

Master of Science in Nursing

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, 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: May 15

Spring Deadline September 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. evidence of a valid (current, unencumbered) nursing license.
4. 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.

Transfer Credit

Courses considered for transfer must:

1. be no more than 7 years of age at the time of admission, unless otherwise approved by the program;
2. be earned at an institution that is regionally accredited;
3. be graduate-level courses; and
4. not exceed specific program limitations on total number of hours.

All transfer requests are subject to approval by the Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research.

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, unencumbered nursing license.
5. Students must provide evidence of current health status:
 - a. Current physical examination (by a licensed health care provider) 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. The academic program reserves the right to place specific conditions and contingencies on any offer of readmission.
 10. The maximum time allowed for completion of the master's degree is 5 calendar years. No work completed more than 5 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 Associate Provost for Graduate Studies and Research.
 11. 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 Family Nurse Practitioner Track

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|------------|
| Master Core | | 14 |
| 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 |
| Clinical Core | | 8 |
| NURS 7200 | Advanced Health Assessment | 3 |
| NURS 7200L | Advanced Health Assessment Practicum | 2 |
| NURS 7230 | Advanced Pharmacology | 3 |
| FNP Coursework | | 28 |
| NURS 7328 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Women's Health | 3 |
| NURS 7328L | Advanced Practice Nursing: Women's Health Practicum | 2 |
| NURS 7329 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Pediatrics | 3 |
| NURS 7329L | Advanced Practice Nursing: Pediatrics Practicum | 2 |
| NURS 7330 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health I | 3 |
| NURS 7330L | Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health I: Practicum | 3 |
| NURS 7350 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health II | 3 |
| NURS 7350L | Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health II Practicum | 3 |
| NURS 7590 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Capstone | 6 |
| Total Hours Required for the Degree | | 50 |
| Total Minimum Clinical Hours Required for the Degree | | 715 |

Requirements for the Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Track

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| Master Core | | 20 |
| NURS 7100 | Advanced Pathophysiology | 3 |
| NURS 7101 | Role Transition: Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice | 2 |
| 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 |

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|---|--|------------|
| NURS 7200L | Advanced Health Assessment Practicum | 2 |
| NURS 7220 | Advanced Evidence-Based Practice | 3 |
| NURS 7230 | Advanced Pharmacology | 3 |
| Family Health Coursework | | 9 |
| NURS 7329 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Pediatrics | 3 |
| NURS 7330 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health I | 3 |
| NURS 7350 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health II | 3 |
| PMHN Nursing Coursework | | 27 |
| NURS 7250 | Theoretical Foundations for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practice | 3 |
| NURS 7252 | Psychiatric Mental Health Assessment Across the Lifespan | 4 |
| 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 7590 | Advanced Practice Nursing: Capstone | 6 |
| Total Hours Required for the Degree | | 57 |
| Total Minimum Clinical Hours Required for the Degree | | 675 |