

# Master of Science in Nursing

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Prior to admission to any graduate program at Valdosta State University, applicants must first submit a completed application packet to the Graduate School. A completed application packet includes official transcripts from all institutions previously attended, official test scores (GRE or MAT), completed application form, fee, and any additional program requirements (listed below), submitted by the admission deadline. To be considered for the preferred term, all required materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than the close of business on the deadline. It is the responsibility of the applicant to allow adequate time for document submission and to ensure receipt of documents.

## Admission Deadlines

- Fall Deadline: July 15
- Spring Deadline November 15
- Summer Deadline: April 15

## Program Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program, an applicant must have:

1. graduated from a NLNAC-accredited or CCNE-accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.
2. a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 point scale.
3. minimum scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) of 400 (if taken before November 2011) or 146 (if taken after November 2011) on the verbal section and 3.5 on the analytical writing section. A Miller Analogies Test score of 400 or higher (or equivalent) will be accepted as an alternative to the GRE.
4. evidence of Georgia licensure as a registered nurse.
5. three letters of recommendation from persons whose observations of the applicant's character and abilities are current. Letters of recommendation must be accompanied by the required General Graduate Recommendation Form.

**NOTE:** Admission to regular graduate status requires completion of a graduate-level statistics course.

## Program Considerations for Probationary Status

Students must be recommended for Probationary status by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Graduate Faculty. To be reclassified as Regular status, probationary students must, at a minimum, maintain a 3.0 grade point average in the first 9 semester hours of graduate coursework and meet any and all contingencies and conditions set forth by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

## Program Retention, Dismissal, and Readmission Policies

1. Students must have documentation of current malpractice insurance of \$1,000,000/\$3,000,000.
2. Students must have documentation of current health and accident insurance.
3. Students must have documentation of current certification in American Heart Association Healthcare Provider CPR.
4. Students must maintain current licensure as a Registered Nurse in the State of Georgia.
5. Students must provide evidence of current health status:
  - a. Current physical examination (by a medical physician or nurse practitioner) on admission, affirming that they are free from communicable disease and able to function safely in a clinical environment.
  - b. Immunizations: Documentation must include but is not limited to MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), tetanus toxoid, varicella titer, hepatitis-B vaccination, and PPD tuberculin test as required by affiliating clinical agencies.
    - i MMR, serologic evidence of immunity or prior vaccination.
    - ii Tetanus toxoid must remain up to date during tenure in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The CDC recommendations for healthcare personnel are utilized by our clinical agencies. Adults who have completed a primary series of a tetanus/diphtheria-containing product (DTP, DTaP, DT, Td) should receive Td boosters every 10 years. Students younger than age 65 years with direct patient contact should be given a 1-time dose of Tdap, if Td booster is scheduled prior to admission or during tenure in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.
    - iii Varicella (chickenpox) requires serologic proof of immunity, prior vaccination, or documented history of varicella disease.
    - iv Hepatitis-B vaccination or proof of immunity (anti-HBs at least 10 mIU/ml) is required. Students who initiate the recommended series for admission must provide proof of maintaining scheduled 3-dose series (dose #1 now, #2 in 1 month, #3 approximately 5 months after #2).
    - v PPD (tuberculin skin test) is required annually or proof of a negative chest X-ray (every 5 years).
    - vi Influenza vaccine annually is recommended, but not required.
6. Students may be subject to background check and drug screening at any point during the program.
7. Students must have a minimum grade of "B" in all nursing courses.

8. Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all graduate courses.
9. Students receiving two grades of "C" or below ("D," "F," "WF," or "U") will be dismissed from the program.
10. If dismissed from the program, the student must wait a minimum of one calendar year and obtain approval from the academic department before applying for readmission. The academic program reserves the right to place specific conditions and contingencies on any offer of readmission. Readmission is not guaranteed, and prior academic performance and conduct in the program will be considered.
11. The maximum time allowed for completion of the master's degree is 7 calendar years. No work completed more than 7 years prior to degree completion will be accepted toward the degree, except with special permission from the student's major professor and the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and approval from the Dean of the Graduate School.
12. No more than 9 semester hours of academic work may be transferred from another institution into a master's-level graduate program. This credit must be documented in the form of an official transcript at the time of admission. Transfer credit will be evaluated after admission, by the academic department. To be eligible, credit must be no more than 7 years old prior to completion of the degree.

## Program Graduation Requirements

1. Students must complete an application for graduation one semester prior to their expected graduation date.
2. A 3.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA) is required for graduation. No grade below a "C" will be credited toward the degree.
3. Satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination.

## Requirements for the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Track

<b>Master Core</b>		<b>20</b>
NURS 7011	Statistical Applications in Nursing Research and Practice	3
NURS 7100	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 7101	Role Transition: Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice	2
NURS 7110	Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
NURS 7150	Nursing and Health Care Information Systems	2
NURS 7160	Health Care Delivery Systems, Economics, and Policy	2
NURS 7220	Advanced Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 7340	Advanced Nursing: Health Care across the Lifespan	3
<b>Clinical Core</b>		<b>7</b>
NURS 7200	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 7200L	Advanced Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 7230	Advanced Pharmacology	3
<b>AGNP Coursework</b>		<b>18</b>
NURS 7330	Acute and Self-limiting Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner	3
NURS 7330L	Acute & Self-limiting Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner Lab	3
NURS 7350	Chronic & Complex Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner	3
NURS 7350L	Chronic & Complex Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner Lab	3
NURS 7590	Nurse Practitioner Capstone	6
<b>Total Credit Hours Required for the Degree</b>		<b>45</b>
<b>Total Minimum Clinical Hours Required for the Degree</b>		<b>555</b>

## Requirements for the Family Nurse Practitioner Track

<b>Master Core</b>		<b>20</b>
NURS 7011	Statistical Applications in Nursing Research and Practice	3
NURS 7100	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 7101	Role Transition: Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice	2
NURS 7110	Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice	2
NURS 7150	Nursing and Health Care Information Systems	2
NURS 7160	Health Care Delivery Systems, Economics, and Policy	2
NURS 7220	Advanced Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 7340	Advanced Nursing: Health Care across the Lifespan	3
<b>Clinical Core</b>		<b>7</b>
NURS 7200	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 7200L	Advanced Health Assessment Practicum	1

NURS 7230	Advanced Pharmacology	3
<b>FNP Coursework</b>		<b>25</b>
NURS 7328	Advanced Nursing Care: Women's Health	2
NURS 7328L	Advanced Nursing Care: Women's Health Practicum	2
NURS 7329	Acute and Chronic Disease Management for the NP: Children and Adolescent Populations	3
NURS 7329L	Acute and Chronic Disease Management for the NP: Children and Adolescent Populations Practicum	2
NURS 7330	Acute and Self-limiting Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner	3
NURS 7330L	Acute & Self-limiting Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner Lab	3
NURS 7350	Chronic & Complex Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner	3
NURS 7350L	Chronic & Complex Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner Lab	3
NURS 7595	FNP Capstone Practicum	4
<b>Total Credit Hours Required for the Degree</b>		<b>52</b>

## Requirements for the Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Track

<b>Master Core</b>		<b>20</b>
NURS 7100	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 7011	Statistical Applications in Nursing Research and Practice	3
NURS 7150	Nursing and Health Care Information Systems	2
NURS 7160	Health Care Delivery Systems, Economics, and Policy	2
NURS 7200	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 7200L	Advanced Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 7220	Advanced Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS 7230	Advanced Pharmacology	3
<b>Adult Health Coursework</b>		<b>9</b>
NURS 7329	Acute and Chronic Disease Management for the NP: Children and Adolescent Populations	3
NURS 7330	Acute and Self-limiting Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner	3
NURS 7350	Chronic & Complex Disease Management for the Nurse Practitioner	3
<b>PMHN Nursing Coursework</b>		<b>24</b>
NURS 7250	Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice	3
NURS 7252	Family Systems and Group Process for Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing	3
NURS 7251	Advanced Psychopharmacology	2
NURS 7251L	Advanced Psychopharmacology Practicum	1
NURS 7348	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing for Individuals Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 7348L	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing for Individuals Across the Lifespan Practicum	3
NURS 7352	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing for Families and Groups Across the Lifespan	3
NURS 7352L	Advanced Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing for Families and Groups Across the Lifespan Practicum	3
NURS 7450	Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Role Synthesis	3
<b>Total Hours Required for the Degree</b>		<b>53</b>