The Certificate Program
The Post-Master’s Certificate Program is part of the UMass Boston College of Nursing and Health Science. The program is designed to assist RNs who hold an MS degree in nursing to acquire the knowledge and clinical experience that will prepare them for national certification as Nurse Practitioners. The focus of the program is to prepare the Nurse Practitioners to practice in the primary care setting.

All prerequisite and required courses are offered online. Upon completing the program, graduates receive a certificate of post master’s graduate education from the University of Massachusetts Boston.

The program offers two areas of concentration:

- **Family Nurse Practitioner**: focuses on the care of family in primary care as well as community settings.
- **Adult-Gerontological Nurse Practitioner**: focuses on the care of adults and older adults in ambulatory and community settings.

Certificate Requirements
There are several options for completion of the certificate program depending on the applicant’s educational background:

- **21-credit certificate**: Open to RNs with an MS in nursing from an NLN or CCNE accredited program. The program includes 9 credits of didactic study and 12 credits of a seminar/clinical course in either an adult/gerontology or family practice. In the family track, the 600 hours will include 220 pediatric hours and 80 OB/GYN hours. The program can be completed in two semesters (full-time) or four semesters (part-time).

**12 credit certificate**: Open to RNs with an MS in nursing and current national certification as a family, adult, pediatric, or gerontology nurse practitioner. Acute Care NPs will be considered based on their evidence of experience and course content in primary care. Students may choose either the adult/gerontology or family nurse practitioner tracks. Students must complete a minimum of 6 credits of a didactic course and 6 credits of a seminar/clinical course, including 300 hours of clinical practice. The program can be completed in one semester (full time) or two semesters (part time).

Some students may also need to take one or more prerequisite courses depending on courses taken in their Master’s program. Prerequisite courses (Pathophysiology, Pharmacology & Physical Assessment) must be within the prior 5 years.

Students may also transfer one required graduate level course equivalent with a grade of B or better subject to approval of the Program Director.

Clinical Experience
Students are responsible for finding their own clinical practicum sites, typically in their home state. These must be primary care sites in keeping with the focus of the program. All practicum experiences are subject to the approval of the Certificate Program Director.

The agency providing the clinical experience must be under contract with the UMass Boston College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Students are advised that preceptors must be either Master’s-prepared NPs, CNMs or PAs or MDs/DOs.

Faculty Highlights
Our faculty members are distinguished in practice, education and research. They use these tools to guide students in developing competence as they join the society of nursing scholars, researchers, and practitioners represented by our thriving partnerships with both neighboring and far-flung institutions, communities, and healthcare settings.

Tuition and Fees
Fees are approximately $575.00 per credit and are subject to change by the registrar. Application and matriculation fees are set by the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Student Support
Students accepted into the program may be eligible to apply for Student Financial Aid.

To Learn More:
[https://www.umb.edu/academics/cnhs/nursing/professional_development](https://www.umb.edu/academics/cnhs/nursing/professional_development)

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