

NURSING, MASTER OF SCIENCE

Overview

The graduate program in Nursing is built on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The program is designed to prepare students who are highly knowledgeable in advanced clinical nursing and whose education will enable them to make significant contributions to health care. The nursing program is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN).

The purposes of the Master's program are to prepare students who are:

1. Advanced practice nurses (family nurse practitioners or nurse educators who are able to practice nursing in changing and diverse health care settings),
2. Beginning researchers, and
3. Highly knowledgeable individuals who are capable of influencing policy-making that impacts health care delivery.

At the completion of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program, the graduate will be able to:

1. **Professionalism**
 - a. Engage in professional and scholarly activities that promote the profession of nursing and individual development in advanced practice nursing through implementation of evidenced based practice for both direct and indirect patient care. (IOM 4, AACN Essential 1)
2. **Nursing Process and Critical Thinking**
 - a. Integrate synthesized knowledge of behavioral and natural sciences, humanities, technology, and nursing science to perform advanced practice nursing roles to improve patient care and decrease healthcare cost. (IOM 1, 5; AACN Essential III & IX)
3. **Therapeutic Communication and Interventions**
 - a. Exhibit expertise in the advanced-practice nursing role of clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner, nurse administrator, or nurse educator while incorporating scientific and ethical principles to improve health care outcomes for a diverse population. (IOM 9, AACN Essential IV)
4. **Leadership, Collaboration and Advocacy**
 - a. Assume advanced leadership roles, including collaborating with members of interdisciplinary teams, and influencing policy-making that impacts positively on health care delivery. (IOM 2, 6, 7; AACN Essential 11, VI)
5. **Evidence-Based Practice**
 - a. Participate as a researcher and a consumer of research in advancing nursing science and practice in disease outcomes for a diverse population. (IOM 9, AACN Essential IV)
 - b. Critically analyze health care data in order to promote optimal health. (IOM 3, AACN Essential I)

Admission Requirements: Graduate Nursing Programs

To enter the program leading to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with a concentration as either a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or Nurse Educator (NE), the student **must** first meet the requirements established by and apply to Albany State University's Graduate School,

which is the overarching school containing the various major-related concentrations and programs, and be accepted to the University in good standing. Please be aware that **admission to the Graduate School does not guarantee acceptance into its graduate nursing programs**. The prospective student should contact the Graduate Admissions Office or the Department of Nursing's Graduate Nursing Programs Director well in advance of the planned entry date. Additionally, applicants should be aware of the following:

- The Family Nursing Practitioner (FNP) program currently accepts applicants **every year**.
- The Nurse Educator (NE) program currently accepts applicants **every odd year**.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Nurse Educator (NE)

Applicants must:

1. Possess a baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited nursing program.
 - a. Prospective **Family Nurse Practitioner** applicants must have at least 1 year of clinical experience (**required**), preferably within an adult medical-surgical environment
2. Have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or 2.0 (on a 3.0 scale).
3. Complete the following undergraduate prerequisite courses: Health Assessment (NURS 3510 or NURS 3640), Pathophysiology (NURS 3320 or NURS 3620), Nursing Research (NURS 4131 or NURS 4510), and Introductory Statistics (MATH 2411).
4. Have documentation of current Professional Nursing Licensure in their state of practice prior to entering the functional track.
 - a. *The student who intends to practice or satisfy clinical requirements within the state of Georgia must also provide documentation of current Professional Nursing Licensure in Georgia*
5. Arrange for a personal interview with the Graduate Nursing Programs Director.
6. Submit two references regarding professional accomplishments and academic potential (if the references submitted to the Graduate School are not professional references).
7. Submit copy of malpractice insurance (proof of malpractice insurance is not required until the student begins clinical).
8. A student who has failed (C, D, F, or WF) two (2) graduate nursing courses—whether at ASU or another graduate-level program—will be ineligible for admission (or continuation) in the nursing program at ASU. Students who have been dismissed for two (2) nursing failures or for cause may request readmission after two (2) years of receiving notice of dismissal. For readmission policies, please refer to the appropriate section in the Graduate Nursing Student Handbook.

RN-to-MSN FNP and RN-to-MSN NE

The RN-to-MSN concentration provides registered nurses (RNs) an opportunity to complete a graduate degree with two bridge semesters in which the student takes undergraduate and graduate courses followed by the remaining semesters of graduate coursework. Graduates of an accredited associate degree nursing program who choose the RN-to-MSN concentration must:

1. Complete required select Core requirements of undergraduate course work prior to admission into the graduate nursing program.
2. Be eligible for Regular admission to the graduate program.

3. Have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or 2.0 (on a 3.0 scale).
4. Submit an undergraduate application along with a one-time application fee (\$20) to Albany State University. The application is to be sent to the Office of Admissions, selecting either RN-to-MSN: Family Nurse Practitioner or RN-to-MSN: Nurse Educator.
5. Request original transcripts from each school the student has previously attended be submitted to the Undergraduate Admissions Office at the time of applying for admission to ASU.
6. Submit the following:
 - a. A graduate application (available online through the Graduate School);
 - b. A copy of current Georgia nursing license;
 - c. Two professional letters of reference; and
 - d. A copy of current CPR card to the Graduate School for admission.
7. Upon receipt of these documents, the student will be contacted by the Graduate Nursing Programs Director, and a program of study will be prepared to ensure completion of required undergraduate courses.

NOTE: Graduates of the RN-to-MSN program will **NOT** attain their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and will instead receive their Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) in the graduate concentration of their choice. Applicants with an Associate Degree in Nursing who wish to attain their baccalaureate degree should instead apply for the RN-to-BSN program in order to complete the curriculum necessary for baccalaureate degree completion.

Post-Master's Certification Programs

In addition to the admission criteria listed above, applicants who have a Master's Degree in Nursing and graduated with at least a 3.0 GPA may be admitted to the department's Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or Nurse Educator (NE) Post-Master's Certificate Program. Because these certification programs utilize past learning experience to satisfy some course requirements, programs of study are highly individualized and tailored to the needs of the students; therefore, the applicant must meet with the Department of Nursing's Graduate Nursing Programs Director and his/her graduate nursing advisor to design a program of study to complete post-master's requirements.

Readmission Information

READMISSION

Students who have not been in attendance for one or more semesters must apply to Albany State University's Graduate School for readmission.

Note: *Summer semester is not included as a semester of non-attendance.*

READMISSION FOLLOWING SCHOLASTIC TERMINATION

A graduate student who is excluded from the institution for academic reasons may petition to be reinstated. A student who petitions to be reinstated must have been out of the institution for at least twelve months. A petition to be reinstated must be approved by the Appeals Committee of the Graduate Council and the Dean of the Graduate School. Any graduate student who has been excluded twice for scholastic reasons will not be readmitted to the Graduate School.

Programs of Study: Graduate Nursing Programs

Within the first nine (9) semester hours of study, the student is required to complete a planned degree program of study with the advice and

approval of the Graduate Nursing Programs Director. Copies of this planned degree program will be filed with the Graduate Admissions Office, the Department of Nursing and the Office of the Registrar.

Family Nursing Practitioner (44 Hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
REQUIRED UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK (12 hours)		
NURS 3320	Pathophysiology (BSN)	
	or NURS 362 Pathophysiology for RNs (RN-to-BSN)	
NURS 3510	Assessment in Health Care (BSN)	
	or NURS 364 Health Assessment (RN-to-BSN)	
NURS 4131	Research (BSN)	
	or NURS 451 Research in Nursing (RN-to-BSN)	
MATH 2411	Introduction to Statistics	
CORE (17 hours)		
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3
SPECIALIZATION (27 hours)		
NURS 5100	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 5410	Introduction to Family Primary Care (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 5421	Primary Care of Children (MSN-FNP)	5
NURS 6101	Primary Care of Women (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 6211	Primary Care of Adults (MSN-FNP)	5
NURS 6310	Primary Care Issues in Health Promotion of Communities (MSN-FNP)	2
NURS 6820	Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (MSN-FNP)	4
ELECTIVES (1-6 HOURS)		
NURS 6000	Directed Study	
Total Semester Hours		44

Nurse Educator (36 Hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
REQUIRED UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK (12 hours)		
NURS 3320	Pathophysiology (BSN)	
	or NURS 362 Pathophysiology for RNs (RN-to-BSN)	
NURS 3510	Assessment in Health Care (BSN)	
	or NURS 364 Health Assessment (RN-to-BSN)	
NURS 4131	Research (BSN)	
	or NURS 451 Research in Nursing (RN-to-BSN)	
MATH 2411	Introduction to Statistics	
CORE (17 hours)		
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3

SPECIALIZATION (19 hours)

NURS 5621	Advanced-Practice Nursing I (MSN-NE)	5
NURS 5950	Curriculum Development in Nursing (MSN-NE)	3
NURS 6001	Instructional Strategies and Evaluation (MSN-NE)	3
NURS 6620	Advanced Teaching Practicum (MSN-NE)	3
NURS 6622	Advanced Practice Nursing II (MSN-NE)	5

ELECTIVES (1-6 HOURS)

NURS 6000	Directed Study	
Total Semester Hours		36

Comprehensive Examination Policy

The purposes of the comprehensive examination is to: (a) evaluate the student's theoretical and analytical knowledge of nursing, research, and other critical scientific concepts, issues, and processes presented in advanced core courses; and (b) evaluate the student's ability to apply critical nursing and other scientific theory in clinical decision making at the advanced level of nursing practice. To be eligible to take the departmental comprehensive examinations, the student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater.

The departmental comprehensive examination is administered by Graduate Faculty representing the student's area of clinical concentration or specialization at the completion of clinical coursework and prior or the same semester the student will be completing enrollment in Thesis/Project.

The student has one opportunity to retake the comprehensive examination. Additional study may be required before the exam may be retaken, as determined by the faculty advisor and the student. A student who does not pass the examination on the second attempt is not permitted to continue in the program (see Appendix L - Examination Results).

A student must be registered during the semester in which the comprehensive examination is taken. The comprehensive examination can be taken only once in a given semester with a maximum of [two] attempts permitted. The comprehensive examination will be administered each term during the scheduled final exam period as publicized by the university. A letter of intent to write the examination must be filed with the MSN Coordinator one month prior to the first day of the publicized final exam period for the term in which the examination is to be written. The student will be notified in writing of the date, time, and place of the exam. The exam will be administered once per semester. Examination objectives will be given to the student prior to scheduled testing.

Degree Requirements

To earn the Master of Science in Nursing degree, a student must meet the criteria identified below:

1. Earn a 3.00 grade point average calculated on all graduate work attempted, including transfer credit approved in advance of enrollment.
2. Complete a minimum of a 36 semester hours (Nurse Educator program) or 44 hours (Family Nurse Practitioner program) of prescribed curriculum with an overall grade point average of 3.00 or better.
3. Earn a 3.0 grade point average calculated on all graduate work attempted, including transfer credit approved in advance of enrollment in the program.

4. Earn a minimum of 27 semester hours (Nurse Educator program) or 35 (Family Nurse Practitioner program) in residence.
5. Complete all course work within 6 years of the date of admission or beginning of the first clinical nursing course, whichever is later.
6. Pass all departmental comprehensive examinations and complete a thesis or major research project

Curriculum Patterns: Graduate Nursing Programs

Family Nurse Practitioner (Full-Time)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Junior Year		
Summer		
NURS 5100	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
Semester Hours		6
Fall		
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5410	Introduction to Family Primary Care (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
Semester Hours		10
Spring		
NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
NURS 5421	Primary Care of Children (MSN-FNP)	5
Semester Hours		10
Senior Year		
Summer		
NURS 6101	Primary Care of Women (MSN-FNP)	4
Semester Hours		4
Fall		
NURS 6211	Primary Care of Adults (MSN-FNP)	5
NURS 6310	Primary Care Issues in Health Promotion of Communities (MSN-FNP)	2
Semester Hours		7
Spring		
NURS 6820	Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3
Semester Hours		7
Total Semester Hours		44

Family Nurse Practitioner (Part-Time)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Sophomore Year		
Summer		
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
Semester Hours		3
Fall		
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3

NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
Semester Hours		6
Spring		
NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
Semester Hours		5
Junior Year		
Summer		
NURS 5100	Advanced Health Assessment	3
Semester Hours		3
Fall		
NURS 5410	Introduction to Family Primary Care (MSN-FNP)	4
Semester Hours		4
Spring		
NURS 5421	Primary Care of Children (MSN-FNP)	5
Semester Hours		5
Senior Year		
Summer		
NURS 6101	Primary Care of Women (MSN-FNP)	4
Semester Hours		4
Fall		
NURS 6211	Primary Care of Adults (MSN-FNP)	5
NURS 6310	Primary Care Issues in Health Promotion of Communities (MSN-FNP)	2
Semester Hours		7
Spring		
NURS 6820	Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3
Semester Hours		7
Total Semester Hours		44

Nurse Educator (Full-Time)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Junior Year		
Summer		
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
Semester Hours		3
Fall		
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 5950	Curriculum Development in Nursing (MSN-NE)	3
Semester Hours		9
Spring		
NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
NURS 5621	Advanced-Practice Nursing I (MSN-NE)	5
NURS 6001	Instructional Strategies and Evaluation (MSN-NE)	3
Semester Hours		13

Senior Year

Fall

NURS 6622	Advanced Practice Nursing II (MSN-NE)	5
Semester Hours		5

Spring

NURS 6620	Advanced Teaching Practicum (MSN-NE)	3
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3
Semester Hours		6
Total Semester Hours		36

RN-to-MSN FNP (Full-Time)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
Sophomore Year		
Spring		
NURS 4413	RN-to-MSN Transition (RN-to-MSN)	6
NURS 4510	Research in Nursing (RN-to-BSN)	3
NURS 5100	Advanced Health Assessment	3
MATH 2411	Introduction to Statistics	3
Semester Hours		15
Junior Year		
Summer		
NURS 4346	RN to MSN Senior Seminar (RN-to-MSN)	2
NURS 4500	Community/Public Health Nursing (RN-to-BSN)	4
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
Semester Hours		9
Fall		
NURS 3620	Pathophysiology for RNs (RN-to-BSN)	3
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5410	Introduction to Family Primary Care (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
Semester Hours		13
Spring		
NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
NURS 5421	Primary Care of Children (MSN-FNP)	5
Semester Hours		10
Senior Year		
Summer		
NURS 6101	Primary Care of Women (MSN-FNP)	4
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3
Semester Hours		7
Fall		
NURS 6211	Primary Care of Adults (MSN-FNP)	5
NURS 6310	Primary Care Issues in Health Promotion of Communities (MSN-FNP)	2
Semester Hours		7

Spring

NURS 6820	Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (MSN-FNP)	4
Semester Hours		4
Total Semester Hours		65

RN-to-MSN NE (Full-Time)

Course	Title	Semester Hours
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Sophomore Year**Spring**

NURS 4413	RN-to-MSN Transition (RN-to-MSN)	6
NURS 4510	Research in Nursing (RN-to-BSN)	3
NURS 5100	Advanced Health Assessment	3
MATH 2411	Introduction to Statistics	3
Semester Hours		15

Junior Year**Summer**

NURS 4346	RN to MSN Senior Seminar (RN-to-MSN)	2
NURS 4500	Community/Public Health Nursing (RN-to-BSN)	4
NURS 5111	Nursing Theory Development	3
Semester Hours		9

Fall

NURS 3620	Pathophysiology for RNs (RN-to-BSN)	3
NURS 5210	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5910	Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 5950	Curriculum Development in Nursing (MSN-NE)	3
Semester Hours		12

Spring

NURS 5120	Advanced Nursing Research	3
NURS 5220	Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities	2
NURS 6001	Instructional Strategies and Evaluation (MSN-NE)	3
Semester Hours		8

Senior Year**Summer**

NURS 5621	Advanced-Practice Nursing I (MSN-NE)	5
NURS 6920	Thesis/Research Project	3
Semester Hours		8

Fall

NURS 6622	Advanced Practice Nursing II (MSN-NE)	5
Semester Hours		5

Spring

NURS 6620	Advanced Teaching Practicum (MSN-NE)	3
Semester Hours		3
Total Semester Hours		60

Post-Master's Certification Programs

Due to the highly individualized nature of the Post-Master's Certification Programs, there is no sample curriculum pattern available for viewing. Applicants for this program must meet with their graduate nursing advisor and/or program director(s) to design an individualized program of study and curriculum pattern to satisfy outstanding program requirements.