

NURSING
COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES
LEADING TO THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (M.S.N.)

INTERCOLLEGIATE CONSORTIUM FOR A MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

The Intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing program (ICMSN) is a cooperative venture among the nursing units at Southeastern Louisiana University, McNeese State University, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The ICMSN is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 1 Dupont Circle, NW Suite 530, Washington DC, 202-887-6791.

The consortium structure allows students to enroll in courses at any one of the participating universities and receive credit toward the master's degree. Southeastern Louisiana University, McNeese State University, and the University of at Louisiana at Lafayette offer concentrations in Family Nursing, Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing. The advanced nursing role concentrations offered through the consortium are nursing administration, nursing education, clinical nurse specialist, and nurse practitioner.

Students successfully completing the MSN curriculum at Southeastern Louisiana University meet educational requirements to take the following national certification examinations:

Nurse Practitioner Role: Family Nurse Practitioner, or Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Nursing Executive Role: Nursing Administration Advanced

Nursing Educator Role: Nursing Education

PURPOSE

The purposes of the Master of Science in Nursing program are to:

1. Provide a base in nursing theory, nursing research, and issues relative to advanced nursing practice.
2. Provide for advanced clinical specialization in Family Nursing or Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, and to
3. Provide for advanced role preparation as a nurse practitioner, nurse executive, or nurse educator.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

All materials must be submitted, for review, by the deadline posted on the graduate nursing website, www.southeastern.edu/graduatenuresing, for consideration to begin course work.

- A. Regular Admission to the M.S.N. program is awarded based on several criteria. Factors considered for acceptance are:
 1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited undergraduate nursing program.
 2. Transcripts from undergraduate school and any work attempted at the graduate level. Applicants must be in Satisfactory standing in graduate nursing program at last institution attended (if applicable).
 3. Curriculum vita (resume) including the applicant's full name, address, telephone number(s), e-mail address(es), academic preparations, degrees held, honors, awards, special interest, work history, and other relevant information.
 4. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work including courses repeated as indicated by a transcript.
 5. Submit a GRE Score for Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning. ETS has changed the GRE scoring methodology as of 8/1/11. Please check with your graduate advisor for details regarding GRE requirements for admission..
 6. Evidence of a valid, unencumbered Louisiana Registered Nurse license.
 7. Completion of a course in introductory statistics with a minimum grade of "C" or equivalent.
 8. Documentation of Physical Assessment skills for the following roles:
Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator.
 9. Letters of Recommendation.
 10. A statement of Intent/purpose with rationale for pursuing study in selected concentration.

During the first semester of enrollment of regular admission the student must:

1. File a degree plan with the departmental Graduate coordinator in accordance with the General Requirements for the Master's Degree in the Graduate Studies section of the General Catalogue.
2. Submit a complete history and physical examination.
3. Submit current certification in CPR (every 2 years), submit annual TB results, and obtain immunizations determined appropriate by the Graduate Nursing Program.
4. Submit a negative drug screen.
5. Submit an acceptable background check.

B. Contingent Admission

- A graduating senior in an accredited BS nursing program may be admitted in contingent status and may register for graduate credit if he/she meets the criteria of Graduate Studies.
- A student may be admitted in contingent status when lacking the final transcript showing completion of a degree or when a satisfactory GRE score is not provided. Failure to qualify for regular admission status before the second semester of course work will prevent the student from registering for the next semester.

C. Non-Degree Classified Admission

Applicants not granted for regular admission due to their GRE score may be allowed to register for graduate nursing courses in the non-degree classified status for one semester. Priority for registering for graduate nursing courses is provided to regular admission status students.

R.N. to M.S.N. Program

The School of Nursing offers a R.N. to M.S.N. option for nurses with a diploma or associate degree who are licensed as R.N.s. The purpose of the R.N. to M.S.N. option is to allow students with a R.N. license to articulate through an online B.S. degree program to one of four specialty concentrations in the M.S.N. program. This program targets R.N.s who are interested in preparing for advanced nursing practice at the master's level. This program combines the elements of the baccalaureate courses and the master's courses to provide an accelerated path to the M.S.N. degree. Upon successful completion of the program, the student earns both the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and the Master of Science in Nursing degree. This program option is designed for part-time or full-time study.

R.N. to M.S.N. Program Application Process

Admission to the R.N. to M.S.N. program is a two-step application process. The initial application is to the Baccalaureate Program in Nursing for Registered Nurses (undergraduate). The second application is to the M.S.N. (graduate) program. Therefore, successful completion of the Baccalaureate Program in Nursing for Registered Nurses (undergraduate) does not guarantee admission to the M.S.N. (graduate) program.

Step 1: Complete the R.N. to B.S. initial application phase

Following full admission to the university, the applicant must meet the requirements for admission to the R.N. to B.S. in Nursing program at Southeastern.

Step 2: Matriculate into R.N. to M.S.N. application phase

Students must complete all nursing program prerequisite courses and university baccalaureate degree requirements prior to matriculation into the R.N. to M.S.N. nursing courses. Application to the M.S.N. program will take place in the last semester of the Baccalaureate Program in Nursing for Registered Nurses.

Admission to the Program While Pursuing a BS Degree:

For students who are admitted to any program as RN to BS students, up to 6 hours of course work in the MSN program may be taken in the last 8-week or semester period of enrollment. Also, applications to the MSN program may be submitted during the last semester of enrollment. If all criteria except the BS degree are met, the student may be admitted in contingent status.

RETENTION AND PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS

- A student must earn a "B" in each course in the program to be eligible for progression.
- A student who earns a grade below a "B" will be placed on probation and must repeat the course within two regular semesters and earn at least a "B." If a grade below "B" is earned in the subsequent course, the student will be dismissed from the program.
- A graduate student who makes a grade of "D" or "F" in any course taken for graduate credit will be ineligible to register for further graduate work. A student who receives an "D" or "F" because of extenuating, non-academic reasons may appeal for readmission.
- Prior to beginning any clinical/practicum course, the student must have evidence of one year of clinical practice experience in an area appropriate to the specialty concentration as an R.N.
- The School of Nursing reserves the right to investigate situations which may affect the student's ability to function. In addition, a physician's release may be required. Students who have health conditions that may prevent their meeting the objectives of the program or a course in the program or that may cause potential injury to that student or to the clients for whom they care, will be required to have a personal interview with the Department Head or Dean or with an appropriate School of Nursing Committee.
- Drug testing will be required.
- Students enrolled in practicum graduate courses are required to maintain current certification in CPR and meet other agency requirements.
- Any student who does not enroll in graduate nursing courses toward a degree for 2 consecutive regular semesters must reapply to the program. For reconsideration, students must submit any transcripts reflecting course work elsewhere during that time.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Students entering the Consortium must apply to the University and to Southeastern Graduate Nursing Program at the same time. See the Admission to the University section for application deadlines and fees.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- Registration for core and role courses will be held at each consortium institution according to their published dates and procedures. An advisor at each institution is available to assist students. Information and downloadable forms are available from the School of Nursing webpage, www.southeastern.edu/graduatenuising.
- The fees assessed a student will be those in effect at the institution offering the course(s) for which the student is registering.
- All courses offered are subject to resources available and sufficient student enrollment.
- Full-time degree plans require from 7-10 credit hours per semester; part-time degree plans require 6 credit hours per semester.
- For limited course slots, preference will be given to regular admission status.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation from any of the member institutions is based on the satisfactory completion of an approved program of studies. In addition, students must meet all requirements of the institution from which specialty courses are taken.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

All credit hours earned at any of the consortium institutions are applicable to residency requirements at each member school.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DEGREE

To receive the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with a specialty concentration, the student must:

1. Complete all requirements of the degree plan, including:
 - a. A minimum of 34 credit hours for the Nurse Education concentration.
 - b. A minimum of 35-38 credit hours for the Nurse Executive concentration.
 - c. A minimum of 40-49 credit hours for the Family Health or Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration.
2. Complete a Focused Scholarly Project or a Thesis, and
3. Achieve a grade of “B” or better in each course

CONCENTRATIONS

Concentration: Nurse Educator—Complete 34 credit hours. The required courses are:

Semester 1	
NURS 600 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 633 Leadership and Management in Nursing Education	3 hours
NURS 634 Nursing Education Concepts and Foundations	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
NURS 635 Curriculum and Evaluation in Nursing Education	3 hours
NURS 636 Instructional Design in Nursing Education	3 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 637 Nursing Education Practicum.....	3 hours
NURS 638 Advanced Clinical Concepts in Nursing Practice	3 hours
Thesis 699 <u>OR</u> Focused Scholarly Project NURS 695.....	3 hours
Semester 4	
NURS 639 Advanced Nursing Education Practicum	4 hours
*Thesis NURS 699 <u>OR</u> Elective	3 hours
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	34 hours
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	525 hours

Approved graduate courses or courses in a related area of studies

*Note: All students must complete either Thesis (NURS 699) OR Focused Scholarly Project (NURS 695). Students who elect to enroll in Thesis will earn a total of 6 credits. Students who elect to enroll in Focused Scholarly Project will earn a total of 3 credits and must also earn 3 credits in a graduate level elective which must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

Concentration: Nurse Executive—Complete 35-38 credit hours. Required courses are:

Semester 1:	
NURS 600 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
NURS 609 Population Based Primary Care.....	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 646 Policy, Organization, and Structure in Health Care Systems	3 hours
NURS 648 Nurse Leadership/Management in Health Care Organizations	3 hours
NURS 649 Health Care Workforce Management	3 hours
NURS 654 Nurse Leadership and Administration Field Study I	2 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 656 Legal and Regulatory Issues in Nursing Administration	3 hours
NURS 658 Fiscal and Economic Principles for Nurse Leaders	4 hours
NURS 655 Nurse Leadership and Administration Field Study II	2 hours
NURS 695 Focused Scholarly Project OR 699 Thesis.....	3 hours
Semester 4	
NURS 659 Nurse Leadership and Administration Internship	3 hours
NURS 699 Thesis (if chosen)	3 hours
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 35-38 hours	
TOTAL CLINICAL/CLOCK HOURS 300 hours	

Concentration: Family Nurse Practitioner—Complete 40-43 credit hours. The required courses are:

Semester 1	
NURS 600 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 604 Issues with Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 618 Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice.....	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
NURS 606 Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning Practicum.....	1 hour
NURS 616 Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning for Advanced Nursing.....	3 hours
NURS 617 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice.....	3 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 609 Population Based Primary Care.....	3 hours
NURS 682 Advanced Practice Nursing: Family I.....	5 hours
Semester 4	

NURS 683 Advanced Practice: Nursing: Family II	3 hours
NURS 699 Thesis	3 hours
OR	
NURS 695 Focused Scholarly Project	3 hours
Semester 5	
NURS 684 Advanced Practice Nursing: Family III Practicum	5 hours
NURS 699 Thesis (if chosen)	3 hours
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	35-38 hours
TOTAL CLINICAL HOURS	720 hours

Concentration: Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Curriculum; Nurse Practitioner

Complete 46-49 credit hours. The required courses are:

Semester 1	
NURS 600 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 604 Issues in Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 617 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice.....	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
NURS 606 Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning Practicum.....	1 hour
NURS 616 Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning Advanced Nursing	3 hours
NURS 608 Diagnostic Considerations & Psychopharmacology for Psychiatric Disorders (SPRING ONLY)	3 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 609 Population-Based Primary Care	3 hours
NURS 618 Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 hours
NURS 690 Psychotherapy for Advanced Practice Psychiatric Nursing (FALL ONLY).....	3 hours
Semester 4	
NURS 691 Advanced Practice Nursing: Family Psych/Mental Health (SPRING ONLY).....	5 hours
NURS 695 Focused Scholarly Project OR 599/699 Thesis.....	3 hours
Semester 5	
NURS 692 Advanced Practice Nursing: Family Psych/Mental Health 2 (FALL ONLY).....	5 hours
NURS 699 Thesis (if chosen)	3 hours
Semester 5	
NURS 693 Advanced Practice Nursing: Family Psych/Mental Health 3 (SPRING ONLY).....	5 hours
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS	46-49 hours
TOTAL CLINICAL HOURS	720 hours Direct Care

All students must complete either Thesis (NURS 699) OR Focused Scholarly Project (NURS 695). Students who elect to enroll in Thesis will earn a total of 6 credits. Students who elect to enroll in Focused Scholarly Project will earn a total of 3 credits.

Admission to the Family OR Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration at Southeastern means that the MSN degree-seeking student is eligible to progress to the NP practicum courses when the following courses have been completed in the program of study.

- Nursing 600—Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)
- Nursing 602— Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)
- Nursing 604—Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)
- Nursing 606—Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning (1 credit hour)
- Nursing 616—Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)
- Nursing 617—Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)
- Nursing 618—Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)

POST-MASTER’S CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Post-Master’s Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner is offered through an affiliation with the intercollegiate Consortium for a Master of Science in Nursing, and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 887-6791. The program is fully approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing and is accelerated, offering completion of the Post Master’s Certificate in 14 weeks. This program will enhance the capabilities of existing nurse practitioners to care for patients across the lifespan.

Nurses currently holding a master’s degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and national certification as an Adult Nurse Practitioner are eligible to apply to the post-Master’s certificate program. The post-master’s certificate program will prepare completers as Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) and make them eligible to apply for and advance practice FNP license and to take the National FNP certification.

Other factors considered for admission to the program include:

- A minimum graduate GPA of 3.00 as verified by transcript submission
- A current unencumbered registered nurse license in the State of Louisiana

- Two professional references
- Current resume

Formal application to the university is required.

The didactic courses are offered online, and practicum courses have an online didactic component plus a clinical experience component (120 hours in each) in which the student works with an approved advanced practice preceptor guided by a graduate faculty. The curriculum for Family Nurse Practitioner includes:

TERM I

NURS 650	Family Health I.....	3 hours
NURS 685	Family Health Practicum I.....	3 hours

TERM II

NURS 688	Family Health II.....	3 hours
NURS 689	Family Health Practicum II.....	3 hours

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS.....	12 hours
TOTAL CLINICAL HOURS.....	240 hours

The sequence of courses is offered for three cohorts of students.

- Cohort 1: Term 1 (6 weeks) – Early January to mid February; Term 2 (8 weeks) Early March – Mid April
 Cohort 2: Term 1 (6 weeks) – Early May – mid June; Term 2 (8weeks) Mid June – Mid August
 Cohort 3: Term 1 (6 weeks) – Early September – Mid October; Term 2 (8weeks) Early November – End of December.