



Masters of Science in Nursing Curriculum Guide Course Descriptions

Core Courses (26 credits total)

N502 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice (3 credits)

Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice explores conceptual frameworks and theories relevant to the discipline of nursing. The role of theory in the generation of nursing knowledge is introduced. Selected nursing models/theories are critiqued. Health promotion and disease prevention will be addressed within the theoretical frameworks including concepts of holistic care, healthy lifestyle, self-care, risk reduction, and quality of life. Relevant theories and issues affecting successful human development are examined. The psychosocial and sociocultural lifespan influences on health will be discussed. Prerequisite: RN/BSN or Professional Nursing Concepts course or equivalent

N504 Health Care Organization and Management (4 credits)

Health Care Organization and Management examines local, regional, national, and global health care trends utilizing appropriate epidemiological principles. Students are introduced to the roles of the advanced practice nurse and examine the design, implementation, and management of care in a variety of health care systems. Cost analysis using information technology and the impact on healthcare services will be discussed. Administrative and organizational behavior will be examined in relation to population-based needs, economic, and reimbursement issues. Organizational and management theory are examined as they relate to nursing, strategic planning, management of the changing health care delivery system, program planning and evaluation, decision-making and change. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree.

P506 Nursing Ethics and Health Care Law and Policy (3 credits)

Nursing Ethics and Health Care Law and Policy will explore the moral imperative of professional nursing, emphasizing the legal and ethical decision making process in clinical practice, research, education, and management. Moral agency will guide issues related to human diversity, vulnerability, and spirituality. Prerequisite: N504 or consent of the Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

M512 Intermediate Statistics (3 credits)

Statistical tools for scientific research, including parametric and non-parametric methods for ANOVA and group comparisons, simple linear and multiple linear regression, and basic ideas of experimental design and analysis. Emphasis placed on the use of SPSS statistical package. Prerequisite: Undergraduate Statistics Course

N514 Principles of Nursing Research (3 credits)

Principles of Nursing Research provide students with the skills to analyze evaluate and synthesize health-related research and evidence-based practice reviews for the improvement of nursing practice. The student will use the research process to write a research proposal. Prerequisite: N502; RN with a bachelor's degree

N530 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology (4 credits)

Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology provides an in-depth foundation in understanding normal physiologic and pathologic mechanisms of disease to serve as a foundation for clinical assessment, decision making, and management. Lifespan variations are included. Prerequisite: R.N. with a bachelor's degree

Core Courses (26 credits total) (continued)..

N532 Advanced Health and Physical Assessment (3 credits [2 theory/1 lab])

Advanced Health and Physical Assessment develops advanced nursing assessment skills including the comprehensive history, physical, and psychological assessment, pathophysiologic changes, with emphasis on psychosocial and lifespan variations of the individual, family, and community. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

N534 Advanced Pharmacology (3 credits)

Advanced Pharmacology provides an understanding of the pharmacotherapeutics and pharmacokinetics of broad categories of pharmacologic agents. Specific rules, regulations and procedures involved with prescriptive authority will be reviewed. Students use case examples to practice the basic processes involved with prescribing medications for patients. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner (8 credits)

N533 Epidemiology in Health Prevention (3 credits)

Epidemiology in Health Prevention introduces students to the principles and methods of the design, conduct, and interpretation of epidemiological studies. Emphasis is placed on prevention of health problems based on these epidemiological findings. The use of genomic information and the impact on health deviations is also emphasized in this course. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

N535 Prescriptive Authority for Advanced Practice Nurses (1 credit)

Prescriptive Authority reviews the specific rules, regulations and procedures involved with APN prescriptive authority. Students use case examples to practice the basic processes involved with prescribing medication for patients. Prerequisite: Completion of core courses, N530, N532 or consent of Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research Corequisite: N534

N537 Professional Role Development (1 credit)

Professional Role Development is a seminar course that focuses on the advanced practice role. Current issues in the role will be discussed. Prerequisite: Completion of core courses/ specialty courses

N539 Differential Diagnoses and Disease Management (3 credits)

Differential Diagnoses and Disease Management will integrate previous learning into an application integrating patient history, chief complaints, and diagnostic results in planning client management. This course will incorporate case studies in building critical thinking needed for APN practice. Health deviations and appropriate management across the lifespan will be discussed. Management of common psychosocial disorders is also addressed. Prerequisite: N530

Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum (11 credits)

N550 A Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum I- Teacher/Coach (3 credits) 2/1

Students practice the CNS roles of patient, family, and staff educator and coach. Emphasis is on methods of teaching and evaluation of education outcomes. Prerequisite: completion of clinical core courses

N550 B Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum II-Practice (3 credits) 2/1

The Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum prepares nurses to develop a concentrated area of clinical knowledge. Students are mentored by an expert in their population of interest to focus on promoting the health of the population through theory and research-based interventions. Protocols for treatment decisions, referrals, and follow-up are used in the management of commonly encountered health deviations in the population.

Prerequisite: completion of previous practicum course

N550 C Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum III- Quality/Change Agent/Collaborator (3 credits) 2/1

Students emphasize the functions of quality control, change agent, and collaborator within the chosen area of specialty. Patient safety, quality care, and advocacy are emphasized. Prerequisite: completion of previous practicum courses

N550 D Clinical Nurse Specialist Practicum-Immersion (2 credits) 0/2

All of the functions of the CNS advanced practice role are performed within a chosen area of practice. Prerequisite: completion of previous practicum courses

Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (15 credits)

N556 A Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum I- Maternal/Newborn/Child (4 credits) 3/1

Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum I offers students clinical experience related to the family nurse practitioner role with focus on the maternal, newborn, and pediatric populations. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are incorporated; culturally sensitive care is emphasized. Prerequisite: completion of clinical core courses

N556 B Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum II- Adult (4 credits) 3/1

Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum II offers students clinical experience related to the family nurse practitioner role with focus on the adult population. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are incorporated; culturally sensitive care is emphasized. Prerequisite: completion of clinical core courses

N556 C Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum III- Aging (4 credits) 3/1

Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum III offers students clinical experience related to the family nurse practitioner role with focus on the aging population. Health promotion and disease prevention strategies are incorporated; culturally sensitive care is emphasized. Prerequisite: completion of clinical core courses

N556 D Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum IV- Immersion (3 credits) 1/2

Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum IV offers students the opportunity to practice the family nurse practitioner role with emphasis on life span primary and preventative advanced practice nursing care. This course will complete the clinical experience sequence. Prerequisite: completion of all previous practicum courses

Nurse Educator Courses (9 credits total)

N540 Instructional Strategies (3 credits)

Instructional Strategies provides an introduction to classroom and clinical teaching. This course utilizes principles of adult education to introduce and familiarize the nurse educator with the teaching/learning processes in patient education, staff development and nursing education. Various approaches and learning theories are explored. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

N542 Curriculum Theory and Development (3 credits)

Curriculum Theory and Development provides a knowledge base in curriculum development, including philosophical foundations and educational theories in nursing education. This course introduces the student to the evaluation and use of various educational applications of technology in curricular design. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

Nurse Educator Courses (9 credits total) (continued)

N544 Testing and Evaluation in Nursing Education (3 credits)

Testing and Evaluation in Nursing Education addresses assessment strategies to facilitate and determine student learning. This course gives the student practical and theoretical strategies for the preparation and application of measures and instruments. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

Nurse Educator Practicum (8 credits)

N558 A Nurse Educator Practicum I- Introduction to Teaching Practice (2 credits) 1/1

The student will teach in selected situations in academic and/or practice settings (patient education, staff development, or nursing education) according to their area of specialization. Functions emphasize the use of learning theories, teaching/learning strategies, program assessment and evaluation, and research significant to patient and nursing education within a clinical setting. Factors affecting learning and the learning environment will be emphasized. Prerequisite: Nursing Education Core or permission of the Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

N558 B Nurse Educator Practicum II-Academic Focus (2 credits) 1/1

Academic Focus emphasizes concepts of student instruction including classroom management, student assessment, and individual and class evaluation. Content will incorporate personal and environmental factors that impact learning including classroom setup, learning styles, setting boundaries, and classroom discipline. Individual and class evaluation is an important focus. Students will design, implement, and evaluate teaching strategies related to identified educational outcomes. Prerequisite: Nursing Education Core or permission of the Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

N558 C Nurse Educator Practicum III-Focus on Staff/Patient Education (2 credits) 1/1

Focus on Staff/Patient Education emphasizes the specific concepts of teaching/learning as applied to staff development and patient education roles. Education strategies and methods of evaluation will be emphasized. Prerequisite: Nursing Education Core or permission of the Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

N558 D Nurse Educator Practicum IV- Immersion in Nursing Education (2 credits) 0/2

Immersion in Nursing Education encompasses all of the practices expected of a nurse educator, teaching, clinical oversight of students, test development and analysis, and student and program assessment and evaluation. Prerequisite: Nursing Education Core, completion of N558 A, B, and C, or permission of the Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

Clinical Nurse Leader (7 credits)

N533 Epidemiology in Health Prevention (3 credits)

Epidemiology in Health Prevention introduces students to the principles and methods of the design, conduct, and interpretation of epidemiological studies. Emphasis is placed on prevention of health problems based on these epidemiological findings. The use of genomic information and the impact on health deviations is also emphasized in this course. Prerequisite: RN with a bachelor's degree

N536 Nursing Leadership in Client-Centered Healthcare (1 credit)

Nursing Leadership in Client-Centered Healthcare prepares the student for the role of the clinical nurse leader. Concepts of horizontal leadership, effective use of self, patient advocacy, and lateral integration of care will be introduced and competencies of the role examined. Emphasis is placed on clinical and financial outcomes and care environment management. Prerequisite: Completion of core courses or consent of Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

Clinical Nurse Leader (7 credits) (continued)

N539 Differential Diagnoses and Disease Management (3 credits)

Differential Diagnoses and Disease Management will integrate previous learning into an application integrating patient history, chief complaints, and diagnostic results in planning client management. This course will incorporate case studies in building critical thinking needed for APN practice. Health deviations and appropriate management across the lifespan will be discussed. Management of common psychosocial disorders is also addressed. Prerequisite: N530

Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum (10 credits)

N554 A Leadership in Practice (2 credits) 1/1

Leadership in Practice provides the student with the opportunity to practice horizontal leadership, effective use of self, advocacy, and lateral integration of care. Prerequisite: N536 and completion of all MSN course work or consent of Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research

N554 B Clinical Decision-Making (3 credits) 2/1

Clinical Decision-Making emphasizes the critical thinking skills that are utilized in problem identification, determination of strategies to resolve those problems, outcome measurement, and the basic processes in making clinical decisions that impact patients and health care. Prerequisite: Completion of all MSN course work, N536, N554 A or consent of Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research.

N554 C Immersion: Part 1 (2 credits) 1/1

This clinical immersion experience, Part 1, will provide the student with the opportunity to develop clinical delegation skills and coordinate plans of care for specific patient cohorts. The student will analyze clinical and cost outcomes that improve safety, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency, and quality of patient centered care. The student will work with clinical experts and mentors. Prerequisite: Completion of all MSN course work, N536, N554 A, N554 B or consent of Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research.

N554 D Immersion: Part 2 (3 credits) 1/2

This clinical immersion experience continues the practice and skills developed in N554C, Part 1. Part 2 will provide the student with the opportunity to improve clinical delegation skills and coordinate plans of care for specific patient cohorts. The student will analyze clinical and cost outcomes that improve safety, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency, and quality of patient centered care. Leadership modalities will be practiced within the healthcare and organization system. Prerequisite: Completion of all MSN course work, N536, N554 A, N554 B, N554 C or consent of Dean, Graduate Affairs and Research.

Master's Project (3 credits)

N578 Master's Project- Project Initiation (1 credit)

The master's project is an in-depth synthesis and analysis of a topic of significance to the nursing profession. This may include projects such as clinical investigations, integrative literature reviews, or evaluation projects. In the initiation phase of project development, the student will obtain approval for the project and complete a project proposal in conjunction with the project advisor. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core

N579 Master's Project- Project Development (1 credit)

During the development phase, the student will obtain appropriate IRB approval, complete the investigation/project, prepare a scholarly report, with ongoing evaluation and support from the project advisor and a project committee member chosen for their expertise and/or interest in the student project. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core

N580 Master's Project- Project Completion (1 credit)

During the completion phase, the student will submit the completed project, prepare and present a power point presentation of the project, develop handouts, and complete a poster presentation after approval by the project advisor, student project committee member, Dean and faculty of the Graduate Affairs department. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core

OR

Master's Thesis (5 credits)

N595 Master's Thesis: Initiation (1 credits)

The master's thesis is a systematic scientific inquiry into a problem or phenomenon significant to nursing. This course is an extension of knowledge acquired in the core courses of statistics and research in nursing. During this first phase of development, the student will identify the subject of study, obtain approval from the thesis advisor, and initiate a thesis proposal. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core

N596 Master's Thesis: Proposal Completion (1 credits)

During the proposal completion phase, the thesis proposal will be finalized with appropriate approval from the IRB, project advisor, thesis committee member, the Dean, and Graduate Affairs Committee members. A literature review will be initiated. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core; completion of N595.

N597 Master's Thesis: Thesis Development (1 credits)

During the thesis development phase, research methodologies will be finalized, tools developed, and methods implemented. The student will investigate the nursing research question using the research process. The literature review will be completed and the written scholarly document initiated with support from the thesis advisor and thesis committee member. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core; completion of N595 and N596.

N598 Master's Thesis: Data Analysis (1 credits)

During the data analysis phase, qualitative and/or quantitative data will be evaluated and conclusions determined; the scholarly document will be finalized with approval of the thesis advisor, thesis committee member, and the Dean, and Graduate Affairs Committee members. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core; completion of N595, N596, and N597.

N599 Master's Thesis: Completion (1 credits)

During the completion phase, the student will submit the completed thesis, prepare and present a power point presentation of the study, develop handouts, and complete a poster presentation after approval by the thesis advisor, thesis committee member, Dean, and faculty of the Graduate Affairs Committee members. Prerequisite: Nursing Core/ Specialty Core; completion of N595, N596, N597, and N598.