

THE BREEN SCHOOL OF NURSING

Master of Science in Nursing Handbook

Ursuline  VALUES·VOICE·VISION

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Philosophy

The Breen School of Nursing exists to provide a unique educational experience. It supports and implements the philosophy and aims of Ursuline College, a Catholic liberal arts institution of higher learning. Through the integration of the Ursuline Studies Program and the nursing curriculum, nursing students will experience a value-based, holistic, collaborative, evolving education within a caring framework. The focus of the nursing program is reflected in its Christian context and principles of love, care, and concern. Nurses are taught to recognize the dignity, worth, and rights of all persons in the continuum of living and dying. Every individual is worthy of respect and of the best care available.

The person is a unified whole with physical, sociocultural, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual components. As a unique individual, each human being draws on personal resources, interaction with others and cultural values in a quest for health. The faculty recognizes the individual's dignity as exemplified by the Christian view of person as one endowed with reason and the freedom to develop a personal relationship with God. The individual has rights to freedom of choice, personal dignity, and equality of opportunity for achieving one's potential.

Nursing is a unique profession with core elements of caring, compassion, and competence. The discipline of nursing evolves from a theoretical foundation of knowledge, skills and attitudes drawn from the liberal arts and behavioral sciences. The nursing profession is continuously emerging as a result of nursing research and evidence based practice. Nursing, a scientific goal-oriented process, requires critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity. Professional nurses are prepared to function independently, interdependently, and collaboratively in a variety of settings.

Health care policy plays a significant role in global health. Nurses apply their knowledge and leadership skills in taking an active role in the development and implementation of positive health policies in society.

Education is a life-long, dynamic, intellectual, and social process of development toward self-actualization. The educator and student collaborate in the pursuit of academic excellence, life-long learning goals and professional acumen. Graduates of The Breen School of Nursing, Ursuline College, practice skills in an evolving, complex, and diverse health care environment. They apply knowledge and leadership skills to facilitate optimal health of populations through promotion, maintenance, and restoration of the health of individuals, families, and communities. The student graduates as a professional, competent, caring, and reflective nurse.

Graduate Education

Graduate education is a vital component of Ursuline College thus providing programs that prepare individuals for their lives as intellectuals and professionals thereby extending the mission of the college. Each program builds on a strong undergraduate foundation and provides for continued in-depth development in a selected area of study. Not only do they address the significant issues facing society today, the graduate programs at Ursuline College also prepare students for the visionary leadership that enables them to meet the challenges of the future.

Mission Statement of the MSN Program

Transforming the health of the community through reflection and healing interaction with individuals and organizations.

MSN Program Goals

1. The graduate will be a leader in nursing who will function in independent and interdependent roles as the colleague of other health professionals in a variety of settings.
2. The graduate will value healing interaction as central to practice by integrating the human experience of health/illness/healing.
3. The graduate will make decisions and take action based on an integration of a strong knowledge base, personal and professional values, and diverse cultural, religious, and spiritual and ethical perspectives.
4. The graduate will be an advocate for a just society including the promotion of high quality, cost-effective health care.

MSN Culminating Objectives

1. Utilize evidenced-based practice in meeting the health promotion, maintenance, and restoration needs of individuals, families, groups, systems and communities:
 - a. Complete comprehensive health assessments.
 - b. Formulate comprehensive lists of actual or potential health problems based upon data collected.
 - c. Develop an individualized plan of care to treat/manage actual or potential health problems.
 - d. Provide leadership in the implementation of the plan of care.
 - e. Evaluate patient outcomes and alter plan of care to meet set goals.
2. Create a caring relationship with a client that exemplifies respect for individual dignity and includes being present, supportive, and caring.
3. Utilize effective communication with patients, families, and colleagues in the role of the advanced practice nurse.
4. Explore and analyze the roles of the advanced practice nurse in the care of individuals, families, groups, systems, and communities to include:
 - a. Consultant
 - b. Educator
 - c. Administrator
 - d. Researcher
 - e. Advocate
5. Work collaboratively to provide resource management and quality care.
6. Analyze professional skills, roles, and contributions in terms of ethical issues.
7. Create an environment in which the spiritual and cultural nature of people is recognized, valued, and supported.

General

Description of the MSN Program

Ursuline College offers a Master of Science in Nursing in Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, in Primary Care, Family Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist. A subspecialty concentration in Palliative Care or Nursing Education may be added to any track. All tracks are presented in Ursuline's value-based framework and emphasize the clinical components of advanced practice nursing. Students in all tracks take the master's core courses to enhance critical thinking and problem solving and the advanced practice core to gain skills for and appreciation of direct patient care as an advanced practice nurse.

Admission to the Program

Admission to the graduate programs at Ursuline College assumes students understand that graduate work demands a commitment to scholarship, emphasizes research and creativity, and requires student initiative and responsibility.

Admission Requirements

To be considered for admission to the College, each candidate is required to meet the following criteria for graduate admission established by Ursuline College and the Breen School of Nursing:

1. Transcript verifying completion of an accredited baccalaureate program in nursing.
2. Evidence of ability to do graduate work as indicated by a 3.0 average shown on applicant's BSN transcript.
3. Three letters of recommendation attesting to the suitability (preferably from an APRN, former instructor and a work supervisor) of the applicant for graduate work in the particular program. Only two references are required for post-MSN applicants.
4. Completion of an interview with the Associate Dean of Graduate Nursing and/or graduate faculty may be required.
5. Current unencumbered licensure or eligibility for licensure as a registered nurse in Ohio.
6. A minimum of one year of work experience as an RN.

Admission Procedure

Application forms may be obtained from the Breen School of Nursing online at <https://www.ursuline.edu/academics/breen/msnapply.php>. The application form, fees, transcripts, and letters of recommendation are sent to the Breen School of Nursing by the application by the deadline posted on the website. Applicants will be notified of acceptance into the program by letter and will be expected to respond within 30 days of that letter of their intent to enroll in the program along with their anticipated program start semester.

International Students

The Breen School of Nursing requires original (untranslated) transcripts with diploma and state exam results. Official translations and evaluation are through The World Education Services (WES), P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY, 10113-0745 (phone: 212-966-6311).

MSN Requirements for Graduation

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree will be granted upon satisfactory completion of 39-43 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 3.0. This includes a minimum of 500 direct care clinical hours (depending on the track) and as required by the board certifying body under the supervision of an experienced advanced practice nurse or physician.

MSN Program Overview Specialty Tracks

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)

This advanced practice track prepares students to manage acute and chronic diseases of adult and geriatric patients. The student's use diagnostic reasoning and research based interventions to meet the needs of the adult patient and their families. The curriculum focuses on health promotion and disease prevention, and graduates are able to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Adult Nurse Practitioner Exam or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioner (AANP) Adult Nurse Practitioner examination. Graduates are employed as nurse practitioners in outpatient and inpatient settings.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

This NP track builds on the content from the Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner track and prepares students to provide primary health care to individuals and families across the life cycle. There is an emphasis on health maintenance, disease prevention, counseling and patient education. Graduates are able to sit for the ANCC Family Nurse Practitioner Exam or the AANP Family Nurse Practitioner Exam. The FNP is prepared to practice as family nurse practitioners in outpatient and inpatient settings.

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

This advanced practice track incorporates all the core courses of the MSN program with three specialty courses: Adult Health Management, Adult Disease Management, and Teaching and Evaluation. Graduates are prepared to assume roles as Clinical Nurses Specialists to integrate care across the continuum while working to continuously improve patient outcomes and nursing care. Graduate are prepared to take the AACN Adult Health clinical nurse specialist certification examination. The clinical nurse specialist is prepared to practice as an advanced practice nurse in the inpatient and outpatient settings and as a nurse educator.

Post Master's Certification

A post master's certificate in any of the tracks may be obtained by taking the specialty courses for the individual track along with and Health Promotion Maintenance and Restoration and Practicum (NR620/NR618) or (NR620/NR613). Documentation of completion of Advanced Physiology, Advanced Health Assessment, and Advanced Pharmacology is also required with transcripts from a MSN program. The required number of practicum hours will vary depending on the student's current specialty. Nurses who have already obtained a Master of Science in Nursing may take any of the courses offered and use the earned credit hours to meet education requirements.

Certificate of Completion

Family Nurse Practitioner

Any Advanced Practice Registered Nurse who wishes to expand their scope of practice may apply to the program as a post masters student and complete the course work to take the board certifying exam to become a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). The student's academic record will be reviewed to determine what course work and clinical hours are needed to meet eligibility requirements for board certification.

Subspecialties--Certificate of Completion

Education

This subspecialty track includes three courses in nursing education in curriculum, teaching/assessing and student teaching. Graduates are prepared to teach undergraduate nursing both in the classroom and in the clinical agency.

Palliative Care

This subspecialty focuses on care when a cure is no longer possible. It gives students an in-depth look at the physical, psycho/ social and spiritual needs and care of individuals and their families with serious illnesses. This subspecialty is one 4-credit course with 150 clinical hours.

Curriculum

The MSN curriculum is organized sequentially to allow students to gain knowledge, apply it and evaluate clinical practice outcomes. MSN students start fall or spring semester. The curriculum has a logical sequential order and is comprised of graduate core, advanced practice core and specialty core.

MSN Graduate Core (all students)

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 532	Introduction to Evidence Based Practice	3	
NR 533	Application of Evidence Based Practice	3	
NR 535	Health Care Informatics	2	
NR 540	Adv. Physiology/Pathology	3	
NR 541	Adv. Health Assessment	3	40 minimum
NR 542	Adv. Pharmacology	4	
NR 620	Health Promotion, Maintenance and Restoration	3	
NR 618	HPMR AGNP/FNP Practicum or 613 CNS	1	120 minimum
NR 650a	Health Care Policies	1	
NR 650b	Health Care Organizations and Finance	1	
NR 650c	Adv. Practice Ethical and Legal Responsibilities	1	
NR 650d	*Adv. Practice Roles and Responsibilities with Social Justice (Diversity) <i>Capstone Course</i>	2	*Includes culminating project
Subtotal for Core Courses		27	

**Capstone Course*

NR 650d Advanced Practice Roles and Responsibilities with Social Justice is the program capstone course, taken the last semester of the student's studies. It may be taken concurrently with a specialty course. Students have worked throughout the graduate nursing program to develop an area of expertise in an area of clinical importance to advanced practice nursing. Students highlight their graduate program work by presenting their topic at The Breen School of Nursing annual Graduate Nursing Colloquium.

Specialty Courses

Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 615	Adv. Diagnostics (concurrent with NR 616)	3	

NR 616	Diagnostics AGNP/FNP Practicum	1	120 minimum
NR 636	Adult-Gerontology Health Disease Management (concurrent with NR 617)	3	
NR 617	Adult-Gerontology Health AGNP/FNP Practicum	1	120 minimum
NR 635	Focused Populations: Gender Specific Health Issues, Geriatrics, and Adolescents (Concurrent with NR 619)	3	
NR 619	Focused Populations AGNP/FNP Practicum	1	120 minimum
Total Credits with Core Courses		39	

Family Nurse Practitioner

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 638	Adv. Pediatrics with clinical hours	4	150 minimum
Total Credits with Core Courses and + AGNP Required Courses		43	

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 601	Adult-Gerontology Health Management (concurrent with NR 611)	3	
NR 611	Adult-Gerontology Health Management Practicum	1	120 minimum
NR 636	Adult-Gerontology Health Disease Management (Concurrent with NR 612)		
NR 612	Adult-Gerontology Health Disease Management Practicum	1	120 minimum
NR 640	Teaching and Evaluation (Concurrent with NR 614)	3	
NR 614	Teaching and Evaluation Practicum		120 minimum
Total Credits with Core Courses		39	

Subspecialties

Palliative Care Subspecialty

The Palliative Care subspecialty is offered to students or APRNs preparing for the advanced practice role (NP or CNS) in hospice and palliative care. Students must document completion of advanced practice Core Courses (Adv. Physiology, Adv. Health Assessment, and Adv. Pharmacology).

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 633	Foundations of Palliative Care with clinical hours	4	150

Nursing Education Subspecialty

The Nursing Education subspecialty is offered for students preparing to be an Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, Family Nurse Practitioner, or Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 639	Curriculum	3	
NR 640	Teaching and Evaluation	3	
NR 641	Teaching Practicum	3	
Total Education Credits/Hours		9	250

Faculty-Program Administration

Associate Dean

The Associate Dean of the Graduate Nursing Program manages the development and implementation of the Graduate Program.

The Graduate Nursing Committee (GNC)

The GNC Committee oversees admissions to the program; development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum; attention to student issues and concerns, and student progression and retention. The Committee is made up of the faculty teaching in the Graduate Program plus student representative from each program track with each level of the graduate nursing program being represented. Subcommittees of the GNC include the Assessment & Evaluation (AEC) Committee, the MSN Curriculum Committee, and the MSN Practicum and Mentoring Committee.

MSN Faculty

MSN faculty are certified and qualified for the specific area of teaching. By utilizing a mix of a full time and adjunct instructor, the program is diverse and maintains excellence.

Communication

All students will be assigned an e-mail address. Students are required to check for messages on a regular basis. Ongoing program announcements are communicated through the Ursuline College e-mail system.

General Policies

Graduate students follow the general college-wide policies as outlined in the Graduate Studies Catalog and the academic policies outlined in this bulletin. Each student is responsible for being thoroughly familiar with all policies and procedures as well as the requirements of the individual degree program. Questions about requirements or procedures should be addressed to her/his academic advisor. Policies and procedures for graduate studies are intended to insure the integrity of the degree granted, to facilitate the student's progress toward the degree, and to prevent delays and misunderstandings. Students must achieve a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to receive a graduate degree. During the program, GPAs are assessed and students are notified if their GPA falls below 3.0. Students are required to successfully achieve a grade higher than a C or an overall course percentage of 85%, B-) for all APN required courses. These courses include: NR 540 Advanced Pathophysiology, NR 541 Advanced Health Assessment, NR 542 Advanced Pharmacology, NR 615 Advanced Diagnostics, NR 636 Adult Health Management, NR 620 Health Promotion, Maintenance and Restoration, NR 635 Focused Populations, and NR 638 Advanced Pediatrics. Students may retake a course that a grade lower than a B- was earned one time. The assigned academic advisor and/or associate dean will assist students with academic difficulties.

Academic Policies and Procedures	
Course Cancellation	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Nondiscrimination Policies	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Petitions for Exceptions to Policies and Requirements	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Advising	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Academic Load	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Standards of Work	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Academic Support and Disability Services	See the Graduate Studies Catalog
Academic Appeals	See the Graduate Studies Catalog

Practicum Placements

Practicum Policies

Students begin practicum during the NR 541: Advanced Health Assessment course. Students meet with their assigned clinical instructor to collaboratively plan experiences based on the student's professional goals and the practicum & didactic course objectives. Students complete practicum hours with agencies which Ursuline College has written clinical contracts. If a student would like a practicum experience with an agency that Ursuline College does not have a contract, the student must contact his/her instructor or the Associate Dean of Graduate Nursing to initiate a contract. For each placement, students are required to complete a Letter of Agreement with his/her preceptor; complete a clinical calendar; document patient encounters in the practicum clinical log; and submit an evaluation from his/her preceptor. Each placement must be pre-approved by clinical coordinator/ clinical instructor. Detailed clinical hour requirements are included in the clinical practicum course instructional materials. Clinical instructors are all certified in their area of practice and are assigned to each student to evaluate clinical experience progress and identify clinical experiences required to meet Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) competencies.

Practicum Hours

The practicum experience, a minimum of 500 direct clinical hours in adult-gerontology primary care and an additional 150 direct advanced pediatric clinical hours are part of a required 4-credit practicum

course for FNP. Students register for clinical management courses while they take each of their advanced practice courses. Each practicum course involves the completion of a minimum of 120 clinical hours to ensure completion of the minimum 500 direct clinical hours for the adult- gerontology populations. To complete the program, students may be required to complete additional clinical hours if the need for additional skill development is documented by clinical preceptors and clinical instructors.

Students enrolled in the Education Track have teaching practicum hours in NR 639 and NR 640 and student teach in NR 641. Students complete 250 teaching practicum hours.

Professional Clinical Responsibilities

Before beginning any clinical hours/practicum experience students must provide evidence of the following to the graduate nursing office for inclusion in the student academic record:

- Students must hold a current RN license for the State of Ohio.
- Students must carry their own health care insurance
- Students must hold current certification in CPR. The level of this certification must be at least BLS for Health Care Providers
- PPD or QuantiFERON is required
- MMR immunization or (documentation of two vaccinations if born after 1956).
- Hepatitis B Vaccine or Waiver is required.
- Diphtheria-Tetanus (every 10 yrs.)
- VZV (Varicella Zoster Virus) vaccine or history
- Flu shot (in season) – date and facility where you received your most recent one
- NEONI Annual Exam (OSHA, HIPPA)
- Students are required to have FBI and BCII Background (fingerprint) Check upon entering the graduate program.
- Compliance with any future tests required by health-care facilities

Students may be asked to meet additional agency specific orientation requirements. Students must read facility policies and procedures before performing any procedures during clinical experiences at all clinical sites.

Ursuline College provides the students with professional liability insurance. Students are billed for this insurance annually.

MSN Student Involvement in Committees and Organizations

Student Representation on MSN Committee

The chair will select at least one student representative from each level of the MSN program with input from other committee members. Students may volunteer to serve on committees as desired. Duration of membership will be a one year appointment with renewal possible. Students will also be asked to serve on advisory subcommittees as needed throughout each academic.

Sigma Theta Tau International

Sigma Theta Tau International is an Honor Society for nurse leaders, scholars and researchers. Founded in 1922 at Indiana University, it currently has chapters at more than 400 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Taiwan, South Korea, and Australia. Membership in the Society is awarded to bachelors, masters and doctoral candidates who achieve high scholastic averages and who have potential for leadership, and to nurses who meet criteria as community leaders. The honor society is committed to improving the health of the public by advancing nursing science. Membership is a lifetime honor and active members work for the continued advancement of

professional nursing. Iota Psi Chapter at Ursuline College was chartered in 1988.