



Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Course Descriptions

Core Courses:

NUR 500 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice Nursing Across the Lifespan* (3) This course covers selected topics in pharmacology and clinical therapeutics that will be encountered by the advanced practice nurse. Content covers the basics of pharmacologic mechanisms, dose-response relationships, pharmacokinetics (in children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly) and factors that alter a drug's bioavailability. Pharmacological agents discussed include: autonomic, analgesics, anti-infective drugs, and agents affecting the central nervous, endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory and gastrointestinal systems. The implications of age, pregnancy, and lactation on drug action will be considered. Pharmacogenomics, human drug testing, drug laws, herbal medicines, OTC drugs, and nutritional agents are discussed.

NUR 510 Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing (3) Focuses on the physiological principles that underlie the altered states leading to pathogenesis at the molecular, histologic and systemic levels. Special emphasis is given to the pathophysiological processes in the pediatric, adolescent, adult, and geriatric client. Included are the genetic, environmental, behavioral and organismal contributions to the dysfunctional conditions. The course contributes to the student's formation of clinical competence and diagnostic skills.

NUR 530 Theoretical Foundations of Nursing (3) This course examines knowledge development in nursing. The relationships among nursing knowledge and research, education, and current practice are emphasized. Students develop a personal philosophy and theoretical foundation for their practice.

NUR 569 Advanced Assessment Practicum for Advanced Practice Nurses (60 hours)* (1) This course is the clinical practice component complementing the didactic and laboratory components of NUR 570. It provides a transition from laboratory practice of assessment skills on peers to actual assessment of pediatric, adolescent, adult, and geriatric clients in a primary care setting under preceptor supervision. Students spend 15 hours/week concurrent with their last 4 weeks of NUR 570 in a clinical setting such as a health clinic, preadmission testing, primary care office, or nurse managed health center performing health assessments on clients. Students in the Adult-Gerontology program are placed in settings with adolescent, adult, and geriatric clients; students in the Pediatric program are in pediatric settings.

NUR 570 Advanced Assessment & Clinical Decision Making for Advanced Practice Nursing Across the Lifespan (3) Builds upon the basic skills of physical assessment. Students practice health assessment and physical examination skills in classroom and laboratory settings. Emphasis is on clinical decision making, differentiation of abnormal versus normal findings, and the integration of history and physical examination across the lifespan.

NUR 610 Research Methodology (3) This course focuses on the systematic study of the research process and research methodologies appropriate practice and education in nursing. Students are introduced to concepts and terminology relevant to the theoretical context of research, research design and methodology, data collection, data analysis, and reporting of results. Critical examination of published studies with emphasis on research critique, interpretation of statistical results, and evidencebased practice is addressed. Students will systematically develop a research problem appropriate for investigation for advanced nursing practice or nursing education.

NUR 615 Research Seminar (3) This course provides an analysis of the multiple roles of the nurses as researcher. The various roles of the nurse researcher including proposal development and refinement, data collector, data entry, securing funding, and dissemination of findings will be examined. Students will have the opportunity to explore one of these roles in depth by completing clinical hours in the research role of her/his choice.

**Course not required for Nurse Education program*

Clinical Nurse Specialist: Adult Health with Gerontology

NUR 550 Advanced Adult Health Nursing with Gerontology (3) Study of the aging process, current theories of aging, and effects of political, social and economic issues on the lifestyles of the aging population. Exploration of the roles of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in promoting the wellness model for adults. Examination of the federal, state and local laws that support and/or discourage promotion, restoration and maintenance of health for the aging population. The synergistic effects of heredity, environment, lifestyle, and access to adequate health care on clients' risks for morbidity, loss of independent living, and mortality are discussed. Review of current research on normative aging, health belief models, and health promotion strategies.

NUR 551 Advanced Adult Health Nursing with Gerontology II (3) Further study of the aging process focusing on the roles of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in the provision and management of complex care required by older adults in a variety of settings. Emphasis is placed on the development of strategies to delay, limit, and/or prevent the debilitating effects of chronic illness. Continued investigation of origins and effects of public laws on the social and economic forces that govern health and provision of holistic, restorative care in collaboration with clients, their families, and other health care providers. Discussion of ethical issues frequently encountered in the provision of long-term care. Analysis of current nursing research related to health problems of older adults and the delivery of care in long-term settings.

NUR 552 Practicum - Advanced Adult Health Nursing with Gerontology I (3) Focuses on application of the roles of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in community-based settings where adults live, work, recreate, and receive health care services. Under preceptor supervision, students utilize the nursing process to promote wellness and reduce the older adult client's risk for morbidity and loss of independence. Students apply theoretical models in analyzing individual, familial, cultural, political, and socioeconomic forces that enhance or impede the older adult's health and wellness. Opportunities for collaboration with federal, state and local agencies providing services to older adults and their families are provided.

NUR 553 Practicum - Advanced Adult Health Nursing with Gerontology II (3) Focuses on synthesis of the Clinical Nurse Specialist's roles as clinical expert, educator, manager, researcher, and consultant in caring for older adults requiring long-term care at home or in a variety of institutional settings. Under preceptor supervision, students apply current nursing research to manage nursing diagnoses frequently occurring in clients in long-term care environments. Students also explore legal and ethical issues affecting quality of life and end-of-life decision making such as guardianship, ombudsman programs, residents' rights, and advanced directives. Issues related to financing/reimbursement, staffing, facility accreditation, certification, licensure, and quality improvement strategies are explored.

Management or Teaching Role Area For Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS students must select either Teaching or Management area)

NUR 602 Organizational Behavior for Advanced Practice Nurses (3) Examination of human behavior within the context of health care delivery systems. Emphasis is on the impact of rapidly

accelerating change and effective management of change. Theories of organizational behavior are presented in light of specific organizational problems that impact advanced practice nursing.

NUR 603 Clinical Practicum - Management Role (6) Examination of management processes as they relate to advanced practice nursing and the health care delivery system. Fiscal responsibility including budget preparation and implementation will be incorporated.

OR

NUR 605 Curriculum Design (3) A study of the components and processes of curriculum design in relation to associate and baccalaureate nursing education. Historical, philosophical, and current educational issues impacting the curriculum are analyzed.

NUR 606 Clinical Practicum - Teaching Role (6) Application of theoretical content to the selected functional area of the teaching role. Provides opportunities for students to translate content related to the specialty area, curriculum design, learning theories and teaching strategies into practice in a nursing education setting. Emphasis is placed on teaching and faculty role components which address within the framework of higher education.

PRIMARY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER

NUR 572 Nurse Practitioner Role Seminar (3) This course will examine the advanced practice nursing roles. Included is analysis of the domains of the nurse practitioner role: managing patient health/illness status; the healing role of the nurse; teaching and counseling; monitoring and ensuring the quality of health care practice; and organizational and role competencies. The focus is on the historical, social, political, legal, and economic issues related to advanced practice nursing.

Nurse Practitioner Track - Gerontology

NUR 580 Management of Adult - Geriatric Health Concerns I (3) This course provides student with the theoretical base to assess, diagnose and manage the primary care of adolescent, adult, and geriatric clients with selected common acute and chronic health problems including appropriate diagnostic procedures, laboratory tests, and follow up care for clients. Evidence-based practice is utilized as the basis for primary care management and decision making. In addition, students will utilize a variety of health technologies including electronic health records, electronic health databases, and personal digital assistants. Prerequisites: Completion of core.

NUR 581 Adult - Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Practicum I (6) This course is a clinical practice component complementing the didactic of NUR 580. Experiences are provided for comprehensive health assessment and beginning management of adolescent, adult, and geriatric clients through interviewing and history taking, physical examination, laboratory testing, clinical decision making and formulation of plans of care in a primary care setting. Focus includes health promotion, disease prevention and management of acute/episodic health care and selected chronic and co-morbid illnesses.

NUR 582 Management of Adult - Geriatric Health Concerns II (3) This course builds upon prior content of Adult – Geriatric Health Concerns I. The course utilizes a holistic approach focused upon complicated and complex chronic and acute problems common in the adolescent, adult, and geriatric population in a primary care setting. Critical thinking based on synthesizing knowledge and skills from all previous courses is applied in the development of a comprehensive evaluation and management plan of care for individual clients. The collaborative aspect of the nurse practitioner roles in educating and particularly in the management of clients with complex needs is addressed. The role of the client and family as active participants in the holistic plan of care is emphasized.

NUR 583 Adult - Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Practicum II (6) This course is the clinical practice component complementing the didactic of NUR 582 and building upon the foundation and previous experience from Advanced Assessment, Management of Adult-Geriatric Health Concerns I, Adult-

Geriatric Nursing Practitioner Practicum I, and core courses in the sciences and research. Ongoing experiences are provided for comprehensive health assessment and management of adolescent, adult, and geriatric clients in the areas of prevention, minor acute/episodic health care needs and stable chronic illness. Emphasis is placed on expanding depth and scope, increasing independence, refining previously acquired skills and managing clients with multiple health problems.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Nursing Courses

NUR 590 Management of Pediatric Health Concerns I (3) Focuses on the role of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner as the provider of primary pediatric health care. Uses a developmental approach to the management of children from birth through adolescence. Content focuses on normal growth and development throughout childhood, health promotion and maintenance and the management of minor acute health problems. Emphasizes a holistic approach which incorporates family dynamics, developmental tasks, health beliefs, cultural, spiritual, educational, and economic issues of the pediatric client. Appropriate methods of client/family teaching, anticipatory guidance, support and counseling are taught and demonstrated.

NUR 591 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Practicum I (6) Provides the advanced practice nursing student with clinical experience in primary pediatric health care settings. Provides opportunities to practice comprehensive health care with a variety of pediatric clients under the supervision of an approved preceptor. Students are expected to perform comprehensive health histories and physical examinations, 62 order appropriate laboratory tests, utilize clinical decision making and formulate a plan of care within the primary care setting. Areas of clinical experience include routine health care visits for children from birth to adolescence incorporating health promotion and disease and injury prevention as well as care for children with acute episodic health conditions. Emphasizes a holistic approach to ambulatory health care. Case presentation skills are developed within a safe and nurturing environment.

NUR 592 Management of Pediatric Health Concerns II (3) Provides the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner student with the necessary knowledge to diagnose and manage the primary health needs of children from birth to adolescence. Emphasis is placed on a systems approach to diagnosis and management of common acute illnesses and stable chronic illnesses. Integration of concepts of health maintenance and promotion throughout the curriculum. Holistic approach to ambulatory health care which emphasizes the social, spiritual, cultural, educational, developmental, and economic needs of the patient and family.

NUR 593 Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Practicum II (6) Culminating clinical experience for the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner student. Focuses on providing students with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills necessary to assist infants through adolescents with the most common health problems. Experiences will include acute episodic illnesses, stable chronic conditions, as well as continued emphasis on health promotion and maintenance. Emphasizes a holistic approach to ambulatory health care which incorporates the social, spiritual, cultural, educational, developmental, and economic needs of the client and family. By the completion of this course, the student is expected to be able to function independently as a beginning Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Nurse Educator

NUR 604 Learning Theories (3) Concepts of learning and selected learning theories are explored, compared and contrasted, and applied within nursing education. Students are guided in evaluating the learning process from both research and experiential perspectives. The interface between instructional technology and learning is explored within the context of learning styles and expectations of millennial learners.

NUR 605 Curriculum Design (3) A study of the components and processes of curriculum design in relation to associate and baccalaureate nursing education. Historical, philosophical, and current educational issues impacting the curriculum are analyzed.

NUR 606 Clinical Practicum - Teaching Role (6) Application of theoretical content to the selected functional area of the teaching role. Provides opportunities for students to translate content related to the specialty area, curriculum design, learning theories and teaching strategies into practice in a nursing education setting. Emphasis is placed on teaching and faculty role components which are address within the framework of higher education.

NUR 609 Topics in American Higher Education (3) Explores the history, structure and governance of American high education. Consideration of the influence of social, political and financial environments on University/university functions and academic life.

NUR 614 Teaching Strategies for Nurse Educators (3) Explores the teaching roles and responsibilities of the nurse educator in the classroom, laboratory and clinical setting. The theoretical content of teaching/learning and curriculum development will be applied to teaching techniques, strategies and challenges. The emphasis will be on techniques to facilitate student learning.

NUR 650 Clinical Seminar (4) Designed to assist the nurse educator student to enhance her or his knowledge base in a selected area of nursing practice. In seminar, students analyze epidemiologic, technological, socioeconomic, cultural and ethical influences on client care. The practicum component includes precepted learning experiences in a student selected clinical environment. Selected settings include but are not limited to hospitals, long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation facilities, nurse managed health centers, specialty clinics and office practices. Emphasis is placed on identifying and responding to health related concerns through the use of evidence based practice.