

Master of Science in Nursing Programs

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MSN Program FAQs

1. What concentrations are offered?

The MSN Program prepares graduates for entry into practice as family nurse practitioners (FNP).

2. Is the program fully online?

The program is fully online with the exception of skill labs. Online courses are, for the most part, asynchronous. Any synchronous sessions take place using desktop conferencing, are scheduled in advance, and are archived for later viewing. Online courses are delivered using a learning management system called Desire2Learn (D2L).

3. Where or when do skill labs take place?

Skill labs are held on the Edinboro University campus in Edinboro, PA. The skill labs consist of 30 hours of hands-on practice in physical assessment and a 4 hour session that focuses on minor office procedures (e.g., suturing).

4. Where do I go for clinical experiences?

We maintain a database of over 300 preceptors used by students in the past. You are encouraged to use any one of these or to suggest additions to the list. Due to state authorization requirements, clinical experiences are limited to Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. You will need to be licensed as an RN in the state where you complete those hours.

5. Can I take classes part-time?

Classes can be taken full- or part-time. A full-time program can be completed in 2 years and a summer; part-time study can be completed in 3 years and a summer. Part-time is advised.

6. Will I have to complete a thesis?

A research sequence is an integral part of the curriculum and includes a mentored scholarly project or thesis that can be completed as an individual or a group of up to 3 students.

7. Do you have post-master's certificate or second master's options?

Individuals holding an earned MSN degree may expand their focus by pursuing either a Post-Master's-FNP Certificate or a second MSN degree. Completion of a minimum of 24 credits is required for a certificate; a second MSN degree requires a minimum of 30 credits in order to meet university residency requirements.

8. Do you accept transfer credits?

Students may transfer up to 12 credits of approved non-clinical course work toward the MSN-FNP degree. Up to 9 credits may be granted for life experience, based upon careful evaluation of such experience.

9. Can I just take a few courses to transfer elsewhere (or for continuing education)?

Individuals wishing to take a course or two as a non-degree seeking student may do so if they meet all admission requirements and if space is available. Specific application instructions can be found at <http://www.clarion.edu/admissions/graduate/nondegree-and-transient-applicants/index.html> Note: Students that are not enrolled in the MSN program but take individual classes that are included in the curriculum are subject to course surcharges.

10. What is the cost?

Edinboro and Clarion are both members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, therefore [tuition](#) is reasonable. As a distance program, certain fees are also waived.

11. How do I apply?

Applications are processed through Clarion's Office of Graduate Admissions. Requirements include a completed application, official transcripts, two recommendation forms, a copy of your RN license, a copy of your resume, a written essay on why you want to pursue the MSN-FNP degree (or Post-Master's Certificate), and a formal interview. Applications are accepted at any time but only reviewed in October for admission the following fall. Applications received after October 1st are only considered *if the fall class has not already been filled*. Otherwise those applications are held for review the next October.