College of Nursing

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

Dean:
Karen H. Frith, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, CNE, Professor

Mission
Educate and inspire individuals to become visionary nurse leaders who act with integrity, discover through scientific methods, and champion strategies to promote health equity in Alabama, the nation, and global communities. We are committed to a healthy learning and work environment where diversity and civility promote creativity, innovation, and social responsibility to improve the human condition.

Vision
To be recognized as an academic leader promoting wellness, advancing health equity, addressing community needs, and transforming healthcare 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 providing person-centered care.
- Respect – Promoting diversity and inclusivity by fostering a civil, healthy learning and work environment.
- Excellence - Pursuing and achieving goals of the highest caliber.
- Wellness - Maximizing well-being in different states of health.

Accreditation
The UAH College of Nursing BSN, MSN, and DNP programs are 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 the Joint Nursing Science Ph.D., Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Science in Nursing, and Post-Master's certificates in Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, and Nursing Education.

Joint Nursing Science Ph.D.
The purpose of the Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. program is to prepare nurse scholars who will advance nursing science by generating new knowledge. It is a joint program between The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and The University of Alabama (UA).

Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. Program Outcomes
- Knowledge Synthesis: As assessed by a comprehensive exam, students will: 1) demonstrate substantive knowledge related to the body of literature and theories about rural and/or medically underserved populations to inform nursing practice, and 2) appraise and synthesize models and theories from previously conducted research.
- Research Conduct: As assessed by a successfully defended dissertation, students will demonstrate the ability to design and conduct ethical and culturally competent nursing research that is theoretically, methodologically, and analytically sound with the potential to influence health outcomes and generate new knowledge.
- Research Dissemination: Students will contribute to nursing science by generating new knowledge and actively disseminating research at national and/or international venues and in respected peer-reviewed journals.
- Collaborative Leadership: Students will demonstrate collaborative leadership as evidenced by serving as lead author on a professional presentation or manuscript by an interprofessional team that has been accepted for publication.
Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. Admission Requirements

Admission to the Joint Ph.D. program is determined by the Joint Ph.D. Oversight Committee who will assess the entire composite of information gained from a variety of sources. Each applicant must meet the following criteria and/or provide:

- An application to the Joint Ph.D. Graduate Program.
- Submit all official transcripts to The University of Alabama in Huntsville Office of Graduate Admissions by mail or an electronic transcript service.
- Evidence of successful completion of a bachelor of science in nursing degree at an accredited program or a master’s degree in nursing. Applicants with bachelor’s degrees in a closely related health field and master’s degrees in nursing also will be considered.
- A minimum graduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.000 on a 4.000 scale. Official transcripts must be sent to the university Graduate College.
- Official evidence of scores on the Graduate Record Examination taken within five years of application. GRE information can be obtained online at www.gre.org (http://www.gre.org/). The GRE requirement can be waived with a graduate GPA of 3.000 or higher or with five years or more of experience in the field or with an advanced degree in the US.
- Resume or curriculum vitae
- Three (3) letters of reference from professionals or professors who can adequately evaluate the applicant and the applicant’s previous work or potential for success. Two of the letters are strongly preferred from nurses with doctoral degrees.
- Scientific Writing Sample: This sample of your written work should demonstrate your intellectual ability (such as logic, critical thinking, analysis, or synthesis) and your technical writing skills (composition, grammar, references or citations). For example, you could submit an academic paper, essay, published article, or a professional report written by you. If someone other than you contributed to this document (including editing), explain your contribution and the contributions of others.
- Statement of Purpose: In four double-spaced pages, respond to the following:
  - Why do you want to pursue a Ph.D. in Nursing Science?
  - What professional goals do you hope to achieve during and beyond your Ph.D. program?
  - Describe prior experiences that have prepared you for doctoral study (e.g. research, presentations, publications, leadership roles in practice, education, or professional organizations).
  - What are your research interests?
  - How might research in this area advance the science of nursing?
- RN License Requirement
  - Applicants must have an active, unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse in the United States. Applicants who hold an equivalent certification or licensure outside of the United States will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
  - Applicants who are not yet licensed will be considered for conditional admission, but proof of licensure must be submitted prior to completing 12 credit hours of Ph.D. coursework.
- Transfer applicants: Evidence of good academic standing at the current institution. Determination of whether or not credits may be transferred will be based on evaluation of comparability of requested transfer course to Ph.D. course and university policy, and is completed after admission.
- A statistics course is a required prerequisite for the program.

After the first review of the application and at the request of the Joint Ph.D. Oversight Committee, applicants will be asked to successfully complete personal interviews with Oversight Committee members. Research interests, professional involvement, and motivation for successful completion of doctoral study in the Ph.D. program will be assessed.

Completed applications are reviewed by the Oversight Committee throughout the year for summer enrollment. Applicants must register for courses within two years of acceptance into the Ph.D. program, or the acceptance is void.

Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. Program Degree Requirements

- In addition to the graduate degree requirements of the Joint UA UAH Nursing Science Ph.D. Program, a student is required to complete a minimum of 63 hours of graduate coursework.
- A minimum grade of B must be attained in each course in the student’s program of study. Students must also attend two (2) Joint Ph.D. Intensives during their course of study.

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.

Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. Progression Requirements

The Graduate Retention Policy provides guidance related to retention and timely progression through the Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. program of study. This policy provides transparency and consistency in treatment of Ph.D. students.

If a student fails to progress in a course, the Associate/Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs (ADGP) from the Ph.D. student’s home campus will hold a conference with the student to determine strategies to improve learning, ensure retention, and enhance progression.
1. Repeating Courses:
   a. The following policies apply to all students who are required to repeat a course.
      i. If a grade of a C, D, or F is earned in any required course, that course must be repeated. Ph.D. students must attain a B or higher in all courses in the Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. program.
      ii. If a grade of I (incomplete) is not resolved by the end of the fourth week of the semester following the earned grade (whether or not actively enrolled), the grade of I will be converted to an earned grade of F.
      iii. Once the last day to drop with a grade of W has passed, the student considering a withdrawal must notify the faculty of record and contact the Graduate Advisor at the home campus.

2. Progression and Suspension:
   Two or more C's, D's, or F's in the same course or two different courses will result in academic suspension from the Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. program.

3. Suspension:
   A student who is suspended as a result of this policy may request a one-time consideration for reinstatement (see Appendix C: Application for Reinstatement to the Joint Nursing Science Ph.D. program). Any additional W's, D's, or F's will result in a final indefinite suspension.

4. Leave of Absence:
   Under compelling circumstances beyond the student's control, a graduate student may request that the department petition the Graduate School with the rationale for granting a leave of absence. If granted by the Graduate School, a leave of absence will cover one or more upcoming semesters rather than any prior semester(s). A leave of absence is not a method of avoiding continuous registration requirements, and it does not lengthen the time limit for degree completion. When a student returns from a leave of absence, the Graduate School must be notified and will work with the department and student to determine the number of semesters remaining on the time limit and the degree requirements that remain.

   Process for Requesting a Leave of Absence
   • The student contacts the academic advisor at his/her home campus to request a leave of absence (LOA).
   • The academic advisor discusses the LOA policy, time limits, and revised Program of Study (POS).
   • The academic advisor informs the Ph.D. Coordinator or Associate Dean at home campus and joint campus.
   • The academic advisor sends the LOA form to the student (see Appendix C).
   • The student returns the completed and signed form to the academic advisor, who forwards it to the Graduate school for a decision.
   • Once a decision is received from the Graduate School, the academic advisor at the home campus informs the student, the advisor at the other campus, and the coordinators of the decision and updates information in the database or tracking system.

Students should also refer to the University Academic Probation and Dismissal policy for additional information.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

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.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville, College of Nursing offers a Post-Baccalaureate to DNP and Post-Masters to DNP pathways. The post-baccalaureate to DNP pathway allows a seamless progression from the completion of a baccalaureate degree to advanced practice with education at the doctoral level to address the growing complexity of patient care and health care systems. The Post-Masters to DNP pathway expands the preparation and accountability of masters-prepared nurses in population-based care, leadership, health policy, health system improvement, and evidence-based practice.

DNP Program Outcomes

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

1. Synthesize historical and theoretical foundations of nursing science for the complex care of individuals, families, communities, and populations.

2. Integrate scientific, theoretical, ethical, and legal principles to design holistic care delivery models for compassionate, person-centered care.
3. Redesign systems to improve health equity of diverse communities and populations.
4. Disseminate scientific evidence to improve health outcomes and transform health care delivery.
5. Lead improvement activities to promote safe, quality health outcomes.
6. Create strategies for intra- and interprofessional communication and collaboration to improve health care access and outcomes for diverse populations.

7. Lead system-based initiatives to improve health care for current and future needs.

8. Collaborate in the development and use of emerging health technologies to improve health care delivery.


10. Model lifelong learning to enhance personal, professional, and leadership development.

Post MSN to 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.


7. Submit a Professional Statement describing career goals and identified area of clinical practice interest.

8. Meet health and background clearance requirements.

9. A statistics course is a required prerequisite for the program.

10. Due to select board of nursing regulations, special attention must be given to the location of DNP project implementation. Students must consult with the Graduate Academic Advisor regarding any restrictions in their state.

Post BSN to DNP Admission Requirements

1. Apply to the MSN program first (for BSN to DNP applicants).

2. A statistics course is a required prerequisite for the program.

DNP Progression Requirements

1. A program of study is provided to students on admission to the DNP program outlining the required sequence of courses to complete the DNP degree. Students are responsible for following their programs of study. Deviations from the program of study must be discussed with the Program Manager for Graduate Admissions and Advisement to ensure timely progression through the curriculum. Students may request a leave of absence for up to three semesters and receive a revised program of study.

2. The University grading system is described elsewhere in the UAH Graduate Catalog. Grade point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of semester hours attempted. At the completion of each semester, students access their grades in Banner.

3. Students who receive a "C" in any DNP course and the student's graduate GPA falls below a 3.000, will be placed on academic probation by the University. The student has an additional 12 semester hours to bring the GPA up to 3.000 in accordance with the UAH School of Graduate Studies policy.

4. Students who receive 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 a 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. After receiving a second "C", requests aimed at continued progression will not be considered.

5. If the recommendation is for the student to continue in the program and repeat the course, he/she may retake the course the next time the course is offered.

6. If the student obtains a "C" in a nursing course and is allowed to continue, receives a "C" in any 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. A grade of C, D, F, or U (unsatisfactory) does not count toward the program of study for the DNP program.

7. Students who are dismissed from the DNP program may apply for readmission within one year of that action by completing the readmission form found in the DNP Student Handbook and sending it to the Program Manager for Graduate Admissions and Advisement. An Admission and Progression Committee will review the application for readmission and all relevant information about student performance in class, clinical, or DNP project. The Committee will recommend readmission or deny readmission to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. If readmission is recommended by the Committee, the Associate Dean will consider the availability of space in the next cohort and will communicate a date for reentry to the student. At a minimum, students who are readmitted be restricted from enrollment for one semester to resolve problems that contributed to poor academic performance. Students who are readmitted and subsequently earn another grade below "B" in any nursing course will be permanently dismissed from the DNP program.
8. Under certain extenuating circumstances, a student may be eligible for a Leave of Absence (LOA). An appointment with the Graduate Admissions Advisor to file a LOA form is required. The time limit of 6 years for DNP degree completion, potential impact on financial aid, and possible significant changes to the program of study must be considered when thinking about this option. Return to the program is contingent on class seat availability. The DNP Program will be completed in six years. This timespan includes a minimum of three consecutive semesters of NUR739 (seven credit hours). Students who approach the six-year maximum time frame for completion must make an appointment with the Graduate Admissions Advisor to file a one-year extension. The extension may be granted one time. Failure to meet the deadline may result in dismissal from the program.

9. A student may withdraw from a course if policies and deadline for withdrawal are followed as specified by the Office of the Registrar and the College of Nursing. It is the student's responsibility to understand the withdrawal policies. More than three course withdrawals in a program will be considered a lack of progress toward the degree. Three withdrawals may require academic counseling from the College of Nursing Graduate Administration and/or dismissal.

10. Courses taken at other universities will be considered for transfer credit only if a grade of "B" or higher is obtained in the course. The maximum transferable credit hours is 12 for graduate and doctoral programs. Students are responsible for requesting a transfer of credit review from the College of Nursing Program Manager for Graduate Admissions and Advisement and provide documentation.

11. Students should also refer to the University Academic Probation and Dismissal policy for additional information.

12. In addition to the graduate degree requirements of the UAH Graduate School, a student is required to complete a minimum of 40 hours of graduate coursework.

13. A minimum grade of B must be attained in each teaching nursing course in the student's program of study.

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.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Graduate tracks offered through the College of Nursing 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 illness, 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 Outcomes

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

1. Integrate theoretical foundations of nursing knowledge, science, humanities, and scholarly inquiry in advanced-level nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate advanced-level nursing practice that is evidence-based and adheres to scientific, ethical, legal, and professional standards in the delivery of compassionate, person-centered care.
3. Evaluate policies, care delivery models, and organizational structures/processes for efficacy in meeting current and future health care needs of diverse communities and populations.
4. Evaluate findings from research to create evidenced-based practice policies and protocols to improve health care delivery and outcomes.
5. Use improvement processes in all health care settings to promote quality and safety principles.
6. Engage in strategies that promote intra-and interprofessional communication and collaboration to deliver advanced care for diverse populations.
7. Evaluate system-based strategies to provide equitable care and improve access to health care.
8. Incorporate informatics principles in the use of current and emerging technologies in advanced-level nursing practice.
9. Exemplify professional practice at the advanced level by promoting ethical values, professional standards, inclusion, equity, and social justice.
10. Assume responsibility for life-long learning and continuing personal, professional, and leadership development.
**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 3.000 on a 4.000 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 3.000 Analytical Writing. (Students with an overall GPA of 3.000 may waive #3).
4. Submit a UAH Application for Graduate Admission.
5. Submit official transcripts from all higher education programs attempted.
7. Three completed College of Nursing Graduate Recommendation Forms from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic and clinical abilities. Forms are available in the College of Nursing Office of Graduate Programs.
8. 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.
9. A minimum of one year of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) is required to be eligible for admission as a full-time student in the Family Nurse Practitioner track (FNP). Students admitted for part-time study in the FNP track with less than one year of clinical experience as an RN must maintain employment as an RN to obtain additional clinical experience throughout their enrollment.
10. A minimum of one year of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) in a critical care area (intensive care unit or emergency department) is required to be eligible for admission as a full-time student in the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) track. Students admitted for part-time study in the AGACNP track with less than one year of clinical experience as an RN must maintain employment as an RN in critical care to obtain additional clinical experience throughout their enrollment.
11. A statistics course is a required prerequisite for the program.
12. Due to select board of nursing regulations, special attention must be given to the location of the Nurse Administration Internship clinical. Students must consult with the Graduate Academic Advisor regarding any restrictions in their state.

**MSN Degree Requirements**

In addition to the graduate degree requirements of the UAH Graduate Program, a student is required to complete a minimum of 30-42 semester hours of graduate coursework in one of the following tracks:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Nursing Administration
- Nurse Education

A minimum grade of B must be attained in each nursing course in the student's program of study.

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** six 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 the policies outlined in the UAH Graduate Catalog.
2. Completion of one graduate level elective. Graduate level electives are designed to offer in depth study of areas on interest to graduate level nursing students.
MSN Progression Requirements

A program of study is provided to students on admission to the MSN program outlining the required sequence of courses to complete the MSN degree. Students are responsible for following their programs of study. Deviations from the program of study must be discussed with the Program Manager for Graduate Admissions and Advisement to ensure timely progression through the curriculum. Students may request a leave of absence for up to three semesters and receive a revised program of study.

The University grading system is described elsewhere in the UAH Graduate Catalog. Grade point average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned by the total number of semester hours attempted. At the completion of each semester, students access their grades in Banner.

As stated in the UAH Graduate Catalog, students with a cumulative grade point average less than 3.000 at the end of each semester will be placed on Academic Probation Status (APS) (https://catalog.uah.edu/grad/academics/academic-probationary-status/). In addition, the College of Nursing requires all graduate courses to be passed with a grade of “B” or higher. Courses taken at other universities will be considered for transfer credit only if a grade of “B” or higher is obtained in the course.

Students who receive less than a “B” will be reviewed for progression the Admission and Progression Committee, which is composed of faculty from their track. The student will be required to submit a request to continue in the MSN program using the form found in the MSN Student Handbook. This Committee will recommend either continuation in the program with a repeat of the course or dismissal from the MSN program. The Committee will make recommendations to the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs. If the student has a hold on registration by the Dean of the Graduate School, the form and the recommendation from the Admission and Progression Committee will be forwarded to the Graduate School. The student will be given a specified period of time to remedy the grade point average to 3.000. Failure to remedy the grade point average within the time period specified in the plan will lead to dismissal from the Graduate School, as described in the published policy in the Graduate Catalog. If a student makes a “C,” “D,” or “F” in the repeated course or in a second course, he or she will be dismissed from the MSN program by the Associate Dean of Graduate Programs.

Students who are dismissed from the MSN program may apply for readmission within one year of that action by completing the readmission form found in the MSN Student Handbook and sending it to the Program Manager for Graduate Admissions and Advisement. An Admission and Progression Committee will review the application for readmission and all relevant information about student performance in class, clinical, or lab. The Committee will recommend readmission or deny readmission to the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs. If readmission is recommended by the Committee, the Associate Dean will consider the availability of space in the next cohort and will communicate a date for reentry to the student. At a minimum, students who are readmitted be restricted from enrollment for one semester to resolve problems that contributed to poor academic performance. Students who are readmitted and subsequently earn another grade below “B” in any nursing course will be permanently dismissed from the MSN program.

Under certain extenuating circumstances, a student may be eligible for a Leave of Absence (LOA). An appointment with the Program Manager, Graduate Admissions and Advising to file an LOA form is required. Students should consider that there might be a potential impact on financial aid and possible significant changes to the program of study. Return to the program is contingent on class seat availability.

A student may withdraw from a course if policies and deadline for withdrawal are followed as specified by the Office of the Registrar and the College of Nursing. It is the student’s responsibility to understand the withdrawal policies. More than three course withdrawals in a program will be considered a lack of progress toward the degree. Three withdrawals may require academic counseling from the College of Nursing Graduate Administration and/or dismissal.

Students should also refer to the University Academic Probation and Dismissal policy for additional information.

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 across the lifespan. 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 care of adults and older 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 to complete the requirements in four semesters. The transcripts and resumes of prospective students will be evaluated to determine if additional courses are needed. See the Certificates tab.

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 Joint Nursing Science Ph.D., DNP, 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 Screencast-o-matic, 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 to assist students to learn in multiple ways.

The College of Nursing maintains contracts with over 1,300 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. 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 work with the academic advisor who assists them throughout the remainder of the academic program. Program coordinators 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 or third-party designee prior to enrollment in a nursing class. The insurance must be a minimum of one million/three million of coverage and renewed annually while enrolled in the program. NP students are required to have “NP Student” coverage. Liability coverage can be obtained from Nurses Services Organization (NSO) at www.nso
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 thereafter, and for cause at other points. Information and procedures are provided upon admission. 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 on 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. All requirements for clinical placement at agencies must be met by the student in order to be placed at that location.

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 active, 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. Completion of three modules in "Culturally Competent Nursing Care: A Cornerstone of Caring" found at https://ccnm.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/default.asp

7. OSHA Certification: Students can access the OSHA training requirement through their Canvas Student Portal, and once complete, students must submit a copy of their OSHA certificate.

8. HIPAA Certification: Students can access the HIPAA training requirement through their Canvas Student Portal, and once complete, students must submit a copy of their HIPAA certificate.

9. Essential functions define selected attributes and behaviors students must demonstrate 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 consistent with the level of educational preparation. Examples (not all inclusive) of necessary activities include identifying cause-effect relationships in clinical and classroom situations, using the scientific method in developing plans of care, and evaluating the effectiveness of nursing interventions.
   b. Professional relationship sufficient for professional interactions with a diverse population of individuals, families, and groups. Examples (not all inclusive) include establishing rapport with patients/clients and colleagues, engaging in successful conflict resolution, and being accountable to peers.
   c. Communication adeptness sufficient for verbal and written professional interactions. 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 about 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 calibrating and using equipment, positioning of clients in therapeutic positions, and completing physical examinations on patients.
   f. Auditory ability sufficient for monitoring and assessing health needs. Examples (not all inclusive) include hearing basic conversations, cries for help, monitoring alarms, emergency signals, and auscultatory sounds.
   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. Using logical, unimpaired judgment in the classroom and clinical activities is also an example of this essential function.

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 by the Southern Regional
Education Board and the Council on Collegiate Education. The College of Nursing encourages students who need accommodations for essential functions to contact the UAH Disability Support Services Office.

Health Requirements

The clinical experiences of graduate 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 three 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, and rubeola with a two-dose series or have a titer showing immunity. If the titer shows non-immunity or equivocal results, the student must take the two-dose immunization.
4. Each student is required to be immunized against varicella with a two-dose series or have a titer showing immunity. If the titer shows non-immunity or equivocal results, the student must take the two-dose immunization.
5. Annual influenza vaccinations are required by the first of October.
6. The CDC does require a two-step TB skin test initially; however, if you have had initial testing and annual screening through your employer, documentation of a single step will be sufficient. Annual single PPD skin test update required OR T-Spot OR QuantIFERON TB Gold Blood draw annual update is required. *If a TB skin test is positive, a chest x-ray must have been completed within the last five years (annual symptom evaluation must be completed and uploaded).
7. Tetanus Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) booster required every 10 years after initial Tdap. The Tdap immunization must never be more than 10 years old during matriculation.
8. Documentation of current immunization, healthcare provider’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.
9. 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.
10. Each student must complete a certified background check and a drug screen before starting the program and annually thereafter.
11. All health requirements must be completed prior to the first day of class in the semester. Students who fail to meet this requirement will not be allowed to start classes until all health requirements are met.

Student Financial Services

Student Financial Services, located in the Student Services Building, 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. Alabama Board of Nursing Loan Repayment plan.
3. Elizabeth M. Fisher Memorial Scholarship.
4. Joan Williamson NANPA Scholarship.
5. Graduate Teaching Assistantships.
6. Graduate Tuition Scholarships.
7. 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.
Professional Licensure
If you are interested in obtaining professional licensure, please check with the appropriate licensing body in the state where you intend to practice. Additional information can be found at https://www.uah.edu/academic-affairs/offices/oirea/state-authorizations/professional-licensures.

Joint Nursing Science PhD Program
- Nursing, Joint Nursing Science PhD [http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-joint-nursing-science-phd/]

Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Nursing, MSN to DNP [http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-msn-to-dnp/]
- Nursing, BSN to DNP [http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-bsn-to-dnp/]

Master of Science in Nursing
- Nursing, MSN - Nursing Administration [http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-administration-track/]

ADN to MSN (Jump Program) [http://catalog.uah.edu/undergrad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-bsn/jump/]

Certificates in Nursing
- Nursing Education [http://catalog.uah.edu/grad/colleges-departments/nursing/nursing-education-graduate-certificate/]
- Post-Master's Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program (pending approval)
- 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: INTERNATIONAL 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 527 - INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC NURSING
Semester Hours: 3
This elective course provides an overview of the field of forensic nursing. Course concepts include care for victims of violence, forensic issues in healthcare, forensic investigation, and career information for forensic nursing. Current health care practices and medical/legal/ethical issues will be discussed.
NUR 528 - GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING
Semester Hours: 3
Nursing care of older adults in multiple settings. Issues and trends are incorporated.

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 539 - NURSING MEDICAL MISSIONS
Semester Hours: 3
This course will focus on global health and humanitarian concepts and issues, and the nursing care needed to impact those issues. These issues will be examined and analyzed in relation to the mission country's economic, social, cultural, policy, and environmental influences. Culmination of the course will center on international experiences with supervised nursing care for a medical mission in another country. This course is an accepted elective in the Nursing Program. Additional work is required for graduate credit.

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 602 - SCHOLARLY INQUIRY FOR ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
Semester Hours: 3
This course explores research methods, evidence-based practice, ethical research and frameworks to guide scholarly inquiry. The learner will analyze quality improvement studies, clinical practice guidelines, and research studies. Synthesis of learning will involve developing a clinical question, evaluating evidence, and disseminating an interprofessional scholarly product with practice recommendations.

NUR 604 - ROLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE
Semester Hours: 3
This course prepares the graduate nursing student for the transition into advanced practice. Role development includes initiating and maintaining professional working relationships, understanding of legal, financial, ethical, and professional expectations and responsibilities, analysis of pertinent health policies, and demonstration of management principles and practices expected of the advanced practice nurse.

NUR 605 - ADVANCED HEALTH 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 patients across the lifespan.

NUR 605L - CLINICAL
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 606 - ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY
Semester Hours: 3
This course is designed to expand on the previous knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and developmental disease processes. Physiological alterations, as they affect individuals across the lifespan, are reviewed with an introduction of diagnostic reasoning as it relates to disease manifestations.
NUR 607 - PHARMACOLOGY IN ADVANCED PRACTICE  
Semester Hours: 3

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nurse with pharmacological knowledge and clinical reasoning skills necessary to analyze data obtained from the health history, pharmacological review, and evaluation of treatment plans for patients across the lifespan.

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 with concurrency: NUR 605, NUR 606 and NUR 607.

NUR 610L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 611 - FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER II  
Semester Hours: 6

This clinical course promotes the integration of advanced practice principles of evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention across the lifespan. Prerequisites: NUR 602, NUR 604, NUR 610.

NUR 611L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 612 - FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER III  
Semester Hours: 6

This clinical course promotes the integration of principles of evidenced-based, culturally competent care in primary care, emphasizing health promotion and disease prevention across the lifespan for the advanced practice nurse. Prerequisite: NUR 611.

NUR 612L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 613 - FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER IV  
Semester Hours: 6

This course is the capstone family nurse practitioner clinical course in which the advanced practice student assumes the professional role by integrating, translating, and applying evidence-based care while working collaboratively and respectfully within the healthcare system providing patient-centered care to improve patient and system outcomes. Prerequisite: NUR 612.

NUR 613L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 620 - ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER I  
Semester Hours: 6

Clinical course that introduces advanced nursing skills necessary for the assessment, health promotion, disease prevention, and health management of the complex, acute, critically and chronically ill patient across the entire spectrum of adulthood. Prerequisites with concurrency: NUR 605, NUR 606, NUR 607.

NUR 620L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 621 - ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER II  
Semester Hours: 6

This clinical course focuses on the assessment and management of adults with acute health problems in secondary or tertiary settings. The student develops increasing interpretive skills with assessment parameters using collaborative protocols in delivering care to patients with selected acute/critical alterations in health. Prerequisites: NUR 602, NUR 604, NUR 620.

NUR 621L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 622 - ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER III  
Semester Hours: 6

This clinical course promotes the integration of principles of evidence-based patient-centered care of critically ill adult-gerontological patients with complex comorbidities. Prerequisite: NUR 621.
NUR 622L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 623 - ADULT GERONTOLOGY ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER IV  
Semester Hours: 6

This course is the capstone adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner clinical course in which the advanced practice student assumes the professional role by integrating, translating, and applying evidence-based case while working collaboratively and respectfully within the healthcare system providing patient-centered care to improve patient and system outcomes. Prerequisite: NUR 622.

NUR 623L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 629 - US HEALTH CARE SYSTEM  
Semester Hours: 2

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 with concurrency: NUR 630.

NUR 630 - THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR NURSE ADMINISTRATORS  
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 IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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. Prerequisite: NUR 630.

NUR 632 - ECONOMIC AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS FOR LEADERS IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS  
Semester Hours: 4

This course focuses on economic and financial implications for nurse administrators with emphasis on executive level budget management and business planning skills. The course is designed to assist nurse administrators in gaining conceptual knowledge regarding budgeting in health systems and policy factors impacting cost, quality and access to healthcare. Prerequisites: NUR 630.

NUR 634 - INTERNSHIP IN NURSING LEADERSHIP  
Semester Hours: 3

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 AONL competencies and QSEN standards. Clinical hours 3, Contact hours 135. Prerequisites: NUR 630.

NUR 634L - CLINICAL EXPERIENCE  
Semester Hours: 0

NUR 638 - INFORMATICS FOR NURSE ADMINISTRATORS  
Semester Hours: 3

The focus of this course is on the structuring and processing of health information for making decisions in health care. Prerequisite: NUR 630.

NUR 640 - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT 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 COURSE INFORMATION  
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 AND EVALUATION IN NURSING  
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 DEVELOPMENT 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. Prerequisites with concurrency: NUR 640, NUR 641, NUR 642.

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. Prerequisites: NUR 640, NUR 641, NUR 642, NUR 643, NUR 644.

NUR 646 - INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN NURSING EDUCATION  
Semester Hours: 3  
The appropriate use of educational technology can afford faculty an opportunity to engage learners and bring concepts to life while supporting formative and summative assessment. This course will examine instructional technology, the design and integration of educational strategies, and methodological tools to engage learners to meet course and curriculum goals.

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 with concurrency: NUR 630.

NUR 648 - CONCEPTS OF HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTION FOR NURSE EXECUTIVES  
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 with concurrency: NUR 630.

NUR 649 - QUALITY, SAFETY, AND RISK MANAGEMENT  
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 with 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 652 - CLINICAL PRACTICUM  
Semester Hours: 3

NUR 670 - HUMAN FACTORS IN HEALTHCARE COMPUTING  
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. Prerequisite: NUR 638.
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 698 - SPECIAL RESEARCH TOPICS
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. Prerequisite: NUR 602.

NUR 700 - CLINICAL DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS
Semester Hours: 3

This course provides students with the knowledge to understand, collect, manage, and measure clinical data. Students will explore data collection and management processes, level 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 to 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 - EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE, DESIGN AND TRANSLATION
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to provide students with models for evidence-based practice (EBP) design and improvement science. 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 a clinical problem and the impact on the improvement of 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. All content and assignments are applied by the student to begin development of the DNP Project. Prerequisite: NUR 700.

NUR 731 - PHILOSOPHICAL, THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING
Semester Hours: 3

This course assists students to use theory and conceptual models to guide the advanced nursing practice and scholarship at the doctoral level. The content is derived from the philosophical and scientific underpinnings of nursing, natural and psycho-social sciences. Prerequisite: NUR 701.

NUR 733 - INFORMATICS FOR ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
Semester Hours: 3

This course focuses on the collection, organization, and analysis of information in nursing and health care. Students are introduced to the specialty of nursing informatics, the information system life-cycle, telemedicine, and the use of technology to enhance nursing care delivery and patient safety. Students will also learn how to manipulate large and small patient databases for the analysis of patient outcomes. Prerequisite with concurrency: NUR 729.

NUR 734 - ADVANCED EXPERIENTIAL CLINICAL COURSE
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 Master of Science in Nursing programs with less than 500 clinical hours.

NUR 735 - POPULATION HEALTH IN ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING
Semester Hours: 3

This course prepares students to implement population-based health promotion and disease prevention activities. The course applies an epidemiologic framework and 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 exposomics on population health. Prerequisite with concurrency: NUR 729.
NUR 737 - INTERDISCIPLINARY LEADERSHIP AND ROLE DEVELOPMENT FOR PRACTICE EXCELLENCE  
Semester Hours: 3  
This course focuses on organizational and systems leadership and skills critical to role development in independent and interprofessional practice. Content includes communication, conflict resolution, collaboration and negotiation, leadership, and team functioning to enhance the experience and outcomes of patient care and to reduce the cost of care.

NUR 738 - DNP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT  
Semester Hours: 3  
This course is designed to assist the student in finalizing the DNP project plan and developing an application to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the protection of human subjects. The student will document previously acquired abilities and competencies in a professional portfolio. Students will participate in the seminar sessions to obtain guidance and receive peer suggestions about the portfolio and project plans. Prerequisites: NUR 734, NUR 742 and NUR 743.

NUR 739 - DNP PROJECT  
Semester Hours: 7  
The DNP project is planned, implemented, and evaluated by the DNP student in consultation with the DNP committee. The student writes a manuscript suitable for publication and makes a scholarly presentation of findings to peers and faculty. A minimum of seven credit hours for this course are distributed across several semesters as determined by the chair. Prerequisite with concurrency: NUR 738.

NUR 740 - HEALTH POLICY AND POLITICS: IMPLICATIONS IN HEALTH CARE  
Semester Hours: 3  
This course focuses on the unique challenges of engaging and influencing health care policy at local, state, national or international levels. It is designed to develop skills, techniques, and approaches to the critical analysis of health policy proposals, health policies, and to identify stakeholders in policy development. The health policy framework is analyzed from a governmental, institutional, and organizational perspective. Prerequisite: NUR 729.

NUR 742 - PROGRAM EVALUATION 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 tool to achieve positive changes in health status, initiate and manage quality improvement, engage in risk anticipation, and facilitate organizational and system level changes. Prerequisite with concurrency: NUR 729.

NUR 743 - EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE STRATEGIES  
Semester Hours: 3  
This course expands on evidence-based design to refine a problem statement and a 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 DNP project. Students will develop and have approved a proposed DNP project plan. Prerequisite: NUR 742.

NUS 710 - INDEPENDENT STUDY  
Semester Hours: 1-6  
This course is for Joint PhD Nursing Science program students who are interested in an independent study option to identify additional literature synthesis, planning, implementation, and evaluation of related phenomena of special interest to advance nursing science.

NUS 713 - SPECIAL TOPICS  
Semester Hours: 3  
This course is for Joint PhD Nursing Science program students who are seeking opportunities to explore special topics that expand their knowledge and/or skills to conduct sponsored research projects. The focus of this three-credit hour didactic course will be developed in collaboration between the faculty and student(s).

NUS 741 - BSN-PHD RESEARCH SEMINAR I  
Semester Hour: 1  
The purpose of this course is to prepare BSN-PHD students with the foundational skills of deep reading, comprehensive literature review and critique, critical thinking, and writing skills necessary for successful advancement in a doctoral program. This course will further help students by providing more individualized support and structure to facilitate successful progression through the PhD program.
NUS 742 - BSN-PHD RESEARCH SEMINAR II
Semester Hour: 1

The purpose of this course is to aid BSN-PhD students in developing skills to assess scientific rigor, develop an argument, critique published research, professionally present (verbally and written) critique findings, develop a manuscript for publication, and will provide an opportunity to obtain hands on research experience. This course will further help students by providing more individualized support and structure to facilitate successful progression through the PhD program.

NUS 743 - BSN-PHD RESEARCH SEMINAR III
Semester Hour: 1

The purpose of this course is to prepare BSN-PhD students with the foundational skills of systematically appraising the literature to develop an appropriate and comprehensive significance section, analyzing health policy that directly relates to the students' research areas of interest, and evaluating research methodology and accompanying statistical analyses. These are important for successful advancement in a doctoral program. This course will further help students by providing more individualized support and structure to facilitate successful progression through the PhD program.

NUS 750 - PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to explore the evolution of philosophy and science. Epistemology, knowledge generation, knowledge acquisition, and ways of knowing will be examined. Scientific inquiry will include reasoning, logic, and persuasive argument development.

NUS 752 - INFORMATICS FOR HEALTH CARE TERMS AND SCHOLARLY INQUIRY
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to prepare nurse scientists to use informatics, electronic tools, and healthcare technologies for the purposes of nursing research. The course will focus on the use of informatics in the data management of individuals, groups and organizations as the nurse scientist plans and executes a program of research.

NUS 754 - ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to doctoral scholarship in support of beginning a program of responsible conduct of research. This course explores current ethical and legal issues in the science of nursing research. The course will delve into best practices in research design with regard to ethics, authorship, data management and record keeping, intellectual property and ownership of data, and human subjects research. In addition, the course will cover conflicts of interest, mentoring, collaborations, peer review, research misconduct, and current ethical issues in research.

NUS 756 - APPLICATION OF THEORETICAL MODELS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to provide students a foundation for contributing to theory development processes, analyzing and critiquing theoretical foundations of research, and applying theoretical models to nursing research. This course addresses the relationship between theory and research and provides an understanding of the use of theoretical models and conceptual foundations to guide nursing research and practice. Prerequisites: NUS 750.

NUS 758 - QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
Semester Hours: 3

This course provides students with foundational knowledge and skills in the development of experimental and nonexperimental quantitative designs. Topics will include training in the choice of research questions/aims/hypotheses and a responsive approach; the development of an ethical, strategic design; the implementation of a strategic sampling plan; the choice of suitable measurements (reliable and valid) and analytic plans; issues in research such as treatment fidelity; and the drafting of research proposals. Additional content will briefly introduce more advanced concepts such as mixed methods research or community-based participatory research. Special emphasis will be placed on clinical nursing designs, such as repeated-measures intervention studies. Prerequisites: NUS 750.

NUS 760 - STATISTICS I
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the skills to conduct and interpret statistical data. Emphasis will be placed on describing types of variables, testing hypotheses, selecting appropriate parametric and nonparametric statistical tests, analyzing data, and interpreting results. Prerequisite: NUS 758.

NUS 762 - HEALTH CARE POLICY FOR RURAL AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to explore the policy environment that influences and shapes public health and health care service delivery, including rural and medically underserved communities. Students will develop skills, techniques, and approaches to identify gaps, critically analyze and research health related issues. Utilization and delivery of data to promote and impact healthcare policy changes will be an important measure of outcome. Students will develop the ability and confidence to critically assess current health policy issues in a thoughtful, comprehensive and rigorous manner and to engage in the policy process.
NUS 764 - SCIENTIFIC WRITING
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to develop writing skills to produce scientific writing that is clear, concise, and logical. This course will also explore the publication to include abstract and manuscript development and the submission process. Additional pathways to dissemination of nursing content will be explored as well.

NUS 766 - EPIDEMIOLOGY IN RURAL AND MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to introduce epidemiological methods for measuring population health, designing and implementing observational and experimental studies, critically reading the public health literature, and applying research findings to global and community health. Prerequisite: NUS 760.

NUS 768 - STATISTICS II
Semester Hours: 3

This course provides advanced coursework in applied statistical approaches to data management and analysis. With an emphasis on multivariate statistical approaches, the purpose of the course is to help nursing students to develop improved skills in conceptualizing, executing, analyzing, and interpreting advanced analytic strategies and to enhance their ability to propose strong, tailored analytic approaches for specific study designs and research aims. Students will also gain proficiency in using R software, a freely available and powerful statistical package. They will enhance their knowledge of regression, ONEWAY, MANOVA/MANOVA, discriminant analysis, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis, structural equation modeling, multilevel modeling, and advanced categorical approaches. Understanding the mathematics, logic, application of these techniques is emphasized. Prerequisite: NUS 760.

NUS 770 - GRANT WRITING
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to prepare students in the foundations of writing grants for federal external funding. This course will help students identify a step-wise process to develop a grant proposal through federal funding sources. Strategies for successful grant writing include identifying funding sources for the topic, writing a competitive grant application, developing a collaborative team of researchers for the project, and understanding the review process. Prerequisite: NUS 764.

NUS 772 - QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to assist the student in using selected qualitative research methods. Learning modules will explore qualitative approaches, sampling, data collection, data analysis and dissemination. The course will review and explore the use of technology to assist the qualitative researcher. Prerequisites: NUS 750, NUS 756, and NUS 758.

NUS 776 - ADVANCED RESEARCH METHODS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to assist students in developing the knowledge and skills to design a mixed methods research (MMR) study. MMR is an advanced method for collecting, analyzing, and “mixing” both quantitative and qualitative data within a single study to understand a research problem more completely. Prerequisites: NUS 752, NUS 758, NUS 760, NUS 768, and NUS 772.

NUS 780 - INTRODUCTION TO OMICS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to introduce the revolution of omics and discuss the role nurse scientists can play in precision health development. Nurse scientists are in a position to provide a unique contribution to person-centered health approaches by broadening their understanding of molecular advances to improve health outcomes. A variety of different omics will be explored and the practical advantages, limitations, and challenges in individualized health promotion will be discussed.

NUS 781 - OMICS IN NURSING RESEARCH
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of advanced concepts of omics research by utilizing a biobehavioral systems approach in nursing science. The National Institute of Nursing Research’s strategic plan for Genomic Nursing Science is used as the framework for integrating omics and nursing research. Practical application in omics theories, methodologies, technology, bioinformatics, and responsible conduct of research is discussed. Additionally, resources in building capacity for the next generation of omics scientists are reviewed. Prerequisite: NUS 780.

NUS 782 - CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR NURSE EDUCATORS
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to examine the procedures for designing, implementing, and evaluating nursing education curriculum. The process will be examined beginning with the program mission. Educational theories, philosophy, concepts, and program evaluation will be explored. The nurse educator’s role in curriculum design and program evaluation is assessed.
NUS 783 - INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ASSESSMENT IN NURSING EDUCATION
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to discover teaching styles and implement instructional technologies to promote learning in diverse populations of students. Throughout the semester, students will explore didactic and clinical learning activities and evaluation strategies to demonstrate transfer of learning. Prerequisite: NUS 782.

NUS 784 - DATA SCIENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to apply concepts associated with data analytic methods and the use of burgeoning technologies in healthcare. The course prepares the nurse scientist to engage with other researchers in the areas of data analytics, simulation, telehealth, and robotics. The appropriate integration of health care technologies to support nursing research will be emphasized.

NUS 785 - RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) OF INNOVATIVE HEALTH CARE TECHNOLOGY
Semester Hours: 3

The purpose of this course is to develop the scientific skills to move an innovation from concept to implementation following a research and development (R&D) process. The course prepares the nurse scientist to engage with researchers inside and outside Prerequisite: NUS 784 or permission of professor.

NUS 788 - COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT
Semester Hours: 0

All students enrolled in the Joint Nursing Science PhD program are required to register for this course at the beginning of the semester during which they take the comprehensive examination. A grade will be determined entirely by an assessment of the student's performance on the comprehensive examination, and the grade will be either satisfactory/unsatisfactory. The course may be repeated once and must be passed if the student is to progress to dissertation. Prerequisite: NUS 776.

NUS 799 - DOCTORAL DISSERTATION
Semester Hours: 9

This independent research course partially fulfills required doctoral level research dissertation hours toward the PhD in the student's field. A minimum of 24 dissertation hours are required, at 1-12 hours per semester. The course is conducted under the guidance of the PhD chair. After completing requirements for admission to candidacy, the student registers for a minimum of 3 hours per semester in this course, each semester, until all dissertation requirements have been approved. Material covered will be of an advanced nature aimed at providing doctoral students with an understanding of the latest research and current developments within the field. Discussion and advisor guidance will be focused on readings of research articles and development of research methodology with the aim of producing an original research contribution that represents a novel development in the field, or a novel perspective on a pre-existing topic in the field. Prerequisite: NUS 776.