

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Master of Science in Nursing –Academic Year: 2009-2010

Critical Information for International Applicants:

Admissions Requirements (Effective 07/01/2007):

This MSN Program is available to international students. It is essential that international students be fluent in English. Presently, the University (including the School of Nursing) does not offer ESL programs or an English language institute. For this reason, candidates interested in attending the University **must** be able to understand rapid, idiomatic English as spoken in lectures, group discussions, and clinical settings by individuals of widely varying accents. Students from non-English-speaking countries must be able to communicate quickly and clearly in spoken and written English.

TOEFL

All international applicants must submit TOEFL scores completed within the past two years. Only official scores reported directly from the ETS are accepted. Please carefully read the following information as well as additional information available on The Graduate School website
<http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/instructions.html>

The School of Nursing requires international applicants achieve a minimum total score of 575 (with a minimum of 50 in each section) on the written version of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or minimum of 233 (with a minimum of 18 in each subsection) on the computer-based test, or a total score of 89 on the internet-based test with the following minimum section requirements: Reading, 21; Listening, 22; Speaking, 24; Writing, 22. This is not a requirement of applicants who are residents of a country where English is the language of instruction or if applicants hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited United States institution of higher education. (A list of these countries is available at <http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/instructions.html>)

Meeting the minimum total score on TOEFL does not guarantee admission to the School of Nursing. Admission decisions are made on the basis of multiple factors including: scholastic performance; English proficiency; essays; letters of recommendation; GRE scores; the appropriateness of the requested advanced practice area to the applicant's goals and clinical experiences; and verification of financial support to insure proper visa status.

Letters of Recommendation

Three current letters of recommendation are required from persons qualified to speak to your knowledge, skills and abilities. Specifically, the letters should address the candidate's potential for success in graduate education, leadership ability, and personal characteristics that will help or hinder development as an advanced practice nurse. **All candidates for whom English is a second language (non-native language), must submit at least one additional letter of reference that addresses your ability to communicate fluently in the English language.**

English Proficiency

All admitted international students are required to take an English Proficiency exam prior to enrolling for classes and must register for a non-credit English course (English 101X) their first semester of enrollment. Failure to take the test and/or register for the required course will prevent future registrations. International students not deemed fluent in English, may not enter the clinical setting and may need to lengthen their program of study to focus on their English language skills..

Interview

An interview is required of all international applicants who are non-native English speakers. The interview (personal or telephone) will be conducted by faculty in the candidate's clinical area of interest. The interview has two distinct foci: part one will focus on information provided in the application materials (for example, essay and future goals); the second part will evaluate the interviewee's English proficiency.

Health Assessment

All nonnative speaking applicants must have successfully completed a formal health assessment course conducted in English within two years of the beginning the first clinical course. A course that provides face-to-face clinical and classroom components is highly recommended

Financial Certificate

International applicants must submit to the School of Nursing, a completed financial certificate plus any materials necessary to support the financial data reported on the certificate. “In order to meet US immigration requirements for entry into the US, proof of sufficient financial resources to cover educational and living expenses for the duration of the [applicant’s] program must be in place before visa documents can be issued”. Please carefully read additional instructions available at The Graduate School website:
<http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/instructions.html>

North Carolina Registered Nurse License

All students enrolled in the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Nursing must hold a current unrestricted/unencumbered license to practice nursing in the State of North Carolina. We strongly recommend that international applicants begin this process at least nine months in advance or the start of the program they hope to attend. Most applicants will need to complete the CGFNS exam, apply for licensure in the US and take the NCLEX exam, the apply for temporary licensure in NC. More information can be found at the NC Board of Nursing website: <http://www.ncbon.org/>

(Drafted & reviewed by Office of University Counsel: June 2007; updated 0809)