

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The University of Akron College of Nursing Master of Science in Nursing curriculum is designed to provide a sequential plan of study in several advanced practice options and other advanced role specialties. The purposes of the program are to provide preparation for advanced nursing practice as a clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner, or nurse anesthetist; preparation for the role of nurse educator, or administrator of nursing service; and to provide a foundation for doctoral study. Areas of advanced practice specialization include adult/gerontological health nursing, child and adolescent health nursing, psychiatric nursing, and nursing anesthesia. Areas of advanced role specialization include nursing services administration and certificate programs in nursing education and nursing management and business.

Nursing education at the master's level builds upon baccalaureate nursing preparation. Program courses and content are organized and courses sequenced to facilitate the progression of student learning from that of a baccalaureate generalist to that of a specialist. The curriculum has two dimensions: core and specialization. Core courses are taken by all students and include theory, research, health policy, information management in advanced nursing practice, and pathophysiology or Human Physiology I and II (see specialty – nurse anesthesia).

Prerequisite courses are undergraduate health assessment and statistics and a graduate level course in inferential statistics.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MSN PROGRAM

Individuals intending to enroll in the MSN program must have a current Ohio state license as a registered nurse; completion of all prerequisites; interview with graduate program coordinator and/or lead faculty of specialty track; provide 3 letters of reference; information form; and a 300 word essay describing (1) professional goals (2) professional experience in last five years (3) ability to participate in up to 15 hours of clinical practicum per week with a preceptor primarily from 8AM-5PM.

ADVANCED PRACTICE OPTIONS

ADULT/GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH NURSING

Graduate study in the Adult/Gerontological Health Nursing track prepares nurses to assume leadership positions in advanced practice in care of adults or older adults as clinical nurse specialists (CNS) or nurse practitioners (NP). The program emphasizes theoretical and clinical aspects of advanced practice roles that include classroom and clinical experiences which prepare students to provide care to adults/older adults, to influence the care that others provide, and to participate in policy and decisions about care. A variety of settings are used depending on the clinical focus and advanced practice option (CNS or NP). In addition to the study of common illnesses and health problems of adults/older adults, students are encouraged to select a specific clinical focus and target population upon initiation of their program. Core content includes theories from the physical and behavioral sciences and emphasizes comprehensive health assessment, risk reduction, health promotion, and health maintenance. Clinical decision making and clinical management are studied within a context of interdisciplinary and interagency collaboration.

ADULT/GERONTOLOGICAL CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (CNS) OPTION

The focus of the Clinical Nurse Specialist option is to prepare graduates to provide and manage advanced nursing care of individuals and groups with complex health problems. Students selecting the CNS option may specialize in adult health or gerontological health nursing. Students selecting areas in adult health nursing are eligible to sit for certification as a Medical/Surgical CNS, and may be eligible for certification as an advanced practice nurse in other areas as appropriate. Students whose clinical focus and target population is gerontological are eligible to sit for certification as a Gerontological CNS.

ADULT/GERONTOLOGICAL NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP) OPTION

The focus of the Nurse Practitioner option is to prepare graduates to assume advanced practice positions as primary care providers to adults/older adults. Students selecting the NP option may specialize in adult or gerontological health nursing. Students whose clinical focus and target population is gerontological are eligible to sit for the certification examination as a gerontological NP. Students whose clinical focus and target population is adult health are eligible to sit for certification examinations as an adult NP.

PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Nurse Practitioner track prepares nurses to assume advanced practice positions as providers of primary mental health care to individuals in traditional and non-traditional settings. Preparation for advanced practice nursing with adults is emphasized and includes supervised clinical experiences as an individual, group, and family nurse therapist.

The curriculum includes core graduate courses in theory, research, health policy, pathophysiology, advanced health-care assessment, and advanced clinical pharmacology. Specialty courses cover content in psychiatric-mental health assessment, differential diagnosis, psychopharmacology, medication management, and behavioral health nursing. Clinical management issues are considered within the context of providing health-care services to under-served and high-risk psychiatric populations. Emphasis is placed on making independent and interdependent decisions in managing client care and on developing skill in planning, coordinating, and evaluating intervention programs. Nurses prepared for advanced practice in psychiatric nursing integrate knowledge of education, research, consultation, and advanced clinical practice in collaboration with other health care professionals to influence health policy and client outcomes. Graduates of the Psychiatric Nursing Nurse Practitioner track are eligible to sit for certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) as a clinical nurse specialist or as a nurse practitioner in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH NURSING

The Child and Adolescent Health Nurse Practitioner track prepares graduates to assume advanced practice positions as providers of primary and/or acute health care to children and adolescents in a variety of settings.

This area of specialization provides in-depth knowledge of primary and/or acute health care for children, adolescents and their families with a strong developmental and behavioral focus. Preparation for advanced practice in primary and/or acute health care, early intervention, program development and evaluation, within urban and rural community environments is emphasized. The curriculum includes courses in advanced adolescent/pediatric assessment, nutrition and developmental pharmacology, with theory and research examining common and acute childhood and adolescent responses to health problems. Emphasis is placed on assessment, differential diagnosis, management of environmental stressors and developmental outcomes of children and adolescents as a result of actual or potential health problems associated with expected and unexpected developmental transitions, and acute or chronic physical illness and/or disabilities. The nurse prepared for advanced practice in primary and/or acute health care of children and adolescents will integrate knowledge related to education, research, consultation and advanced clinical practice in collaboration with other health professionals to influence health outcomes and policy. Graduates of the Child & Adolescent Nurse Practitioner tract are eligible to sit for certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board (PNCB) as Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

NURSING ANESTHESIA

The nurse anesthesia curriculum is designed to prepare nurses to provide anesthesia care for patients undergoing surgical and obstetrical procedures and to provide pain relief in a variety of health care settings. The graduate nurse anesthesia resident works with Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and Anesthesiologists to provide assessment preoperatively and to develop an anesthetic plan appropriate to the physical and emotional status of the patient and the procedure that is anticipated. The nurse anesthesia resident then administers the anesthetic in a form such as general, regional, or local anesthesia with sedation and physiological monitoring. Working with clinical preceptors, the resident provides anesthesia care and monitoring during the perioperative period.

The nurse anesthesia curriculum is comprised of 60 credit hours which include the core graduate nursing courses, advanced physiology and pathophysiology, chemistry and physics, basic and advanced pharmacology and principles of anesthesiology. In addition, this 27 month program includes a 24 month residency which allows students to gain the clinical practice required by the *Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs* and needed to provide quality anesthesia care. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national examination that upon completion allows the individual to use the title of *Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist* (CRNA).

ADVANCED ROLE SPECIALIZATIONS

NURSING SERVICE ADMINISTRATION

The nursing administration curriculum is designed to prepare nurse administrators for working in fast-paced health care environments with acute, long-term, and community care orientations. Nurse administrators are also prepared for interacting in corporate health care business arenas. Course work includes managing financial resources with a focus on budgeting, productivity, analysis, costing services, forecasting volume, managed care contract negotiation, business plan development, and marketing. Students work with large databases to learn analysis for outcomes management and performance improvement. Organizational behavior is incorporated with effective management of human resources, and leadership skills are developed for motivating employees and managing teams.

NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

NURSING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The nursing education curriculum is designed to prepare students to implement the academic role and responsibilities of the nurse educator in a variety of educational settings. The student develops competence in program and curriculum development, teaching strategies, and methods of evaluating learning in a variety of settings, including program evaluation. The capstone of nursing education is a practicum which allows the student opportunity to synthesize previous learning and to function in the full academic role.

NURSING MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Nursing Management and Business certificate program curriculum is designed to prepare post-baccalaureate nurses and post-master's advanced practice nurses (i.e., clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse midwives) and/or current MSN and PhD students with the knowledge and skills needed to function effectively as patient care managers and leaders in a variety of organizational settings. Building on core and advanced practice courses, the student develops an understanding of leadership and organizational behavior theories plus competence in fiscal management, business strategies, human resource management, project/program planning and evaluation. Business plan development provides a framework for synthesizing the learning and experiences contained in all four certificate courses.

ADVANCED PRACTICE OPTIONS: ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE TRACKS

Along with the already stated admission criteria, admission to the Advanced Practice tracks requires additional information:

- Minimum of one year of recent (within the past five years) clinical experience giving relevant direct nursing care.
- Able to participate in up to 15 hours of clinical practicum per week with a preceptor primarily from 8AM to 5PM.
- A 300 word essay.
- Completion of Health Requirements report form.

For further information and application deadlines, please contact the Coordinator, MSN Program, College of Nursing 330-972-7555.

GRADUATE CURRICULUM MODEL

The Master of Science in Nursing Program is designed to accommodate working RNs. Courses are offered Monday through Thursday evenings.

Prerequisite

Graduate Level Statistics Course

CORE CURRICULUM

CORE COURSES	CREDITS
603 Theoretical Basis for Nursing	3
606 Information Mgmt. in Adv. Nursing Practice	3
607 Policy Issues in Nursing	2
608 Pathophysiological Concepts*	3
613 Nursing Inquiry I	3
618 Nursing Inquiry II or 699 Thesis	3
Total Core	17

*Cognate electives may be substituted for 8200:608 in the Nursing Administration track.

*Nurse Anesthesia applicants substitute 8200:561 & 8200:562 as core requirement.

In addition to the core, students select an advanced practice specialization track.

ADVANCED PRACTICE OPTIONS CNS AND NP (Select area of choice)

ADULT/GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH NURSING CNS	CREDITS
610 Advanced Adult/Gero Assessment w/practicum	3
612 Advanced Clinical Pharmacology	3
671 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS I	2
673 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS IV	1
674 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS I Practicum	2
675 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS II	2
676 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS II Practicum	2
677 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS III	2
678 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS III Practicum	2
679 Adult/Gero Health Nursing CNS IV Practicum	<u>3</u>
Total including core	39

ADULT/GERONTOLOGICAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER	CREDITS
610 Adv. Adult/Gero Assessment w/practicum	3
612 Adv. Clinical Pharmacology	3
620 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP I	2
621 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP II	2
622 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP III	2
623 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP Practicum	2
624 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP IV	1
627 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP I Practicum	2
628 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP II Practicum	2
629 Adult/Gero Health Nursing NP III Practicum	2
690 Clinical Management I	3
692 Clinical Management II	3
694 Clinical Management III	<u>3</u>
Total including core	47

ADULT PSYCHIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER/CNS	CREDITS
610 Adv. Adult/Gero Assessment w/ practicum	3
611 Adv. Mental Health. Assessment	3
660 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN I Practicum	2
661 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN I	3
662 Clinical Psychopharmacology	3
663 Psychiatric Mental Health. Internship (elective only)	1-4
664 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN II Practicum	2
665 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN II	3
667 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN III	3
668 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN III Practicum	2
669 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN IV Practicum	2
670 Psychiatric Mental Health. Synthesis APN IV	<u>3</u>
Total including core	46

PSYCHIATRIC FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER	CREDITS
5600:648 Individual & Family Development	3
5600:660 Counseling of Children	3
610 Adv. Adult/Gero Assessment w/ practicum	3
611 Adv. Mental Health. Assessment	3
612 Adv. Clinical Pharmacology (elective only)	3
660 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN I Practicum	2
661 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN I	3
662 Clinical Psychopharmacology	3
663 Psychiatric Mental Health. Internship (elective only)	1-4
664 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN II Practicum	2
665 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN II	3
667 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN III	3
668 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN III Practicum	2
669 Psychiatric Mental Health. APN IV Practicum	2
670 Psychiatric Mental Health. Synthesis APN IV	3
650 Pediatric/Adolescent Assessment	3
663 Psychiatric mental Hlth: Internship	<u>1-4</u>
Total including core	57

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER – Primary CREDITS

7400:585 Nutrition for Pediatric Nurse Practitioners	2
650 Pediatric/Adolescent Assessment	3
651 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing I	3
652 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing I Practicum	2
653 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing II Practicum	2
654 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing III Practicum	2
655 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing II	3
656 Pharmacology: Child & Adolescent Nursing	3
657 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing III	3
658 CAH: NP Residency (elective only)	1-4
659 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing IV Pract.	2
680 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing IV	<u>3</u>
Total including core	45

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER – Acute /Primary

[All courses listed under Child/Adolescent Primary with the addition of the following courses]

	CREDITS
658 CAH: NP Residency (elective only)	1-4
685 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing III Acute Care PNP	3
686 Child & Adolescent Health Nursing III Acute Care PNP Practicum	2
687 Child & Adolescent Health IV Acute Care PNP	3
688 Child & Adolescent Health IV Acute Care PNP Practicum	<u>2</u>
Total including core	55

NURSING ANESTHESIA**CREDITS**

561 Adv. Physiological Concepts in Health Care I	3
562 Adv. Physiological Concepts in Health Care II	3
609 Pathophysiological for NA	3
637 Residency I	4*
640 Scientific Components of NA	3
641 Pharmacology for NA I	3*
642 Intro. to Nurse Anesthesia	2
643 Principles of NA I	4*
644 Pharmacology for NA II	3
645 Principles of NA II	4*
646 Residency II	4*
647 Professional Role Seminar	2
648 Residency III	4*
649 Residency IV	<u>4*</u>
Total including core	60

ADVANCED ROLE SPECIALIZATIONS**NURSING SERVICE ADMINISTRATION****CREDITS**

630 Resource Management in Nursing Settings	3
632 Fiscal Management in Nursing Administration	3
633 Nursing Leadership in Organizations I	3
634 Nursing Leadership in Organizations II	3
635 Organization Behavior in Nursing Setting	3
638 Administration Practicum I	2*
639 Administration Practicum II	<u>2*</u>
Total including core	36

NON-DEGREE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

(Current students in the MSN and PhD programs may add these courses to their program).

NURSING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE		CREDITS
681	Instructional Methods in Nursing Education	3
682	Nursing Curriculum	3
683	Evaluation in Nursing Education	3
684	Nursing Education Practicum	<u>3*</u>
Total		12

NURSING MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CERTIFICATE		CREDITS
630	Resource Management in Nursing Settings	3
632	Fiscal Management in Nursing Administration	3
634	Nursing Leadership in Organizations II	3
635	Organization Behavior in Nursing Settings	<u>3</u>
Total		12

*Clinical Practice Hours

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on MSN and advanced practice options or Post MSN Certificate Programs contact:

Marlene Huff, PhD, RN
Associate Professor, Coordinator Graduate and Education Progression Programs
College of Nursing
The University of Akron
Akron, OH 44325-3701
(330) 972-7555

For Graduate School information contact:

The University of Akron
Graduate School
Polsky Building Room 469
Akron, OH 44325-2101
(330) 972-7663

ACCREDITATIONS AND APPROVALS

- The baccalaureate nursing program is approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing. The Baccalaureate and Masters programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). CCNE is a resource of information regarding tuition, fees and length of program and can be contacted at One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-112; (202) 877-6791.
- Continued accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) for ten years for Bachelor's and Master's Programs (2016).
- Continued accreditation from the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs for ten years for the Graduate Anesthesia Program (2016).
- National Certification Board of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and Nurses (NCBPNP/N).

CHANGE OF REQUIREMENTS

Without limiting the penalty of its powers to alter, amend, or revoke rules and regulations, the University reserves the right to make changes in degree requirements of the student enrolled prior to the change by: altering the number of credits and/or courses required in a major field of study; deleting courses; amending courses by increasing or decreasing the credits of specific courses; offering substitute courses in the same/or cognate fields.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON IS AN EQUAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTION

Operating under the nondiscrimination Provisions of Titles VI, VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, and IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 as amended, Executive Order 11246; Vocational Rehabilitation Act; and Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 as related to admissions, treatment of students, and employment practices. It is the policy of this institution that there shall be no discrimination against any individual at The University of Akron because of age, color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion, Veteran status, sex, or sexual orientation.

THE COLLEGE OF NURSING
Committed to – Excellence, Diversity & Unity