



Frequently Asked Questions, University of Maine School of Nursing

Q: What makes UMaine nursing different from other nursing programs?

A: UMaine nursing provides students with a small school feel with the benefit of access to large campus amenities. UMaine nursing faculty are easily accessible to students and pride themselves on evidence-based teaching strategies. UMaine Nursing students start laboratory and nursing courses in the first-year and move into clinical in the second year of the program. Maine Nursing also provides international clinical immersion experiences, and the option to study abroad for one semester without delaying progression.

Q: Is there an application deadline for first-year nursing students?

A: UMaine nursing encourages students to apply by December 1 to secure the best financial aid package and ensure a spot in the program. Applications from first-year students for the Nursing program will be considered on a space-available basis after December 1st.

Q: Are you a direct entry program?

A: UMaine Nursing is a traditional baccalaureate nursing program. Students are admitted directly into the Nursing program.

Q: Transferring into the nursing program (internal).

A: A University of Maine student presently enrolled and taking classes at the University of Maine may apply as an internal transfer to the nursing program. Students must have completed a minimum of 24 credits of graded UMaine coursework with a cumulative GPA and a science course GPA of 3.0 or above. If you are a current UMaine student, please download the [application](#), [mid-semester grade form](#), [change of major](#) and [essay guidelines](#).

Q: Transferring into the nursing program (external)

A: Transfer admission to the nursing program is extremely competitive and based on both academic credentials and space available in the program. Transfer students are generally expected to have a cumulative grade point average of a 3.5 or better and have earned B's or better in any college-level English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology or Microbiology courses they have completed. Transfer applications should be submitted to the Office of Admissions as early as possible prior to the intended term for transfer. Transfer applications may be submitted for both the fall and spring terms and will be considered as long as there is space in the program.

Q: When do I start taking nursing classes?

A: You begin nurses courses in your first semester of nursing school, and you take at least 1 nursing course every semester of your 4-year program.

Q: Are there study abroad opportunities or ways for me to travel in nursing?

A: The BSN curriculum is designed to allow students the opportunity to travel abroad in the first semester of the second year. Since 2012, UMaine Nursing International has partnered with International Service Learning to provide an annual international health experience for students. From 2012-2017, the School of Nursing through UMaine Nursing International offered a 9-day international volunteer experience to Central America (Belize, Costa Rica, and Panama) for UM nursing students with a UM nursing faculty. In response to student's feedback and request, in fall 2018 an elective course, NUR 419: Introduction to Global Health was created that also offered the 9-day international experience along with content on global health. This course is offered annually.

Through the international health experience, students have a chance to work with an international group of healthcare professionals (physicians, pharmacists, community health workers, translators) to provide health care to underserved populations and learn about health issues that affect developing countries.

UMaine Nursing students may travel abroad in the second year of the program. Nursing students have traveled abroad to England, Australia, New Zealand, and Spain, and graduate on time.

Q: Where are some of your recent graduates working?

A: UMaine School of Nursing graduates works across all specialties, healthcare settings, and geographic regions.

Q: What types of student nursing associations are available?

A: The Orono Student Nurse Association (OSNA) is a nursing student organization under the Student Government.

OSNA seeks to create an inclusive, supportive community for all nursing students regardless of age, experience, or background. We aim to provide members with educational and service opportunities and provide a place for like-minded individuals to bond over their chosen career path.

Some advantages of being involved with OSNA include volunteer opportunities, getting to know other nursing students, as well as having another resource within the program to get help with classes and or clinical practice.

Each year, students in OSNA attend the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA) Annual Convention. The NSNA Convention is a great opportunity for student nurses to explore the many different tiers of the profession. Throughout the school year, OSNA tries to participate in at least one service event each month. OSNA participates in the Black BearTHON on-campus that benefits our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital, Northern Light.

Maine Student Nurse Organization (MSNA) is a statewide nursing student organization that represents nursing students from Nursing Programs (Associate, Baccalaureate and Master's Degree) in Maine.

MSNA is a state constituency of the National Student Nurse Association (NSNA), and selected members attend the Annual NSNA Convention representing Maine nursing students.

Q: What are your sim lab capabilities?

A: Our simulation lab has four hospital beds and a medication room that we use to develop guided experiences that evoke or replicate substantial aspects of clinical practice in a fully interactive manner. Our manikins range from low to high fidelity, infant to adult, and capable of a variety of physiological responses, including having a seizure, delivering a baby, or becoming cyanotic. Students often participate with their clinical group in a small eight students to multiple faculty ratio and engage two at a time in an assigned scenario while the other participants observe. Following the assigned scenario, the entire group meets to debrief or discuss that experience – what went well, what they would change, what that means for future practice. The nursing skills and assessment labs are different from the simulation lab. The skills labs provide space for students to develop their technical skills (i.e., medication administration, urinary catheter insertion & care, & physical assessment) before they put them into practice in a simulated scenario.

Q: How does UMaine School of Nursing help students prepare for NCLEX-RN?

A: The School of Nursing has contracted with Kaplan Integrated Testing and NCLEX-RN Review to provide UMaine nursing students with access to resources that support success in nursing school. Students complete an Integrated Kaplan Exam at the end of most nursing courses.

The exams provide a comprehensive evaluation of student knowledge and understanding of the content covered in the course as well as their ability to apply and analyze this knowledge. The program includes comprehensive remediation resources that allow students to focus on improving essential nursing competencies to promote long-term nursing success. Kaplan's Integrated Testing program includes a comprehensive NCLEX-RN review course and preparation materials that are fully integrated in the final course of the program.

Q: How many students are in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program?

A: UMaine School of Nursing accepts between 80-90 students every fall and another 40 students in spring. On average, the School of Nursing has 400 students enrolled across 4 years of the program. We offer every undergraduate nursing course every semester, and we graduate two cohorts a year- in May and December.

Q: What is your NCLEX First-Time pass rate?

A: December 2018: 96.00%
May 2019: 96.00%
December 2020: 100%
May 2020: 97%

Q: What clinical experiences are offered at UMaine School of Nursing?

A: UMaine School of Nursing has clinical agreements with more than 200 healthcare and community agencies across the State of Maine. UMaine Nursing students complete 740 hours of direct patient care clinical experiences in a range of settings including, acute care hospitals, home care, primary care, nursing homes, women's health clinics, schools, and more. Direct care clinical experiences begin in the second year of the undergraduate curriculum and continue every semester until the completion of the program. During the final semester of the program, students complete a 210-hour immersive partnership experience one-on-one with an experienced nurse mentor/preceptor.

Q: How do students travel to clinical?

A. Nursing students are responsible for transportation to and from clinical sites. Students should be prepared to travel 45-60 minutes to clinical locations. Many students carpool. UMaine students can also ride the public bus, free, with their MaineCard.

Q: What buildings do you have your nursing classes in?

A: Didactic nursing classes and general education courses are offered face-to-face on the UMaine campus and online. Classrooms vary in size and configuration. UMaine offers several active learning classrooms. All nursing simulation and skill labs are held in Dunn hall.

Q: What can I expect from the UMaine School of Nursing faculty?

A: The UMaine School of Nursing faculty is a dedicated group of nurses who are fully committed to our student's success. Faculty members offer weekly open office hours and provide opportunities for 1-1 appointments with nursing students. Two thirds of the UMaine Faculty have earned doctoral degrees and one hundred percent of the nursing faculty are engaged in clinical practice or nursing research.

Q: Do nursing students have opportunities to engage in nursing research?

A: The School of Nursing offers a course in evidence-based practice and students are expected to apply evidence to all clinical, laboratory, and didactic courses throughout the curriculum. UMaine also offers Top Scholar awards. Top Scholar awards are granted to high-achieving students from Maine selecte based on the following considerations: GPA, test scores, academic rigor, a program of interest, demonstrated leadership/community service. The award provides tuition and fees for 15 credits per semester admissions to the Honors College, faculty mentor, and \$500 per year to support scholarly/ research development. You can learn more about the financial and research opportunities [here](#).

Q: Do nursing students have an opportunity to work during nursing school?

A: Nursing is a rigorous major that requires a significant investment of student's time. Students should balance work and school as much as they are able. Students have an opportunity to engage in numerous work-study jobs across campus, including several within the School of Nursing. After the second year of the curriculum, students are eligible for the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) registry. Many students secure jobs as CNAs.

Q: What types of nursing externships or additional experiences are available to nursing students outside the traditional curriculum?

A. Several healthcare organizations across the state provide summer externship opportunities to nursing students. Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center also offers a Work to Grow program. Students accepted into the Work to Grow program in the last two years of their curriculum receive full tuition benefits and full-time salary in exchange for a 16 hour work week as a Certified Nursing Assistant. For more information on [Work to Grow click here](#).



Q: How do I set up a tour?

A: Tours are available during Open House events that include the School of Nursing. Other tours can be available and are set up through the Heritage House Monday-Friday. Click [here](#) for more information about tours.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Apply [here](#)!