

# NURSING

## Program in the Department of Nursing

- Nursing, Master of Science (<http://catalog.asurams.edu/graduate/degree-programs/nursing/nursing-master-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:

- Advanced practice nurses (family nurse practitioners or nurse educators who are able to practice nursing in changing and diverse health care settings),
- Beginning researchers, and
- 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:

- Professionalism**
  - 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)
- Nursing Process and Critical Thinking**
  - 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)
- Therapeutic Communication and Interventions**
  - 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)
- Leadership, Collaboration and Advocacy**
  - 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)
- Evidence-Based Practice**
  - 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)
  - Critically analyze health care data in order to promote optimal health. (IOM 3, AACN Essential I)

The mission of the Department of Nursing is to provide nursing education to a diverse student population consistent with the mission of Albany State University (ASU). The ASU Department of Nursing offers ASN, BSN, and MSN degrees. The Department of Nursing seeks to foster the growth and development of the region, state, and nation through teaching,

research, quality health care delivery, and public service. In collaboration with academic institutions, health care institutions, and state agencies, the Department of Nursing is committed to developing and enhancing programs and services to improve the health and quality of life of the citizens of southwest Georgia.

The Department of Nursing prepares safe, competent, effective, and efficient nurses to provide or facilitate health care to diverse populations and underserved communities. Integral to this mission is a supportive and diverse faculty delivering comprehensive and technologically enhanced didactic and experiential learning activities. These learning activities support the holistic development of students as learners, leaders, and contributing members of society who embody the ideals of professional nursing in a global society. The completion of these learning activities will prepare the students for success on the national licensing (NCLEX-RN) or certification examination(s), demonstrating competency in the delivery of evidence based nursing care.

In addition to the application forms submitted for admission to the University in general, students applying for the first time—as well as those returning to nursing courses after a break in nursing enrollment—are required to submit a separate application for admission to nursing program of their choice. Application forms are available online and should be completed and returned to the Department of Nursing's main office prior to the desired date of admission.

To comply with the requirements of cooperating clinical facilities, the Department of Nursing requires students to submit additional documentation for the purposes of clinical clearance, consistent with the student's program of choice. This documentation will include, at a minimum, a complete immunization record, criminal background check, and drug screening. Students will provide these forms upon acceptance and enrollment in the student's desired program of choice.

Albany State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) as a Level IV institution. Nursing programs are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), and our associate and baccalaureate degree programs in nursing are approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing. Information regarding our nursing programs' approval may be obtained by contacting the Georgia Board of Nursing by mail at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217, or by phone at (912) 207-1640. Information regarding our nursing programs' accreditation may be obtain by contacting ACEN by mail at 3343 Peachtree Road, Suite 850, Atlanta, Georgia 30326, or by phone at (404) 975-5000.

### NURS 5100. Advanced Health Assessment. (3 Credits)

This online course includes the processes, techniques, and skills of advanced health assessment, building on basic and experiential knowledge of assessment. It is intended to provide the basis for individual student development of expertise in assessing health and illness states. Focus is on didactic and clinical content that the advanced practice nurse utilizes when assessing clients. The processes of systematic assessment, which include communication and planning skills, are emphasized. Clinical judgment, diagnostic and monitoring skills and teaching are integrated as components of assessment. Prerequisites: Admission to the Graduate School. Corequisites: None. Offered: Summer.

**NURS 5111. Nursing Theory Development. (3 Credits)**

This course explores theoretical assumptions and conceptual models related to nursing practice, nursing research, nursing roles, and nursing education. Other nursing, social, behavioral, and natural science theories are also discussed. This course provides an introduction to conceptual and theoretical thinking. Students will examine knowledge development in nursing, conceptual structures, and their uses as a basis for nursing practice and research. Prerequisites: Admission to the Graduate School. Corequisites: None. Offered: Summer.

**NURS 5120. Advanced Nursing Research. (3 Credits)**

This course emphasizes quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and the application of technology in data analysis. Students formulate a beginning approach to proposal development. Prerequisites: NURS 5111. Corequisites: None. Offered: Spring. Credits: 3.00 Credit Hours (3.00 Lecture - 0.00 Lab). Course examinations will be proctored and additional testing fees may apply.

**NURS 5210. Advanced Pathophysiology. (3 Credits)**

This course emphasizes the complexity of normal physiological and psychological functions and the disruption of homeostasis in understanding the disease process and/or illness. The involvement of multisystems in the clinical manifestation of the disease process and diagnoses will be delineated. Prerequisites: None. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 5220. Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities. (2 Credits)**

The students apply concepts, theories, and methodologies of transcultural nursing to clients of diverse populations. Prerequisites: None. Corequisites: None. Offered: Spring. Credits: 2.00 Credit Hours (2.00 Lecture - 0.00 Lab). Course examinations will be proctored and additional testing fees may apply.

**NURS 5410. Introduction to Family Primary Care (MSN-FNP). (4 Credits)**

This course introduces the concept of primary health care of children, adults, and families. The focus is on health promotion and disease prevention with medically underserved populations. Prerequisites: Admission to the Family Nurse Practitioner program and NURS 5100. Corequisites: NURS 5910, NURS 5210 Offered: Fall, Spring.

**NURS 5421. Primary Care of Children (MSN-FNP). (5 Credits)**

This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis for advanced health promotion and disease prevention for children, adolescents, and their families. Content will include health maintenance, health teaching, behavioral/developmental issues, counseling, and advanced nursing management of well-child health and selected common childhood illnesses. The focus is on comprehensive care for well-child health maintenance and selected illnesses. Attention is directed toward the care needed to meet the health objectives for children, adolescents and families in Healthy People 2010 consistent with accepted national guidelines. Clinical experiences will provide opportunity for testing and integrating of theory in practice and development of relationships with other health care providers. Clinical experiences will occur in a variety of settings with emphasis on rural and urban underserved children, adolescents, and families. Prerequisites: NURS 5100, NURS 5210, NURS 5410, and NURS 5910. Corequisites: None. Offered: Spring, Summer Credits: 5.00 Credit Hours (3.00 Lecture - 8.00 Lab). Course examinations will be proctored and additional testing fees may apply.

**NURS 5621. Advanced-Practice Nursing I (MSN-NE). (5 Credits)**

The first of a two-clinical course sequence in application of theories and concepts related to the clinical nurse specialist role in Community Health, Parent-Child Health, and Psych-Mental Health. Prerequisites: NURS 5111, NURS 5210, NURS 5910, and NURS 5950. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall, Spring.

**NURS 5910. Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice. (3 Credits)**

This course provides the advanced practice health care provider with knowledge of pharmacological agents used in treatment of adults, adolescents, and young children. Emphasis is on indications, mechanisms of action, prescriptive drugs, protocols, techniques, and dosages. Prerequisites: None. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 5950. Curriculum Development in Nursing (MSN-NE). (3 Credits)**

This course, designed to prepare the nurse educator for a role in curriculum development will explore putting together a nursing educational curriculum from planning to evaluation. Prerequisites: Admission to the Nurse Educator program and NURS 5111. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 6000. Directed Study. (1-6 Credits)**

Independent exploration of a topic from a nursing practice, education, or administration perspective. Prerequisites: Department approval. Corequisites: None. Offered: As needed.

**NURS 6001. Instructional Strategies and Evaluation (MSN-NE). (3 Credits)**

This course focuses on the implementation of various teaching strategies and the measurement of learning outcomes. Prerequisites: NURS 5950. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 6101. Primary Care of Women (MSN-FNP). (4 Credits)**

This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis for advanced nursing management of newborns and women. Content includes health maintenance, health teaching, behavioral/development issues, counseling and nursing management of pregnancy and the newborn, and health problems of women. Prerequisites: NURS 5100, NURS 5410, and NURS 5421. Corequisites: None. Offered: Summer.

**NURS 6211. Primary Care of Adults (MSN-FNP). (5 Credits)**

This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis for health promotion and disease prevention of adults/older adults and their families. Content includes health maintenance, health teaching, developmental issues, counseling and nursing diagnosis and management of common minor acute and chronic health problems found in adults. Prerequisites: NURS 5100, NURS 5410, NURS 5421, and NURS 6101. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 6310. Primary Care Issues in Health Promotion of Communities (MSN-FNP). (2 Credits)**

This seminar focuses on care needed to meet the needs of clients with sensitivity to community and cultural differences. Prerequisites: Completion of all clinical and core courses in first four semesters of program. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 6500. Informatics in Nursing and Healthcare. (3 Credits)**

This course provides an introductory knowledge of informatics, with an emphasis on developing an understanding of concepts related to nursing informatics (NI). Nursing Informatics is a specialty that incorporate nursing science, computer science, and information science. The integration of these sciences helps to manage and communicate data, information, knowledge, and wisdom in nursing practice. Offered: Summer.

**NURS 6505. Database Systems and Information. (3 Credits)**

This course provides an introduction to the components of informatics and then focuses on the tools of informatics, the computer. The primary goal of information management. This knowledge can be created, processed, obtained, and disseminated within the healthcare delivery system to contribute to the decreasing of mortality, morbidity, and disparity. Offered: Summer.

**NURS 6520. Interoperability and Workflow in Healthcare Systems. (3 Credits)**

This course provides information on how healthcare agencies utilize health information systems to focus on patients and patient safety needs. The difference between data technology and workflow technology is key. Offered: Fall .

**NURS 6530. Implementation & Evaluation for Healthcare Systems. (3 Credits)**

This course provides instructions on learning and applying numerous techniques, methods, tools, and approaches to help visually capture a system. The emphasis is placed on the implementation of the process to ensure that information systems and networks are operational and there are well-trained users in the operation. Offered: Fall.

**NURS 6540. Project Management and Synthesis. (3 Credits)**

This course is designed to improve the student's perspective of project management from the perspectives of the two primary roles of project manager: 1) the need to constantly manage trade-offs between the three main goals of scope, time, and cost, and 2) managing risk. This course is designed to develop student's experience for applying knowledge and skills acquired during the nursing informatics program. This course requires completion of 60 practicum hours and improve the student's perspective project management.

**NURS 6550. Nursing Informatics-Capstone Practicum. (3 Credits)**

This course is designed to provide practicum-capstone experiences for applying knowledge and skills acquired during the nursing informatics program. Practicum I and II are scheduled in the same healthcare setting. Learners select their learning environment based on course objectives and their professional goals, needs, and interests. In Nursing Informatics Capstone Practicum, learners will work with on-ground preceptor, develop a plan for practicum activities and select, initiate, and implement informatics related projects. Learners reflectively discuss their experiences, projects, and related learning in the online course. This course requires completion of 240 practicum hours and improve the student's perspective project management. Offered: Spring .

**NURS 6620. Advanced Teaching Practicum (MSN-NE). (3 Credits)**

This practicum is designed to foster the student's development and competency as an educator. The focus of the experience is the application of curricula and learning theories to instructional design for nursing education. The practicum consists of experiences in both classroom and clinical teaching under the supervision of a senior faculty. The experiences are designed to provide an opportunity for the student to experience a career in the academic world of higher education. Prerequisites: Completion of all Nurse Educator core and nursing courses, except NURS 6920. Corequisites: None. Offered: Spring.

**NURS 6622. Advanced Practice Nursing II (MSN-NE). (5 Credits)**

This is the second of the two-clinical course sequence in application of theories and concepts related to the clinical nurse specialist role development in Community Health, Parent-Child Health and Psych-Mental Health. Credits: 5.00 Credit Hours (3.00 Lecture - 8.00 Lab). Prerequisites: NURS 5621. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall. Course examinations will be proctored and additional testing fees may apply.

**NURS 6820. Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (MSN-FNP). (4 Credits)**

An integrated clinical practicum focused on development and implementation of the advanced practitioner role. Students are involved in a preceptorship in rural/urban family practice settings under the supervision of a clinical preceptor and graduate faculty. Prerequisites: Completion of all Family Nurse Practitioner core and nursing courses, except NURS 6920. Corequisites: None. Offered: Spring. Credits: 4.00 Credit Hours (1.00 Lecture - 12.00 Lab). Course examinations will be proctored and additional testing fees may apply.

**NURS 6920. Scholarly Project. (3 Credits)**

Research methodologies are used to investigate a nursing problem. Satisfactory completion of a thesis or research project is required. The student may choose to develop the proposal from NURS 5120 for the research activities for this course. Prerequisites: NURS 5120. Corequisites: None. Offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.