

Seats for Indigenous Students in the Advanced Practice Master of Nursing Program (MN)

We acknowledge with respect the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

The University of Victoria, School of Nursing has made a commitment to processes of inclusion and reconciliation as identified in the Calls to Action of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. With respect, we are committed to collaborating with Indigenous communities to learn about Indigenous knowledge and ways of being and to support the wellbeing of Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples. We aim to enact these understandings throughout the nursing curriculum.

The Advanced Practice Master of Nursing Program has identified two main goals in support of the TRC calls to action and the University of Victoria's Indigenous Strategic Plan (2017-2022):

1. Increase the number of Aboriginal professionals working in the health-care field (p. 3).
2. Increase Indigenous student recruitment and retention through student programs, bursaries, mentoring, and academic and experiential learning opportunities (p. 5).

In particular, the MN aims to strengthen personal and professional relationships and engage with diverse communities to build a greater capacity for cultural diversity and inclusivity.

The School of Nursing has four program options: Nurse Practitioner (NP), Nurse Educator (NUED), Advance Practice Leadership (APL) and a Double Degree, Master in Nursing and Master in Science in Health Informatics (HINF). The School admits approximately 65 students annually with 20 students in each of the three MN program options (NP, NUED, APL) and 5 double degree students (NUHI). We are proposing the development of a new admission opportunity into the MN program. Within the number of seats in each of the NP, NUED, and APL programs, we will allocate two seats specifically for Indigenous applicants. Within the Double Degree program, the number is still to be determined.

To qualify for admission under the Indigenous category, an applicant must provide the following:

- a Bachelor of Nursing degree from a recognized post-secondary institution
- a minimum of 2 years of full-time post-BSN experience

- active practicing RN registration in British Columbia
- a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 5.0 on the UVic scale of 9.0
- successfully completed a 300-400 level statistics course from a recognized post-secondary educational institute within 5-years of admission with a final grade of “B” or higher and, for NP applicants only, an interactive Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Course completed within five-years of admission.
- a personal statement that includes your past, present, and future connections with the Indigenous community and how your Indigenous identity informs your nursing practice.

What goes into the application?

- Submission of the online application form;
- Payment of the application fee;
- An unofficial transcript from all post-secondary educational institutes previously attended;
- Personal statement (template available on the School of Nursing website)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Two letters of reference (may be academic, professional and/or community)
- Evidence of the successful completion of an upper-level statistics course
- Evidence of the successful completion of an Indigenous Cultural Safety Training Course (e.g. Copy of Certificate of Completion) – NP applicants only

How will the School of Nursing decide if an applicant in this category receives an offer of admission?

Applications from all MN-NP applicants, including Indigenous people, are considered on an individual basis, bearing in mind factors such as:

- Academic performance
- Breadth of nursing practice experience
- Personal statement
- Letters of reference
- Evidence of activities that demonstrate leadership and professional development

Evaluation of the designated seating process and its impact on recruiting Indigenous students into the MN program will be done on an ongoing basis at program completion. The evaluation process will include feedback from the Indigenous MN graduate, nursing faculty, select preceptors involved in the education of the Indigenous student, and HSD Indigenous Student Support Services.

Note: If there are more than two Indigenous students applying, qualified candidates not successful in entering the MN program through the Indigenous designated seating process will be returned to the total applicant pool of MN applicants. If there are no Indigenous applicants, the designated Indigenous seats will be returned to the total applicant pool. Indigenous applicants may also choose to apply through the regular program rather than specifically through this program.

The School of Nursing is committed to enacting understanding related to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to the ongoing work of reconciliation and Indigenization. This includes the inclusion of Indigenous ways of knowing and being in our academic programs and services as well as building cultural acumen among staff and faculty so they can better respond to the unique situations of Indigenous graduate students and support their success. The School of Nursing would love to hear from you about how we can make the School a welcoming place for academic success. Additionally, the Faculty of Human and Social Development (of which the School of Nursing is a part) offers an Indigenous graduate student advisor in the Indigenous Student Support Centre. We welcome you with an open heart and an open mind.