Claflin University's Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)



When is the deadline to apply? The deadline to apply to the FNP program is May 1 and classes will start in August. Deadline for the Nurse Leader track is September 1 and classes will start in January.

When will applicants know if they have been accepted for admission? Applications will be reviewed, and notifications made by the end of the deadline month (i.e. May 31 and Sept. 30). This will occur regardless of admission status.

Is there a certain date that student should apply by to be considered early applicant? There is no early application decision process. All students who apply by the deadline will be considered for cohort. Academic performance, work experience (type and length), essay, resume, and letters of reference will all be integrated into a holistic decision for admission.

How do I apply? Go to <u>https://www.claflin.edu/admissions-aid/how-to-apply/graduate-</u><u>students</u> and select the program for which you like to apply. If you have never applied to the university, begin a new application. If you are a former student, enter your student ID number and pin to begin the application process.

Do previous students need their transcript sent again or can we use the same one? If you are a Claflin graduate and have not attended any schools since being enrolled in the BSN program here, you do not need to resend transcripts. If, however, you attended any colleges or universities since completing the BSN program, you need to have official transcripts sent.

Where do I have transcripts sent? Only official transcripts can be accepted. They should either be mailed to Nursing Department, 400 Magnolia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115; sent via email directly from the institution to nursing@claflin.edu; or through an official transcript service (i.e. Parchment or Student Clearinghouse). If you are getting close to the deadline when you request these, please email a copy of your request to nursing@claflin.edu; or through an official transcript service (i.e. Parchment or Student Clearinghouse). If you are getting close to the deadline when you request these, please email a copy of your request to nursing@claflin.edu so we know you completed this step before the deadline.

Should the Reference Letter be emailed to <u>nursing@claflin.edu</u> or Mrs. Moorer email address? Letters of reference (3) should be emailed to <u>nursing@claflin.edu</u> directly from the person making the reference or they may be sent via US mail to Nursing Department, 400 Magnolia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115. Are there grant or scholarship information or sites that you recommend? Currently, there are no internal scholarship opportunities for the Master of Science in Nursing program. However, sites worth exploring include <u>National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Programs</u>, <u>Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery</u>, <u>Loan Repayment Program</u>, <u>Faculty Loan</u> <u>Repayment Program</u>, and the <u>United Negro College Fund</u>. This is not a comprehensive list but good places to start. Additionally, students attending Claflin University may qualify for student loans.

How much does each MSN program cost? The actual cost of the program is not known at this point. Each year in March the Board of Trustees meet to determine tuition adjustments. Current master's level tuition is \$562/credit hour. An update will be placed on the university's <u>Tuition and Fees</u> website as soon as the rate for 2021 school year is known.

Do I have to have a BSN to start? Yes. Admission criteria for the program include:

- 1. Application submitted to the Office of Admissions accompanied by the appropriate application fee (please see <u>Admissions</u> website), which is neither deductible nor refundable. The application for admission and supporting credentials must be received in the Office of Admissions by the published deadline. Materials submitted in support of this application cannot be returned.
- 2. Possession of a four-year US (or equivalent) Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing degree with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited college or university with national nursing accreditation.
- 3. Official transcripts of all previous academic work attempted beyond high school. Transfer credit posted on the records of other institutions is unacceptable and official transcripts of these credits must be supplied.
- 4. Official copies of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for International Students. A score of 80 or higher (550 or higher prior to 2007) will be required.
- 5. Three letters of recommendation from former professors/ instructors or professionals qualified to comment on the applicant's graduate study potential. (i.e. past or present employers and/or past faculty members).
- 6. A 300-500-word essay describing the applicant's objective in undertaking graduate study.
- 7. A current resume or Curricula Vitae (CV).
- 8. Verification of unencumbered RN licensure and BLS certification

How long is each MSN program? The MSN program is 18-24 months depending on the student's track.

Is it completely online? Didactic course content will be delivered online, however the FNP program has intensives that require students to come to campus one to two times per semester. These dates will be published early so that students can arrange work schedule and local housing needs.

Is the MSN program accredited? Not yet. Claflin's BSN program is accredited through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and we will seek CCNE accreditation for

the MSN program as well. A degree program must have students enrolled for the equivalent of one academic year (e.g., two semesters) prior to hosting an on-site evaluation. Given this stipulation by CCNE, we hope to host an onsite evaluation in the fall of 2022 which would result in accreditation prior to any cohort graduating.

When does the program start? The Family Nurse Practitioner program will begin in fall 2021 (August). Because the Nurse Leader track is 18 months, students will begin the program in January 2022. This will allow us enough time to host an accreditation visit prior to students in the shorter program graduating.

How often will you admit new students? Right now, we anticipate starting a new FNP cohort each fall and a Nurse Leader cohort each January.

What are the program requirements? Program requirements are delineated on our website at www.claflin.edu/nursing

Do I have to take the GRE? No. A GRE is not required. Claflin is implementing a holistic admission process that looks beyond a test score.

What is the difference between the MSN and FNP program? Claflin University is offering the Master of Science (MSN) degree. The Family Nurse Practitioner track and Nurse Leader tracks are programs within the Master of Science in Nursing program. All students who graduate, regardless of track, are awarded a Master of Science in Nursing.

Are there part time and fulltime options? Currently there is only a fulltime option that includes about 9 credit hours per semester. As we grow, we anticipate being able to admit more students in different options.

Will I have to find my own preceptor(s)? Yes. Securing clinical sites will be the responsibility of the student. However, we are networking with potential preceptors and developing an incentive program to award your preceptor for serving. Once enrolled, students should carefully read course requirements for clinical placement before selecting a preceptor. FNP students will not have clinical in their first semester.

Do I have to have a certain number of hours of work experience? While, there is not a prescribed number of clinical hours for admission to the program, admission is a competitive process. Academic performance, work experience (type and length), essay, resume, and letters of reference will all be integrated into a holistic decision for admission.

How much is the application fee and how do I pay it? The application fee is \$50.00. You can pay it online if you have a student ID number and pin (i.e. former student) or you may contact the Cashier's office to pay at 803-535-5131. Follow this link to <u>Pay application fee online</u>. Sample images of the screens you should see are included below. If you encounter difficulty, please call the cashier's office.



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Where can I get help for questions not included in this FAQ document? Email us at <u>nursing@claflin.edu</u>. Please do not send emails directly to Dr. Smith or Mrs. Moorer. We don't want to miss your communication. The nursing inbox (<u>nursing@claflin.edu</u>) is set up for program communications.