

**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, 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, the University of Louisiana, Lafayette offer tracks in Adult Health Nursing, Nursing Education, Nursing Leadership and Healthcare Administration, and Adult 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:

Clinical Nurse Specialist Role: Clinical Nurse Specialist Adult Health Nursing or Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing

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

Nursing Administration 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 Adult Health Nursing or Adult Psychiatric/Mental 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**

All materials must be submitted, for review, by the deadline posted on the graduate nursing website, [www.selu.edu/graduatenuersing](http://www.selu.edu/graduatenuersing), for consideration to begin coursework.

**A. Regular Admission:**

1. Submit evidence of a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited undergraduate nursing program.
2. Submit all transcripts from undergraduate school and any work attempted at the graduate level. Submit documentation of satisfactory standing in graduate nursing program at last institution attended, (if applicable).
3. Submit a curriculum vita (resume) including the applicant's full name, address, telephone number(s), email address(s), academic preparations, degrees held, honors, awards, special interest, work history, and other relevant information.
4. Obtain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.7 on 4.0 scale for all undergraduate work including courses repeated as indicted by a transcript.
5. Complete and submit all application materials to the Graduate Nursing Program or Office of Research and Graduate Studies for review. All documentation needed to support application to the graduate nursing program must be submitted prior to the deadline for application to the University for the following semester.
6. Submit GRE scores.
7. Obtain a minimum formula score of 1,200 (150 x cumulative GPA on last 60 undergraduate hours + GRE Verbal and Quantitative Test scores). The last 60 undergraduate hours must pertain directly to required Nursing degree courses. Depending upon when or where the student completed the Nursing degree, the student may be required to provide a university catalogue or course descriptions for the degree courses.
8. Submit evidence of a valid, unencumbered Louisiana Registered Nurse license.
9. Completed a course in introductory statistics with a minimum grade of "C" or equivalent.
10. Documentation of Physical Assessment skills is required for the following roles:  
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Educator.
11. Submit Letters of Recommendation
12. Submit Letter of Intent/purpose

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 School 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. Provisional Admission**

An applicant who meets all requirements for admission to the master's degree program except the formula score of 1200 may seek provisional admission status. For acceptance to provisional status the student must have a minimum of at least 1100 on the formula score, with a minimum of 2.7 cumulative GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate work attempted. To be removed from provisional status the student must achieve a "B" or better in each graduate-level course in the first nine (9) hours. A grade of C, D, or F grade in any course attempted during the 9 hours in provisional status will result in dismissal from the program and the Graduate School.

A request to repeat a course will be taken under advisement and considered on a case by case basis.

An applicant not having a minimum of 2.7 cumulative GPA on upper division baccalaureate work **may** consider additional undergraduate nursing courses as an unclassified student to raise GPA in the last 60 hours.

C. 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 the Graduate School.
- 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 coursework will prevent the student from registering for the next semester.

D. Non-Degree Classified Admission

Applicants not meeting the formula score 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 five specialty tracks 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 MS.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 coursework 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 courses, the student must have evidence of one year of clinical practice experience in an area appropriate to the specialty track as a 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.

**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 will be at each institution to assist students. Information and downloadable forms are available from the School of Nursing webpage [www.selu.edu/graduatenuersing](http://www.selu.edu/graduatenuersing).
- 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 regularly admitted students.

## 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 track, the student must:

1. Complete all requirements of the degree plan, including:
  - a. A minimum of 37 credit hours for the Nurse Education track.
  - b. A minimum of 35-38 credit hours for the Nurse Administrator track.
  - c. A minimum of 39-42 credit hours for the Clinical Nurse Specialist track.
  - d. A minimum of 39-45 credit hours for the Adult Health or Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track.
2. Complete a Focused Scholarly Project or a Thesis, and
3. Achieve a grade of "B" or better in each course

#### Specialty Track Courses

**Track: 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 CLINICAL 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 an approved graduate level elective. The elective must be approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

**Track: Nursing Leadership and Administration in Healthcare**—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
Semester 4	
NURS 659 Nurse Leadership and Administration Internship.....	3 hours
NURS 695 Focused Scholarly Project (3 hr) or 699 Thesis (6 hr).....	3 or 6 hours
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS.....	35-38 hours
TOTAL CLINICAL/CLOCK HOURS.....	300 hours

**Track: Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist**—Complete 39-42 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 618 Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
NURS 606 Hlth Assessment & Diagnostic Reason Adv Nurs Prac Practicum.....	1 hour
NURS 616 Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
NURS 617 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice.....	3 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 609 Population-Based Primary Care.....	3 hours
NURS 676 Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health I.....	4 hours
NURS 695 Focused Scholarly Project or 699 Thesis.....	3 or 6 hours

Semester 4	
NURS 677 Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health II	4 hours
NURS 699 Thesis	3 hours
Semester 5	
NURS 678 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum	5 hours
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 39-42 hours
	TOTAL CLINICAL HOURS 600 hours

**Track: Adult Health Nurse Practitioner**—Complete 39-42 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 618 Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice	3 hours
Advanced Core Courses:	
NURS 606 Hlth Assessment & Diagnostic Reason Adv Nurs Prac Practicum	1 hours
NURS 616 Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 hours
NURS 617 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 609 Population-Based Primary Care	3 hours
NURS 676 Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health	4 hours
NURS 699 Thesis	6 hours
OR Focused Scholarly Project NURS 695	3 hours
Semester 4	
NURS 677 Advanced Practice Nursing: Adult Health I	4 hours
NURS 699 Thesis	3 hours
Semester 5	
NURS 678 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum	5 hours
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 39-42 hours
	TOTAL CLINICAL HOURS 600 hours

**Track: Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Curriculum; Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist**—Complete 42-45 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 618 Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3 hours
Semester 2	
NURS 602 Generating Evidence for Nursing Practice	3 hours
NURS 606 Hlth Assessment & Diagnostic Reason Adv Nurs Prac Practicum	1 hour
NURS 616 Hlth Assess & Diagnostic Reason Adv Nurs Practice	3 hours
NURS 617 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice	3 hours
Semester 3	
NURS 608 Diagnostic Consider & Psychopharmacology for Psychiatric Disorders	3 hours
NURS 609 Population-Based Primary Care	3 hours
NURS 642 Advanced Practice Nursing:Adult Psychiatric/Mental Hlth I	4 hours
Semester 4	
NURS 643 Advanced Practice Nursing:Psychiatric/Mental Hlth II	5 hours
NURS 695 Focused Scholarly Project OR 599/699 Thesis	3 hours
Semester 5	
NURS 678 Advanced Practice Nursing Practicum	5 hours
NURS 699 Thesis	3 hours
	TOTAL CREDIT HOURS 42-45 hours
	TOTAL CLINICAL HOURS 600 hours

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 Adult Health OR Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner track 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 MSN Completion Program:**

Students who currently hold a master’s degree in nursing may apply to the university to enroll in a post-MSN completion program in Adult Health Nurse Practitioner, Adult Health Clinical Nurse Specialist, or the Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health NP/CNS. Curriculum plans are located at [www.selu.edu/graduatenursing](http://www.selu.edu/graduatenursing).

Students who successful complete the Post-Masters meet educational requirements to take national certification examinations and to apply for an advanced practice license.