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.

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.

Program 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 http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/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. Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate coursework attempted
2. Proof of current unencumbered RN licensure.
3. Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
4. International students must complete TOEFL with WES evaluations of transcripts
5. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicants capabilities for graduate study. One letter of reference must be from the applicant’s immediate supervisor.
6. Completed application with application fee of $50
7. Last 60 hours cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
8. Completion of undergraduate statistics course
9. Cleared criminal background check
10. Clean drug screen

Applicants are required to submit the following:
1. Statement of professional goals to include:
   • 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. A 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.

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.
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 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 with 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.

Students admitted to the program must have and maintain while in the program:
1. Current CPR certification for NP and Education students only
2. Evidence of Hepatitis B, MMR, polio and tetanus vaccination
3. Rubella and varicella titers or proof of immunization
4. Freedom from tuberculosis as evidenced by a negative PPD or health provider examination
5. Health insurance

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. Such transfer credit will not be allowed for courses used to satisfy another degree at another institution. The maximum number of semester hours that may be transferred to Union University and applied to the MSN degree is nine.

Applicants may take a maximum of two MSN core courses prior to being enrolled in their respective MSN track cohort. 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 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. In order to graduate with the MSN, students are required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for all courses taken for graduate credit at Union University.
Financial Information

Tuition Rates (per credit hour)
RN to MSN Administration and Education
  Undergraduate courses ......................... $420
  Graduate courses .................................. 545
RN to MSN Nurse Practitioner:
  Undergraduate courses ......................... 420
  Graduate courses .................................. 545
MSN Administration and Education ........... 545
MSN Nurse Practitioner .......................................................... 545
Post-master's Certificate
  Administration and Education tracks .......... 545
  NP tracks ........................................................................ 545

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
Graduation Fee: .................................................. 25
Insurance fee per year ........................................... 25
Binding of Thesis or Scholarly Project ........... 45
Course Tracking System .................................... 75
Case Tracking System (NAT) ....................... 150
Sitting fee for composite picture of class ........ 35
Cap and Gown Rental .................................. approx. 150
Initial Background Check/Drug Screen .......... 145
Urine Drug Screen (Random) ....................... 25
Simulation Fee/Nurse Anesthesia ................. 3000
NUR 600 Lab Fee ............................................. 100
Course Evaluation Annual Fee ..................... 50
One-time fee for digital patient (all NP and Education students) ........................................... 89

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 Stafford loan
3. Employer reimbursement
4. FACTS (an electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account)
Books cost approximately $150 per course.

Federal Stafford Loan
The Stafford loan application process will require that you:
1. Complete and forward the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to the federal government with Union University's code of 003528.
2. Complete a Union Financial Aid Application and a Stafford Master Promissory Note and forward to the Union University Student Financial Planning Office.
3. For more information, contact the Student Financial Planning Office at 731-661-5015.
If Federal Stafford loan is not approved and available at the time of registration, the student must assume the cost by paying in full by check, cash, credit card, or FACTS.

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, 622, 650
   C. Specialty
      Pediatric
         1. NUR 557C, 627C, 638C
         2. Select one: NUR 507, 525, 529, 535, 615, 696/697
      Adult
         1. NUR 557A, 627A, 638A
         2. Select one: NUR 507, 525, 529, 535, 615, 696/697
      Family
         1. NUR 547, 617, 639
         2. Select one: NUR 517, 525, 529, 535, 615, 696/697

Post-Master’s Certificate Program in Nursing Description

The School of Nursing endeavors to provide curricula that encourage individuals to pursue Christ-centered excellence in their nursing vocation as the future needs of the nursing profession come into view. The certificate program fits with the mission of the University to provide Christ-centered higher education that promotes excellence and character development in service to Church and society.

This program is ideal for nurses who have obtained their master’s degree in nursing in another advanced practice area and now find themselves in positions that require advanced preparation in either nursing education or nursing administration. For example, if an MSN graduate with a major in nursing administration desired to acquire a certificate in nursing education, that individual could enroll in this program. Another example might be that of an individual with a nurse practitioner degree desiring advanced study in nursing administration.

A Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing is not available for the Nurse Anesthesia track.

Mission Statement

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

Program Outcomes

The nursing education certificate prepares nurses for educator positions in various settings such as staff development, patient education, schools and colleges. The nursing administration certificate prepares nurses for a variety of administrative and leadership positions in health care delivery systems. The nurse practitioner certificate prepares nurses to serve in a variety of clinical practices.

Schedule

The certificate program is part-time study with classes generally occurring one day per week or online. Clinical requirements of practicum commonly require more than one day per week.

Curricular needs of full-time MSN cohort students will be given priority.

Admission Requirements:

1. Completion of a master’s degree in nursing from an accredited program
2. Official transcript(s) from all undergraduate and graduate coursework attempted
3. Proof of current unencumbered RN licensure.
4. Interview with the Nursing Graduate Admissions Selection Committee
5. Three letters of professional/academic reference specifying the applicants capabilities for graduate study. One letter of reference must be from the applicant’s immediate supervisor.
6. Completed application with application fee of $50
7. Last 60 hours cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
8. Completion of undergraduate statistics course
9. Cleared criminal background check
10. Clean drug screen

Additional requirements for the Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator tracks include:

11. Science GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale, defined as Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2, and Statistics is preferred
12. Statement of professional goals to include:
   • Why you wish to become a Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator, or Nurse Administrator
   • What you plan to do with this degree, including long term goals
   • How you have prepared for success in this program
Students admitted to the program must have and maintain while in the program:
1. Current CPR certification for NP and Education students only
2. Evidence of Hepatitis B, MMR, polio and tetanus vaccination
3. Rubella and varicella titers or proof of immunization
4. Freedom from tuberculosis as evidenced by a negative PPD or health provider examination
5. Health insurance

**Financial Information**

Tuition is $525 per semester hour for Education and Administration Post-Master’s Certificate programs and $510 for Nurse Practitioner Track. Full payment for a term is expected at the time of registration for classes.

Certificate/Program Completion fee: $25

Any combination of the following payment methods is available:
1. Check, cash, or credit card.
2. Employer reimbursement.
3. FACTS (and electronic monthly draft from a savings or checking account) The cost of books is approximately $150 per course.

**Employer Tuition Reimbursement Policies**

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 for classes.
3. If the employer provides partial reimbursement directly to the university, the student must pay his/her portion of the tuition at the time of registration.
4. The university will provide any required information to an employer when requested by the student.

**Certificate Program Completion Requirements**

1. Must demonstrate evidence of completion of MSN core through an accredited MSN Program.
2. Completion of the specialty curriculum for Post-Master’s Certificate.
3. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the certificate course work.
4. File an application for graduation with the Graduate Nursing Office by the published deadline.
5. Pay in full the student’s account in the Business Office.
6. Discharge all other obligations (fines, credentials, fees, etc.) at the University.

**Curriculum**

I. Post Master’s Certificate in Nursing Administration — 22 hours
   A. NUR 525, 528, 535, 548, 572, 593
   B. NUR 615, 693A, 695B
   C. Minimum Residency (22 semester hours) includes
      525, 528, 535, 548, 593, 615, 693A, 695B, 572,
      and 400 clinical hours.

II. Post Master’s Certificate in Nursing Education—24 hours
   A. BIO 500; NUR 507, 517, 537, 538, 544
   B. NUR 607, 622, 642
   C. Minimum Residency (14 semester hours) includes
      NUR 507, 517, 537, 538, 607, 642 and 380
      clinical hours

III. Post Master’s Certificate in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)—29 hours
   A. BIO 500; NUR 544, 547
   B. NUR approved 558, 600, 617, 622, 639, 650
   C. Select one: NUR 507, 525, 696/697
   D. Minimum Residency (18 semester hours) includes
      BIO 500; NUR 544, 547, 558, 600, 617, 639, 650
      and 560 clinical hours

IV. Post Master’s Certificate in Nurse Practitioner (See degree for peds and adult)—29 hours
   A. BIO 500; NUR 544, 555
   B. NUR 558, 600, 622, 650
   C. Select one: NUR 627A or 627C
   D. Select one: NUR 557A or 557C
   E. Select one: NUR 638A or 638C
   F. Select one: NUR 507, 525, 529, 696/697
   G. Minimum Residency (18 semester hours) includes
      BIO 500; NUR 544, 600, 622, 650, 627A or C,
      557A or C, 638A or C, and 560 clinical hours.