

Master of Science in Nursing

MSN CORE & CLINICAL COURSES

NS 500 **DEVELOPING YOUR ADVANCED NURSING ROLE**

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: To be taken first semester or by permission of the faculty.

This course facilitates the transition of the nurse into the advanced nursing role. The advanced roles of the nurse educator and nurse executive are further explored. Content related to evidence-based nursing, informatics and the importance of reflection in nursing are examined. The students begin to develop their professional portfolio based on program outcomes.

NS 506 **THEORIES FOR NURSING**

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: To be taken first semester or by permission of the faculty.

This course presents the processes of development, construction, application, and evaluation of theory and knowledge in nursing. Students will learn to explore and explain phenomena of concern to nurses through the use of conceptual models and theories from nursing. Students will broaden their view of nursing by examining the contributions of different ways of knowing to high quality nursing practice. Students will briefly identify the role of processes for evidence-based practice in the application and testing of theory/knowledge for nursing.

NS 508 **ISSUES IN ADVANCED NURSING ROLES**

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 500, NS 506

This course explores the health care delivery system with specific consideration of economic, political, social, cultural, global, and professional influences. Legal, ethical, and economic issues for current and projected health care needs are addressed. The skills necessary for application and synthesis of biophysical sciences, psychosocial sciences, the humanities, and the science of caring are enhanced. Skills in critical thinking, decision making, and organizational leadership are included.

NS 510 **ADVANCED STATISTICS FOR NURSING RESEARCH**

Credit Hours: 2

Prerequisites: Undergraduate statistics or equivalent. This course will provide a review and more in-depth exploration of descriptive and inferential statistics. Understanding the role of statistics, being able to identify and implement the correct statistical procedure for a given research or evidenced-based practice problem

and becoming more critical of statistical presentations are the basic themes of the course.

NS 514 **RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE- BASED PRACTICE**

Credit Hours: 3

Pre/Co requisites: Undergraduate Research

This course incorporates quantitative and qualitative research as well as class assignments related to evidence based nursing education and practice. The student will become proficient in the critical appraisal and use of research. The student will identify researchable problems within administration, education and a variety of practice settings.

NS 542 **ADVANCED CLINICAL CONCEPTS**

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 500, NS 506, NS 510, NS 514

Co requisites: NS 508

This course provides students the means to approach nursing and their clinical content area with an advanced way of thinking. Seminar discussion promotes student ability to identify and organize major nursing concepts and theory for application to their own practice. Students will synthesize theoretical/research readings with concurrent clinical experience related to a selected nursing concept.

NS 592 **CAPSTONE I**

Credit Hours: 2

Prerequisites: NS 542

Co requisites: NS 523 & NS 558 or permission from MSN Program Director.

In this first course of the capstone sequence, students will synthesize concepts related to research, practice, education and leadership content as well as experiences learned throughout the master's program of study. Groups of students will collaboratively begin a group-selected evidence-based project. Emphasis is placed on the process of identifying a nursing problem (PICO [T]), searching and critically appraising the literature with development of a summary matrix table.

NS 594 **CAPSTONE II**

Credit Hours: 2

Prerequisites: NS 592

Co requisites: NS 524 & NS 558 or permission from MSN Program Director.

In this second course of the capstone sequence, students will synthesize concepts related to research, practice, education and leadership content and experiences learned throughout the master's program of study. Groups of students will collaboratively complete a group-selected evidence-based project. Emphasis will be on the process of completing an evidence-based manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed

journal or a podium or poster presentation suitable for delivery at a national or regional conference.

NURSE EDUCATOR TRACK

NS 516 TEACHING-LEARNING PRINCIPLES FOR NURSING EDUCATION

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 500, NS 506 or faculty permission.
Teaching-learning principles and holistic adult education theories appropriate for college level students are examined. Learning theory that emphasizes andragogy and its related concepts such as transformational learning, reflective learning and self-directed learning is included. Motivational and personality characteristics for the broader social system are discussed and evaluated as are specific considerations with regard to ethnic, cultural, and other diversity issues.

NS 521 INFORMATICS AND TECHNOLOGY FOR NURSING EDUCATION

Credit Hours: 1

Prerequisites: NS 516, NS 518 This course focuses on the development of a course online. Ethical, social, and legal issues associated with using information technology in education are emphasized. Students have the opportunity to use a course management system to develop a course online.

NS 518 INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 500, NS 506, NS 516, or faculty permission.
This course analyzes teaching strategies and modalities relevant to classroom and clinical teaching in nursing education. Fundamental concepts and principles in educational and psychological measurement of learning are explored.

NS 523 CURRICULUM/PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT & EVALUATION

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: All program course work except NS 524.
Pre/Co requisites: NS 592 & NS 594.
This course concentrates on curriculum/program development for nursing education. The purposes, functions, design, and implementation of curriculum/program development are examined. Students will be expected to apply previous classroom/experiential learning and research to the exploration of various basic curricula/program designs.

NS 524 PRACTICUM IN NURSING EDUCATION

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: All program course work is prerequisite
Pre/Co requisites: NS 592, NS 594.

Working with a preceptor, students have the opportunity to synthesize learning and experiences into strategies and designs for nursing education. Multiple teaching-learning theories, designs and strategies are employed. Included in this practicum is direct contact with undergraduate students in the classroom and clinical environment.

NS 543 ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Basic health assessment course or permission by program.
This course advances theoretical knowledge and skills in history taking, risk appraisal, physical examination, and cultural, environmental, and functional assessment of individuals across selected portions of the life span. Students have the opportunity to interpret findings, think critically, and practice clinical decision making.

NS 545 ADVANCED PHYSIOLOGY/ PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: Admission to the MSN Program or permission.
This course addresses alterations of selected physiologic systems and the associated pathophysiology initiated at the cellular level for frequently encountered conditions found in individuals across the life span. Relevant theories and research findings are examined as a basis for explaining pathophysiologic changes. There will be an in-depth analysis of etiologies, risk factors, clinical manifestations, and complications.

NURSE EXECUTIVE TRACK

NS 547 QUALITY AND SAFETY INITIATIVES

Credit Hours: 1

Prerequisites: None, however NS 552 or NS 554 is recommended.
Quality and safety initiatives including IOM competencies, National Patient Safety Goals (NPSG), Quality and Safety Education for Nursing (QSEN), and Total Quality Management/ Continuous Quality Improvement (TQM/CQI) and Performance Improvement processes and methods will be discussed in relation to organizational issues and managerial responsibility and accountability required to improve patient outcomes and minimize health care costs.

NS 550 ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR AND STRUCTURE

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 500 & NS 506 or faculty permission.

This course explores behavioral science literature and theories that are relevant to the study of individual and group behavior within healthcare organizations. This course will promote an understanding of how and why people and groups behave the way they do in the workplace. Theories of motivation, leadership and change will be explored.

NS 552 ROLE OF THE NURSE EXECUTIVE I

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 550 or faculty permission.

The major focus of this course will be the planning, organizing, and coordinating aspects of management. The role of the nurse executive from the perspective of transformational, quantum, and organizational leadership theories will be explored. The concepts of creating a vision, planning, leading change, chaos and crisis, risk-taking, decision-making, reflective practice, power, influence, emotional intelligence, motivation, shared governance, nursing delivery systems, productivity, and personal and professional responsibility and accountability will be discussed.

NS 554 ROLE OF THE NURSE EXECUTIVE II

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: NS 550 & NS 552 or faculty permission.

This course will complete the two-course sequence and focus on the directing and controlling of human resource management (HRM) aspects of the management process. Under the umbrella of quantum and transformational leadership, topics to be covered include delegation, conflict resolution and negotiation, motivation, productivity, staffing, team-building, recruitment and retention strategies, employee selection, performance evaluation, compensation, staff development, coaching/mentoring, disciplinary action, cultural competence and diversity in the workplace, healthy work environments, and legal issues associated with human resource management.

NS 558 ROLE OF THE NURSE EXECUTIVE III

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: All program course work is prerequisite, except 559.

Pre/Co requisites: NS 592, NS 594.

The history of health care reimbursement, economics and health care, accounting principles and information systems for data retrieval will serve as the introduction to budget principles, development, variances, and strategies. Strategic management, cost-benefit analysis,

productivity, quality and outcomes, marketing, and staffing and patient classification systems will be discussed from a financial perspective.

NS 559 PRACTICUM: MANAGEMENT, IMPROVEMENT, AND EVALUATION IN HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS

Credit Hours: 4

Prerequisites: All program course work is prerequisite.

Pre/Co requisites: NS 592, NS 594.

Each student will choose a health care setting (acute care, long term care, etc.) to work with a nurse executive who will serve as a preceptor. Throughout this course, the student will synthesize management and leadership principles into the nurse executive role. The student must identify a project or topic for improvement, develop a strategy for improvement, use evidence and theory to support the proposed improvement strategy, implement and evaluate the improvement strategy and share the findings and outcomes of the project.