

NURSING, MSN

Since its inception, the graduate program has sought out excellent nurses in pursuit of advanced nursing education. Baccalaureate-prepared nurses have the option of multiple concentrations in the Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) program: Nurse Administrator, Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, and Dual Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner. In addition, there is a postgraduate certificate program with Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner options. For the registered nurse (RN) who holds an associate degree in nursing and meets the required admission criteria, we offer an RN to BSN program with a pathway to the MSN program.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program will be considered on a competitive basis. The following are requirements for admission into all graduate level nursing programs, but a complete description of Graduate School Admission Criteria is found in the Graduate Catalog.

The graduate faculty of the Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) has identified the skills and professional behaviors that are essential to pursue a course of study and to practice in Nurse Administrator or Nurse Practitioner roles. These skills include but are not limited to the skills presented in *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011), a publication of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. If these skills and professional behaviors cannot be developed by the individual, either unassisted or with the dependable use of assistive devices, the faculty reserves the right to decline an individual's admission or to disenroll the student from clinical courses. A copy of *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011) is available upon request from the College's Program Records Office.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Admission Requirements for Nurse Administrator Concentration

Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the MSN Program will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are interested in the Nurse Administrator concentrations are encouraged to contact the Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison.

The following are requirements for admission:

- For regular admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
- For permission to continue admission, a grade point average of at least 2.5 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) for undergraduate work, and a score of at least 300 on the revised Graduate Record Exam (GRE) OR at least in the 40th percentile on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required.
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a school of nursing that is both regionally and CCNE or CNEA accredited.
- Current unencumbered RN licensure in the United States.
- Final admission is contingent upon drug and background screen results that are deemed acceptable by appropriate University officials.

Admission Requirements for Nurse Practitioner Concentrations

Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the MSN Program will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are interested in the Nurse Practitioner Concentrations are encouraged to contact the Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison.

Currently only residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia are eligible for the Nurse Practitioner concentrations.

The following are requirements for admission:

- For regular admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a school of nursing that is both regionally and CCNE or CNEA accredited.
- Current unencumbered RN licensure in the United States.
- Final admission is contingent upon drug and background screen results that are deemed acceptable by appropriate University officials.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Master's of Science in Nursing Program: Nurse Practitioner Concentrations

Click here [to view the states from which the Capstone College of Nursing currently accepts applications for admission.](#)

NOTE: Currently, only baccalaureate prepared registered nurses who are residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia are eligible for admission to Nurse Practitioner (NP) concentrations.

The Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) offers the online Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with specialization in the Dual Nurse Practitioner (NP) Concentration in Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner. This dual NP concentration prepares students to sit for both the Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) – across the lifespan and the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) national board certification exams. Single role concentrations in these NP specialties are also offered. The FNP concentration prepares students for certification as an FNP, and the PMHNP concentration prepares students for certification as a PMHNP – across the lifespan. Students complete coursework online and attend two on-campus sessions (one day each) during their program of study. Students are expected to find individual sites and preceptors; however, CCN will assist students with this process to secure a Clinical Affiliation Agreement with the healthcare agency.

Nurse Practitioners are health promotion and disease prevention experts who manage and diagnose common acute and chronic illnesses. Nurse Practitioners provide quality, safe, cost-effective care.* Nurse Practitioners teach and counsel individuals, families, and groups according to their practice specialty.*

Services provided by NPs include, assessing, diagnosing, treating, and managing patients' health care needs; "ordering, conducting, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests"; and prescribing "pharmacologic agents and non-pharmacologic therapies."** Graduates

are expected to practice according to state practice acts, and adhere to all regulatory requirements.*

Admissions

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Degree Requirements

The MSN degree will be awarded to the student who has met the following requirements:

- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Good standing at the time of graduation
- Successful completion of the required coursework
- Participate in orientation

Students may choose to complete a thesis as described below:

Thesis option

A thesis is original research conducted by one student and directed by a graduate committee. The student must register for six semester hours of thesis credit for a successfully completed thesis. An oral public defense of the thesis is required. The thesis must conform to the guidelines of the Graduate School.

Curriculum

The MSN Program with a Nurse Practitioner concentration can be completed in approximately two-three years.

MSN Program: Family Nurse Practitioner

Code and Title	Hours
NUR 500 Population Health	3
NUR 503 Nursing Informatics Healthcare	3
NUR 505 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 507 Org Systems Leadership	3
NUR 514 Research Evid-Based Practice	3
NUR 519 Health Policy & Finance	3
NUR 521 Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 529 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 567 FNP Role & Issues	3
NUR 569 Family Nurse Practitioner I	3
NUR 570 FNP Clinical I	3
NUR 571 Family Nurse Practitioner II	3
NUR 572 FNP Clinical II	3
NUR 573 Family Nurse Practitioner III	3
NUR 574 FNP Clinical III	3
Total Hours	45

Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the MSN Program will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are interested in the Nurse Practitioner Concentrations are encouraged to contact the Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison.

Currently only residents of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia are eligible for the Nurse Practitioner concentrations.

The following are requirements for admission:

- For regular admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a school of nursing that is both regionally and CCNE or CNEA accredited.
- Current unencumbered RN licensure in the United States.
- Final admission is contingent upon drug and background screen results that are deemed acceptable by appropriate University officials.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Dual Psychiatric Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner

Code and Title	Hours
NUR 500 Population Health	3
NUR 503 Nursing Informatics Healthcare	3
NUR 505 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 507 Org Systems Leadership	3
NUR 514 Research Evid-Based Practice	3
NUR 519 Health Policy & Finance	3
NUR 521 Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 529 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 567 FNP Role & Issues	3
NUR 569 Family Nurse Practitioner I	3
NUR 570 FNP Clinical I	3
NUR 571 Family Nurse Practitioner II	3
NUR 572 FNP Clinical II	3
NUR 573 Family Nurse Practitioner III	3
NUR 574 FNP Clinical III	3
NUR 591 PMHNP Roles and Issues	3
NUR 593 PMHNP I	3
NUR 594 PMHNP Clinical I	3
NUR 595 PMHNP II	3
NUR 596 PMHNP II Clinical	3
NUR 597 PMHNP III	3
NUR 598 PMHNP Clinical III	3
Total Hours	66

Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the MSN Program will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are interested in the Nurse Practitioner Concentrations are encouraged to contact the Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison.

The following are requirements for admission:

- For regular admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a school of nursing that is both regionally and CCNE or CNEA accredited.
- Current unencumbered RN licensure in the United States.
- Final admission is contingent upon drug and background screen results that are deemed acceptable by appropriate University officials.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Code and Title	Hours
NUR 500 Population Health	3
NUR 503 Nursing Informatics Healthcare	3
NUR 505 Advanced Health Assessment	3
NUR 507 Org Systems Leadership	3
NUR 514 Research Evid-Based Practice	3
NUR 519 Health Policy & Finance	3
NUR 521 Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 529 Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 591 PMHNP Roles and Issues	3
NUR 593 PMHNP I	3
NUR 594 PMHNP Clinical I	3
NUR 595 PMHNP II	3
NUR 596 PMHNP II Clinical	3
NUR 597 PMHNP III	3
NUR 598 PMHNP Clinical III	3
Total Hours	45

Master's of Science in Nursing: Nurse Administrator

Click here [to view the states from which the Capstone College of Nursing currently accepts applications for admission.](#)

The Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) offers the distance-based Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with all courses offered online. The Nurse Administrator (NA) program incorporates the AACN MSN Essentials and the AONE Nurse Executive Competencies.

Nurse administrators are licensed Registered Nurses (RNs) who have formal administrative and managerial positions within health care organizations. They oversee day-to-day and long-term operations for the provision of nursing care. These responsibilities may include managing budgets and human resources, coordinating the distribution of material assets, managing and developing strategic plans, and providing professional leadership. Nursing administration (NA) and management covers a diverse field of formal leadership from those who supervise individual units within a medical facility as front-line managers to higher-level nurse administrators and executives who oversee nursing operations for an entire hospital or healthcare organization.

Front-line nurse managers typically hold a bachelor's degree in addition to an RN license. A Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program and/or programs in business and healthcare administration may be necessary for career advancement in nursing management. The NA program uniquely prepares future nurse executives for the challenges of providing cost effective high quality patient care outcomes in a chaotic health care environment.

The MSN program of study for NA is offered as both full-time and part-time programs of study, with the part-time program being more suitable for working professionals. The NA program has a significant clinical/administrative component to support learning objectives. Overall, the program focuses on navigating the complexities of the American healthcare system, the challenges of managing personnel, budgeting, IT systems, and other resources in healthcare organizations, as well as professional political advocacy for nursing and quality patient care.

Note: This program requires a clinical/administration immersion component and it is the student's responsibility to identify a site with an appropriate clinical facilitator. Prior to the clinical/administrative immersion, the student will start the process of obtaining a CCN Letter of Agreement (LOA) or a Clinical Affiliation Contract with the agency. No clinical practice will take place until the student has been notified by CCN of approval.

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Degree Requirements

The MSN degree will be awarded to the student who has met the following requirements:

- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Good standing at the time of graduation
- Successful completion of the required coursework
- Participate in orientation

Students may choose to complete a thesis as described below:

Thesis option

A thesis is original research conducted by one student and directed by a graduate committee. The student must register for six semester hours of thesis credit for a successfully completed thesis. An oral public defense of the thesis is required. The thesis must conform to the guidelines of the Graduate School.

Curriculum

The MSN program with a Nurse Administrator concentration can be completed in one - two year.

Nurse Administrator

Code and Title	Hours
NUR 500 Population Health	3
NUR 503 Nursing Informatics Healthcare	3
NUR 507 Org Systems Leadership	3
NUR 514 Research Evid-Based Practice	3
NUR 519 Health Policy & Finance	3
NUR 549 Roles&Leadership Nursing Admin	3
NUR 550 Roles&Lead Nur Admin Practicum	3
NUR 551 US Healthcare Quality & Safety	3
NUR 552 US Health Care Qual&Safe Pract	3
NUR 553 Adv Fin & Strategic Plan in HC	3
NUR 554 Adv Fin&Strat Plan in HC Pract	3
Total Hours	33

RN/BSN Pathway to MSN (Phase Two)

Nurse Administrator	Hours
Summer 2	
NUR 503 Nursing Informatics in Healthcare	3
NUR 500 Population Health	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:	6
Fall 2	
NUR 549 Roles & Leadership in Nursing Administration	3
NUR 550 Roles & Leadership in Nursing Administration Practicum (180 clinical hours) ¹	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:	6

Spring 2

NUR 551	US Healthcare Systems and Quality & Safety	3
NUR 552	US Health Care Systems and Quality & Safety Practicum (180 clinical hours) ¹	3
NUR 599	Master's Thesis (Optional)	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	9

Summer 3

NUR 553	Advanced Financing and Strategic Planning in Health Care	3
NUR 554	Advanced Financing and Strategic Planning in Health Care Practicum (180 clinical hours) ¹	3
NUR 599	Master's Thesis (Optional)	3
	Credit Hours Subtotal:	9

Complete MSN requirements; MSN degree awarded

Total Hours		30
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Footnotes

¹ These courses require a field placement component and it is the student's responsibility to secure a site for the field placement.