



Graduate Nursing Programs



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Nursing
NURSING.USASK.CA

Advance Your Nursing Career

■ The College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) offers a variety of academic programs through expert online delivery to advance your nursing career. We are one of Canada's top 15 research intensive universities and offer a full range of human, animal, and plant sciences.

USask has offered nursing education since 1938. We have the largest cluster of health science disciplines in Canada with six colleges and three schools. This encourages collaboration among interprofessional teams to investigate and solve health problems both locally and globally.

Our engaged nursing faculty and staff are dedicated to creating an innovative and creative student education experience. Our students benefit from an interprofessional education, flexible study options, clinical placement coordination, academic advising, and a wide variety of scholarships and bursaries.



Learn Where You Live

USask College of Nursing uses a distributive learning approach, enabling students to learn where they live. All USask College of Nursing graduate programs are offered distributively, allowing students from across Canada to participate.

Courses are distributed using a variety of flexible and innovative methods, including video and web conferencing, Canvas, and lecture capture. Web-based classes allow students to participate and actively engage in learning from their community.

The main campus in Saskatoon, as well as our Prince Albert campus, have dedicated learning spaces for graduate students. The Nurse Practitioner (NP) program has a predetermined week during the year where students are required to be on campus in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Our Programs

Master of Nursing

Master of Nursing programs prepare nurses with advanced practice knowledge and expertise.

USask College of Nursing offers two programs leading to the Master of Nursing (MN) degree: Professional Practice (Course-based) and Thesis.

Professional Practice (Course-Based) Program

Professional Practice students are focused on knowledge and skill development in health education and leadership. Students are required to take 27 credit units of course work, designed so students can complete the program in two calendar years.

Thesis Program

Thesis-based students are focused on knowledge and skill development in teamwork and health research.

Students are required to take 15 credit units of coursework, in addition to their thesis. Courses are designed so students can complete the program in two calendar years.

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- articulate perspectives on nursing
- critique, utilize and contribute to theoretical and empirical knowledge bases for nursing
- develop, implement and evaluate strategies for advanced nursing practice at the client and system level; and
- demonstrate leadership skills needed to influence change.

GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO ASSUME:

- leadership/advanced practice roles in health care
- educator roles in service and educational institutions
- research roles in terms of generation and utilization of nursing knowledge; and
- further study at the doctoral level.

Our Programs

Master of Nursing Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner and Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner

USask College of Nursing offers registered nurses an opportunity to pursue a Master of Nursing degree, with an advanced clinical practice focus – Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NP). The College of Nursing also offers registered nurses, who have already obtained a Master of Nursing degree, an opportunity to pursue a Postgraduate degree specialization certificate, with a focus on primary health care.

Students are required to take courses in advanced health assessment and diagnostic reasoning, therapeutic management, advanced pathophysiology and pharmacology, advanced practice nursing theory, roles and responsibilities, graduate level statistics and research and clinical courses.

Courses are designed so students can complete the program within six consecutive terms.

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- meet the professional practice, ethical standards and entry level competencies for nurse practitioners with respect to the safe and effective delivery of primary health care to individuals, families and communities

- use the principles of evidence-informed practice and possess the ability to contribute to the body of evidence related to primary health care; and
- demonstrate skills in leadership, interprofessional collaboration and community development.



GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO:

- apply to write the Canadian Nurse Practitioner Exam or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board
- lead in knowledge intensive health and education systems
- influence patient and health system outcomes; and
- creatively respond to the health needs of individuals, families, groups, communities and populations.

Our Programs

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

USask College of Nursing Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) program prepares nurse scholars to become leaders that advance nursing as an academic, research and practice discipline.

During this program, doctoral students will participate in critical appraisal, knowledge generation, research synthesis, and knowledge transfer.

As graduates, these nurse scientists will contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, families, and communities with recognition of their diversities, vulnerabilities, and their environments for health and care.

A minimum of 18 credit units, plus writing and defending a dissertation is required to complete the program. Typically students complete their studies within four years, but are allowed six years to complete the program.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE PHD PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO:

- develop in-depth knowledge of a substantive area of nursing science
- develop conceptual and analytical skills in nursing knowledge, theory development and theory testing
- integrate knowledge from nursing and related disciplines that supports health for individuals, families, and communities at the local, national, and international levels

- actively participate in the development of nursing knowledge, adding to the evidentiary base for nursing practice
- demonstrate excellence in nursing scholarship
- model values consistent with integrity in science and professional nursing
- provide leadership in the nursing profession
- advance nursing as an academic and practice discipline
- demonstrate skills in scholarly writing, grant application and knowledge transfer
- work collaboratively with professionals, scientists in other disciplines and other stakeholders to solve problems and challenges to effect improvements in health for populations within the context of diversity and vulnerability; and
- conduct original doctoral research that will lead to a future program of research.

Indigenous Students

Indigenous registered nurses are in high demand for administrative, advanced practice, teaching, and research roles.

The College of Nursing is committed to supporting our Indigenous graduate students to obtain the education they need to become leaders in our health care system.

Five equity seats have been set aside for Indigenous applicants in the Nurse Practitioner program.

Many Indigenous registered nurses choose to work in or near Indigenous communities. In order to make our graduate programs accessible across the country, we offer our programs via distributed learning.

To learn more about College of Nursing Indigenous initiatives and support for Indigenous students, please visit <https://nursing.usask.ca/indigenous.php>.



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Ready to Apply?

Admission Requirements

Master of Nursing (MN) (Professional Practice and Thesis)

- Bachelor's degree in nursing, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university
- A cumulative weighted average of at least 70% (USask grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (e.g. 60 credit units)
- Proof of English language proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English
- Current registration as a registered nurse or registered psychiatric nurse
- The equivalent of three credit units in each of statistics and research methods at the undergraduate level

Master of Nursing Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NP)

- Bachelor's degree in nursing, or equivalent, from a recognized college or university
- A cumulative weighted average of at least 70% (USask grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (e.g. 60 credit units)
- Proof of English language proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English
- The equivalent of three credit units in each of physical assessment, pharmacology, physiology, statistics and research methods at the undergraduate level
- 3600 hours of clinical practice as a registered nurse in the last five years
- Current CPR certificate at health care provider level
- Current licensure as a registered nurse in a Canadian province or territory



Postgraduate Degree Specialization Certificate Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner (NP)

- Meet the requirements for admission to the Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner program (see previous page)
- Completion of Masters or PhD in Nursing or in a related discipline (education, health administration, public health) from a recognized university with a 70% average within that degree
- The equivalent of three credit units in each of research methods and statistics at the graduate level

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD)

- Master's degree, or equivalent, from a recognized university in a relevant academic discipline
- Current registration as a registered nurse or psychiatric nurse
- A cumulative weighted average of at least 80% (USask grade system equivalent) in the last two years of study (e.g. coursework required in Master's program)
- Proof of English language proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English
- Have completed at least one graduate-level course in each of statistics, research methods and nursing theory

- Previous research experience, through completion of a thesis or other research experience

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) – Direct Entry Option

With the recommendation of the unit, direct entry PhD admission is available to exceptionally strong students, who show great promise in terms of academic accomplishments and potential for research.

- A four-year bachelor of science in Nursing degree, or equivalent, in a relevant field of study
- Current registration as a registered nurse or psychiatric nurse
- The equivalent of three credit units in each of statistics and research methods at the undergraduate level
- A cumulative weighted average of at least 80% in the last two years of undergraduate study (e.g. 60 credit units of course work)
- Demonstrated ability for independent thought, advanced study and independent research
- Proof of English language proficiency may be required for international applicants and for applicants whose first language is not English

Building The Future

THROUGH CREATIVITY, COLLABORATION
AND RESEARCH SUCCESS

Research in the College of Nursing

The College of Nursing plays an active role in the strong research culture at USask. Working together, we are tackling some of the most pressing health-care issues and leading innovations in health-care professional education. Our faculty have been awarded provincial, national, and international funding and have forged strong alliances with community partners and researchers around the globe. It is no wonder our faculty are recognized as leaders in their fields of research and professional practice and for their contributions to advance the health of Canadians.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING'S SIGNATURE RESEARCH AREAS INCLUDE:

■ **Research on Innovations in Health Care and Education Systems:**

Researchers explore how innovation can lead to new or better ways to solve problems in a relevant and meaningful manner. Through this research, we challenge existing ideas and assumptions of current health systems and education approaches,

practices, and technologies; exploring how these are leveraged to provide the best outcomes for health care providers, patients, educators, and students.

■ **Community-Engaged Health and Nursing Research:**

Researchers collaborate with communities and local partners to achieve mutually agreed-upon goals of addressing health needs, building capacity, and promoting improved health outcomes. Through giving voice to communities in research, we create and disseminate knowledge to advance the discipline of nursing, empower individuals and communities, and strengthen the health and well-being of communities.

■ **Health Equity Research:**

Researchers acknowledge that health inequities arise from social injustice inscribed in systematic differences related to race, gender, social class, culture, and geographic locations. The exploration of social determinants of health is likely to inform health policies and translate into health and social interventions that will reduce health inequities.

Visit nursing.usask.ca/research.php to see examples of the breadth and depth of health-related research at USask.

Research Environment

FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

■ As a member of the prestigious U15 Canadian research university group, USask provides some of the best facilities and analytical tools in the country, and is home to many unique research facilities and support services that contribute to the success of our graduate students as health researchers.

- **Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR):** SCPOR was formed as part of the Canada's Strategy for Patient Oriented Research implemented by Canadian Institutes of Health Research. SCPOR is a partnership of organizations, including the University of Saskatchewan, that play a key role in supporting patient-oriented research (POR) across Saskatchewan. Their mission is to build capacity and collaborations to conduct responsive, equitable, innovative, patient-oriented research that continuously improves the care and health of Saskatchewan people.
- **The Canadian Hub for Applied and Social Research (CHASR):** CHASR is a unique university-based research support and consulting service. CHASR regularly engages and supports academic-based researchers from a variety of disciplines, backgrounds, and institutions, government (federal, provincial, and municipal) and NGO clients, and private sector firms.
- **Student Learning Services (SLS), University of Saskatchewan Library:** SLS offers workshops to learn more about academic writing, research and improving study skills. These workshops are geared towards undergraduate and graduate students and are offered throughout the year.
- **Graduate Student Funding, College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies:** The University of Saskatchewan provides a number of opportunities for graduate student funding, including a variety of awards via Tri-Agency Scholarships. Tri-Agency student scholarships are awarded by Canada's three research-granting agencies, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). For current USask students, the application process, nomination of candidates and administration of the awards is through the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS).



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BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS



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