

# MASTER OF NURSING

*The Master of Nursing Program at Dalhousie University is a research-oriented program framed within a philosophy of primary health care that recognizes the unique strengths and contribution of individuals, families, and communities. The program is 36 credit hours divided into two phases.*

Following completion of Phase 1 core courses, which include advanced preparation in clinical nursing, students choose one of the following three streams in Phase 2:

- a thesis which is intended for those students seeking to conduct independent and/or collaborative research,
- a health policy practicum which is intended for those students seeking to increase knowledge and skills in policy development, implementation or evaluation, or
- a nurse practitioner option for those students seeking advanced preparation as a nurse practitioner (adult, family all ages or neonatal).

Clinical practica are offered in a wide variety of specialty areas which include maternal child, families with ill children, adults, community, family all ages and mental health. These areas vary from year to year. Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult the School of Nursing to identify specific clinical offerings in any academic year. Elective classes may be chosen from a variety of fields.

The Master of Nursing program offers opportunities for full-time, part-time, on and off campus study.

Many classes are held in the late afternoon and early evening.

## DISTANCE PROGRAM

In an effort to make the Master of Nursing program more accessible, the School

of Nursing offers a program that enables nurses to:

- take graduate level courses at other universities with prior approval from the Associate Director Graduate Programs;
- conduct research for their thesis or health policy practicum in their home community with prior approval from the Associate Director Graduate Programs and their thesis/practicum supervisor;
- participate in distance education through audio-conference and/or WebCT.

## OBJECTIVES

Graduates of the Program are expected to be leaders in the professional discipline of nursing with an advanced level of academic and clinical preparation. The graduate has rigorous academic preparation and strong skills in critical inquiry, logical analysis, and decision making which can be applied in educational, practice, or research positions and in graduate education at the doctoral level.

Applicants must:

- be licensed to practice as a registered nurse (active practitioner) in a province in Canada or in a foreign country;
- have a Bachelor of Nursing (or equivalent). Courses in research, introductory statistics, family and community nursing are required;
- satisfy the general requirements for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, including minimum "B" standing (3.0 grade point average);

- have (normally) 2 years of nursing experience in the clinical area selected for study. Applicants for the nurse practitioner option must normally have completed 2 years of recent clinical practice relevant to the clinical area in which they wish to prepare.
- provide a curriculum vitae and statement of career goals
- supply **THREE** letters of reference (one from an educator, one from a current employer, one from either a former faculty or a supervisor)
- have a personal interview with the Associate Director Graduate Programs
- have electronic access to faculty and library resources

## MASTER OF NURSING/ MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The combined MN/MHA program enables students to select classes leading to the degrees of Master of Nursing and Master of Health Administration. The MN/MHA program is a 78 credit hour program which includes the thesis option of the MN program. The program is designed to enable students to advance knowledge in the area of nursing management; analyse, implement and evaluate theories and models relevant to nursing; conduct independent and/or collaborative research; work collaboratively with other health professions in planning, implementing, and evaluating health care; and demonstrate leadership in nursing and society.

Candidates for the MN/MHA program must satisfy the entrance requirements of both programs, and may obtain further information about the combined programs by contacting either the School of Health Administration or the School of Nursing. For admission, students must apply separately to both the School of Health Services Administration and the School of Nursing.

### **INQUIRIES**

Associate Director Graduate Programs

**School of Nursing**

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