

U.S Public Health Service Nursing - Tip of the Month



November 2019
Graduate School



Applying to Graduate School

Talk with Yourself: Ask yourself if returning to school at this point in your career is the best for you. Being a working professional and student requires commitment, time-management and work-school-life balance.

Are you in line to meet the nursing category benchmarks?

Factor	Benchmarks P-02	Benchmarks T-04/P-03	Benchmarks T-05/P-04	Benchmarks T-06/P-05/P-06
• Degrees		Begin Masters	Masters studies ongoing	Master's Degree or Doctorate obtained

Decide on a Program: Once you have decided returning to school is best for you, consider which program you will pursue. There are numerous degree pathways to take:

- Master of Science in Nursing
- Master's in Business or Public Administration
- Master's in Public Health, etc.

Do your Research: Have you decided which graduate program to pursue? Begin your research for a program that will best suit your needs as a working professional. Will your duty assignment support a program that requires in-person classes? Or does your work require flexibility that an online program will suit your needs better? Has it been a while since you were in school and online only is daunting? Look for a hybrid program that uses in-person meet ups in addition to online classes.

Know the Deadlines and Program Admission Requirements: Depending on the program you may need to address additional requirements such as: acceptable GRE score, additional classes like statistics, or work experience in the program area. Can you meet these requirements prior to the application deadline? If you don't meet the requirement, call the program POC to inquire if waivers are granted. Often a program will waive some admission requirements if you have the work experience. Plan so you are not caught off-guard with a rejected application.

Payment: Do you qualify to use your educational benefits? Check out the Commission Corps webpage for additional resources: https://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/Education_benefits_FAQ.aspx

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For the Tip of the Month Workgroup, N-PAC Career Development Subcommittee

PHS-NURSE LIST SERV

TO REQUEST A MENTOR