MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Available on the Jackson, Hendersonville, and Germantown Campuses

Mission Statement
To prepare graduates for advanced professional nursing practice with specific functional and clinical abilities.

MSN Program Goals
- To provide masters nursing education that builds on one’s previous nursing foundation.
- To prepare the graduate for advanced professional nursing practice with specific functional and clinical abilities.
- To prepare advanced professional nurses academically for doctoral study in nursing.

MSN Expected Student Outcomes
The graduate of the master's nursing program will be able to:
1. Incorporate theory and research in advanced nursing practice.
2. Assume leadership roles in one's speciality area of nursing to promote health and well being of persons in an intercultural world.
3. Integrate knowledge of health care economics and policy into the delivery of cost effective, ethically responsible nursing care.
4. Manage information using technology to influence nursing practice.
5. Demonstrate competency in the selected nursing practice.

The Cohort Approach and Calendar
In the fall semester of each year the MSN Program accepts students in the Nurse Education, Nurse Administration, and Nurse Practitioner tracks. Groups pursue the degree as a cohort. This model emphasizes group cohesion, cooperation, and interactive support. Within semesters, some courses are offered in an accelerated, 7-8 week format.

Each cohort is presented its unique calendar for the complete program. Current MSN calendars are available at www.uu.edu/msn

Program Admission Requirements for All Tracks
Admission to the program will be based on competitive selection from the pool of applicants who meet the following admission requirements:
1. Completed application with application fee of $50
2. Completion of an accredited nursing program according to track specific options. Applicants with a previously earned Bachelor's degree in a field other than nursing must complete or show evidence of completion of the designated courses for the specific track or program.
3. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions must be submitted directly through NursingCAS. Please do not send transcripts for non-traditional nursing programs to Undergraduate Admissions. Transcripts must be received by NursingCAS in a sealed envelope from all previous academic institutions attended. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions must be sent to: NursingCAS, P.O. Box 9201, Watertown, MA 02471.
5. Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
6. Applicants from a country where the native language is not English must show proof of English proficiency with scores from TOEFL, IELTS, or iTEP courses. Minimum scores are TOEFL 560 (Internet-based 80), IELTS 6.5, or iTEP 4.4. In addition, students must provide WES evaluations of transcripts
7. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicants capabilities for graduate study. One letter of reference must be from the applicant’s current supervisor.
8. Last 60 hours cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
9. Completion of undergraduate statistics course
10. Cleared criminal background check
11. Clean drug screen

Additional requirements for the Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator tracks include a Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale, defined as Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, and Statistics is preferred.

Applicants are required to submit the following:
1. Statement of professional goals to include (limit to 2 pages):
   - Why you wish to become a Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, or Nurse Administrator/Leader
   - What you plan to do with this degree, including long term goals
   - How you have prepared for success in this program
2. Curriculum Vitae

RN to MSN Without Previously Earned Bachelor’s Degree; All Tracks
1. Applicants must complete the following undergraduate courses.
   - Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 – 8 hrs.
   - Microbiology – 3 or 4 hrs.
   - Pathophysiology – 3 hrs.
   - Christian Studies – 6 hrs.
* English Composition 1 and 2 – 6 hrs.
* Social Science – 9 hrs.
* Humanities – 9 hrs.

2. When these courses are completed, the applicant will notify the track coordinator no later than December 31 prior to the year they wish to start.

3. The following undergraduate nursing courses must be completed with a grade of “B” or above by May 31st of the year the applicant plans be considered for the MSN cohort. The nursing courses may be in progress when the applicant notifies the coordinator of their readiness to be considered for the MSN applicant pool.

   - NUR 306 Scientific Writing
   - NUR 330 Research

The RN to MSN does not award a BSN.

Acceptance to the RN to MSN program does not guarantee acceptance to any MSN track. Applicants who are not selected to progress to the MSN cohort will be given the opportunity to enter the RN to BSN program.

RN to MSN With Previously Earned Bachelor’s Degree In Field Other Than Nursing; All Tracks

1. Applicants must complete or show evidence of completion of the following undergraduate courses:
   - Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 – 8 hrs.
   - Microbiology – 3 or 4 hrs.
   - Pathophysiology – 3 hrs.
   - Any undergraduate statistics course – 3 hrs.

2. The above courses must be completed by December 31st of the year prior to the year the applicant plans to be considered for the MSN cohort. At that point, the applicant will notify the track coordinator they wish to be considered for the applicant pool in the next cohort for that track.

3. The following undergraduate nursing courses must be completed with a grade of “B” or above by May 31st of the year the applicant plans to be considered the MSN cohort. The nursing courses may be in progress when the applicant notifies the coordinator of their readiness to be considered for the MSN applicant pool.

   - NUR 306 Scientific Writing
   - NUR 330 Research

The RN to MSN does not award a BSN.

Acceptance to the RN to MSN program does not guarantee acceptance to any MSN track. Applicants who are not selected to progress to the MSN cohort will be given the opportunity to enter the RN to BSN program.

**Conditional Admission**

Applicants who do not meet the regular admission requirements to the MSN program may be admitted conditionally at the discretion of the MSN Graduate Admissions Committee. Conditional admission will require contractual agreement between the applicant and the Graduate Admissions Committee. The contract will specify the conditions and deadlines that must be met to matriculate to the regular MSN program.

**Transfer of Credit**

Graduate credit for courses earned at a regionally accredited college or university or at a foreign college or university may be transferred to Union University if the courses are essentially the same as those required in the MSN program. The maximum number of semester hours that may be transferred to Union University and applied to the MSN degree is nine, based upon evaluation of transcripts and/or course syllabi.

Applicants may take a maximum of two MSN core courses as non-degree seeking students. Enrollment in core nursing courses does not guarantee acceptance into a specific track.

No grade less than “B” may be transferred. Courses completed more than five years before beginning the MSN program at Union University will be considered on an individual basis.

**Academic Standards, Requirements for Progression, Probation, and Dismissal**

After completion of 9 graduate hours at Union University, a graduate student whose cumulative GPA from courses completed at Union University for graduate credit is below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation. A student placed on academic probation has one semester to increase his or her GPA to 3.0 or greater to be removed from a probationary status.

If the student fails to increase his or her GPA to 3.0 or greater during the following semester, the student will be dismissed from the MSN Program. Students must make a grade of B or higher in all track-specific and 700-level courses. No more than 2 Cs are allowed in the remaining courses in order to continue in the program. Students will also be dismissed if they receive an “F” (i.e. any grade below a “C”) in any course.

Students must maintain an overall B average. The program faculty recognize that situations may arise which prevent students from successfully matriculating through the program. Students who are concerned about their academic standing should contact his or her advisor. If it appears the student may not be able to achieve a minimum passing grade in a course they may be encouraged by the appropriate Program Chair to withdraw from the program. This can potentially prevent the student from acquiring an “F” on their Union University transcript if the dropped class occurs prior to the deadline listed on the academic calendar (“last day to drop a class”).

All students who withdraw or who are academically dismissed from the program can reapply for admission. However, readmission is not guaranteed.

Students admitted to the program must have and maintain while in the program:

1. Current CPR certification
2. Evidence of Hepatitis B, MMR, and tetanus vaccination (TDaP unless TD within the past 2 years)
3. Proof of 2 Varicella vaccinations or positive antibody titer (If titer is negative, student must repeat the 2 vaccine series.)
4. Freedom from tuberculosis as evidenced by a negative PPD or health provider examination
5. Health insurance
Financial Information

Tuition Rates (per credit hour)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Tuition Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN to MSN Administration and Education</td>
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</table>
  Undergraduate courses | $470 |
  Graduate courses | $585 |
| RN to MSN Nurse Practitioner: | 
  Undergraduate courses | $470 |
  Graduate courses | $585 |
| MSN Administration and Education | $585 |
| MSN Nurse Practitioner | $585 |

Post-Graduate Certificate

Administration and Education tracks | $585 |
NP tracks | $585 |

Full payment for a term (winter, fall, spring, summer, or other non-regular term) is expected at the time of registration for classes.

Application Fee: $50
General Student Fee: $25/credit hr.
Insurance fee per year: $25
Binding of Thesis or Scholarly Project: $45
Clinical Tracking System: $45/yr.
Cap and Gown: approx. $150
Castle Branch Medical Document Manager: $35
Castle Branch Drug Screen and Background Check: $110
NUR 600 Lab Fee: $100
Course Evaluation Annual Fee: $105/yr.
One-time fee for virtual patient (all NP and Education students): $89
Random Drug Screen: $37.50/yr.

Acceptance Deposits

Any combination of the following payment is available.
1. Check, cash, or credit card. The latter is subject to a convenience fee of 2.5%.
2. Federal Direct loan
3. Employer reimbursement
4. FACTS (an electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account)
5. Books cost approximately $150 per course.

Financial Assistance

Financial aid information for graduate students is available on our website at http://www.uu.edu/financialaid/graduate/. Generally, graduate students may be eligible for Federal Direct student loans or private alternative student loans, depending on the program of study and the eligibility of the borrower. Union University is also approved by the Department for Veterans Affairs to offer educational benefits to veterans, reservists, and dependents of veterans who qualify for Veterans Benefits. Any person who qualifies for VA Benefits should check with the Office of Student Financial Planning as soon as possible after acceptance into a graduate program.

Employer Tuition Reimbursement

1. The student is responsible for providing information to the university regarding his/her employer’s policies for reimbursement.
2. If the employer reimburses the student directly, the student must pay the university in full at the time of registration.
3. If the employer provides partial reimbursement directly to the university, the student must pay his/her portion of tuition at the time of registration.
4. The university will provide any required information to an employer when requested by the student.

Acceptance Deposits

The Nurse Anesthesia track requires a $1,000 tuition deposit. All other MSN tracks require a $300 acceptance deposit. These deposits are non-refundable if the student elects not to enroll. Applicants accepted on an “alternative” basis will receive a full refund if status is not changed to “accepted” by the first day of class.

Graduation Requirements

1. Completion of the course work within each specified track.
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 for the required course of study.
3. File an application for graduation with the Graduate Nursing Office by the published deadline.
4. Pay in full the student’s account in the Business Office.
5. Discharge all other obligations (fines, credentials, fees, etc.) at the University.

MSN, Education, Administration, Nurse Practitioner Tracks

(Nurse Administration and Nurse Education Tracks available online; Nurse Practitioner Track available on Jackson, Germantown, and Hendersonville Campuses)

I. MSN Core Requirements—17 hours
   A. NUR 515, 516, 523, 526, 533, 545, 559
II. Education Track—41 hours
   A. Complete the MSN Core (above)
   B. BIO 500; NUR 507, 517, 537, 544, 607, 622, 538, 642
III. Administration Track—39 hours

A. Complete the MSN Core (above)
B. Specialty: 525, 528, 535, 548, 572, 593, 615, 693A, 695B
IV. Nurse Practitioner—46 hours
   A. Complete the MSN Core (above)
   B. Advanced Practice Core: BIO 500; NUR 544, 558, 600 (Except Psychiatric Mental Health Track), 622, 650
   C. All students are required to take an elective and may choose one of the following: NUR 507, 525, 529, 696/697.
   D. Specialty
      Pediatric: NUR 557C, 627C, 638C
      Adult/Geriatric: NUR 557A, 627A, 638A
      Family: NUR 547, 617, 639
      Psychiatric Mental Health: NUR 566, 651, 652, 653, 654