

## COLLEGE OF NURSING

Peggy Wolfe, Dean

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### Master of Science in Nursing

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The McNeese State University College of Nursing Graduate Program in cooperation with the Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science Degree in Nursing, offers a program of advanced nursing studies for Southern Louisiana. The program reflects the missions of McNeese State University, the College of Nursing and the Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing.

Graduate nursing education seeks to stimulate continued intellectual growth and commitment to lifelong learning. The program builds upon the critical thinking, therapeutic intervention, and communication skills developed in the undergraduate program to influence the health care of members of a multicultural world community.

The scope of advanced nursing practice is derived from the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Advanced Practice Registered Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing, and the NONPF Curriculum Guidelines and Programs Standards for Nurse Practitioner Education. Graduates of the program are prepared to assume leadership roles in nursing education, and advanced clinical nursing practice.

Within the consortium arrangement, the curriculum encompasses the concept of specialization along the developmental life span of the human being. The program provides students with an opportunity to develop advanced skills and knowledge of clients with a variety of complex health care problems, while encouraging diversity in nursing functions and levels of intervention.

#### Purpose

The Master of Science in Nursing Program aims to prepare graduates that:

1. Acknowledge and demonstrate scholarship as an integral component of the chosen practice role.
2. Are able to translate and utilize research as a scientific basis for health policy and professional practice.
3. Accumulate and synthesize role and specialty specific information into a functional body of knowledge.
4. Use self-regulated thinking and sound judgement to shape personal, professional and organizational decisions.
5. Model professional behaviors, including involvement in professional organizations, engagement in lifelong learning, consumer advocacy and professional competency.
6. Create and maintain supportive and constructive relationships with health care consumers, members of the health care team and the community of interest.

The Master of Science in Nursing Program is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The NLNAC may be contacted at the following address: National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006, Telephone: (212) 363-5555 Ext. 153, Facsimile: (212) 812-0390, Web site: <http://www.nwlnac.org/>. Graduates are eligible to sit for national certification exams appropriate to their role specialty.

**Licensing and Credentialing Requirements:**

Completion of the program will prepare the graduate to practice as an advanced practice nurse or to teach at the undergraduate college level. Students who successfully complete the MSN curriculum for the nurse practitioner and the clinical nurse specialist roles meet educational requirements to take the following national certification examinations, and to apply for an advanced practice license:

- Nurse Practitioner Concentration: Adult Nurse Practitioner; or Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.
- Clinical Nurse Specialist: Medical Surgical Nursing; or Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing.

**Admission to the Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program**

The student may specialize and the student may select a functional area in nursing education, clinical nurse specialist, nurse practitioner roles, or nursing leadership/administration.

The MSN degree is offered as part of a consortium agreement with McNeese State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Students seeking admission to the Consortium must apply and pay appropriate fees at the institution at which the student plans to pursue the nursing major.

Students seeking admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program must meet all of the requirements for admission to the Graduate School. In addition, the student must meet the following requirements.

**A. Regular Admissions**

An Applicant must have:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing.
2. A minimum over-all grade point average of 2.7 on 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work including courses repeated and all courses counted toward the student's baccalaureate degree, as indicated by his/her transcript.
3. A minimum formula score of 1,200 ( $150 \times \text{GPA}$  on last 60 undergraduate hours + GRE General Test [verbal and quantitative] score). GRE scores must be on file by the end of the first semester of study.
4. Eligibility for unencumbered licensure as a Registered Nurse in Louisiana. Louisiana licensure must be obtained within one semester following admission to the program.
5. Completion of a course in introductory statistics with a minimum grade of "C", or equivalent.
6. Evidence of physical assessment skills.

The above are considered as minimum requirements. In addition, students must be accepted by the MSN Admissions and Retention committee, which will make its determination subsequent to the student's completion of 12 hours. Students are considered to be working on the Master of Science degree in Nursing only after being accepted by the committee and being admitted to the program.

**B. Conditional Status:**

An applicant who meets all requirements for admission to the master's degree program except the grade point average of 2.7 on all undergraduate work attempted may seek conditional admission status. For acceptance to conditional status the student must have a minimum of at least 1,100 on the formula score, with a minimum of 2.5 GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work attempted. To be removed from conditional

status the student must make a B or better in each graduate-level course in the first 12 hours. If a C is made, the student will be dismissed from the program. An applicant not having a minimum 2.5 GPA on upper division baccalaureate work will be requested to take additional undergraduate courses as a non-degree student to enable the applicant to be considered for conditional admission.

### **C. Admission and Progression Requirement for the Advanced Practice Role Concentration**

Admission to the advanced practice role concentration at MSU means that the MSN degree-seeking student is eligible to progress beyond the advanced practice core courses to the practicum courses and complete the program of study. Different requirements apply to post-MSN students. Applications for admission to the advanced practice role concentration occur during the semester in which the student is scheduled to complete the courses below.<sup>1</sup>

- NURS 600 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 cr. hrs.)
- NURS 602 Design and Methodology of Nursing Research (3 cr. hrs.)
- NURS 604 Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice (3 cr. hrs.)
- NURS 616 Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 cr. hrs.)
- NURS 606 Practicum for Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning (1 cr. hr.)
- NURS 617 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 cr. hrs.)
- NURS 618 Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 cr. hrs.)

#### **The following criteria will be considered for admission to the NP role:**

- Meet regular admission criteria to MSN program (formula score is considered),
- Cumulate Grade Point Average (GPA) rank in the MSN program,
- Cumulate GPA in the required advanced practice core courses: NURS 606, NURS 616, NURS 617, and NURS 618 (calculated after semester of completion),
- Written commitment to a full-time or part-time degree plan 2 as established by the MSU MSN program. For limited practicum slots, preference will be given to full-time students,
- Evidence of CPR, OSHA, Tb verification, malpractice insurance, and health insurance,
- Professional portfolio.

The Graduate Nursing Coordinator will notify students of the status of their application at the close of the semester in which they have applied, following calculation of final GPA. Once admitted to the NP role concentration, the student is expected to follow the full-time or part-time degree plan which becomes a part of their record. Students who do not follow their degree plan may lose a practicum slot and have to reapply to the role concentration.

<sup>1</sup>Application and acceptance to the MSU program of studies must have completed

<sup>2</sup>Full-time degree plans require from 7 to 10 cr. hrs. per semester; part-time degree plans require from 6 to 7 credit hours per semester.

### **D. Program Length**

The program is four to five semesters in length dependent upon which role is selected. Students who attend full-time may complete the program in two to two-and-a-half years, part-time students may complete the program within six years.

### **E. Non-Degree Status**

Registration of non-degree students in individual courses is subject to the prerequisites and requirements of the respective departments. Credits earned with a letter grade (A or B) while in non-degree status may be applied toward a degree upon approval of the student's advisor, the Dean of the major program, and the Graduate Dean, where applicable. Not more than twelve (12) semester hours of graduate work completed while in non-degree status may be applied toward a degree.

### **F. Retention and Progression Requirements**

1. A student must earn a "B" in each course in the program to be eligible for progression.
2. A student who earns a grade below "B" will be placed on probation and must repeat the course within two regular semesters and earn at least a "B". If a grade below "B" is earned in a subsequent course, the student will be dismissed.
3. A graduate student who makes a grade of "F" in any course taken for graduate credit, any undergraduate prerequisite, or any undergraduate course in his major field will be ineligible to register for further graduate work. A student who receives an "F" because of extenuating, nonacademic reasons may appeal to the Graduate Council for readmission to the Graduate School.
4. Any student dismissed for failure to meet academic standards may make appeal to the Dean of the College. If unsuccessful, a subsequent appeal must be made to the Graduate Council of the University in which he/she is enrolled.

### **Degree Requirements**

To earn the Master of Science in Nursing with a role concentration and a specialization, the student must:

- A. Complete all degree requirements including:
  - 1) A minimum of 39-42 credit hours for the Nurse Practitioner role.
  - 2) A minimum of 39-42 credit hours for the Clinical Nurse Specialist role.
  - 3) A minimum of 34 credit hours for the Nurse Educator role.
  - 4) A minimum of 35-38 credit hours for the Nurse Leader/Administrator role.
- B. Complete a Focused Clinical Research Project or a Thesis, and
- C. Maintain a 3.0 GPA at all times.

### Nursing, Master of Nursing

*The following courses are required for Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner students enrolling in the MSN program. Total Hours: 39-45.*

Core Requirements	
NURS 600, 602, 604	9
Advanced Core Requirements	
NURS 606	1
NURS 616, 617, 618	9
Specialty Concentration	
NURS 609 and 676, 677, 678 (17 hours) <i>OR</i> NURS 608, 609, and 642, 643, 678 (20 hours)	17-20
Focused Scholarly Project or Thesis	
NURS 695 <i>OR</i>	3
NURS 699	6

*The following courses are required for Nurse Educator students enrolling in the MSN program. Total Hours: 34.*

Core Requirements	
NURS 600, 602	6
Specialty Concentration	
NURS 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639	22
NURS 699: Thesis <b>OR</b>	6
NURS 695: Focused Scholarly Project <b>AND</b>	3
Elective	3

*The following courses are required for Nursing Leadership and Administration in Health Care. Total Hours: 35-38.*

Core Requirements	
NURS 600, 602	6
Specialty Concentration	
NURS 609, 646, 648, 649, 654, 655, 656, 658, 659	23
Focused Scholarly Project or Thesis	
NURS 695 <b>OR</b>	3
NURS 699	6