

# **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, Southern University-Baton Rouge, and the University of Louisiana, Lafayette. The ICMSN is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, 61 Broadway, New York, New York 10006, Telephone (212) 363-5555 ext. 153.

The consortium structure allows students to enroll in courses at any one of the participating universities and receive credit toward their master's degree. Students can select the campus they wish to attend based on the major(s) and role concentration(s) offered and the campus most convenient to their living and working arrangements. Southeastern Louisiana University, McNeese State University, the University of Louisiana, Lafayette offers a major in Adult Health Nursing, Nursing Education, and Nursing Administration, and Southern University offers a major in Family 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:

- Clinical Nurse Specialist Role: Clinical Nurse Specialist in Medical Surgical Nursing or Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing
- Nurse Practitioner Role: Adult Nurse Practitioner, or Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Nursing Administration Role: Nursing Administration Advanced

## **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 Adult Health Nursing, Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, or Family Health Nursing, and to
3. Provide for advanced role preparation as a clinical nurse specialist, or nurse practitioner, or nurse administrator, or nurse educator.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. Regular Admission:**

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing.
2. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work including courses repeated and all courses counted toward the student's baccalaureate degree, as indicated by a transcript.
3. A minimum formula score of 1,200 (150 x cumulative GPA on last 60 undergraduate hours + GRE Verbal and Quantitative Test score).
4. Eligibility for licensure as a Registered Nurse in Louisiana. Louisiana licensure must be obtained within one semester following admission to the program.
5. A minimum of one year in clinical practice as an R.N.; two years of clinical practice as an R.N. is required for the nurse practitioner role.
6. Completion of a course in introductory statistics with a minimum grade of "C" or equivalent.
7. Evidence of physical assessment skills.
8. A history and physical examination.

**A.1. Admissions to Nurse Practitioner Concentration.** Students will be eligible to apply for admission to the nurse practitioner concentration following completion of 19 prerequisite credit hours.

## **B. Conditional Admission**

An applicant who meets all requirements for admission to the master's degree program except the cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on all undergraduate work attempted or a formula score of 1200 may seek conditional admission status. For acceptance to conditional status the student must have a minimum of at least 1100 on the formula score, with a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work attempted. To be removed from conditional status the student must make a "B" or better in each graduate-level course in the first 12 hours. If a "C" is made, the conditional student will be dismissed from the program.

An applicant not having a minimum of 2.5 cumulative GPA on upper division baccalaureate work will be requested to take additional undergraduate courses as a non-degree student to enable the applicant to be considered for conditional admission.

## **C. Temporary Admission**

Students not completing all departmental requirements for regular admission, and who are not admitted in conditional admission status, will be admitted in Temporary Admission status. Registration of Temporary Admission students in individual courses is subject to the prerequisites and requirements of the department. Credits earned with a letter grade (A or B) while in Temporary status may be applied toward a degree upon approval of the Coordinator of Graduate Nursing. Not more than twelve (12) semester hours of work completed while in Temporary status may be applied toward a degree.

## **RETENTION AND PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A student must earn a "B" in each course in the program to be eligible for progression.
- B. 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.
- C. A graduate student who makes a grade of "F" in any course taken for graduate credit will be ineligible to register for further graduate work. A student who receives an "F" because of extenuating, non-academic reasons may appeal for readmission.
- D. 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.
- E. Drug testing will be required.
- F. Students enrolled in clinical graduate courses are required to maintain annual certification in CPR.

## **ADMISSION PROCEDURES**

Students entering the consortium must formally designate one of the member universities as their home institution. It is the responsibility of the home institution to maintain transcripts and other official records on students, to oversee their admission and progression, and to award the MSN degree. Students may designate any institution as their home institution upon entering the consortium; however, the institution offering the student's chosen specialty must be officially designated as the home institution by the time specialty courses are begun.

- A. Students seeking admission to the MSN program must apply and pay the appropriate fee to the home institution according to times and procedures published in that institution's catalogue.
- B. At Southeastern Louisiana University, the application form, application fee, and all transcripts should be submitted by July 15 for fall semester admission, by December 1 for spring semester admission, and by May 1 for summer term admission. Late application may delay consideration until the following semester.
- C. Application forms and fees to the home institution are recognized by other consortium institutions and do not have to be duplicated to register for courses on other member campuses.

## **REGISTRATION PROCEDURES**

- A. Registration for core and role courses will be held at each consortium institution according to their published dates and procedures. An advisor will be at each institution to assist students.
- B. Registration for the specialty courses will be at the consortium campus offering the specialty and will be in accordance with the dates and procedures in effect at the applicable institution.
- C. Students must receive prior written approval from a faculty advisor at their home institution to schedule courses at another consortium institution. Following completion of the course, the student must request transfer of credit to the home institution.
- D. The fees assessed a student will be those in effect at the institution offering the course(s) for which the student is registering.

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

- A. 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.
- B. Each student must pass a written comprehensive examination. The comprehensive examination is administered no earlier than the semester in which the student is scheduled to complete all coursework in the degree plan, excluding the thesis. An oral or written follow-up to the examination may be required at the discretion of the faculty examination committee. A candidate who fails the comprehensive examination must register for at least one additional semester or summer term before being given a second examination. *No candidate will be permitted a third examination.*

## **RESIDENCE 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 role concentration, the student must:

- 1. Complete all requirements of the degree plan, including:
  - a. A minimum of 34 credit hours for the Nurse Education role.
  - b. A minimum of 36-39 credit hours for the Nurse Administrator role.
  - c. A minimum of 39-42 credit hours for the Clinical Nurse Specialist role.
  - d. A minimum of 39-42 credit hours for the Adult or Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner role.
- 2. Pass a written comprehensive examination,
- 3. Complete a Clinical Research Project or a Thesis, and
- 4. Achieve a grade of "B" or better in each course.

**Role: Nurse Educator**—Complete (34) credit hours. The required courses are:

**Core Courses:**

NURS 600	3 hours
NURS 602	3 hours

**Role Courses:**

NURS 633	3 hours
NURS 634	3 hours
NURS 635	3 hours
NURS 636	3 hours
NURS 637	3 hours
NURS 638	3 hours
NURS 639	4 hours
Thesis: NURS 699	6 hours
<u>OR</u> Clinical Research Project and Elective	
NURS 696	3 hours
Elective:	3 hours
Approved graduate courses or courses in a related area of studies.	
TOTAL	34 hours

**Role: Nursing Administrator**—Complete (36-39) credit hours. The required courses are:

Core Courses:

NURS 600	3 hours
NURS 602	3 hours
NURS 604	3 hours

**Advanced Core Courses:**

NURS 428/528	3 hours
ECON 695	3 hours
MGMT 695	3 hours

**Specialty Courses:**

NURS 620	3 hours
NURS 621	3 hours
NURS 622	3 hours

**Role Courses:**

NURS 610	3 hours
NURS 611	3 hours
Clinical Research Project <u>OR</u> Thesis:	
NURS 696	3 hours
NURS 699	6 hours
TOTAL	36-39 hours

**Role: Clinical Nurse Specialist**—Complete (39-42) credit hours. The required courses are:

**Core Courses:**

NURS 600	3 hours
NURS 602	3 hours
NURS 604	3 hours

**Advanced Core Courses:**

NURS 606	1 hours
NURS 609	3 hours
NURS 616	3 hours
NURS 617	3 hours
NURS 618	3 hours

**Role Courses (Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health OR Adult Health CNS Focus):**

NURS 642 OR 676	4 hours
NURS 643 OR 677	4 hours
NURS 678	6 hours

Clinical Research Project OR Thesis:

NURS 696	3 hours
NURS 699	6 hours
TOTAL	39-42 hours

**Role: Adult Nurse Practitioner**—Complete (39-42) credit hours. The required courses are:

**Core Courses:**

NURS 600	3 hours
NURS 602	3 hours
NURS 604	3 hours

**Advanced Core Courses:**

NURS 606	1 hours
NURS 609	3 hours
NURS 616	3 hours
NURS 617	3 hours
NURS 618	3 hours

**Role Courses (Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health OR Adult Health NP Focus):**

NURS 642 OR 676	4 hours
NURS 643 OR 677	4 hours
NURS 678	6 hours

Clinical Research Project OR Thesis:

NURS 696	3 hours
NURS 699	6 hours
TOTAL	39-42 hours

Admission to the Adult Health OR Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner role 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. Applications for admission to the *NP role concentration* occur during the semester in which the student is scheduled to complete the courses below.<sup>1</sup>

Nursing 600—Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credit hours)

Nursing 602—Design and Methodology of Nursing Research (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)

**The following criteria will be considered for admission to the NP role:**

Meet admission criteria to the MSN program (formula score is considered),

Two years of clinical practice as a BSN-prepared registered nurse,

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) rank in the MSN program,

Cumulative GPA in the core courses for advanced practice: N606, N616, N617, and N618

(calculated after semester of completion),

Apply to the NP role concentration by **March 15 or October 15** in year of met requirements, and

written commitment to a full-time or part-time degree plan, as established by the Southeastern MSN program. For limited practicum slots, preference will be given to full-time students.

Compliance with current health records.

The Coordinator of Graduate Nursing will notify students of the status of their application at the close of the semester in which they have applied, following calculation of final GPA. Once admitted to the NP role concentration, the student is expected to follow a suggested full-time or part-time degree plan, which then becomes a part of their record. Students who do not follow their degree plan may lose a practicum slot and have to reapply to the role concentration.

<sup>1</sup>Application and acceptance to the MSN program of studies must have been completed.

<sup>2</sup>Full-time degree plans require from 7-10 credit hours per semester; part-time degree plans require from 6-7 credit hours per semester.

**Please note, the new Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing specialty was approved to begin Fall, 2005 and the current Nursing Administration curriculum is under revision. Courses listed in the catalogue description section of this catalogue are subject to change based on ongoing University approval processes. Please contact the Graduate Nursing Office relative to the current status of these curriculum changes.**