

Nursing MN (PHCNP) Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies



GRAD MAP FOR M.N. (PHCNP) STUDENTS 

Why **GRADUATE STUDIES** in **NURSING**?

Consider the Master of Nursing (Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner) program for all it has to offer: well-developed skills in critical thinking, writing, and research, advanced knowledge in primary health care, and, perhaps even more importantly, skills to facilitate change in today's health care system. Graduate students and their work are an important part of an ongoing knowledge creation process that provides the health care system with ways of understanding phenomena using multiple ways of knowing. Today's employment marketplace seeks people with advanced practice skills who can critically analyze information and evidence, synthesize in both scholarly and public reports, create new knowledge, and lead change and transformation. Study Nursing and you will acquire such skills.

Why **QUEEN'S**?

The School of Nursing at Queen's offers a challenging and innovative program to prepare graduates with the knowledge and skills to provide care to individuals and families in primary care settings, conduct small research projects, participate in research teams, and the critical appraisal skills needed for developing the scientific basis for nursing practice. Queen's University School of Nursing collaborates in a consortium of nine Ontario universities to deliver the MN (PHCNP) program. Our students are taught primarily through small in-person graduate seminars, clinical placements, and self-directed online learning, in which they engage in a critical examination of theory and research, and apply their knowledge related to pathophysiology, health assessment, diagnostics, therapeutics and the nurse practitioner role. Students engage early and continuously in research and clinical practice and successfully complete the program in 2 years. Situated in an academic environment that embodies scholarship, graduates are well prepared for careers as leaders in clinical practice and education.



RESEARCH Areas

Practice environments

- Models of care
- Leadership
- Workplace culture, structure and health
- Communication strategies and systems

Populations with complex conditions

- Optimizing function and well-being
- Multimorbidity
- Mental health and/or addictions
- Outcomes monitoring

Health care quality

- Advancing safety
- Risk assessment and reduction
- Educational and technological innovations
- Health system service and delivery

and more

Visit the [School of Nursing website](#) to learn more about the M.N. (PHCNP) program and its opportunities.

"Our professors are always looking for opportunities for us and getting us involved in different things. I would highly recommend this program to aspiring Nursing students looking for higher education."

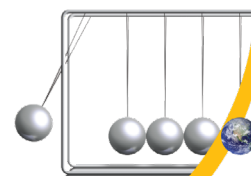
– Charlotte Holmgren, MN (PHCNP)



Program **STRUCTURE**

MN (PHCNP) (2 years): coursework, clinical placements, integrated practicum, and a project. Successful completion of the program allows the graduate to apply to complete the Canadian family/all-ages nurse practitioner registration examination.

School of
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Nursing MN (PHCNP) Map *

MASTER OF NURSING (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER) (MN (PHCNP))



YEAR 1

YEAR 2

ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS

- Start with key priorities such as doing your coursework, collaborating with classmates on group assignments, and working with a preceptor in a clinical setting.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your clinical practice.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from your school and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs) and the [SGS website](#).

- Complete your coursework.
- Consider enrolling in additional electives that may benefit your career goals.
- Prepare to write the registration examination with the College of Nurses of Ontario.

MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT

- Complete a systematic review on a topic related to primary health care.
- Attend the Graduate Nursing Research Day.
- Attend and participate in graduate seminars such as Academic Series.
- Complete Course on Research Ethics (CORE).
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a [Grad Chat](#) to discuss your research interests.

- Consider publication options for your systematic review.
- Attend or present at the Graduate Nursing Research Day, the Annual Scientific Meeting of Health Sciences Research Trainees, or in biweekly Academic Series.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario Annual Conference](#) or the [Kingston Nursing Research Conference](#).

MAXIMIZE PRACTICUM & PLACEMENT IMPACT

- Actively participate in your clinical placements.
- Consider the skills and knowledge that would help you excel in the primary health care nurse practitioner role.
- Participate in local continuing education opportunities and networking meetings.

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BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Serve on school, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Associate Director (Graduate Nursing Programs) for tips on getting involved.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through the [Centre for Teaching and Learning](#), [Expanding Horizons](#), [MITACS](#), or other sources to boost your skills.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.

- Start keeping an ePortfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing for settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a [Career Services workshop](#).

ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, or local healthcare organizations and groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness [Training Certificate](#) hosted by QUIC and FDISC.
- Consider joining professional associations like the [Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario](#).

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn, the [Queen's Alumni Association](#), professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' networking workshops.

LAUNCH YOUR CAREER

- Stay on the lookout for special events like School of Graduate Studies [Career Week](#) to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.
- Explore different careers of interest by using [Queens Connects](#) on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni.

- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest, research organizations of interest, and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from [Career Services](#) with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Nursing can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- Independence and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

The MN(PHCNP) will train graduates to become Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners, and prepare them with a strong foundation for careers as:

- Educators
- Clinical Instructors
- Research Scientists
- Health Policy Analysts
- Healthcare Administrators

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGS professional development framework and the new [Individual Development Plan \(IDP\)](#) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

Where can I get help?

Queen's provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the [SGS website](#) for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. With the world's best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen's offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies. Queen's is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston's history and culture, see Queen's University's [Discover Kingston](#) page.

Application FAQs

What do I need to know to APPLY?

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

- Baccalaureate program in Nursing accredited by a provincial/territorial authority.
- Grade requirements: minimum B average.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Equivalent of two years of relevant full-time practice as a Registered Nurse within the past five years (minimum of 3640 hours).
- Active registration as a Registered Nurse with the College of Nurses of Ontario.
- Two academic letters of reference (eg. course professors in your undergraduate program) and one clinical letter of reference (eg. your manager or supervisor).
- Undergraduate courses in research methodology and statistics.
- Copy of Curriculum Vitae (Resume).
- Completion of personal essay questions.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

- **Application due:** February 1st, or until all seats are filled.

Before you start your application, please review the [Graduate studies application process](#).

What about FUNDING?

We encourage all students to apply for external funding from professional associations, such as the [RNAO Nursing Education Initiative Grant Program](#). For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies [awards and scholarships](#).

What about CLINICAL PLACEMENTS?

Our placement catchment area covers an area along the north shore of Lake Ontario from Peterborough to Smiths Falls to Brockville. For students at Queen's University, clinical placements normally occur in communities within an hour's drive of Queen's. Clinical placements will be secured by the Clinical Placement Coordinator at Queen's University. Students are responsible for transportation to and from clinical placements, therefore a vehicle will be necessary.



Queen's
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