

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE
GRADUATE PROGRAM**

TITLE OF POLICY: **ADMISSION, MASTER'S PROGRAM**

ORIGINAL DATE: September 1, 1994

LAST REVIEWED/REVISED: MARCH 2021

POLICY: Applicants to the master's program in nursing meet the following Criteria (see Procedure for details):

1. A GPA of ≥ 3.0 from previous nursing degree.
2. A current license to practice nursing.
3. Official scores on the Graduate Record Examination ([GRE](#)). The GRE may be waived if the GPA is 3.5 or higher.
4. A pre-requisite statistics courses with a grade of B- or better.
5. Additional criteria specified by the area of concentration (ARCO).

Qualified applicants are admitted without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era.

PROCEDURE:

Applications to the master's program in nursing are reviewed by the faculty in the applicant's ARCO. Applicants must be considered qualified for advanced study based upon supporting evidence as identified in this policy.

The application is online at www.nursing.pitt.edu. The application package must include:

1. Completed online application.
2. Non-refundable application fee.
3. Complete official transcripts for all undergraduate and graduate work.
 - a. BSN to MSN applicants must have a GPA of ≥ 3.0 in a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an ACEN (NLN), ACICS, or CCNE accredited program.
 - b. RN-MSN applicants must have a GPA of ≥ 3.0 from an ACEN (NLN), ACICS, or CCNE accredited ADN or nursing diploma program and have successfully completed all [prerequisite courses](#) (may submit an application while completing the required prerequisites).
 - c. International applicants must provide evidence of a degree comparable to an American baccalaureate degree.
4. GRE test results if applicable.
5. A copy of current license to practice nursing in the country, a state or territory where clinical or practicum requirements will be completed.
6. Three letters of reference attesting to the applicant's capacity and potential for master's study from each of the areas noted: a) either the director or a faculty member from the most recent academic program attended (if applicant has been a nursing student in the last 5 years), b) a recent employer, and c) a person who can speak to the applicant's professional work. The three letters of can completed online or mailed in sealed envelopes. The mailing address: 3500 Victoria Street, 240 Victoria Building, Pittsburgh, PA 15261.
7. A personal essay submitted online. The essay (500 words minimum) must state the applicant's philosophy of nursing, reasons for wanting to study in a particular area of concentration, what he/she expects from the master's program, and future career goals.
8. Current CV or resume

Completed applications are to be submitted to Student Affairs and Alumni Relations office [SAAR] who will forward to the ARCO coordinator for review and appropriate action. Applicants will complete a pre-admission interview. If the applicant resides at a great distance, a telephone interview may be substituted.

The ARCO coordinator completes the Summary of Admissions Criteria form and submits it to SAAR with recommendations for the following:

- a. admit or reject
- b. term of admission
- c. graduate status
- d. full or part time study status
- e. provisional admission (for applicants who do not meet minimal criteria) with justification

Applicants are notified by SAAR of their admission status. Admission must be granted before registration is permitted.

Approved by Graduate Council:

Revised 96-97, 99-00, 01-03, 7-18, 3-21

Revisions Approved by Total Faculty 5/94, 5/97, 2/00, 2/03, 10/03, 07/18