nursing requires that graduates sitting for the NCLEX-RN licensure exam meet standards of ‘good moral character.’ For further information, see their website at www.state.ma.us/reg/boards/rn for Rules and Regulations: Determination of Good Moral Character.

Mandatory Background Checks

Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) checks are required by many clinical agencies and will be completed by the College of Nursing on all students once they are admitted to the program. Progression in the program and placements in clinical agencies may be contingent upon a satisfactory CORI investigation.