

## **Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator FAQs**

**(Updated 2024)**

**Average cohort size for the certificate program? MSN program? (i.e. how many students (roughly) are admitted each term?)** Our cohorts remain small of 4-6 students with Certificate and MSN-Nursing Education students taking the special nursing education courses together. Small cohorts allow students to interact and engage more often with peers and faculty.

**Average anticipated application turnaround time?** Once you have submitted all required application materials, someone from the School of Nursing will reach out within 1-2 weeks to schedule a meeting to discuss your goals and your preferences for the program.

**How long will it take me to complete the program? Do I need to take any clinical courses?** Full-time students can expect to complete the program in two years, including summer sessions. Part-time students may take three to four years to complete the program. The program consists of 35 credits.

**Is this for Academic or Staff Development Educators?** Both! The program is designed for graduate students who wish to gain knowledge and experience in nursing education, either in the academic or clinical practice setting. Two practicums can be tailored to the student's area of interest, and coordinated with student's preference in location and focus.

**Do I have an Advisor?** Each student is assigned a SON Graduate Faculty advisor that can provide detailed explanations regarding the program and individual courses. Accepted students work closely with their advisor each semester to ensure the student is successful and on-track for their program of study.

**Do I have to come to campus for classes? Is the online coursework synchronous or asynchronous?** The majority of the courses are asynchronous online. Some courses offer "recommended or optional" live sessions on a periodic basis via distance technology (e.g. Zoom). These are great opportunities to network with your class and clarification of coursework. You will be required to come to campus twice for the NUR 531 Advanced Health Assessment lab offered during summer semester.

**What general type of instructional styles can students expect in the program?**

§ **Live/pre-recorded lectures**

§ **Textbook learning**

§ **Presentation/project learning**

All the above and more! Many of our faculty work with our Center for Innovation Teaching & Learning (CITL) to develop engaging and interactive on-line learning opportunities, meeting different student learning styles. These teaching methods allow students to engage with peers and course faculty, decreasing feelings of isolation while learning. Beyond assigned readings and assignments, students will participate in discussion boards, group work, projects, presentations, and more – including opportunities to attend recommended zoom meetings.

**What type of assessment styles can students expect in the program?**

§ Traditional exams?

§ Projects?

Each course offers a variety of assessments for grading beyond exams, projects, and discussion boards. Courses offer real learning that can be scaffolded across multiple courses, directly applying the knowledge and skills to their role of nursing education. For example, in the nursing education specialty courses, you will be developing a teaching plan to use in your practicums.

**Do I have to do a thesis?** No! Although Master's in 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 related to your professional areas of interest and complete a 1-credit NUR 697 Scholarly Capstone course at the end of your program.

**Can I work while I am a Nurse Educator student?** Many of our students in the Healthcare Leadership | Nurse Educator track work full- or part-time throughout their graduate program.

**Do I need a Maine Nursing License?** Yes!!! All students in the Healthcare Leadership | Nurse Educator program must have a license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Maine.