



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE

School of Nursing

**Master of Science in Nursing
Family Nurse Practitioner Program (FNP)**

How long will it take me to complete the program?

Full-time students can expect to complete the program in two and a half years, including summer sessions. Part-time students may take three to four years to complete the program. The program consists of 49 credits.

Do I need to have clinical rotations in the program?

All UMaine family nurse practitioner students are required to complete 755 hours of precepted clinical experiences. Students are responsible for finding appropriate clinical placements in collaboration with the clinical faculty teaching the respective course. This gives you the flexibility of being in a geographical location within Maine that is reasonable for you. Clinical experiences can be done throughout the state of Maine as long as the University and the School of Nursing have a legal contract with the agency. Students will coordinate with the clinical coordinator before committing to working with an agency for the clinical experience. The majority of clinical experiences should be in primary care settings working with an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN), however physician and physician assistants can also appropriate preceptors. Diversity of care sites is critical to gain experience working in diverse settings across the lifespan (neonates to older adults).

Do I have to come to campus for classes?

The majority of the non-clinical courses are online. The majority of the FNP clinical courses do require once a week live participation either on campus or via distance technology (e.g.Zoom). There may be times where you will be required to come to campus. Course instructors will provide details in the first week of classes.

Do I have to do a thesis?

Although Master's Nursing students do have the option of doing a thesis, most students elect the non-thesis option. With this option, you will explore an area of advanced practice nursing related to your personal areas of interest and demonstrate scholarship with non-thesis projects.

Can I work while I'm a FNP student?

Many students do work while in graduate school. It is possible to work full-time during the first two to three semesters while taking the non-clinical and health assessment courses. Most students find it difficult to work full-time once the clinical courses start. Reproductive and Gynecological health, Pediatrics, and Adult 1 require a minimum of 150 clinical hours each and Adult 2 requires 225 clinical hours. Logistically finding the time while working full time is extremely challenging. Working full-time near the end of the program is not recommended.

Is the UMaine FNP program awarding a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree?

The program has been discussing the needed transition to a DNP degree. We have not yet determined a definite plan. Our accrediting agency has issued a new set of guidelines that we will be closely reviewing to see what our program's plan and timeline will be.