



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Nursing

NURSING.USASK.CA

2026 College of Nursing Graduate Program Applicant FAQ's

GENERAL INFORMATION

When are applications due for the 2026 program intake?

Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner (MN-NP): January 13, 2026

Master of Nursing (MN) Thesis/Professional Practice (Domestic): February 3, 2026

MN Thesis/Professional Practice (International): January 9, 2025

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing: February 3, 2026

Master of Public Health Nursing (MPHN): February 3, 2026

All documents, references, and supplemental materials must be submitted by the application deadline.

Applications cannot be deferred to a future intake.

Click [here](#) for more information on application deadlines.

When will I receive my Applicant Letter, and what does it include?

Within two business days of submitting your application, you will receive an Applicant Letter by email. This letter provides detailed information about all required supplemental items, document upload instructions, and the application process.

Applicants should read the Applicant Letter carefully and keep it for reference throughout the application process, as most questions can be answered by reviewing this document.

When will I be notified of an admission decision?

MN-NP, MN Thesis (Domestic), and MN Professional Practice (Domestic): April 2026

MN Thesis (International) and MN Professional Practice (International): March 2026

PhD: April 2026

MPHN: April 2026

Please do not contact the college to check your status before this time, as individual updates cannot be provided.

Can I submit documents after the deadline?

No - applications with missing, incomplete, or incorrect documents at the deadline will be disqualified. Only applicants who receive a direct email from nursing.advising@usask.ca requesting a correction may upload after the deadline.



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College of Nursing Graduate Programs

Phone: 306-966-7861
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What does it mean if I receive an “Incorrect Document” email?

If a document is marked incorrect, check your application portal. The system automatically waives the original document and creates a new upload slot. Comments will often be added to the new upload spot to help identify the issue.

Note: After the deadline, new documents will not be accepted unless you receive a direct request from nursing.advising@usask.ca.

I received a system email saying, “requirements are not completed.” What does this mean?

These emails are automatically generated by the application system when one or more required documents have not been uploaded. They are not sent by the College of Nursing.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that all required documents are uploaded correctly and completely before the deadline. Please check your application portal to confirm that each required supplemental item has a document attached.

Can I get help reviewing my application?

Advisors can assist with questions about the process but cannot discuss the evaluation of your materials.

There are drop-in sessions for application help for those who have submitted their application and paid the application fee. The Zoom link will be provided in the Applicant Letter email to applicants.

My application shows as “Complete.” Does that mean it’s finalized?

Not always. Your application will show as “Complete” once a document has been uploaded to every item listed in your application portal. These items are created automatically from the information you enter in your initial application.

For example, if you forgot to include one of your previous post-secondary institutions, a transcript upload spot will not be generated for that school, but your application will still appear as “Complete” if all other supplemental item spots have been filled.

A “Complete” status simply means that every current upload slot has a file attached. It does not confirm that all documents are correct or that all required materials have been provided. It is your responsibility to ensure that all required documents are uploaded and accurate before the deadline.

I uploaded the wrong document. How do I fix it?

Once a document has been uploaded to your application, you cannot remove or replace it yourself. If you need a document removed, email nursing.advising@usask.ca and request that the incorrect file be deleted. Be sure to clearly identify which document you are referring to in your message.





Can I upload multiple different documents to one supplemental item?

No - each supplemental item is designated for a specific document type. Do not combine or upload different documents together (for example, transcripts from multiple institutions or unrelated items in one file).

If you need an additional upload spot (for instance, if you forgot to list one of your previous institutions and do not have a transcript upload space) email nursing.advising@usask.ca to request that an additional spot be added to your application.

I have more than one document for a single supplemental item. What should I do?

Only one file can be uploaded for each supplemental item in your application. If you have multiple documents to submit for the same item, you must combine all pages into a single PDF and upload that combined file.

Make sure the final PDF includes all pages in the correct order and that the file opens properly before uploading.

TRANSCRIPTS

Which transcripts do I need to upload?

Upload all post-secondary transcripts, including programs unrelated to your BSN. If you attended a collaborative program, provide transcripts from both institutions. Previous USask students must still upload all other post-secondary transcripts, even if they were submitted previously. If you have received transfer credit from other institutions, you must still upload those transcripts to your application.

What format is acceptable for transcripts?

Electronic or paper transcripts are both accepted. Paper transcripts must include all full pages and both sides of the document. Digital transcripts must include all pages.

Are unofficial transcripts accepted?

Yes, unofficial transcripts are accepted if they include:

- Your full name
- Institution name
- Dates of attendance
- Course names and numbers
- Credit units
- Final grades

Are WES Evaluations accepted in place of transcripts?

No, WES evaluations are not accepted. The college completes its own evaluation and requires transcripts from each institution.





Can I send official transcripts instead of uploading copies of unofficial transcripts?

Official transcripts are only required after admission is confirmed.

Applicants are responsible for uploading all required documents to their application portal by the application deadline. We cannot guarantee official transcripts sent before the deadline will be uploaded to your application by the deadline. Official transcripts are processed by the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, not by the College of Nursing.

INDIGENOUS VERIFICATION

How do I apply to compete for an Indigenous seat in the MN-NP program?

The MN-NP program has seats specifically designated for Indigenous applicants who meet the admission requirements. To apply for one of these seats, select “yes” in your application when asked “Do you wish to self-declare for the purposes of graduate admission and funding consideration?”

You will receive an email on how to complete the Indigenous verification within a week of submitting your application. You must submit your documents for verification prior to the application deadline. Learn more about Indigenous verification [here](#).

More information on deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin: Indigenous Truth can be found [here](#).

What if my Indigenous verification is not complete by the deadline?

You must submit your request for verification and your supporting documents before the application deadline. Once the request and documents are submitted, verification may take several weeks. This will not impact your application. Verification updates may occur after the application deadline passes.

REFERENCE LETTERS

Who can be an academic referee?

An academic reference should be from someone who taught you in a theory course and evaluated your academic writing skills. This can also be a previous thesis supervisor.

Who should I list as referees?

MN-NP applicants: One academic, one clinical, and one additional referee (academic, clinical, or supervisor).

MN Thesis/Professional Practice, MPH & PhD applicants: Three references are required, with at least two as academic references. One professional/clinical referee may substitute for a third academic. If less than two academic references are submitted, your application will not be considered for admission.





Learn more about each program's reference requirements [here](#).

Are academic references required?

Yes - academic references are a required component of the application and cannot be substituted with professional or personal references. If you are unable to provide the required academic references, your application will be negatively impacted.

If you do not currently have an academic referee, we recommend enrolling in a university-level course that includes a writing component. This will allow an instructor from that course to serve as an academic reference for future applications.

What if I am unable to obtain academic references from my previous instructors?

If you are unable to locate former instructors, check your previous institution's website or faculty directory for their current contact information. Instructors do not need to still be in the same role or department they were in when you took their course. Many applicants have successfully contacted former instructors through faculty listings or professional networking sites such as LinkedIn.

If you are still unable to obtain the required academic references, consider enrolling in a university-level course that includes a writing component so that the instructor can serve as an academic reference for future applications.

What if my referee doesn't receive the recommendation email?

Have your referee check all their inboxes, including spam/junk folders. If the email is still not received, you can cancel the reference request in your application portal (as long as it's not marked "Complete") and resubmit their information.

Can I change a reference after submission?

You can cancel a reference before it is marked "Complete" If you cancel a reference, you can either resubmit the information for the same referee or you can add the contact information for a new referee. Once a referee has submitted their recommendation, it cannot be removed or changed.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

What are the English language requirements for Canadian and American applicants?

Applicants who completed their undergraduate degree (minimum 90 credit units) or graduate degree (master's or PhD) in Canada or the United States do not need to provide an English language test if English was the exclusive language of instruction.

If English was not the exclusive language of instruction at their institution, applicants must provide proof of English proficiency by submitting results from an approved English language test.

Learn more about English proficiency requirements [here](#).





What are the English language requirements for international applicants?

Applicants who completed their undergraduate or graduate education outside of Canada or the United States must submit results from an approved English language proficiency test.

Learn more about English proficiency requirements [here](#).

What English language tests and scores are accepted?

- **IELTS** (Academic Module): Overall score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.5.
- **TOEFL iBT** (Internet-based): Overall score of 94 with minimum scores of 22 in reading, listening, and speaking, and a minimum score of 24 in writing.

Test results are valid two years prior to the expected program start date. For example, if you are applying to a program for September 2026, tests must be dated September 2024 or later.

Can I submit a letter from my institution instead of an English language test?

No - letters from institutions are not accepted as proof of English proficiency. Only the two approved English language tests, IELTS (Academic Module) or TOEFL iBT, are accepted.

NURSE PRACTITIONER – CLINICAL EXPERIENCE & PLACEMENTS

What type of hours are accepted for the clinical experience requirement?

Only registered nurse (RN) hours are accepted for the clinical experience requirement. Hours worked in a position that requires you to have your RN license, are generally accepted. Undergraduate and graduate nurse hours are not accepted.

What are the clinical experience requirements for MN-NP applicants?

Applicants must have at least 3,600 hours of RN clinical practice completed in Canada within the last five years (Jan 1, 2021 – Jan 13, 2026).

Documentation must clearly show:

- The date range worked
- Total RN hours
- Employer name and official letterhead
- Your name and role

What documentation is accepted for the clinical experience requirement?

Your employer must provide documentation of the RN hours you have completed in the last five years.

Self-reported hours, such as from your provincial licensure, are not accepted. Documents such as CVs, resumes, time codes, or annual summaries are not accepted. Hours from self-employment are generally not accepted.





What if I haven't completed all 3,600 hours?

Applicants must meet all admission requirements by the application deadline to be considered for admission.

The 3,600 hours must be completed by the application deadline. Applicants that have not completed all hours within the accepted date range (January 1, 2021 – January 13, 2026) will not be considered for admission.

How do clinical placements work for students who live in Saskatchewan?

Saskatchewan students will complete their clinical placements within the province. While we do take your home location into account wherever possible, placements cannot be guaranteed in your immediate area. Students should anticipate the possibility of travelling for clinical and may need to arrange temporary accommodation.

How do clinical placements work for students outside of Saskatchewan?

Students residing outside of Saskatchewan are responsible for securing their own clinical placements within the province where they hold licensure. Our clinical coordinator will support this process, but final placement arrangements depend on local availability.

STATEMENT OF INTENT & WRITING SAMPLES

How long can my statement of intent (SOI) or writing sample be?

Maximum three pages (title and reference pages are not included). The first three pages of text are the only portion reviewed.

Can I use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to help write my statement?

No - the use of AI text generators (e.g., ChatGPT) is not permitted. All writing must be your original work.

What formatting should I use for my statement of intent or writing sample?

All written components must follow APA 7th edition formatting, including 12-point font and double spacing throughout. Documents should be clearly organized and include appropriate in-text citations and a reference list for any sources you reference. Title and reference pages do not count toward the page limit.

When preparing your document:

- Use Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial font in 12-point size.
- Ensure consistent spacing, indentation, and headings following APA 7th edition guidelines.
- Include in-text citations for any ideas, facts, or research drawn from other sources.
- Provide a reference list on a separate page at the end of your document (not included in the three-page limit).

Learn more about each program's requirements [here](#).





PHD & MN THESIS/PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS

Do I need to secure a supervisor before applying?

Applicants are not required to have a confirmed supervisor at the time of application, but you should identify potential research areas and faculty whose interests align with your interests. You can view a list of current College of Nursing faculty [here](#).

AFTER YOU APPLY

How will I know if my documents are correct?

If any uploaded document is marked incorrect, an automatic email will be sent, and a new upload spot will appear in your application portal with a note explaining the issue.

Can I defer my application to next year?

No - applications cannot be deferred. You will need to reapply in a future admission cycle.

When will I receive my admission decision?

Notifications are sent via email in March or April 2026, depending on the program.

Who can I call if I have questions about my application?

Applicants are welcome to email nursing.advising@usask.ca with any questions they have about the application. Due to the high volume of applicants, we are unable to answer questions about an active application over the phone.

Emails are answered in the order they are received, so please do not send multiple emails with the same concern as it will increase our response time.

Additionally, applicants are welcome to attend admission drop-in sessions if they have questions about their application or the process. Information and the Zoom link on these sessions is provided in the Applicant Letter that is emailed to those who submit their application and pay the application fee. These sessions are not for application evaluation.

HELPFUL LINKS & CONTACT INFORMATION

[Master of Nursing – Thesis and Professional Practice program information](#)

[Master of Nursing Nurse Practitioner program information](#)

[Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing program information](#)

[Master of Public Health Nursing program information](#)

[Nursing graduate programs admissions information](#)

For further inquiries regarding our programs, please contact nursing.advising@usask.ca

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