

NURSING MSN

College of Allied Health & Nursing
 School of Nursing
 360 Wissink Hall • 507-389-6826
 or 800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY)
 Fax: 507-389-6516
www.mnsu.edu/dept/nursing/welcome.html

Mary Bliesmer, DNSc, CGNP, APRN, Professor; Rush University – Chicago, Interim Associate Dean, School of Nursing
 Sonja Meiers, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor; University of Minnesota; Director, MSN Program

Sheila Anderson, MSN, CFNP, RN, Assistant Professor, Texas Woman's University - Denton

Sue Ellen Bell, Ph.D., CCNS, APRN, Associate Professor, University of Minnesota

Donna Brauer, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor; University of Minnesota

Carol Brown, Ph.D., RN, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota

Patricia Earle, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor; University of Minnesota

Sandra Eggenberger, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor; Texas Woman's University - Denton

Norma Krumwiede, Ed.D., RN, Associate Professor; University of South Dakota

Carol Larson, Ph.D., RN, APRN, Associate Professor; Texas Woman's University - Denton

Nancy McLoone, MS, CPNP, APRN, Assistant Professor; University of Minnesota, College of St. Catherine – St. Paul

Linda Rosenbaum, Ph.D., CCNS*, APRN, Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Regina Smith, MSN, CCNS, APRN, Assistant Professor, University of Florida – Gainesville

Marcia Stevens, DNSc, RN, Professor, University of California – San Francisco

Linda Welch, MSN, CFNP, CWHNP, APRN, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Linda Wenkel, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado

Karen Willette-Murphy, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska – Omaha

Diane Witt, MA, CANP, APRN, Assistant Professor, College of St. Catherine – St. Paul

Patricia Young, Ph.D., RN, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin – Madison

CANP = Certified Adult Nurse Practitioner, CCNS = Clinical Nurse Specialist, CGNP = Certified Geriatric Nurse Practitioner, CFNP = Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, CPNP = Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, CWHNP - Certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner

Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) offers a 49-50 semester credit graduate program designed to prepare professional nurses for advanced practice leading to a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. The program emphasizes Family Nursing with curricula options for the advanced practice nursing roles of Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). Students choosing the CNS role option may elect to incorporate clinical teaching experiences with the clinical coursework. A post master's FNP curriculum is also available. The School of Nursing works collaboratively with several Minnesota initiatives.

The MSN program is designed to 1) provide advanced nursing education that is accessible and flexible; 2) respond to the ever changing health care needs of individuals, families, and populations across the continuum of life; 3) contribute to advancement of nursing practice and the discipline of nursing; and 4) collaborate for expanded clinical practice and research partnerships between education and service settings.

Admission. The potential applicant requests an application packet from the administrative assistant for the MSN Program. Completed applications are due in to the MSN Program by January 15. Applicants submit materials simultaneously to both the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGS&R) and to the School of Nursing (SON).

To the College of Graduate Studies and Research:

1. Completed application form to Minnesota State University, Mankato.
2. Application fee (fee applies to MSU students, graduates, faculty and staff).
3. Verification of baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university

(official transcript).

4. Verification of Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores is required for applicants with cumulative GPA less than 3.0.
5. Information required of international students, if appropriate.

To the School of Nursing:

1. Completed MSN Program, SON application form
2. Copy of current registration of RN licensure
3. Verification of references requested

Completed applications are reviewed by the MSN Program Admission Committee using the following criteria:

1. BS/BA degree from an NLNAC/CCNE accredited school of nursing preferred (as verified by official transcripts). Baccalaureate degree in another field is acceptable with equivalency demonstrated in leadership/management, research, and public health nursing theory and clinical;
2. Current RN licensure in at least one state with eligibility for licensure in Minnesota;
3. Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale. If cumulative GPA is less than 3.0, the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) is required. The GRE results must be submitted along with the application. The GRE must have been taken within five years prior to application. An on-campus written essay may be substituted for the GRE. The written essay in an applicant's response to a topic related to nursing and is evaluated for composition and fluency. This essay is written prior to January 15 and is scored by a member of the graduate faculty. The faculty essay score is submitted along with the application. Students choosing this option should contact the Graduate Program Director for on-campus essay writing dates. Upon successful completion of this essay and fulfillment of other admission requirements, the student is provisionally admitted to enroll in nursing science core courses. When the student has completed 8 credits from the nursing science core courses with a minimum grade of B in each course, the student is fully admitted to the MSN program.
4. Minimum of one year of nursing practice experience as an RN;
5. Submission of a completed MSN Program Application, including goal statement and professional history/activities (addressing all categories as requested on the form);
6. References from three persons, including current employer, and two other persons of the applicant's choice (three reference forms are included in the MSN Program Application Packet);
7. Validation of computer competence (or plan to accomplish prior to enrollment).

Applicants are notified by March 15 of application outcome. An interview may be required.

Curriculum. The MSN curriculum is designed to build upon and extend the body of knowledge and competencies of baccalaureate education in nursing. The overall purpose of the master's program is to provide high quality graduate education for advanced practice nursing. The curriculum focuses on the systematic integration of knowledge, theory, and skills for advanced practice nursing with families and for leadership in health care systems and the nursing profession.

Outcomes. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Synthesize theories and concepts from nursing and other disciplines for application in advanced practice nursing.
2. Use a process of scholarly inquiry in advanced practice nursing.
3. Apply the principles of ethical decision making in advanced practice nursing.
4. Demonstrate competence in advanced practice nursing with selected community-based client populations.
5. Assume responsibility for contributing to improvement of the delivery of health care and influencing health policy.
6. Provide leadership for ongoing development of the nursing profession.

Curriculum Components. The Master of Science in Nursing Program includes four required components:

1. Nursing science core courses;
2. Family nursing theory courses;
3. Advance practice (CNS or FNP) clinical courses;
4. A culminating experience thesis.

The curriculum reflects collaboration with other master's programs in nursing in Minnesota. Students access courses and learning experiences using a variety of distance education strategies including synchronous and asynchronous on-line web based courses. Students select specific clinical populations and create various combinations of advanced practice role focused learning experiences.

Progression. All students must complete the program within six years of taking the first course which they apply to their graduate degree program. Students may progress

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either full time (9-11 credits per semester) or part time (4-10 credits per semester). Full time students may complete the CNS or FNP options in four semesters and one or two summers. The part time plan includes a minimum of six semesters and one or two summer sessions.

Nondegree status. Nursing science core courses are open to nondegree seeking students on a space available basis by permission of the professor and the director of the graduate program. Interested students apply for nondegree status through the College of Graduate Studies and Research.

Accreditation. For further information about accreditation, contact: NLNAC, 61 Broadway, New York, NY, 212-363-5555, Web site: www.nlnac.org

Financial Assistance. Minnesota State University, Mankato offers numerous sources of financial assistance. Graduate assistantships provide part-time, academically-related employment to eligible graduate students. These carry stipends up to \$8,000, with maximum of nine credits per semester of resident graduate tuition, and resident rates for nonresident students. Federal Nurse Education Traineeships are available to students who commit to completing at least 6 credits each semester of the academic year. The award amount is determined by the amount of funding received annually. Other funding is available through national, state and local public and private sources.

Transfer Credit

A maximum of ten semester hours of graduate credit, all of which must be related to the program (with a grade of "B" or better), may be transferred from other appropriately accredited colleges or universities. With adequate pre-planning, a maximum of 16 semester hours of appropriate graduate credit may be transferred from other Minnesota State Universities (Bemidji, Metropolitan, Moorhead, Southwest, St. Cloud, Winona) and applied to a program at MSU.

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(Thesis - 49-50 credits)

Nursing Science

Core Courses (19 credits)

NURS	552	Advanced Health Assessment (1 credit theory; 2 credits lab practicum) (3)
NURS	553	Advanced Pharmacology (3)
NURS	554	Advanced Pathophysiology (3)
NURS	601	Nursing Science: Theoretical Basis for Nursing Practice (2)
NURS	602	Ethical Dimensions in Advanced Nursing Practice (2)
NURS	603	Advanced Nursing Roles (2)
NURS	604	Advanced Nursing Research* (2)
NURS	605	Health Policy and Nursing (2)

*Prerequisite: Graduate statistics course.

Family Nursing Theory Courses (9 credits)

NURS	640	Family Nursing Theory (1)
NURS	641	Family Nursing I: Adult Health Primary Care (2)
NURS	642	Family Nursing II: Child & Adolescent Health (2)
NURS	643	Family Nursing III: Reproductive Family Health (2)
NURS	644	Family Nursing IV: Adult Health Promotion (2)

Advanced Practice Clinical Courses

Role Option(s) (15 credits)

Clinical Nurse Specialist

NURS	645	Advanced Practice: CNS/FNP - Family I* (5)
NURS	648	Advanced Practice: CNS - Family II (5)
NURS	649	Advanced Practice: CNS - Family III (5)

Family Nurse Practitioner

NURS	645	Advanced Practice: CNS/FNP - Family I* (5)
NURS	646	Advanced Practice: FNP - Family II (5)
NURS	647	Advanced Practice: FNP - Family III (5)

*Prerequisite: All core courses. N553 Advanced Pharmacology may be taken concurrently

Students may select additional electives within nursing or other disciplines to support their program of study.

Culminating Experience: Thesis (4 credits)

(All Students)

NURS	699	Thesis (4)
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The Culminating Experience (4 credits) includes successful defense of a thesis proposal (Preliminary Oral Dialogue with Committee), completion of proposed inquiry, and defense of completed thesis and response to curriculum outcomes (Culminating Final Oral Dialogue with Committee). Students submit findings of their thesis as a formal paper adhering to a specified format. Abstract of completed thesis is submitted for competitive review to the Mu Lambda, Sigma Theta Tau International Fall Research Forum Planning committee. The student's successful completion of the Culminating Experience is a prerequisite for graduation.

In consultation with the chairperson/advisor and examining committee, students develop and obtain approval for a thesis proposal which can contribute to nursing knowledge for use in clinical practice. The project can take a variety of forms including development and/or testing of clinical knowledge, development and/or testing of new practice strategies; evaluation of systems of care; development of quality indicators; replication of a study; evidence-based inquiry; and secondary analysis of data bases. All proposals and applications for the conduct of research involving human subjects must be approved prior to data collection.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURS 552 (3) Advanced Health Assessment

This course offers theoretical and simulated clinical practice to develop advanced skills in health and physical assessment throughout the life span. Students complete a client database and identify nursing problems necessary in making clinical judgments and planning and caring for the health care needs of individual clients.

NURS 553 (3) Advanced Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing

Course content begins with legal and ethical considerations for nurse prescribers, proceeds with presentation and analysis of core decision-making processes and advanced practices nurses use to select drugs, and finally explores clinical case management concepts involved in monitoring persons as they use prescribed drugs.

NURS 554 (3) Advanced Pathophysiology

This course provides a foundation in advanced physiology and pathophysiology at the cellular, organic and systemic level. This foundation serves as a basis for clinical assessment and management by advanced practice nurses. Key concepts and integration of function among systems will be emphasized. The impact of psychosocial variables on physiologic function will be explored.

NURS 590 (1-3) Workshop

Workshop(s) with various topics and titles.

NURS 601 (2) Nursing Science: Theoretical Basis for Nursing Practice

Concepts, theories, and models that inform advanced nursing practice are systematically examined and evaluated. Selected theories are analyzed and critiqued utilizing theory formation criteria. Students discuss application of nursing science and conceptual models to clinical area of focus and critically articulate use of theory-based practice in family and/or advanced nursing roles.

(Prerequisite or co-requisite: upper division undergraduate Statistics or graduate level Statistics/Biostatistics)

NURS 602 (2) Ethical Dimensions in Advanced Nursing Practice

Content includes analysis of several conceptualizations of ethical behavior, examination of the roots of ethical behavior, and evaluation of an ethic of caring in advanced nursing practice. Students explore caring and justice within the nurse-client relationship; and critically examine the antecedents, actions, and outcomes of ethical nursing practice.

NURS 603 (2) Advanced Nursing Roles

This course investigates the professional identification and activities necessary in advanced nursing roles. Theoretical concepts of leadership, management, consultation, clinical investigation, and education will be examined relative to the graduate nurse's responsibility for collaboration and consultation in nursing research, practice, and health policy development.

(Prerequisite: core courses or permission of faculty)

NURS 604 (2) Advanced Nursing Research

Research approaches, methodologies, and techniques of data analysis are critically addressed. Emphasis is placed on the development of analytic ability, integration of computer skills, and utilization of research in leadership and advanced practice

roles. Students develop an individual research proposal concerning a nursing phenomenon within a specialty area. A graduate level statistics course is pre- or co-requisite.

NURS 605 (2) Health Policy & Nursing

The purpose of this course is for students to appreciate the impact of public policy and legislation on health care systems and the leadership role of advanced practice nurses in shaping health policy and legislation supportive of health in the United States of America.

NURS 610 (2) Foundation & Philosophy of Holism & Healing

NURS 611 (2) Integrative Health I: Mind, Body, Spirit

NURS 612 (2) Integrative Health II: Mind, Body, Spirit

NURS 613 (2) Integrative Health Domain: Mind

NURS 614 (2) Integrative Health Domain: Body

NURS 615 (2) Integrative Health Domain: Spirit

NURS 631 (2-5) Advanced Practice: Clinical Teaching

Provides a focus on educational needs of nursing students as well as family clients. Classroom and clinical teaching experiences provide mentored practice in development and application of learning assessments, teaching strategies, and evaluation measures. Prerequisite: core courses, NURS 603, or permission of faculty

NURS 632 (2-5) Advanced Practice: Clinical Management

Students have the opportunity to focus on leadership/management issues and strategies related to clinical practice, as well as cost-effective delivery of client care in today's and tomorrow's health care system. Students will establish a mentor relationship with an experienced nurse manager or administrator. Prerequisite: one or two leadership/management courses of the student's choice, NURS 603, permission of faculty

NURS 640 (1) Family Nursing Theory

This course applies family theories and transcultural nursing to advanced nursing practice. The family system is the unit of care as well as the context of care for individual family members. Family nursing practice is presented as a partnership with family systems that engages families actively in assessing the family's health and decision-making processes related to family health and health behaviors.

NURS 641 (2) Family Nursing I: Adult Health-Primary Care

In this course students are introduced to the management of acute and selected chronic health problems of adults and older adults across hospital, long-term care, community and home settings. The role of the health care delivery system and issues related to ethics, health policy, health promotion, and research are examined from the perspective of culturally diverse families as clients.

NURS 642 (2) Family Nursing II: Child & Adolescent Health

Theoretical concepts, assessments, and intervention strategies related to health among culturally diverse children and adolescents are critiqued. Health promotion/protection and nursing management of acute and selected chronic health problems of the child and adolescent are addressed.

NURS 643 (2) Family Nursing III: Reproductive Family Health

Theoretical concepts, assessments, and intervention strategies related to women's health are critiqued. Health promotion/protection and management of acute and selected chronic health problems of culturally diverse women are addressed. The role of the health care delivery system and issues related to ethics, health policy, and research are examined from the perspective of culturally diverse women as clients. This course focuses on family nursing practice as a partnership with family systems which engage families actively in assessing the family's health, decision making, processes related to family health and health behaviors and management of the health care needs of women.

NURS 644 (2) Family Nursing IV: Adult Health Promotion

Theoretical concepts of assessment, health promotion/protection, and holistic nursing are applied to management of acute and chronic health problems of culturally diverse adults, older adults and families. Issues of chemical dependency and family violence are addressed. This course provides a continuation of the management of the acute and selected chronic health problems of adults and older adults across hospital, long-term care, community, and home settings. Students integrate the conceptual complexities

of health promotion/protection for adults and families utilizing knowledge from the biological, psychosocial, spiritual, and nursing sciences.

NURS 645 (5) Advanced Practice: CNS/FNP-Family I

This internship focuses on the application of knowledge gained in advanced health assessment, Family Nursing I: Adult Health and Primary Care, and other nursing science core courses in the management of the health care needs and problems of culturally diverse adults, older adults, and their families. Use of assessment skills leads to differential diagnosis and management of common health problems of adults and older adults and use of pharmacologic and other therapeutic interventions. The internship focuses on the beginning development of the family nurse practitioner (FNP) or family clinical specialist (CNS) role.

NURS 646 (5) Advanced Practice: FNP-Family II

A continuation of Advanced Practice: Family Nursing I. The clinical focus is the application of the Nursing Science Core and Family Theory Life Span courses to manage the health care needs of culturally diverse children, adolescents, and women. The clinical focus also includes the use of assessment skills leading to differential diagnoses and management of common health problems of children, adolescents, and women, using nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic interventions.

NURS 647 (5) Advanced Practice: FNP-Family III

A continuation of Advanced Practice: FNP-Family II. The clinical focus is application of Advanced Health Assessment, collaborative care, clinical management, health promotion, and holistic nursing for culturally diverse adults, children, and families. This clinical focus also includes the use of assessment skills leading to differential diagnoses and management of more complex health problems of children, adolescents, and women and men, using non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic interventions.

NURS 648 (5) Advanced Practice: Clinical Nursing Seminar: Family II

This course is the second in a series of three clinical courses which focuses on the development of competencies and outcomes expected of the nurse who selects the clinical nurse specialist option. Students continue to focus on a selected client/family population and expand their focus of care to include other factors which influence the quality and cost-effectiveness of client/family care. While students will focus on the three spheres that influence client/family care (client/family, nursing personnel, and the organization/network), the particular focus in this course is working with nursing personnel who have responsibility for client/family care. The four essential skill areas (professional attributes, leadership, collaboration, and consultation) will be addressed and experiences in using these skills will be part of the design for advanced family nursing clinical in this course and the succeeding course.

NURS 649 (5) Advanced Practice: CNS Family III

This course is the third in a series of three clinical courses which focuses on the development of competencies and outcomes expected of the nurse who selects the clinical nurse specialist option. Students continue to focus on a selected client/family population and expand their focus of care to many factors which influence the quality and cost-effectiveness of client/family care. While students will focus on the three spheres that influence client/family care (client/family, nursing personnel, and the organization/network), the particular focus in this course is working the organization/network associated with the unit of care. The four essential skill areas (professional attributes, leadership, collaboration, and consultation) continue to be addressed and experienced as part of the design for this final advanced family nursing clinical.

NURS 650 (1) The Reflective Clinician

NURS 651 (2) Health Promotion and Illness Prevention: Nursing

The course is designed for post-baccalaureate nurses seeking a health promotion-disease prevention emphasis in their nursing practice. Concept of health is explored. Theories and models of disease prevention and health promotion are described, analyzed and applied to research and nursing practice. Elective.

NURS 654 (2) Chronic Illness: Nursing Interventions

This course is designed of post-baccalaureate nurses in all settings who desire advanced nursing care knowledge in order to work with individuals and families with chronic illness. Topics explored are chronic illness, inherent stressors, current research, nursing management, program, organizations, policy, and care delivery issues. Elective.

NURS 677 (1-5) Individual Study

Course provides students with opportunity to investigate a problem or question related to an area of nursing practice. Students work with a nursing faculty advisor

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in writing the project and preparing to disseminate results of the project.

NURS 699 (1-4) Thesis

Course provides students with the opportunity to focus on a research problem that is related to their area of nursing practice. Students work with a nursing faculty advisor (committee chairperson) in developing the thesis proposal, writing the thesis, and preparing to disseminate the results of the study. With the advisor's approval, the thesis is submitted for oral defense as part of the requirements for the MSN degree.