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 evolved 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.

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, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist. A subspecialty concentration in Palliative Care or Nursing Education may be added to any track. MSN Leadership Track is for nurses wishing to work in advanced nursing leadership roles. 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 requested
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. RN experience should be within two years of applying for the graduate program.

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 39-45 semester hours with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

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 Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP)

This advanced practice track prepares students to manage adolescent , adult, and geriatric patients in any setting in which patient care requirements include complex monitoring and therapies, high-intensity nursing intervention, or continuous nursing vigilance within the range of high-acuity care. Coursework, clinical experience, and research utilization provide students with the knowledge, values, and skills necessary for advanced practice nursing roles. In order to be eligible for Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program, students must have one year of full-time work experience in an acute care setting prior to beginning the clinical courses. Graduates of the program are eligible for certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Critical Care Nurses as Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioners.

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (ACNS)

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.

MSN Leadership Track

This advanced nursing track is to prepare nurses with advanced leadership skills in systems management, evidence-based practice integration, financial management with cost containment, and ongoing quality and safety monitoring. Graduate nursing courses are presented in Ursuline's value–based framework and emphasize the critical components of advanced nursing practice. All students enrolled in the program take selected master's core courses to enhance clinical reasoning and utilize evidence-based practice. Through the course work and clinical experiences completed, students develop the knowledge and skills to become nursing leaders with advanced skills in systems and management.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Track

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) is educationally prepared to provide the full range of psychiatric services, including the delivery of primary mental health care services, as delineated in the competencies. The competencies include the terms "mental health "and psychiatric disorders. Psychiatric disorders are those commonly agreed upon diagnoses based on DSM-IV-TR and ICD-9 taxonomies. Mental health problems include symptoms and issues which do not fully meet the criteria for a psychiatric disorder but may compromise functioning and impact mental health. Because substance-related disorders are one of the DSM-IV-TR Axis I diagnoses, they have been included as a psychiatric disorder.

Post Graduate Certificates

A post-graduate certificate in any of the tracks may be obtained by taking the specialty courses for the individual track along with 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 an 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.

Post Graduate Certificate: Emergency Nurse Practitioner

The Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) track equips Family Nurse Practitioners with specialized skills to manage urgent and emergent care needs across the lifespan in dynamic emergency settings. ENPs provide comprehensive care to patients of all ages, including those with acute and life-threatening conditions, requiring rapid decision-making, diagnostic interpretation, and complex interventions. This program emphasizes the assessment, stabilization, and management of diverse emergency conditions to prevent complications and optimize patient outcomes. Students will develop expertise in handling high-acuity scenarios and performing critical procedures specific to emergency care. Enrollment in this track requires completion of a Family Nurse Practitioner program.

Fall (*August – December*)	Spring (*January – May*)

NR 644: Acute Care Management, 200 clinical hours (5 credits)	**NR 645:** Focused Populations in Acute Care, 200 clinical hours (5 credits)
NR 646: Pediatric Emergency Management (2 credits)	**NR 647:** Professional Practice in Emergency Care (2 credit)
NR 650c: Advanced Practice Ethical & Legal (1 credit)	

15 credit hours

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner: PMHNP

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) is educationally prepared to provide the full range of psychiatric services, including the delivery of primary mental health care services, as delineated in the competencies. The competencies include the terms "mental health "and psychiatric disorders. Psychiatric disorders are those commonly agreed upon diagnoses based on DSM-IV-TR and ICD-9 taxonomies. Mental health problems include symptoms and issues which do not fully meet the criteria for a psychiatric disorder but may compromise functioning and impact mental health. Because substance-related disorders are one of the DSM-IV-TR Axis I diagnoses, they have been included as a psychiatric disorder. (Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Competencies, 2003). Students admitted to this track will be post graduates Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) who wish to add this certification. A minimum of 1 year of experience working as an Advanced Practice Nurse (APRN) such as: Clinical Nurse Specialist, Adult-Gerontology or Adult Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is required for admission to this post graduates PMHNP track.

 By adding this certification, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) will be prepared to effectively care for patients with complex psychiatric and physical health needs. Behavioral health issues are a huge concern in today's population.

This program will also provide the APRN with the advanced psychiatric skills of therapy, psychiatric medication prescription, and clinical management needed to treat underserved patients with mental illness and chronic medical comorbidities.

Graduates are prepared to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) certification. This exam tests knowledge and skill related to psychiatric advanced practice across the lifespan. The PMHNP track was developed with input from several Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioners and was developed using the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties 2003 Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Competencies and the 2015 Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Board Certification test content Outline.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)-Post Graduate Certificate

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
NR 670 Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology across the Lifespan (3 credits)	NR 672 Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Adults Practicum 175 hours minimum (5 credits)	NR 673 Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Children Practicum 175 hours minimum (5 credits)
NR 671 Systems Interventions for Individuals and Groups with Practicum 150 hours Minimum (3 credits)		
6 credits	5 credits	5 credits
		Total Credits 16

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Track

	Fall *August-December* *(or 1ˢᵗ Semester of Program)*	Spring *January-May*	Summer *May-August*
Level 1	**NR 532**: Introduction to Evidence-based Practice (3) **NR 540**: Advanced Physiology/Pathology (3)	**NR 533**: Application of Evidence-based Practice (3) **NR 541**: Advanced Health Assessment (3) *Or* **NR 542**: Advanced Pharmacology (4)	**NR 535**: Health Care Informatics (2) **NR 541**: Advanced Health Assessment (3) *Or* **NR 542**: Advanced Pharmacology (4)

Level 2	NR 670: Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology across the Lifespan (3) NR 620: Health Promotion, Maintenance and Restoration (3) NR 650a: Health Care Policies (1)	NR672: Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Adults Practicum (175 hours minimum) (5) NR 650b: Health Care Organizations and Finance (1)	NR 673 Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Children Practicum (175 hours Minimum) (5) NR 650c: Advanced Practice Ethical and Legal Responsibilities (1)
Level 3	NR 671: Systems Interventions for Individuals and Groups with Practicum 150 hours Minimum (3) NR 650d: Advanced Practice Roles and Responsibilities with Social Justice (Diversity) (2)		

Subspecialties--Certificate of Completion

Nursing 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 636	Adult Health Management	3	
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) *Capstone Course*	2	*Includes culminating. project
	Subtotal for Core Courses	**29**	

Culminating 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 Track Courses

Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 615	Adv. Diagnostics (concurrent with NR 616)	3	
NR 616	Diagnostics AGNP/FNP Practicum	1	130 minimum
NR 617	Adult-Gerontology Health AGNP/FNP Practicum	1	130 minimum
NR 618	HPMR AGNP/FNP Practicum	1	130 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	130 minimum
	Total Credits with Core Courses	**39**	

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

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

Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 644	Acute Care Management	5	200 minimum
NR 645	Focused Populations for Acute Care Practitioners	5	200 Minimum
	NR 616, NR 617, NR 618, NR 615	6	
	Total Credits with Core Courses and + AGNP Required Courses	**45**	

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	130 minimum
NR 612	Adult-Gerontology Health Disease Management Practicum (Concurrent with NR 636	1	130 minimum
NR 613	NPMR Practicum (Concurrent with NR 620)	1	130 minimum
NR 640	Teaching and Evaluation (Concurrent with NR 614)	3	
NR 614	Teaching and Evaluation Practicum		130 minimum
	Total Credits with Core Courses	**39**	

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner across the Life Span

Course Number	Course Title	Credits	Clinical Hours
NR 670	Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology	3	0
NR 671	Systems Interventions for Group and Individuals.	3	150
NR 672	Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Adults	5	175
NR 673	Psychiatric Diagnosis and Management of Children	5	175

Total Credits with Core Courses 45

MSN Leadership Track Curriculum

Course #	Course Title	Credits
NR 532	Introduction to Evidence–Based Practice	3
NR 533	Application of Evidence–Based Practice	3
MBA 554	Project Management	5
MBA 501	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence with Leadership Practicum	4
MBA 607	Interdisciplinary Organizational Leadership with Practicum	4
NR 547	Population Health in a Global Society	3
NR 548	Healthcare Innovations and Quality Improvement	3
NR 535	Health Care Informatics	
NR 650a	Health Care Policies/Managing Health Service Organizations	3
NR 650b/MBA 507	Health Care Organizations and Finance/Economics and Finance in Health Services Management	3
NR 650c/MBA 634	Ethical and Legal Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice Ethical and Legal Issues in Health Services	3
NR 650d	Advanced Practice Roles and Responsibilities with Social Justice (Diversity) with a culminating project	2
NR 651	Synthesis of Advanced Nursing Practice Leadership Practicum (Total 250 Leadership Practicum Hours at completion of course)	3

Subtotal credits for core courses = 39

Master syllabi have been created for these courses referencing the AACN MSN Essentials as well as the American Nursing Credentialing Centers Nurse Executive, Advanced Board Certification test outline and authoritative texts reference list. The practicum hours required in the curriculum prepare the student for the Nurse Executive exam and also enable the student to use those hours when advancing to a Doctor of Nursing Practice Program.

The blended MBA/MSN courses will offer students an opportunity to learn in an interprofessional learning environment and thus enhance their preparation for practice in the interprofessional/team environment.

MSN in Nursing with MBA Curriculum

Course #	Course Title	Credits
NR 532	Introduction to Evidence–Based Practice	3

NR 533	Application of Evidence–Based Practice	3
MBA 554	Project Management	5
MBA 501	Leadership & Emotional Intelligence with Leadership Practicum	4
MBA 506	Marketing Strategy: Global & Domestic	3
MBA 512	Managerial Economics	3
MBA 612	HR Strategy, Planning, and Development	3
MBA 607 or NR 707	Interdisciplinary Organizational Leadership with Practicum	4
MBA 651	Strategic Management & Global Dynamics	3
MBA 669	Entrepreneurial Leadership & New Venture Creation	3
NR 547	Population Health in a Global Society	3
NR 548	Healthcare Innovations and Quality Improvement	3
NR 535	Health Care Informatics	
NR 650a/NR 706	Health Care Policies/Managing Health Service Organizations	3
NR 650b/MBA 507	Health Care Organizations and Finance/Economics and Finance in Health Services Management	3
NR 650c/MBA 634	Ethical and Legal Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice Ethical and Legal Issues in Health Services	3
NR 650d	Advanced Practice Roles and Responsibilities with Social Justice (Diversity) with a culminating project	2
NR 651	Synthesis of Advanced Nursing Practice Leadership Practicum (Total 250 Leadership Practicum Hours at completion of course)	3

Subtotal credits for core courses = 54

Students complete 5 additional MBA Courses (15 credits) to earn an MBA in addition to the MSN.

> **MBA 506** Marketing Strategy: Global & Domestic (3 credits)
> **MBA 669** Entrepreneurial Leadership & New Venture Creation (3 credits)
> **MBA 512** Economics (3 credits)
> **MBA 612** Human Resources (3 credits)
> **MBA 651** Strategic Management & Global Dynamics (Capstone) (3 credits)

MSN Leadership -DNP Bridge Courses

Students who wish to continue with their course work to pursue the DNP may take two DNP courses in the MSN Leadership track. The courses that are identified as DNP bridge courses are listed next:

NR 709: Evaluation Strategies for Quality Improvement (DNP) can be taken in place of NR 548 Health Care Innovations and Quality Improvement (MSN).

NR 706: Advanced Health Care Management & Policy (DNP)

NR 707: Interdisciplinary Organizational Leadership (DNP) can be taken in place of MBA 607

The course delivery methods for the MSN Leadership track permit the students to take the courses via the Desire 2 Learn/ online learning mode and as requested some courses can also be taken with other MSN students in the face-to-face classroom. The following MSN Leadership curriculum plan details the sequence of the courses.

MSN Bridge is also offered for any students desiring to also complete their DNP. The MSN degree will be offered upon completion of MSN degree requirements. The DNP degree will be achieved upon completion of all DNP requirements.

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. 250 Teaching Practicum hours required along with the following courses

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

Post Graduate Certificates for APRNs

Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP)

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
NR 644	Acute Care Management, Practicum 200 hours minimum	5
NR 646:	Pediatric Emergency Management	2
NR 650c:	Advanced Practice Ethical & Legal	1

NR 645   Focused Populations in Acute Care

            Practicum hours: 200 hours minimum   5

NR 647   Professional Practice in Emergency Care   2

            Total Minimum 500 direct clinical hours 15 credit hours

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
NR 670	Neurobiology and Psychopharmacology across the Lifespan	3
NR 671	Systems Interventions for Individuals and Groups with Practicum 150 hours Minimum (3 credits)	3
NR 672	Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Adults Practicum with 175 hours Minimum (5 credits)	5
NR 673	Psychiatric Diagnostics and Management of Children Practicum 175 hours Minimum (5 credits)	5

          Total Minimum 500 direct clinical hours 16 credit hours

Palliative Care

NR 633 Foundations of Palliative Care . (4 credits)
     Required 175 clinical hours

NR 632 Advanced Pharmacology in Palliative Care (2 credits)
     Required 175 clinical hours

NR 634 Program Development and Palliative Care Leadership (2 Credits)
     Required 150 clinical hours

Total Hospice& Palliative Care hours 500

Total Palliative Care Credits 8

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 representatives 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. The Nurse Anesthesia Executive Committee (NAEC) oversees the Nurse Anesthesia Track in the DNP and also reports to the GNC.

MSN Faculty

MSN faculty are certified and qualified for the specific area of teaching. By utilizing a mix of full-time and adjunct instructors, 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 ensure 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 required master's courses. Graduate nursing students must retake any course in which a grade lower than a B- was earned. Students may retake a course once. Students may retake up to 2 graduate nursing courses. Students who receive a B- or lower in a NP track course must also retake the associated practicum course. Students retaking the associated practicum course will be required to complete a minimum of 80 clinical hours for this clinical course but may be required to complete additional clinical hours to complete a minimum of 130 clinical hours. Clinical hours completed prior to retaking the practicum course may be applied to the 130 minimum clinical hours required. Students who do not complete the required 130 minimum clinical hours in a practicum course will be given an Incomplete, (I) grade. Failure to complete the practicum course in the following semester may result in a no credit for the practicum course and the student will be required to retake the practicum course to complete the program.

Please refer to the graduate studies catalog for further information on academic policies for graduate studies. Each student will receive an academic advisor. 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

Testing Procedures

This policy applies to examinations or quizzes administered in the graduate nursing program at Ursuline College. Course examinations must be taken on the scheduled dates and times. A medical excuse is required to take a course examination on an alternative date.

For examinations or quizzes administered in the classroom:

Before beginning a course examination in the classroom, all personal belongings should be placed in a secure area outside the room, or an area designated by the instructor/proctor. A blank sheet of paper is provided by the course instructor, and a pen or pencil is permitted to be used by the student during the exam. The student will be required to turn in the blank sheet of paper to the exam proctor after completing the examination. The student is required to use a laptop computer that has the lockdown browser loaded on the computer.

During the exam, 1) brimmed hats (e.g., baseball hats) should be worn backward (or not at all); 2) any other hat or headgear worn should allow for observation of the ears, unless worn for religious purposes; 3) no sunglasses or mirrored glasses may be worn; 4) any electronic devices, unless used for medical purposes, must be left with personal belongings and must be set to operate in "silent" mode; 4) there must be an empty seat between each student. Only college-approved calculators (without covers) may be used for exams.

Students will receive feedback on the examination from the instructor when all students have completed the examination for this course. This feedback may be an overview of questions missed with a discussion of how to arrive at the correct response for future testing. Students are not permitted to share examination questions with other students. Students are not permitted to write down questions from an examination or copy the examination questions in any other manner.

For Examinations administered in an Online Courses

All students must have both a webcam and a lockdown browser loaded on their computer to take course examinations off campus. If this is not possible, the student will need to make an appointment to complete the examination at Ursuline College in the Graduate Nursing office

during the examination period.

All students are required to have a reliable internet connection to take course examinations at home. This must be confirmed before initiating the testing process off campus. The online testing environment should mimic the "in class" testing environment and must conform to the following: a quiet, secure, fully lighted room for the examination; no other people in the room; no leaving the room; desk or table with nothing except computer on the desktop or tabletop (removal of all books, papers, notebooks, or other material, unless specifically permitted in written guidelines for a particular examination); no drinks or food permitted while taking the exam; no use of cell phone for any reason other than to contact or support your instructor; no brimmed hats (e.g. baseball hats) should be worn backward (or not at all); any other hat or headgear worn should allow for observation of the ears unless worn for religious purposes; no sunglasses or mirrored lenses may be worn.

Classroom Policy

Cell phones: Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class. Personal use is only allowed in an emergency or during a break. Cell phones are not permitted in class for any reason at any time unless you have consulted with the course instructor. No text messaging during class. Students using a cell phone during class will be marked absent. Do not use a laptop in class unless you use it to take notes. Photos or video may not be taken in class without prior permission. There will be some class sessions where we will use technology together.

Academic Integrity

Ursuline College expects that all coursework will be fairly and honestly completed by the student. Testing violations occur when students do not do their own work on exams or quizzes. Plagiarism involves taking and presenting as one's own the ideas or words of another, whether written or not, without full and proper credit to the source, regardless of whether it is done consciously or inadvertently. Fabrication occurs when students make up or manipulate information to complete an academic assignment. Other violations of academic integrity include forging documents, records, or signatures; falsifying grades; destroying, hiding, and improperly removing library materials for the purpose of denying others access to them; and misrepresentations of academic information to college officials. The link to the current academic policy is provided in the syllabus each semester for easy access to the most current policies related to academic integrity.

Practicum Placements

Practicum Policies

Students begin clinical hours during the NR 615: Advanced Diagnostic's 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 must have complete health records before any clinical experiences can begin.

Students' complete practicum hours with agencies at which Ursuline College has written clinical affiliate agreements. If a student would like a practicum experience with an agency that Ursuline College does not have an affiliate agreement, the student must contact the NP program coordinator or the Associate Dean of Graduate Nursing to discuss this request. An affiliate agreement may take several weeks to obtain so that it is imperative that students request these agreements several weeks before the intended clinical experience.

For each clinical placement, students are required to complete a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with his/her preceptor; a detailed clinical calendar, document patient encounters in the practicum clinical log provided in the practicum course and complete a preceptor evaluation with the assigned preceptor and clinical instructor. These completed forms are required to be signed with original copies in the student's clinical record before a grade can be issued for a practicum course.

Each placement must be pre-approved by NP program coordinator. Detailed clinical hour requirements are included in the clinical practicum course instructional materials. Clinical instructors are 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 520 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. Acute Care Nurse Practitioner students will complete additional hours assigned in the acute care nurse practitioner courses. 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 130 clinical hours to ensure completion of the minimum of 520 direct clinical hours for the adult-gerontology populations. The FNP student will be required to complete a minimum of 670 direct clinical hours. Acute Care Nurse Practitioner students will be required to complete a minimum of 750 clinical hours. 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. Students enrolled in the Leadership track will complete a total of 250 Leadership 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 unencumbered 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
- M M R 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
- COVID-19 vaccine - per facility requirements
- Students are required to have FBI and BCI Background (fingerprint) Check upon entering the graduate program. The background check is good for 5 years while in the program.
- Compliance with any additional tests required by specific health-care facilities where the student intends to complete clinical hours.

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. Students must never use their employee logins or ids while completing hours as an Ursuline College graduate student.

Ursuline College provides the students with professional liability insurance. Student fees for this insurance are included in the student fees.

To ensure a comprehensive and structured clinical learning experience, each MSN student will be provided with a Clinical Practicum Experience Guideline tailored to their specific track. This guideline outlines the objectives, expectations, and competencies required for the successful completion of the practicum. It serves as a crucial resource to guide students through their clinical placements, ensuring alignment with program outcomes and professional standards. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with these guidelines and adhere to the outlined protocols to maximize their learning and professional development during the practicum.

MSN Student Involvement in Committees and Organizations

Student Advisory Committee

All students are provided with opportunities to participate in the development and ongoing quality improvement initiatives within the graduate nursing program. In fall and spring semester each year, students will be invited to attend graduate Nursing Think Tanks. During these sessions, students will offer input into the curriculum and as well as program enhancement ideas. For students unable to participate in the Think Tank sessions will be provided with an online survey where they can offer graduate nursing program input and news ideas for consideration. Students are encouraged to offer input and suggestion throughout the year as well.

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, master's 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.

THE ESSENTIALS:

CORE COMPETENCIES FOR

PROFESSIONAL NURSING EDUCATION

The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education provides a framework for preparing individuals as members of the discipline of nursing, reflecting expectations across the trajectory of nursing education and applied experience. In this document competencies for professional nursing practice are made explicit. These Essentials introduce 10 domains that represent the essence of professional nursing practice and the expected competencies for each domain. The domains and competencies exemplify the uniqueness of nursing as a profession and reflect the diversity of practice settings yet share common language that is understandable across healthcare professions and by employers, learners, faculty, and the public. The competencies accompanying each domain are designed to be applicable across four spheres of care (disease prevention/promotion of health and wellbeing, chronic disease care, regenerative or restorative care, and hospice/palliative/supportive care), across the lifespan, and with diverse patient populations.

While the domains and competencies are identical for both entry and advanced levels of education, the sub-competencies build from entry into professional nursing practice to advanced levels of knowledge and practice. The intent is that any curricular model should lead to the ability of the learner to achieve the competencies. The Essentials also feature eight concepts that are central to professional nursing practice and are integrated within and across the domains and competencies

Domains for Nursing

Domains are broad distinguishable areas of competence that, when considered in the

aggregate, constitute a descriptive framework for the practice of nursing. These Essentials

include 10 domains that were adapted from the interprofessional work initiated by Englander

(2013) and tailored to reflect the discipline of nursing.

This document delineates the domains that are essential to nursing practice, including how

these are defined, what competencies should be expected for each domain at each level of

nursing, and how those domains and competencies both distinguish nursing and relate to

other health professions. Each domain has a descriptor (or working definition) and a contextual

statement. The contextual statement (presented in the Domain, Competency, Sub-Competency

Table found beginning on page 26) provides a framing for what the domain represents in the

context of nursing practice – thus providing an explanation for how the competencies within the domain should be interpreted. The domain designations, descriptors, and contextual statements may evolve over time to reflect future changes in healthcare and nursing practice. Although the domains are presented as discrete entities, the expert practice of nursing requires integration of most of the domains in every practice situation or patient encounter, thus they provide a robust framework for competency-based education. The domains and descriptors used in the Essentials are listed below:

• **Domain 1: Knowledge for Nursing Practice**

Descriptor: Integration, translation, and application of established and evolving disciplinary nursing knowledge and ways of knowing, as well as knowledge from other disciplines, including a foundation in liberal arts and natural and social sciences. This distinguishes the practice of professional nursing and forms the basis for clinical judgment and innovation in nursing practice.

• **Domain 2: Person-Centered Care**

Descriptor: Person-centered care focuses on the individual within multiple complicated contexts, including family and/or important others. Person-centered care is holistic, individualized, just, respectful, compassionate, coordinated, evidence-based, and developmentally appropriate. Person-centered care builds on a scientific body of knowledge that guides nursing practice regardless of specialty or functional area.

• **Domain 3: Population Health**

Descriptor: Population health spans the healthcare delivery continuum from public health prevention to disease management of populations and describes collaborative activities with both traditional and non-traditional partnerships from affected

communities, public health, industry, academia, health care, local government entities, and others for the improvement of equitable population health outcomes.

• Domain 4: Scholarship for Nursing Discipline

Descriptor: The generation, synthesis, translation, application, and dissemination of nursing knowledge to improve health and transform health care

• Domain 5: Quality and Safety

Descriptor: Employment of established and emerging principles of safety and improvement science. Quality and safety, as core values of nursing practice, enhance quality and minimize risk of harm to patients and providers through both system effectiveness and individual performance.

• Domain 6: Interprofessional Partnerships

Descriptor: Intentional collaboration across professions and with care team members, patients, families, communities, and other stakeholders to optimize care, enhance the healthcare experience and strengthen outcomes.

• Domain 7: Systems-Based Practice

Descriptor: Responding to and leading within complex systems of health care. Nurses effectively and proactively coordinate resources to provide safe, quality, equitable care to diverse populations.

• Domain 8: Informatics and Healthcare Technologies

Descriptor: Information and communication technologies and informatics processes

are used to provide care, gather data, form information to drive decision making, and support professionals as they expand knowledge and wisdom for practice. Informatics processes and technologies are used to manage and improve the delivery of safe, high-quality, and efficient healthcare services in accordance with best practice and professional and regulatory standards.

• **Domain 9: Professionalism**

Descriptor: Formation and cultivation of a sustainable professional nursing identity, accountability, perspective, collaborative disposition, and comportment that reflects nursing's characteristics and values.

• **Domain 10:** Personal, Professional, and Leadership Development

Descriptor: Participation in activities and self-reflection that foster personal health, resilience, and well-being, lifelong learning, and support the acquisition of nursing expertise and assertion of leadership.

(Source: https://www.aacnnursing.org/essentials/download-order)