



COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Improve Outcomes Through Education

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is for baccalaureate-prepared nurses. In keeping with the standards for graduate education for advanced practice nursing delineated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in the Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nurses, the purpose of the MSN program is to prepare students to assume leadership roles in their particular specialization. Master's-level nursing education is the appropriate level of education for nursing professionals who are seeking roles that require advanced practice skills in order to function as providers and organizers of the health care delivery process.

Program highlights:

- Design interventions using theories, models, frameworks, and concepts from nursing and non-nursing disciplines
- Learn to collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to evaluate fiscally appropriate health care delivery systems integrating research and clinical expertise
- Understand the impact of economic, policy, environmental, and social forces on nursing, health care delivery, and quality of care
- Explore strategies to improve nursing practice by using health information systems and technologies

**LEARN
MORE
TODAY**

Online Programs
Monthly Starts and Accelerated Classes
WSCUC Accredited



**NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

Veteran Founded. Nonprofit.

Veteran Founded. Nonprofit. | NU.EDU

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Academic Program Director: Tina Ho; (714) 429-5137; tho@nu.edu

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is for baccalaureate prepared nurses. In keeping with the standards for graduate education for advanced practice nursing delineated by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing in the Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nurses, the purpose of the MSN program is to prepare students to assume leadership roles in their particular specialization. Masters level nursing education is the appropriate level of education for nursing professionals who are seeking roles that require advanced practice skills in order to function as providers and organizers of the health care delivery process.

This program is approved by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Admission Requirements

The following candidates are eligible for admission into the MSN program:

- A. Candidates who hold a BSN degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees.
- B. Candidates who are 1) in final course of their prelicensure BSN degree program at National University or 2) in final month of their BSN-RN Completion program at National University or 3) candidates recently graduated from National University with their BSN and meet the University requirements for graduate study. (*)
- C. Candidates who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved or 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, or 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable, and have completed a General Education curriculum or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) in these areas: Physical and Biological Sciences, Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Humanities and Language, Writing, Speech and Communication. (**)

*Candidates will be conditionally accepted into the MSN program until the following proofs are provided. Students may not begin specialization courses until the conditional acceptance is lifted, by providing proof of the following:

- Current, active, and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence.
- Copy of BSN transcript.
- Proof of Employment offer in the capacity of a registered nurse (RN).
- If candidates are unable to show proof of BSN degree conferral, RN license and employment offer, admission to the MSN program will be rescinded.

**Exception: Candidates do not need to have a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program as specified in Academic Information for Graduate Degrees and Credentials, Admission Procedures.

**Candidates will follow the RN-MSN Pathway Course Requirements (successfully complete NSG 500 RN-MSN Portfolio Transition courses or NSG 444/444A Community Population Nursing with Lab, and NSG 442/442A Nursing Leadership and Management with Lab, and NSG 447/447A Quality Improvement with Lab) prior to transition to desired Master of Science in Nursing (MSN program of study).

MSN Applicants must:

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Candidates with a GPA of 2.5-2.99 will be considered by the MSN Admissions Committee on a case by case basis.
- Have completed the MSN application packet.

Candidates who graduated from a BSN program other than at NU must:

- Provide proof of current, active, and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence.
- Complete the university admission application including the application fee.
- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Registrar's office.
- Provide two professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees.

Prior to the start of their specialization courses, candidates are required to:

- Provide evidence of current, active professional liability and malpractice insurance coverage throughout the program.

- Provide evidence of specified immunizations, a report of a recent physical examination, a clear drug screen and background check, and current BLS certification.

Additional Program Information

- A. Candidates are required to meet with their Admission Counselor to review the process for applying to and acceptance into the Nursing Program. The specifics described are: program of study, schedules of courses, requirements for progression in the Program. Note: Prospective students should review the MSN & Post Graduate Certificate packet before submitting the application.
- B. Students should be proficient in operating a personal computer, including: demonstrated competency in standard computer operating systems and electronic filing systems, basic keyboarding skills, organizing and sorting electronic documents; demonstrated knowledge of standard computer applications to include Microsoft Word and Excel; familiarity with using internet browsers and standard email systems such as MS Outlook.
- C. MSN program with FNP and PMHNP specializations are 100% online with minimal in-person meeting requirements. All accepted applicants must attend the virtual online program orientation. Students in the FNP and PMHNP specializations are required to attend one-day onsite Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) every three months. In addition, FNP and PMHNP practicum courses are offered as immersion practicum experiences, conducted in faculty approved, in-person, preceptored clinical settings.
- D. Students who request a change in specialization after they have been admitted to a prior specialization must re-submit an application packet including a new goal statement, and one recommendation form completed addressing the new specialization area. A new resume is not required. All prerequisites must be met prior to admissions into the new specialization. The new application will be re-submitted via the Graduate Nursing E-form Application in SOAR by the Admission Counselor.
- E. Students who withdraw from the program or withdraw their application prior to beginning the program will not need to re-apply if the point of initial application occurred within one year of re-application. Students requesting to be re-admitted after one year of initial application for admissions will need to resubmit a new application packet including all required items needed for the application packet and drug screening, background check, immunizations and physical examination. Re-application to the program does not guarantee acceptance or provide an advantage to being accepted.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Implement appropriate theories, models, frameworks, and concepts from nursing and non-nursing disciplines when designing interventions that influence healthcare outcomes for diverse populations in a variety of settings.
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, to evaluate fiscally appropriate healthcare delivery systems that integrate research and clinical expertise to provide evidence-based, patient-centered care.
- Evaluate economic, policy, environmental, and social forces that impact nursing practice, health care delivery and quality of health care.
- Participate in the analysis, implementation and evaluation of strategies for improving nursing practice through the implementation of health information systems and technologies.
- Demonstrate a professional commitment to creating an environment of lifelong learning for patients, families, communities, and other healthcare practitioners.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing requires a minimum of 49.5-82.5 quarter units of graduate credit, with a minimum of 40.5 quarter units completed at National University.

Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all core and specialization courses.

Note: FNP and PMHNP Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of \$11,325

Core Requirements

(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

NSG 600	Advanced Practice Nursing
NSG 620	Theory in Advanced Practice
NSG 623	Biomedical Statistics
NSG 606	Health Policy & Finance
NSG 622	QI & Project Management
NSG 607	EBP for Advanced NSG Practice

Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner

Academic Program Director: Tina Ho; (714) 429-5137; tho@nu.edu

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) specialization will prepare advanced practice nurses to manage the care of individuals and families across the lifespan. The FNP program is designed for nurses who hold a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing (BSN) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an Advanced Practice role as a FNP. Graduates are eligible to sit for the FNP national certification examinations offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP). The Program emphasis is to foster the FNP's abilities to critically think; make differential diagnoses; use evidence-based findings to improve healthcare outcomes; and be accountable for the provision of healthcare to diverse individuals and families in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention, management of acute and chronic health conditions and primary care. The FNP provides clinical management of primary care conditions in a variety of clinics and community-based settings.

Admission Requirements

Students applying for the FNP area of specialization must be concurrently applying to the MSN program.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.
- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving healthcare outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes.
- Advocate for culturally sensitive health care systems and policies that meet ethical and legal standards as a means to improve outcomes and reduce disparity.
- Model collaboration with interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary teams in healthcare systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families, and communities.
- Analyze the impact of national and global health policy on the cost, quality, and access to care in diverse patient populations.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete all core courses before beginning the FNP specialty courses. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all core and specialty courses. Students must obtain at least 600 hours at an approved practicum site with a designated approved preceptor during the practicum courses.

Note: Program Fees..... \$11,325

Specialization Requirements

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN Core Courses before beginning any specialization courses.

NSG 681	Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)
NSG 682	Advanced Pathophysiology
NSG 641	Advanced Pharmacology I
FNP 642	Advanced Pharmacology II
FNP 683A	Primary Care of Adult and Aged <i>Corequisite: FNP 683B</i>
FNP 683B	Care of Adult & Aged Practicum <i>Corequisite: FNP 683A</i>
NSG 680	Diversity Issues in APN
FNP 684A	Primary Care-Women & Children <i>Corequisite: FNP 684B</i>
FNP 684B	Women and Children Practicum <i>Corequisite: FNP 684A</i>
FNP 685A	FNP Residency <i>Corequisite: FNP 685B</i>
FNP 685B	FNP Residency Practicum <i>Corequisite: FNP 685A</i>
FNP 689	FNP Capstone

Specialization in Nursing Administration

Academic Program Director: Hope Farquharson; (858) 521-3947; hfarquharson@nu.edu

The Master of Science in Nursing, Specialization in Nursing Administration prepares nurse managers who will provide leadership and management services to clinical care organizations. Successful decision-making strategies, evidence-based practice, team building and collaboration, fiscal management, quality improvement, and creating a learning culture that supports high quality and safe patient care are considered within a systems approach to management. The specialization courses offered in the MSN, Specialization in Nursing Administration are designed using the Interprofessional Education Model to develop IPE competencies. Graduates are being prepared to meet eligibility requirements to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Nurse Executive-Advanced –Board Certified (NEA-BC) competency-based examination or the American Organization of Nurse Leadership (AONL) competency-based examination for Certification in Executive Nursing Practice (CENP).

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Effectively communicate with members of the multidisciplinary healthcare team in the design and management of healthcare delivery systems.
- Employ best evidence and judgment to make sound and ethical decisions that advance the quality and safety of healthcare and care delivery systems.
- Create and implement a plan for day-to-day operations for a clinical facility in order to maintain accreditation, meet organizational goals, achieve quality and safety outcomes, and carry out the mission of the facility.
- Provide effective, caring, culturally sensitive and fiscally responsible leadership to other members of the healthcare team in order to facilitate excellence in patient care services to diverse patient populations.
- Apply principles of leadership and management to foster an organizational culture that engenders lifelong learning, quality, safety, and competence in a clinical care organization.

Degree Requirements

Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B average (84%) in all core and specialty courses. Students participating in the Nursing Administration specialization must complete 200 hours of a preceptored practicum experience within their specialty capstone course.

Specialization Requirements

(5 courses; 22.5 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN Core Courses before beginning any specialization courses.

HCA 600	U.S. Healthcare System
HCA 620	Health Organization Management <i>Prerequisite: COH 602</i>
HCA 624	Healthcare Planning & Marketin <i>Prerequisite: COH 611</i>
HCA 670	Healthcare Leadership <i>Prerequisite: HCA 624</i>
HCA 692	Healthcare Capstone <i>Prerequisite: HCA 691 or permission by instructor.</i>

Please **Note:** COH and HCA prerequisites are NOT required for students in the Specialization in Nursing Administration.

Specialization in Nursing Informatics

Academic Program Director: Hope Farquharson; (858) 521-3947; hfarquharson@nu.edu

The Specialization in Nursing Informatics is designed for nurses who seek advanced education in informatics theory and practice. Nurses play an important leadership role in the implementation of health information technology in health care delivery organizations. Potential students include nurses who participate and, in some instances, lead the successful deployment of health information technologies to achieve improvement in the quality, safety, outcomes and thus value of health services in the United States. The goal is to prepare RNs for leadership roles in informatics that includes the information and knowledge management best practices and effective technology capabilities for nurses identified through the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform Initiative.

The Specialty courses offered in the MSN Program of Study in Nursing Informatics are designed using the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Model to develop IPE Competencies. Graduates are being prepared to take one of the following Health Information Management Systems Society's (HIMSS) competency-based certification examinations depending on their length of experience in the field: Certified Associate in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAHIMS), or Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and

Management Systems (CPHIMS). Graduates also are being prepared to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) competency-based certification examination in nursing informatics (RN-BC).

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Collaborate with interprofessional teams to conduct a needs assessment, plan, design, transition to and evaluate information systems and innovative technologies.
- Employ evidenced-based practice resources and references to support the adoption and use of healthcare technologies at the point of care.
- Evaluate ongoing quality and process improvement for patient-centered care systems that optimize clinical workflow, care coordination, and patient outcomes.
- Appraise the healthcare technology environment to ensure compliance with ethical, legal and regulatory mandates and professional standards for advanced practice.

Degree Requirements

Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B average (84%) in all core and specialty courses. Students participating in the Nursing Informatics specialization must complete 200 hours of a preceptored practicum experience within their specialty capstone course.

Specialization Requirements

(5 courses; 22.5 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN Core Courses before beginning any specialization courses.

HTM 552 EHR Meaningful Use
 HTM 660 System Management and Planning
 HTM 520 Health Information Exchange

HTM 680 Health Informatics Case Study
Prerequisite: HTM 520, HTM 552, HTM 660
 HTM 692 Health Informatics Capstone
Prerequisite: HTM 680

Specialization in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Lifespan

Academic Program Director: Jovita Ezirim; (310) 662-2181; jezirim@nu.edu

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner-Lifespan (PMHNP) is a registered nurse prepared at the master's degree level who specializes in primary mental health care for individuals, groups and populations across the lifespan. The PMHNP Program is designed for nurses who hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) who wish to advance their knowledge, education, and skills to practice in an advanced practice role as a PMHNP. This advanced practice nurse maintains a critical role in the health care team and ensures collaboration and the provision of safe, effective, coordinated care. As an independent member of the health care team, and in partnership with patients, the PMHNP provides a variety of evidence-based services and therapies. The PMHNP assesses, makes diagnoses and plans care for complex psychiatric and concomitant medical issues, including the prescription and management of psychopharmacologic agents. The PMHNP advocates for patients and their families within a recovery and trauma-informed paradigm. The PMHNP ensures that patients and their families are engaged and actively participate in their behavioral health (mental health and substance use) care as they respond to the illness experience. The PMHNP continuously enhances their care through quality improvement and safety efforts and influences policy at the local, regional and national levels. The PMHNP melds the art and science of professional nursing and skillfully manages the acute and enduring issues posed by people with behavioral health issues across the lifespan. Graduates of this PMHNP Program are eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (Lifespan; formerly known as Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner) competency-based examination.

Admission Requirements

Students applying for the PMHNP area of specialization must be concurrently applying to the MSN program.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

- Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge derived from the physical and behavioral sciences and humanities as a basis for professional advanced clinical nursing practice.

- Devise evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention strategies at the patient, family, organizational, community, and population levels for the purpose of improving health care outcomes.
- Utilize current technologies to deliver, enhance, and document care across multiple settings to achieve optimal outcomes
- Apply organizational and systems leadership to current healthcare issues for the promotion of quality, effective and safe patient care, including the emphasis on ethical and critical decision making, effective working relationships, and a systems-perspective approach.
- Model collaboration and coordination with interprofessional teams in health care systems delivering care to complex, multi-need patients, families and communities.
- Synthesize broad organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population behavioral health care and services to individuals, families, and identified populations.

Degree Requirements

Students must complete all core courses before beginning the PMHNP specialty courses. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all core and specialty courses. Students must obtain at least 510 hours at an approved practicum site with a designated approved preceptor during the practicum courses.

Note: Program Fees..... \$11,325

Specialization Requirements

(12 courses; 55.5 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN core courses before beginning any specialization courses.

NSG 681 Advanced Physical Assessment (6 quarter units)
 NSG 682 Advanced Pathophysiology
 NSG 641 Advanced Pharmacology I
 MNP 643 Psychopharmacology in MH Care
 MNP 694 MH Care: Adults/Aging Adults
 MNP 696A Adults/Aging Adults Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 694
 MNP 687 MH Care: Children/Adolescents
 NSG 680 Diversity Issues in APN
 MNP 696B Children/Adoles Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 687
 MNP 688A Introduction to Psychotherapy
Corequisite: MNP 688B
 MNP 688B Intro Psychotherapy Practicum
Corequisite: MNP 688A
 MNP 697 PMHNP Capstone

ACADEMIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TERMINATIONS

ABA 607 ABA Intensive Practicum
 CED 620 Internship Seminar
 CED 631 School Counseling Practicum
 COH 691 Public Health Internship
 COH 692 Public Health Capstone
 FLM 205 Film History II
 FSC 661 Internship in Forensic Science