

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

## Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.)

**Interim Director of Nursing/Associate Professor:** Joyce O'Reilly

**Assistant Professors:** Lisa R. Chicko, Wendy J. Varnum, Catherine Cuchetti

### Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) Mission Statement

The Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) program is committed to preparing ethical leaders of conscience who demonstrate high level critical thinking, professional competencies in nursing education and nursing leadership, and who make significant contributions to the local and global communities. Graduates are change agents in diverse healthcare arenas who collaboratively effect improvements in patient outcomes through education of healthcare workers and leadership in healthcare delivery systems.

The curriculum is rooted in the generation, evaluation, and utilization of evidence to support best practices in nursing education and nursing leadership. Graduates are prepared to utilize scholarly inquiry to provide evidence-based healthcare.

### Admission Prerequisites

Admission prerequisites to the Master of Science in Nursing program are track dependent:

- Track 1 is the nurse with a baccalaureate in nursing.
- Track 2 is the nurse with a non-nursing bachelor's degree.
- Track 3 is the nurse with an associate degree or diploma in nursing.

### Admission requirements include:

- Completion of the Franklin Pierce University Graduate Admission online application (all tracks)
- Resume (all tracks)
- Statement of professional goals including reasons for pursuing graduate study (all tracks)
- Receipt of all official transcripts from colleges and/or universities previously attended (all tracks)
- Unencumbered license to practice as a registered nurse in the U.S. (all tracks)
- Achievement of a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale (all tracks)
- Successful completion of an undergraduate statistics course with a C or higher (all tracks)
- Interview with nursing faculty (Tracks 1 and 2)

### Application Requirements for the Nursing Education Certificate

- Completion of the Franklin Pierce University Graduate Admission online application
- Professional resume
- Achievement of a minimum undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Receipt of all official transcripts from colleges and/or universities previously attended

### Learner Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the Master of Science in Nursing program, a graduate will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking and decision-making based on biopsychosocial and organizational sciences to improve healthcare quality and outcomes in a variety of settings.
- Integrate organizational and systems leadership to guide and direct clinical decision making and evaluation of patient outcomes and safety.
- Advocate for ethical and culturally sensitive strategies in the design of high quality and cost effective healthcare delivery.
- Apply clinical scholarship and implementation of best practices for the improvement of healthcare delivery.
- Incorporate technology to support and coordinate delivery of high quality, safe patient care.
- Demonstrate advocacy strategies to influence healthcare policy to improve health of the public.
- Collaborate with the inter-professional team to influence the shared goals of disease prevention, health promotion, and patient-centered care to diverse populations.

### The Nurse Educator concentration prepares the graduate to:

- Practice as a nurse educator in an academic or healthcare delivery setting, applying principles consistent with evidence based practice.
- Apply teaching and learning theories, current research findings, and knowledge of educational trends and professional standards to curriculum and instructional design.
- Utilize knowledge of continuous quality improvement methodology to evaluate all components of instructional design and delivery.
- Design and implement change projects in health care delivery systems and evaluate their impact.

- Incorporate knowledge of evidence in clinical and organizational management to improve client outcomes.

**The Nurse Leader concentration prepares the graduate to:**

- Assume leadership roles in healthcare organizations.
- Integrate leadership skills that facilitate collaborative relationships while functioning as a member of the team.
- Apply knowledge of healthcare payment systems to improve the utilization of clinical and fiscal resources.
- Design and implement change projects in healthcare delivery systems and evaluate their impact.
- Incorporate interdisciplinary knowledge of evidence in clinical and organizational management to improve client outcomes.

**Master of Science in Nursing Program Requirements**

Graduation from the M.S.N. program requires successful completion of general core courses and specialty concentration courses. The program may be completed as a full-time student taking 2 courses per graduate term or as a part-time student taking 1 course per term. Courses are offered 100% online format.

**Programs of Study**

Students apply to the MSN program and select either the Nursing Education or the Nursing Leadership track. Graduates from the Leadership Track will also earn a Healthcare Administration Certificate. Graduates from the Education Track will be prepared to take the NLN Certified Nurse Educator Exam. All students admitted to the MSN program will complete the following courses based on their chosen track:

NR510 Nursing Science in Practice 3 Credits  
NR520 Health Policy and Population Health Issues 3 Credits  
NR530 Inferential Statistics 3 Credits  
NR540 Evidence-Based Practice 3 Credits  
NR690 Nursing Capstone Seminar and Project 6 Credits  
NR009 Precourse for Capstone 0 Credits  
Total Core Credits 18

**Track 1: For the nurse with a baccalaureate degree in nursing (36 Credits)**

NR510 Nursing Science in Practice 3 Credits  
NR520 Health Policy and Population Health Issues 3 Credits  
NR530 Inferential Statistics 3 Credits  
NR540 Evidence-Based Practice 3 Credits  
6 Concentration Courses (Leadership or Education) 18 Credits  
NR690 Nursing Capstone Seminar and Project 6 Credits  
NR009 Precourse for Capstone 0 Credits

**Track 2: For the nurse with a non-nursing baccalaureate degree (39 Credits)**

NR501 R.N.-M.S.N. Bridge Course 3 Credits  
NR510 Nursing Science in Practice 3 Credits  
NR520 Health Policy and Population Health Issues 3 Credits  
NR530 Inferential Statistics 3 Credits  
NR540 Evidence-Based Practice 3 Credits  
6 Concentration Courses (Leadership or Education) 18 Credits  
NR690 Nursing Capstone Seminar and Project 6 Credits  
NR009 Precourse for Capstone 0 Credits

**Track 3: For the nurse without a baccalaureate degree (150 credits)**

**Track 3 students are required to complete a combination of core, baccalaureate, and graduate nursing courses. All baccalaureate course requirements must be completed before registering for graduate courses.**

Nursing students who have completed an associate's degree at another institution and transfer to Franklin Pierce University will not need to meet the requirements of the General and Liberal Education program at Franklin Pierce University. The general education curriculum can be transferred and accepted as a stand-alone general education block. Completion is defined as all courses completed with a grade of "C" or higher.

**Core Requirements-Track 3**

BI260 Human Anatomy & Physiology I\* 3 Credits  
BI261 Human Anatomy & Physiology II\* 3 Credits  
BI325 Microbiology\* 3 Credits  
Chemistry or other science 3 Credits

MT260 Statistics 3 Credits

PS101 Introduction to Psychology 3 Credits

PS234 Human Growth and Development 3 Credits

\*BI260, BI261 and BI325 are waived with an Associate's Degree in Nursing or proof of RN license.

### **Baccalaureate Requirements-Track 3**

NR200 Holistic Health 3 Credits

NR300 Transition to Baccalaureate Nursing Practice 3 Credits

NR320 Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing: Understanding Nursing Research 3 Credits

NR330 Clinical Decision Making 3 Credits

NR400 Health Policy and the Role of the Professional Nurse 3 Credits

NR420 Health Promotion Across the Lifespan 3 Credits

NR445 Community Health Nursing: Individual and Family Client 3 Credits

NR446 Community Health Nursing: Groups and Populations 3 Credits

NR490 Leadership in Professional Nursing Practice, Seminar & Project 6 Credits

NR001 Precourse for Capstone 0 Credits

Cultural Awareness—Choose One of the Following (3 Credits)

PA209 Ethical Reasoning

PA250 World Religions

SO205 Race and Ethnicity in Society

SO220 Families in Society

SO421 Inequality in Society

### **M.S.N. Courses-Track 3**

NR510 Nursing Science in Practice\* 3 Credits

NR520 Health Policy and Population Health Issues\* 3 Credits

NR530 Inferential Statistics 3 Credits

NR540 Evidence-Based Practice 3 Credits

6 Concentration Courses (Leadership or Education) 18 Credits

NR690 Nursing Capstone, Seminar and Project 6 Credits

NR001 Precourse for Capstone 0 credits

\*6 credits of Nursing Elective courses (NR510 and NR520) can be applied to the baccalaureate degree.

### **Concentrations**

#### **Nursing Education**

NR545 Clinical and Classroom Teaching Strategies in Nursing 3 Credits

NR547 Evidence-Based Curriculum Design in Nursing 3 Credits

NR549 Evaluating Learning and Assessing Competencies in Nursing 3 Credits

NR575 Advanced Pharmacology 3 Credits

NR580 Advanced Pathophysiology 3 Credits

NR585 Advanced Health Assessment 3 Credits

#### **Nursing Leadership**

GM510 Seminar in Leadership 3 Credits

GM520 Legal and Ethical Issues in Organizations 3 Credits

GM594 Healthcare Payment Systems 3 Credits

GM596 Quality Improvement Models in Healthcare 3 Credits

NR565 Strategic Planning & Project Management For Nurses I 3 Credits

NR570 Strategic Planning & Project Management For Nurses II 3 Credits

#### **Nursing Education Certificate (15 credits)**

The Certificate in Nursing Education is intended for Master's degree prepared nurses who desire more education in the process of nursing education. Normal time to completion is 1 year.

NR545 Clinical and Classroom Teaching Strategies in Nursing 3 Credits

NR547 Evidence-Based Curriculum Design in Nursing 3 Credits

NR549 Evaluating Learning and Assessing Competencies in Nursing 3 Credits

NR690 Nursing Capstone Seminar and Project 6 Credits

