

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

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The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers a program that leads to a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree.

Master's nursing education builds on baccalaureate nursing education and prepares nurses for specialized clinical roles. The M.S.N. program offers three clinical tracks: Advanced Nursing of Growing Families, Advanced Nursing of Adults, and Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing. Four role options are available to graduate students: Care Manager, Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, and Nurse Administrator. Graduate students must select one clinical track and one role option. The College offers a special curriculum for Registered Nurse applicants leading to the B.S.N. or to both the B.S.N. and M.S.N. Please contact the College directly for information about this accelerated curriculum. Both the bachelor's degree (B.S.N.) and the master's degree (M.S.N.) programs in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036. Telephone 202-887-6791; Fax 202-887-8476. Questions about accreditation status may be addressed to this organization.

All students take a common core before entering the clinical and role options. The common core includes pathophysiology, research, theory, and an issues seminar.

MSN Program Objectives

1. Synthesize knowledge from a variety of evidence (conceptual models and theories from nursing and related disciplines, practice wisdom, and ethics) in advanced nursing practice.
2. Employ scientific inquiry and other ways of knowing to validate, refine, and develop knowledge relevant to advanced nursing practice and the delivery of health care services.
3. Effect health policy and promote change through leadership, innovation, and management expertise.
4. Practice advanced nursing in collaborative relationships across disciplines and with communities.
5. Demonstrate health care informatics literacy within the context of advanced nursing practice.
6. Promote culturally competent systems that reflect the global context of health.
7. Implement strategies for ongoing personal and advanced professional development through professional involvement, lifelong learning, and fostering an appreciation for doctoral study.

Examples of Outcome Assessments

1. Each student must pass a comprehensive examination which tests communication, critical thinking, advanced discipline knowledge, and the ability to synthesize.
2. Each student must demonstrate application of theory, practice, knowledge, critical thinking, and problem solving by completion of a thesis or project.

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