

# Nursing

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1610 Ben Graves Drive  
Telephone: 256.824.6345  
Email: nursing@uah.edu

**Dean:**

Marsha Howell Adams, PhD, RN, CNE, ANEF, FAAN, Professor

## Mission

Educate and inspire individuals to become nurse leaders who act with integrity, discover through scientific methods, and advocate for the best health care experiences of people and communities in a complex and evolving health care environment. In collaboration with our university colleagues and community partners, we are committed to excellence through our teaching, scholarship, practice, and service.

## Vision

To have a global reputation for transforming health care through innovative nursing practice, education, and research.

## Core Values

- Integrity - Resolutely adhering to moral, ethical, and professional standards.
- Inspiration - Encouraging, role-modeling, and mentoring others to pursue their professional dreams.
- Caring - Acting with compassion and respecting all persons by embracing cultural humility, diversity, and person-centered care.
- Excellence - Pursuing and achieving goals of the highest caliber.
- Wellness - Maximizing well-being in different states of health.

## Accreditation

The UAH College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The College of Nursing maintains approval status by the Alabama Board of Nursing.

## Degrees and Certificates Offered

The College of Nursing offers Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Science in Nursing, Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program, and a Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education.

## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The University of Alabama in Huntsville, College of Nursing offers both the Post-Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) to DNP and the Post-Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) to DNP pathways. The added content in the post-baccalaureate to DNP pathway will allow a seamless progression from the completion of a baccalaureate degree to advanced practice. Advanced practice specialty training at the doctoral level is needed to address the growing complexity of patient care and health care systems. In addition, expanding accountability of clinical expert nurses in advanced practice roles requires competencies in population-based care, leadership, health policy, health system improvement, research and evidence-based practice.

The existing Joint DNP program will continue until existing students have completed requirements for the DNP degree.

The purpose of the DNP program is:

- To prepare graduates at the highest level of nursing practice to provide complex hospital and community-based care for patients and families.
- To redesign and evaluate nursing and health care systems.
- To address dire shortages of clinical nursing faculty to mentor and educate new nurses.

The DNP focus is to prepare expert practitioners who can also serve as clinical faculty.

## DNP Program Objectives

Upon successful completion of the DNP program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Synthesize scientific evidence for the development of clinical interventions for practice.
2. Evaluate policy, care delivery, and organizational systems for current and future health care needs.

3. Demonstrate intra- and inter-professional collaboration to address health disparities and to improve health care quality across diverse populations and cultures.
4. Incorporate knowledge of current and emerging health technologies to improve care delivery and organizational systems.
5. Translate scientific, theoretical, and ethical principles into health care for individuals, families and populations.
6. Assume complex leadership roles to advance clinical practice and the health care delivery at the organizational and systems level and to improve health outcomes of individuals and populations.
7. Advocate for social justice, equity, and ethical policies in health care.
8. Deliver evidence-based care using clinical reasoning and analysis of complex healthcare issues to improve patient outcomes.

## DNP Admission Requirements

1. Graduation from a Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), Accreditation Commission of Nursing Education (ACEN) or Commission on Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) accredited baccalaureate program with a major in nursing (for BSN to DNP).
2. Hold a master's degree in advanced practice nursing from an accredited institution (for MSN to DNP).
3. Submit a UAH Application for Graduate Admission.
4. Submit official transcripts from all higher education programs attempted.
5. Submit proof of current/active unencumbered licensure and advanced specialty certification.
6. Submit CV/resume with cover letter describing career goals and identified area of clinical practice interest.
7. Meet health and background clearance requirements.
8. Interview by the DNP Admissions Committee (arranged by the UAH CON).

## DNP Progression Requirements

1. Any student who receives a "C" in any DNP course and the student's graduate GPA falls below a 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation by the University. The student has an additional 12 semester hours to bring the GPA up to 3.0 in accordance with the UAH School of Graduate Studies policy.
2. Any student who receives a "C" in a DNP course (regardless of graduate GPA) will be reviewed for progression by the DNP Coordinator and faculty of record. These individuals will make a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs for either continuation in the program with repeat of the course or dismissal from the nursing program. The Associate Dean of Graduate Programs will review the recommendation and deliver a final decision.
3. If the recommendation is for the student to continue in the program and repeat the course, he/she may retake the course at the next time the course is offered.
4. If the student obtains a "C" in a nursing course and is allowed to continue, receives a "C" in the retake of the original course, or makes a "C" in a second nursing course, this student will not be allowed to progress regardless of graduate GPA, and the student will be dismissed from the DNP program in the College of Nursing. No student will be able to record a grade "C," "D," or "F" on their program of study for the DNP program.
5. Courses taken at other universities will be considered for transfer credit only if a grade of "B" or higher is obtained in the course.

## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Graduate tracks offered through the College are focused on preparing advanced practice nurses in direct care provider roles as a family nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner, or in an indirect care provider role in nursing administration. The Master of Science degree is awarded upon successful completion of one of the three tracks.

Advanced practice nursing is distinguished by autonomy of practice and characterized by both increased complexity in clinical decision making and skills in managing organizations and health care environments.

Comprehensive health assessment skills provide a foundation for the critical thinking used in diagnostic decision making and treatments of complex human responses of diverse individuals, families, and communities to health problems. Advanced practice nursing students are guided in classroom and clinical experiences to formulate clinical decisions to manage common health problems, acute and chronic illnesses, and promotion of wellness.

Theory and research form a central core of knowledge for all tracks in the master's program. Building on content in these areas, all students integrate education, management, leadership, and consultation into their clinical experiences as they practice in a variety of settings. Practice sites for clinical courses are individually arranged with the student. Classes are usually offered one day per week and may be offered on campus, or through web-based courses.

Students who successfully complete their program of study are eligible to sit for the national certification examination in their area of expertise in the nurse practitioner program and after work requirements are met in the nursing administration program.

## MSN Program Objectives

Upon successful completion of the MSN program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Implement clinical decision-making skills in the delivery and management of diverse populations in a variety of settings.
2. Synthesize theoretical foundations, knowledge of science and humanities, and scholarly inquiry to provide clinical prevention, patient therapy, and system improvement to improve patient outcomes in diverse populations.
3. Analyze healthcare policies and information management systems to affect patient outcomes in diverse populations through organization and systems leadership and inter-professional collaboration.
4. Incorporate human, fiscal, and technological resources in providing and managing advanced care for improvement of patient and population outcomes.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of ethical principles, quality, safety, and equality in healthcare.
6. Assume responsibility for life-long learning by translating and integrating scholarship in practice and preparation for doctoral education in nursing.

## MSN Admission Requirements

1. Graduation from a Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), Accreditation Commission of Nursing Education (ACEN) or Commission on Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA) accredited baccalaureate program with a major in nursing.
2. Overall grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all baccalaureate coursework or on the last 60 semester hours of baccalaureate coursework completed.
3. Acceptable score on either the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) taken within the last five years. The minimum score on the MAT is 410. The minimum scores for the GRE are 150 Verbal, 150 Quantitative, and 3.0 Analytical Writing. (Students with an overall GPA of 3.0 may waive #3).
4. Submit a UAH Application for Graduate Admission.
5. Submit official transcripts from all higher education programs attempted.
6. Submit CV/resume.
7. Three completed College of Nursing Graduate Recommendation Forms from individuals familiar with applicant's academic and clinical abilities. Forms are available in the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs.
8. Satisfactory completion of an elementary statistics course.
9. Current unencumbered registered nurse license. If a student is permitted to meet course clinical requirements in a state other than Alabama, the student must be licensed in that state. Students will not be allowed to continue in the track if any license is placed on probation, suspended, or revoked. Licensure must be maintained throughout the program.

## MSN Degree Requirements

In addition to the graduate degree requirements of the School of Graduate Studies, a student is required to complete a minimum of 39-42 semester hours of graduate coursework in one of the following:

- Acute-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Track
- Family Nurse Practitioner Track
- Nursing Administration Track

Please note that curricular changes may be made in the coming year. Please contact the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs for the most current information.

## MSN Synthesis Requirement

The MSN student is expected to complete a synthesis requirement as part of the graduate program in nursing. The purpose of this synthesis requirement is to demonstrate development of the knowledge base, values, and skills related to the particular program of study as a prerequisite for graduation. There are two options in which the MSN student may meet the synthesis requirement:

Completion of a capstone course and one of the following:

1. Completion of a traditional research thesis under the guidance of a committee of graduate nursing faculty within the College of Nursing. This option requires that the students enroll in **a minimum of 6 semester hours of thesis credit** (not necessarily in the same semester). Oral defense serves as the final comprehensive examination for students completing the thesis or scholarly project option. This oral examination must follow policies outlined in the UAH Graduate Catalog.
2. Completion of two graduate level electives. Graduate level electives are designed to offer in depth study of areas on interest to graduate level nursing students. Examples include:
  - Transplantation
  - Forensic Nursing
  - Death and Dying
  - Budgeting, etc.

## MSN Progression Requirements

1. Any student who receives a "C" in any MSN clinical nursing courses will be reviewed for progression by the NP Coordinator and faculty of record. These individuals will make a recommendation to the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs for either continuation in the program with repeat of the course or dismissal from the nursing program. The Associate Dean of Graduate Programs will review the recommendation and deliver a final decision. **Courses Requiring a Grade of "B" or Higher:**
  - ACNP I, II, III, IV
  - FNP I, II, III, IV
  - Nursing Administration NUR 633, NUR 634
  - Advanced Health Assessment, Pathophysiology, Pharmacology
2. If a recommendation is made for the student to continue in the program and repeat the course, he/she may retake the course at the next time the course is offered.
3. If the student obtains a "C" in a nursing course and is allowed to continue, makes a "C" in a second clinical nursing course, or if the student receives a "C" in the retake of the original course, this student may not be allowed to progress independent of GPA, and will be dismissed from the College of Nursing. The student may petition for readmission to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs.
4. If the student makes a "C" in any graduate course and the student's GPA falls below a 3.0, the student will be placed on academic probation by the University. The student has an additional twelve semester hours to bring the GPA up to 3.0 in accordance with the UAH School of Graduate Studies policy.
5. No student will be able to record a grade less than a "C" on their program of study for the preferred graduate track.
6. Courses taken at other universities will be considered for transfer credit only if a grade of "B" or higher is obtained in the course.

## Nurse Practitioner

The nurse practitioner is a skilled health care provider who uses expert clinical judgment and decision making in conducting comprehensive health assessments, making differential diagnoses, and prescribing of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions in the direct treatment of health problems. Nurse practitioners function as care providers, case managers, researchers, consultants, and educators. Two nurse practitioner tracks are offered at the college:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

Although both are advanced practice nurses, family nurse practitioners function as primary care providers focusing on common health care problems. Family nurse practitioners establish collaborative practices with primary care physicians to deliver culturally sensitive care to clients. Adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioners focus on the acute care of adults with acute illnesses and may practice in the hospital, home, or clinic setting. Adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioners provide expert interventions focused on health promotion, illness prevention, and health care management.

## Nursing Administration

This track prepares nurses who will influence the future of health care through visionary nursing leadership. Competencies include communication, financial skills, information technology, leading and managing change, policy analysis, and empowerment for professional practice. Graduates are prepared to assume positions in education, administration, management, or specialty area roles in a variety of care delivery sites.

## Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Certificate

Students already possessing a master's degree in nursing have the opportunity to pursue a family nurse practitioner certificate. Students are admitted to the family nurse practitioner certificate program on a full-time basis to complete the requirements in one year.

## Graduate Certificate Program in Nursing Education

Students who are currently enrolled in graduate education or those possessing a master's degree have the opportunity to continue their education and obtain a certificate in nursing education. Classes for this program are arranged in a manner to allow for full time employment or continued study in the master's program. The program is composed of six courses and requirements for the certificate program may be completed in one calendar year.

More detailed information about opportunities for students seeking graduate degrees and certification may be obtained from the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs 256.824.6669.

## Online Learning

Online courses are offered by the College of Nursing to improve access to higher education. The College of Nursing offers the DNP program and the MSN in Nursing Administration program completely online. The nurse practitioner programs include hybrid courses allowing the student maximum flexibility. All courses contain web-based enhancement.

Courses offered completely online or those with a hybrid of on-campus/online are delivered in *Canvas*, the official course management system for UAH. Faculty in the College of Nursing use a common template to organize courses for student ease of navigation. Other educational technologies such as Panopto, Turnitin, wiki pages, chats, etc. are used to enhance student interaction, learning, and enjoyment.

## Facilities

The College of Nursing utilizes the facilities and resources of the entire university, the community, and affiliated health care agencies. The college is housed in a four-story building centrally located on the UAH campus. Classrooms equipped with current educational technology as well as the Learning and Technology Resource Center (LTRC) with a state-of-the-art simulation lab known as Charger Hospital assist students to learn in multiple ways.

The College of Nursing maintains contracts with over 800 health related agencies to offer a wide range of clinical sites for student educational experiences. Agencies in the local area include the Huntsville Hospital Health System, Crestwood Medical Center, local Public Health Departments, skilled nursing homes, home health agencies, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Clinics-Huntsville Campus also partner with the College to provide clinical sites. Other hospitals, clinics, physicians' offices, and rural health clinics across Alabama and southern Tennessee are also used for student experiences.

## Transportation

Clinical learning experiences are varied in settings and are located within Huntsville and surrounding communities. Students are expected to travel to and from all clinical experiences. Students are responsible for providing their own transportation and carrying appropriate insurance. The College of Nursing is not liable for any traffic violations or auto mishaps during student commutes.

## Advising and Assistance

The focus of advising in the College of Nursing is to assist students to successfully progress toward their educational objectives. Advising is designed to provide assistance where desired and appropriate. All pre-admission graduate students are advised in the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs located on the second floor of the Nursing Building.

Students admitted to the graduate program are assigned a faculty advisor who assists them throughout the remainder of the academic program. Faculty advisors assist students in completing a program of study for the track to which they have been admitted as well as providing guidance for future employment or educational endeavors.

## Requirements for Enrollment and Admitted Students

1. Documentation of professional liability insurance must be provided to the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs prior to enrollment in a nursing class. Professional liability insurance must be maintained throughout the program.
2. Documentation of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training must be provided to the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs prior to enrolling in a nursing class. CPR certification must be maintained throughout the program. Students entering the adult gerontology acute care nurse practitioner tracks must obtain and maintain Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification (ACLS) prior to enrolling in a clinical nursing class.
3. Students are required to undergo drug testing and a criminal background check prior to enrollment in nursing courses, annually and for cause at other points. Information and procedures are provided upon admission and prior to each academic year. If the College deems the drug testing and/or background check information to be unsatisfactory, acceptance or enrollment into the College may be denied or an offer of acceptance rescinded. If a student's acceptance or enrollment is denied or rescinded based on the information obtained from a criminal background check report, the student will be advised of the name and address of the consumer reporting agency that furnished the report, and of the right to dispute the accuracy and completeness of any information contained in the report by contacting the consumer reporting agency directly. If the College decides, based upon the individual's written description, explanation and documentation about information obtained in the criminal background check, that the results of the check are deemed to be satisfactory, the individual shall be informed that the College's positive decision is not a guarantee that every clinical facility will permit the student to participate in educational clinical experiences at that facility or that any state will accept the individual as a candidate for registration, permit or licensure. Convictions of pleas of guilty of, pleas of nolo contendere (no contest) to, any criminal charges, or any pending criminal charges are ground for dismissal from the College of Nursing. Any crimes involving violence against the person including but not limited to murder, manslaughter, use of deadly force, assault and battery (other than simple), sex crimes, abuse of children or the elderly, abduction, or robbery at any time prohibit a student from admission or progression in the Nursing Program. The Associate Dean will inform any disqualified student, and the student will not be allowed to continue in any Nursing Program.
4. Students may also be required to have additional drug screens and/or criminal background checks prior to attending selected clinical agencies.
5. Documentation of current license to practice as a registered nurse must be provided to the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs prior to enrollment in a nursing class. Registered nurse students must submit proof of an unencumbered current license. If a student is permitted to meet course clinical requirements in a state other than Alabama, the student must be licensed in that state. Registered nurse students will not be allowed to continue in the program if any nursing license is placed on probation, suspended, or revoked. Licensure must be maintained throughout the program.
6. Essential functions define selected attributes and behaviors necessary for students to demonstrate in order to successfully complete their education and subsequently enter nursing practice. These essential functions are determined to be required for initial and continued enrollment in the College of Nursing. Students must be able to perform each of the following essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations:

- a. Critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment. Examples (not all inclusive) of necessary activities include identifying cause-effect relationships in clinical and classroom situations; and developing nursing care plans.
- b. Interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact with individuals, families, and groups from various social, emotional, cultural and intellectual backgrounds. Examples (not all inclusive) include the ability to establish rapport with patients/clients and colleagues.
- c. Communication abilities sufficient for verbal and written interaction with others. Examples (not all inclusive) include explaining treatment procedures, initiating health teaching, and documenting and interpreting nursing actions and patient/ client responses.
- d. Mobility abilities sufficient to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces. Examples (not all inclusive) include moving around in clients' rooms, work spaces and treatment areas; and administering cardiopulmonary procedures;
- e. Gross and fine motor abilities sufficient for providing safe, effective nursing care. Examples (not all inclusive) include completing examinations/ evaluations by writing, typing or demonstration; calibrating and using equipment; and positioning clients.
- f. Auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs. Examples (not all inclusive) include hearing basic conversation; monitoring alarms, emergency signals and auscultatory sounds; and hearing cries for help.
- g. Visual abilities sufficient for observation and assessment necessary in nursing care. Examples (not all inclusive) include reading documents such as patient charts and laboratory reports; reading calibrations on syringes, sphygmomanometers, and thermometers, and equipment outputs such as waves, printouts, and digital readings; and accurately observing client behaviors such as color changes and nonverbal communication.
- h. Tactile abilities sufficient for physical assessment. Examples (not all inclusive) include performing palpation, percussion, temperature changes, complete physical examinations and other activities related to therapeutic interventions.
- i. Behavioral/Social abilities sufficient to demonstrate emotional stability, maintenance of composure under stress, development of mature, empathetic and effective nurse-patient relationships and use of sound and unimpaired judgment in classroom and clinical activities.

These essential functions are not intended to be a complete listing of all nursing behaviors, but they are a sampling of the types of abilities needed by nursing students to meet program objectives and requirements. The College or its affiliated agencies may identify additional critical behaviors or abilities. The identified essential functions are adopted from the Americans with Disabilities Act: Implications for Nursing Education (re approved 2004) by the Southern Regional Education Board and the Council on Collegiate Education.

## Health Requirements

The clinical experiences of nursing students require a health screening program. The following steps are required as part of admission to and enrollment in the graduate program:

1. Each student is required to have a health examination by a physician or a certified nurse practitioner. Reports of the results of this examination must be submitted on forms provided by the College of Nursing and must be received by the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs by published deadlines. Individual clinical agencies may require additional documentation for specific health requirements which must be met by students;
2. Each student must be immunized for Hepatitis B. For initial enrollment, certification that the series of injections has begun or results of a recent titer must be received by the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs by published deadlines. Documentation of the completed series is required for continued enrollment and must be received by the College by published deadlines. Immunizations and titers are at the expense of the student;
3. Each student is required to be immunized against measles, mumps, rubella, rubeola, and varicella. Annual influenza vaccinations are required. Documentation of current immunization, physician's statement, or copy of recent titer results must be received by the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs by the published deadlines. Immunizations and titers are at the expense of the student;
4. Each student is required to have a 2-step PPD (Tuberculosis/TB) skin test or equivalent less than one year old by published deadlines. Evidence of the annual testing or results of a recent chest x-ray are required. Testing expenses are the responsibility of the student. Documentation of the test results must be received by the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs by published deadlines;
5. Documentation of current health insurance must be received by the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs by published deadlines. Hospitals and health agencies provide emergency treatment to students for injury or illness occurring in the course of program requirements in their agencies. Such treatment will be at the expense of the student. Students are required to maintain health insurance throughout the program.
6. Each student must complete a certified background check and a drug screen before starting the program.

## Student Financial Services

Student Financial Services, located in the University Center, provides financial aid information and assists students in meeting individual needs. Financial aid for graduate students in the College of Nursing comes primarily from the following sources:

1. Alabama Board of Nursing Scholarships. Fifteen scholarships are granted each year to graduate students attending schools in Alabama. Funding is \$3,800 for full-time study for one year. Students must make application directly to the Alabama Board of Nursing. Contact the Alabama Board of Nursing for further information.
2. Federal Nurse Training Grants. The College of Nursing applies for a limited number of traineeships for graduate students. These funds are granted to admitted students enrolled for full-time study and admitted students enrolled for part-time study who will graduate within 12 months. Application forms may be obtained through the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs.
3. Elizabeth M. Fisher Memorial Scholarship.

4. Joan Williamson NANPA Scholarship.
5. Graduate Teaching Assistantships.
6. Graduate Research Assistantships.
7. Graduate Tuition Scholarships.
8. Nurse Faculty Loan Program

## Course Load

The usual course load for a full-time graduate student in nursing is from 9 to 12 semester hours. Students may choose to complete a degree in full-time or part-time study with the exception of the post-master's students. Students admitted to the postmaster's program are required to complete the program in full-time study.

## Master's Program in Nursing

- Nursing, MSN - Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nursing Practitioner Track (<http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-msn-adult-gerontology-acute-care-nursing-practitioner-track>)
- Nursing, MSN - Family Nurse Practitioner Track (<http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-msn-family-nurse-practitioner-track>)
- Nursing, MSN - Nursing Administration Track (<http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-administration-track>)

## Doctoral Program in Nursing

- Nursing, DNP (<http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-dnp>)

## Certificates in Nursing

- Nursing Education (<http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-education-graduate-certificate>)
- Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Program (<http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/post-masters-family-nurse-practitioner-program>)

### NUR 500 - SPECIAL TOPICS

Semester Hours: 2-4

Advanced study of selected area of interest in nursing.

### NUR 518 - GLOBAL HEALTH: INTERN'L STUDY

Semester Hours: 3

This course will focus on a selected international health care system. The international system will be compared with the US Health Care System in relation to economic, social, cultural, policy, and environmental influences. Culmination of the course will center on international experiences with health care facilities, policy making bodies, historical, and cultural introductions in another country.

### NUR 524 - HEALTH CARE AND THE LAW

Semester Hours: 3

Introduction to basic health law in the context of application to nursing practice. Content relates to involvement with legal principles in nursing and healthcare. Federal, state and local aspects of law are included. (Cross listed with NUR 424).

### NUR 525 - HUMAN SEXUALITY

Semester Hours: 3

Theory and issues related to human sexuality in health and illness. Emphasis on theory and values, clarification of human sexuality needs. Elective, open to all university students. (Cross listed with NUR 425).

### NUR 526 - CONS:WKG W/IND & GRP COMM APPR

Semester Hours: 3

This course presents consultation as a process of interacting with individuals and groups to resolve issues related to clients and/or the delivery of health care. Students explore the consultation process, group dynamics, application-oriented approaches and strategies, and professional issues. The focus is on communication as the key to developing successful relationships.

**NUR 527 - INTRO TO FORENSICS IN NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to provide basic theoretical knowledge related to nursing care of the donor/transplantation client and their families. Course content focuses on historical and current issues in donor/transplantation nursing including the impact of legal, ethical, political, economic, and socio-cultural issues. Students will examine the roles of the professional nurse and the interdisciplinary team in the management of care for the donor/transplant client and their families. Topics of future research and critical thinking will be discussed.

**NUR 528 - GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

Nursing care of older adults in multiple settings. Issues and trends are incorporated.

**NUR 530 - HLTH CARE WKF:ISS/LDERSH STRAT**

Semester Hours: 3

Description and analysis of contemporary issues regarding the health care workforce. Particular focus will be placed on the multifaceted nature of health care workforce shortages. Various models for analysis of workforce issues will be used and strategies being used will be examined. An evaluation of the nurse leader role in creating positive work environments and implementing solutions conclude the student experience.

**NUR 534 - PALLIATIVE CARE**

Semester Hours: 3

Palliative care is when there is no longer a medical treatment or cure for a physical problem. This palliative care course includes meeting the physical, emotional, social, cultural, and spiritual needs of individual and their families. A course focus will be on coping, grief, bereavement, pain relief and managing living implications for individuals with life-threatening illnesses. There will be recognition of the importance of individuality, vulnerability, and resilience in the quality of living during the dying process.

**NUR 537 - NURSING AS A POLITICAL FORCE**

Semester Hours: 3

The course explores the historical, current, and future impact of nursing on the political process. Local, state, national, and international aspects of nursing as a political force are analyzed. Emphasis is on political systems, regulatory processes, and organizational issues influencing health care delivery. Elective, open to all university students.

**NUR 540 - ONCOLOGY NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

This course provides a holistic approach to the nursing care of people with cancer. The nursing process is used as the basis for promoting health and facilitating adaptation in the person with cancer. The course includes clinical experiences in selected agencies.

**NUR 550 - ISSUES IN TRANSPLANTATION**

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to provide basic theoretical knowledge related to nursing care of the donor/transplantation client and their families. Course content focuses on historical and current issues in donor/transplantation nursing including the impact of legal, ethical, political, economic, and socio-cultural issues. Students will examine the roles of the professional nurse and the interdisciplinary team in the management of care for the donor/transplant client and their families. Topics of future research and critical thinking will be discussed.

**NUR 601 - THEORETICAL PERS ADV NUR PRAC**

Semester Hours: 3

**NUR 602 - SCHOLARLY INQ ADV NUR PRAC**

Semester Hours: 3

Includes discussion of philosophical and theoretical bases of nursing research and the application of research findings to practice. Development of a research problem, including problem identification, evaluation of current knowledge, and the selection of an appropriate research approach. Focuses on research methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, as they relate to data collection, data analysis including both interpretive and statistical strategies, and discussion of findings. Proposal generation and research funding mechanisms are included.

**NUR 604 - HEALTH POLICY**

Semester Hours: 3

Local, state, and national health care policies, with emphasis on political systems, regulatory processes, and organizational issues influencing health care delivery. Elective; open to university students.



**NUR 605 - ADVANCED HLTH ASSESSMENT**

Semester Hours: 3

This course provides an opportunity for the advanced practice nurse to utilize theoretical and evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to conduct a comprehensive and systematic assessment as a foundation for decision making in caring for clients across the lifespan.

**NUR 605L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 606 - PATHOPHYSIOLOGY**

Semester Hours: 3

Expands upon previous knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and developmental disease processes. Anticipated physiological alterations are discussed as they affect individuals throughout the lifespan.

**NUR 607 - PHARMACOLOGY IN ADV PRAC**

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nursing student with clinical reasoning skills necessary to analyze data obtained from findings of the patient health history, advanced physical and pharmacological assessment of patients across the lifespan. The student will utilize the findings to determine the appropriate treatment regimen based on the individual needs of the patient.

**NUR 610 - FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER I**

Semester Hours: 6

This clinical course introduces the roles of the advanced practice nurse in direct and indirect health services for assessment, health promotion, illness prevention, and health management of patients across the lifespan. Prerequisite: NUR 605 and NUR 606 (concurrently).

**NUR 610L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 611 - FAM NURS PRACTITIONER II**

Semester Hours: 6

This course encourages the advanced practice nurse to integrate principles of advanced practice nursing into broad organized, culturally appropriate planning, delivery, management, and evaluation in prevention and services of health through the lifespan/identified populations.

**NUR 611L - CLINICAL**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 612 - FAMILY NUR PRACTITIONER III**

Semester Hours: 6

This course encourages the advanced practice nurse to define principles of advanced practice nursing including interventions that influence favorable health outcomes for common conditions through the lifespan/identified populations in collaboration with other health professionals. Prerequisites with concurrency: NUR 606 and NUR 607.

**NUR 612L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 613 - FAM NURS PRACTITIONER IV**

Semester Hours: 6

This is the culminating primary care clinical course in which the advanced practice student initiates and maintains effective working relationships, appraise policy development and systems organization, establishes respectful communication within inter-professional groups with skills and care coordination, delegation and initiation of conflict resolution strategies. Prerequisites: NUR 610, 611, & 612.

**NUR 613L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 614 - FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER V**

Semester Hours: 3

First of two culminating courses/seminar/clinical practicum in the family nurse practitioner certificate program. The clinical practicum will be completed in a primary care setting. Classroom seminar focuses on the role, trends, and health policy issues facing the family nurse practitioner.

**NUR 614L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 615 - FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER VI

Semester Hours: 3

The culminating course/seminar/clinical practicum in the family nurse practitioner certificate. The clinical practicum will be completed in a primary care setting. Classroom seminar focuses on the role, trends, and issues facing the family nurse practitioner.

NUR 615L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 620 - ADLT GER ACUTE CR NUR PRACT I

Semester Hours: 6

This is the culminating adult gerontology acute care clinical course in which the advanced practice student initiates and maintains effective working relationships, establishes respectful communication within inter-professional groups with skills and care coordination delegation, and initiation of conflict resolution strategies.

NUR 620L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 621 - ADLT GER ACUTE CR NUR PRACT II

Semester Hours: 6

This course allows the advanced practice nurse to refine principles of advanced practice nursing into the delivery of broad, organized, culturally appropriate planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence based care of complex, acute critically and chronically ill diverse patients across the entire spectrum of adulthood. Prerequisites w/ concurrency: NUR 606 or NUR 607 or NUR 620.

NUR 621L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 622 - ADLT GER ACUTE CR NUR PRAC III

Semester Hours: 6

Clinical course in care of adult patients with acute alterations in health in the hospital, home, or clinic setting focusing on the concept of managed care. Within a selected product line, the practitioner will develop protocols, care for and evaluate care for patients and practice consulting with client groups.

NUR 622L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 623 - ADLT GER ACUTE CR NUR PRAC IV

Semester Hours: 6

Culminating course in the acute care nurse practitioner track. Student will complete a clinical residency in a selected acute care area/specialty. Classroom theory will focus on the role and legal trends and issues facing the acute care nurse practitioner.

NUR 623L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Semester Hours: 0

NUR 629 - US HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Semester Hours: 3

The focus of this course is to explore the structure and complexity of the US health care system. Content will include underlying values, major historical developments, reimbursement methods, stakeholders, and issues driving reform. Prerequisite w/ concurrency: NUR 630.

NUR 630 - FND CONCEPTS NURSING ADMINATOR

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on the Nurse Administrator's relationships and roles in a variety of health care systems. Theories of management and organization are analyzed from the perspective of structure, communication, dynamics, trends, and key management, responsibilities, and functions in health care delivery systems.

NUR 631 - LEADERSHIP HUMAN RESRC MGMT

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on the role of the nurse leader in resource allocation and management in health care systems and related organizations. Content related to human resource management includes workforce development, the healthcare workforce, recruitment, selection, retention, development, and labor relations.

**NUR 634 - INTERNSHIP IN NURS LEADERSHIP**

Semester Hours: 5

This is the culminating course that provides opportunities to synthesize leadership learning, administrative theory, and operational skills in budgeting and finance, and resource management. This knowledge is applied through the identified nurse executive competencies in selected health care related organizations. Course objectives reflect the AONE competencies and QSEN standards. Clinical hours 3, Contact hours 135.

**NUR 634L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 635 - RESIDENCY IN LEADERSHIP I**

Semester Hour: 1

This course focuses on introduction to health care leadership concepts and beginning role development. Introduction of leadership systems in clinical management, administration, education, and research will be completed. Students will explore capabilities of electronic communications as compared to didactic interactions. Emphasis is placed on strategies and communication. Admission to Leadership in Health Care Systems Track required.

**NUR 636 - BUDGETING IN HEALTH CARE SYS**

Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to assist nurse leaders in gaining conceptual knowledge regarding budgeting in health systems. The focus is on planning and controlling budgets. Topics include knowledge related to executive level budget management and business planning.

**NUR 637 - CASE MGMT IN HEALTH CARE SYS**

Semester Hours: 2

This course is designed as an introduction to health care delivery through case management model. The course focuses upon basic foundational information targeting the professional nurse's role in case management. Various types of case management are discussed and analyzed. The impact of managed care to case management and other care delivery methods is explored for a changing health care delivery system. Fiscal, ethical/legal and clinical implications of case management are considered.

**NUR 638 - INFORMATICS NURSE ADMINISTRATOR**

Semester Hours: 1-6

The focus of this course is on the structuring and processing of health information for making decisions in health care.

**NUR 639 - RESIDENCY IN LEADERSHIP II**

Semester Hour: 1

This course focuses on leadership concepts and application in the clinical decision making arena for health care. Analysis of leadership systems in clinical management, administration, education, and research will be completed. Students will explore capabilities, benefits, barriers, and related information to current states of health care delivery design and functions. Emphasis is placed on strategies and communication.

**NUR 640 - CURRICULUM DEV IN NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

Principles and concepts of curriculum development are examined with respect to their application to development of both the theoretical and clinical components of nursing programs. Includes principle regarding theories of learning, the changing nature of knowledge and societal needs as basic considerations directing curricular planning and revision.

**NUR 641 - TEACHING/LEARNING IN NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

Emphasis is on the development of classroom and clinical laboratory teaching skills and includes a critical appraisal of specific teaching strategies. The student is provided the opportunity to acquire knowledge in the use and design of common and innovative teaching methods including web-based and interactive delivery systems.

**NUR 642 - TESTING & EVALUATION IN NURS**

Semester Hours: 3

Major emphasis on the development of classroom and clinical skills in appraisal and evaluation methods of student performance. The student is provided with the opportunity to acquire skills in constructing various types of testing and evaluation (formative and summative) procedures as they relate to nursing education.

**NUR 643 - FACULTY ROLE DEV IN NURSING**

Semester Hours: 3

Role theory serves as the basis for the discussion and practice in developing teaching, service and research role of a faculty member in a nursing program. Discussion on legislative and professional agencies issues and policies impinging on the teaching role.

**NUR 644 - PRACTICUM IN TEACHING**

Semester Hours: 3

Opportunities to do practice teaching with nursing students in various phases of their basic educational programs. Learning activities will be planned on an individual basis and based on the specific teaching responsibilities of their primary course assignment. Selected baccalaureate degree and/or associate degree programs will be used as practice sites.

**NUR 645 - CAPSTONE NURS EDUC CERTIF CRS**

Semester Hours: 3

The major emphasis of this capstone education course is the development of the professional teaching role within an institutional setting. The focus is on the student's ability to function as a professional leader utilizing knowledge gained to promote change, engage in professional activities; promote continuous improvement; and serve as a mentor in an educational environment.

**NUR 647 - STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Semester Hours: 3

The focus of this course is to prepare Nursing Administration graduate students to comprehend and actively engage in organizational strategic planning. Emphasis is on the development of organizational blueprints, tracking current trends, forecasting, and innovative strategies in healthcare to achieve an organization's mission and vision, thus remaining competitive in the healthcare industry. Prerequisite w/ concurrency: NUR 630.

**NUR 648 - CONCEPTS OF HLTH ASSMNT & PROM**

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on concepts in health assessment and health promotion for individuals and populations. This course is designed for nurses preparing for leadership roles in health care organizations. Prerequisite w/ concurrency: NUR 630.

**NUR 649 - QUALITY, SAFETY, & RISK MGMT**

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on the quality, safety, and risk management concepts for nurse leaders. Content includes the use of quality tools and use of data to evaluate and promote quality outcomes. Prerequisite w/ concurrency: NUR 630.

**NUR 650 - INDEPENDENT STUDY**

Semester Hours: 2-4

Planning, implementation, and evaluation of related phenomena of special interest observed in nursing practice.

**NUR 660 - ADLT GERONT CNS I**

Semester Hours: 6

Primary focus is on nursing care of adults and families with long-term alterations in health. Subroles of the advanced practice nurse are introduced and reinforced. Theory concerning adult development, health promotion, and disease prevention practices, identifying populations at risk, cultural and environmental diversity issues, provides the background knowledge used by the student in giving care to patients/families in a variety of settings. Patient and caregiver needs and care interventions are central as the student practices the role of clinician caring for adults with chronic problems.

**NUR 660L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 661 - ADLT GERONT CNS II**

Semester Hours: 6

Care management of the adult patient in the hospital or community setting. Rural and other vulnerable populations are of major concern. Health policy, fiscal regulations, and differing health delivery systems serve as points of discussion. Clinical experiences with vulnerable and underserved populations primarily in rural settings.

**NUR 661L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 662 - ADLT GERONT CNS 111**

Semester Hours: 6

Advanced nursing care of adults of diverse populations in secondary or tertiary settings. Emphasis on special needs and advanced nursing care of adults with acute health alterations. Student clinical experiences are therapeutic nursing interventions with acutely ill patients with complex health problems.

**NUR 662L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 663 - ADLT GERONT CNS IV**

Semester Hours: 6

Culminating residency course where the student uses the sub-roles of the advanced practice nurse?clinician, teacher, manager, researcher, consultant, in providing direct and indirect care to the adult patient. Legal, ethical, and licensing issues affecting the role of the advanced practice nurse are points of classroom discussion, along with current issues and trends. Theories concerning ethical decision making, consultation, leadership, and methods of research utilization enhance the student?s practice. The clinical placement should strengthen the student?s area of concentration developed with the faculty advisor.

**NUR 663L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 670 - HUMAN FACTORS HEALTHCARE COMPU**

Semester Hours: 3

Overview of epidemiologic methods with discussion of application to diagnosis and choice of therapy. Concepts and mechanisms related to transmission, acquisition of disease, trends and distribution of patterns of disease discussed. The application of epidemiology to human health problems and rural settings is emphasized.

**NUR 671 - USABILITY EVAL HEALTHCARE I.T.**

Semester Hours: 3

This course examines usability methods for the design and testing of healthcare information technology including health information websites, electronic health records, clinical decision support systems, and medical equipment with an emphasis on the user experience. The iterative nature of user-centered design and usability testing of health IT will be emphasized. Prerequisite: NUR 679.

**NUR 672 - EBP ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE**

Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on developing the advanced practice nurse to critique and synthesize evidence for nursing for the purpose of improving healthcare outcomes. Emphasis is on the critical analysis of evidence to be used in formulating of information technology, data from practice, databases and research methods to appropriately generate evidence for advanced nursing practice.

**NUR 680 - CLINICAL NURSE LEADER I**

Semester Hours: 6

This course will introduce key concepts that impact today?s healthcare environment and patient population as well as relevant quality management tools that improve patient care delivery and outcomes. In addition, the role of the clinical nurse leader will be explored.

**NUR 680L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 681 - CLINICAL NURSE LEADER II**

Semester Hours: 6

**NUR 681L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 682 - CLINICAL NURSE LEADER III**

Semester Hours: 6

Advancing nursing care of adults of diverse populations in secondary or tertiary settings. Emphasis on special needs and advanced nursing care of adults with acute health alterations. Student clinical experiences are therapeutic nursing interventions with acutely ill patients with complex health problems.

**NUR 682L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 683 - CLINICAL NURSE LEADER IV**

Semester Hours: 6

**NUR 683L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

Semester Hours: 0

**NUR 698 - PLAN II:OTHER RES ACTIVITIES**

Semester Hours: 1-4

Application of activities appropriate to student program of study. Intended to expand student knowledge and enhance track specific content.

NUR 699 - PLAN I: THESIS

Semester Hours: 1-4

Independent research investigation related to practice of nursing under faculty guidance. Minimum of six hours required.

NUR 700 - CLINICAL DATA MGT & ANALYSIS

Semester Hours: 3

This required course provides students with the knowledge base to understand, collect, manage, and measure clinical data. Students will explore data collection and management processes, levels of measurement, basic statistics, and measurement for improvement in order to effectively use clinical data. Data entry exercises employed through analytical tools and statistical software packages will allow the students practice and apply the basic data management and analysis skills needed for the evaluation of clinical data and evidence-based practice.

NUR 701 - WRITING FOR PUBLICATION

Semester Hours: 3

This course concerns the development of skills in writing, editing, and preparing manuscripts for publication from initial idea to submission of a publishable manuscript. The course emphasizes a writing process that encourages productivity and collegial peer review. Legal and ethical aspects of authorship prepare students for responsible practices expected of scholars. Students should have mastered basic writing skills, e.g. grammar, syntax, and computer skills, prior to enrolling in this course.

NUR 729 - EVID BASED PRACT DESGN & TRANS

Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to provide students with models for evidence-based practice (EBP) design and improvement translation. Students learn to formulate clinical questions in answerable format, and search for and identify best research evidence. The focus of the course is to evaluate and critically appraise evidence for rigor and applicability to the clinical problem and is designed to improve clinical outcomes. Students will translate evidence into practice environments for safe, quality care. Students will gain access to information that will support optimal clinical decision-making. Improvement translation sciences will also be introduced.

NUR 731 - PHIL/THEOR/CONC FOUN FOR APN

Semester Hours: 3

This required core course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program provides an understanding of the use of theory and conceptual foundation to guide the complexity of specialty nursing practice at the doctoral level. The content is derived from the philosophical and scientific underpinnings of nursing, natural, and psycho-social sciences.

NUR 733 - INFORMATICS FOR APN

Semester Hours: 3

This required core course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program focuses on the collection, organization, analysis, and dissemination of information in nursing and health care. Students are introduced to the speciality of nursing informatics, the information system life-cycle telemedicine, and the use of technology to enhance nursing care delivery and patient safety. Also, students learn how to design, use, and manipulate large and small patient databases for the analysis of patient outcomes.

NUR 734 - ADVANCED EXPERIENTIAL CLINICAL

Semester Hours: 1-7

This course is designed to validate Master's level competencies in clinical and organizational leadership. The course is required for post-master's DNP students who are graduates of programs in nursing with less than 500 clinical hours. The course is a pre-requisite to NUR 739 Scholarly Project.

NUR 735 - POPULATION HEALTH IN APN

Semester Hours: 3

This required core course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program prepares the student to implement speciality population-based disease prevention and health promotion activities to achieve national and international goals of improving worldwide health status. The course focuses on a spectrum of issues affecting health which includes emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, disparities in health and healthcare services, and the impact of behavior and lifestyle choices.

NUR 737 - INTDIS LDRSHP/ROLE DEV PRA EXC

Semester Hours: 3

This course is a required core course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program that focuses on organizational and systems leadership and knowledge and skills critical to role development in independent and inter and intra-disciplinary practice. Content includes communication, conflict resolution, collaboration and negotiation, leadership, and team-functioning to maximize success in the establishment of safe, effective patient-centered care in complex environments.

**NUR 738 - SCHOLARLY SEMINAR**

Semester Hours: 3

This course is a 2-hour seminar designed to assist the student in selecting an area of interest within a practice specialization and in demonstrating professional competencies related to that area of interest. The student will document previously acquired abilities and competencies in a professional portfolio. Students will participate in the seminar to obtain guidance and receive peer suggestions about the portfolio and project plans.

**NUR 739 - DNP PROJECT**

Semester Hours: 1-7

This is the capstone clinical course in all advanced practice tracks. The student presents evidence of achievements and competencies in a professional portfolio. The practice residency is completed in a specialty area of the student's choice. This course focuses on aspects of the final practice project and interventions that promote health, prevent illness and disability, and alleviate health disparities. The final project selected and planned by the student and advisor is implemented during this course. The student completes the project, evaluates the outcomes, disseminates findings, and makes a formal, scholarly presentation to peers and faculty. Prerequisite: NUR 738.

**NUR 740 - HLH POLIC/POLIT:IMPLICATION HC**

Semester Hours: 3

This course prepares students to assume complex leadership roles in order to advance specialty practice and health. This course focuses on the unique challenges of engaging and influencing health care policy in the U.S. and internationally. It is designed to develop skills, techniques, and approaches to the critical analysis of health policy proposals, health policies and related stakeholder in policy and public forums. The health policy framework is analyzed from a governmental, institutional and organizational perspective.

**NUR 742 - PROGRAM EVAL & METHODS**

Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to synthesize knowledge related to translation/implementation science models and strategies to improve health outcomes. The emphasis in the course is the use of program evaluation as a strategic planning tool to achieve positive changes in health status, to initiate quality improvement, to engage in risk anticipation, management and to facilitate organizational and system level changes.

**NUR 743 - EVID BASED PRACT STRATEGIES**

Semester Hours: 3

Is a required course in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, which expands on evidence-based practice concepts to refine a problem statement and derive a searchable and answerable clinical question. Content includes conducting a systematic review of the literature to guide the selection of methods, strategies, tools and metrics needed to complete a successful scholarly project. The course also addresses targeted strategies for disseminating evidence associated with scholarly projects.