Nursing

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Program Description

The Master of Science in Nursing degree program enhances and expands the clinical competence of baccalaureate nurses. The focus of the program is to prepare nurses for advanced nursing practice in nursing leadership, as family nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse specialists. Emphasis is placed on facilitating health care delivery within a multicultural framework. The graduate nursing curriculum includes four core courses and specific courses related to role specialization. Three minor areas of study are also available for students seeking to refine their skills as leaders/managers, researchers, or educators. The variety of learning opportunities and the flexibility of options provided by the curriculum will accommodate the diverse clinical and functional interests of students who enroll in the program. Many of the graduate nursing courses are offered online. See the semester class schedule for details.

Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing degree will be able to:

• Critically analyze, interpret and utilize appropriate knowledge, research and theories to meet the health care needs of diverse urban and rural client populations.
• Collaboratively plan for the delivery of culturally consistent health care within the context of client social structure and world views.
• Employ leadership, management and teaching skills to foster change and continual improvement in health care in order to meet changing societal and environmental needs.
• Evaluate theory and research findings for integration into professional nursing practice.
• Develop competence and accountability in an advanced practice nursing role.
• Model caring, sensitivity and respect in the delivery of health care to culturally diverse populations.
• Value commitment to the advancement of the profession and discipline of nursing.
• Operationalize principles of ethical, legal, financial and economic theories as applied to health care delivery systems.

The expected outcomes for the Master of Science Degree in Nursing are also published in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook and at http://conhs.tamucc.edu.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120, (202) 887-6791 for a term of ten years until June 30, 2016. The goals of the program are published in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook found at http://conhs.tamucc.edu.

Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requires disclosure of criminal history or disciplinary action and an FBI background check before licensure is granted. In order to promote the safety of the clients in their care and to meet the requirements of the BON and affiliated clinical agencies, students will complete the background check before acceptance to the program is granted. See the BON Website www.bne.state.tx.us for the statutes and rules regulating licensure.

Admission Requirements

Procedures and requirements for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing Program are provided below.

1. A prospective student must complete an application to the University for admission to graduate study and to the MSN Program for degree student status. Application should be made through the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. (See the “Admission” section of the catalog.)
2. An applicant must have a satisfactory grade point average (4.0 scale): 3.00 GPA on the last 60 semester hours.

3. Evidence of current unencumbered Texas licensure as a registered nurse is required of each student.

4. Except as noted below, a baccalaureate nursing degree from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school of nursing is required. An applicant from a non-accredited program will be considered on an individual basis and will be required to submit the following credentials at the time of application: (a) course descriptions of nursing courses and clinical experiences, and (b) a letter from the dean stating progress being made toward accreditation.

5. A personal interview is optional. It may be initiated by the student or the Nursing Program.

6. Degree students who are registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees in disciplines other than nursing and who meet all other requirements for admission into the MSN degree program are required to enroll in 21 hours of undergraduate courses designated as follows:

   - MATH 2342 Statistics for Physical and Life Sciences 3 sem. hrs.
   - NURS 3435 Health Assessment 4 sem. hrs.
   - NURS 4318 Nurse as Research Consumer 3 sem. hrs.
   - NURS 4671 Leadership/Management 6 sem. hrs.
   - NURS 4560 Nursing Care of Community 5 sem. hrs.

   These students may apply for admission to the MSN program during the last 12 semester hours of the prescribed BSN course work and must meet all MSN admission requirements.

7. Requests for exceptions from GPA or other admission requirements, supported by evidence of extenuating circumstances, will be considered by the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee, but only after an official Application for Admission has been filed. Such considerations for exceptions will be based on the individual student’s experience and work performance since graduation; the academic record since graduation, if one exists; the student’s motivation to continue career education; written statements submitted as part of the admission procedure regarding long and short term goals; and the student’s anticipated change in his/her nursing role as a result of this educational experience.

8. As an exception to the requirements of the University transfer-of-credit policy, academic credit from non-regionally accredited entities may be considered if all of the following conditions are met:
   a. The student for whom credit is being considered has been accepted into the Master of Science in Nursing program,
   b. The credit is directly applicable to graduate nurse specialty courses,
   c. The credit is offered from an educational program that is professionally accredited, and this accreditation is recognized by the Department of Education,
   d. The courses have been reviewed by the Graduate Program Coordinator and forwarded with recommendation through the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to the Director of Admissions and Records,
   e. The number of transferred semester hours from all such sources above will not exceed 12 semester hours, and
   f. The transfer and use of such credits meets all University requirements except where noted above.

   After due consideration, as noted above, the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee may permit a student who wishes to pursue the Master of Science in Nursing degree, but does not meet the requirements for admission to the Graduate Nursing Program,
to enroll on a conditional status. Graduate nursing students enrolled in this status must take
the nursing core courses and will be excluded from enrolling in any other graduate courses.
Conditional degree-seeking students must earn a grade of B or better in each of the prescribed
courses. If a grade of less than B is earned during the period the student is registered under
this classification, the student will be prohibited from further enrollment in the Graduate
Nursing Program. The student may reapply after 12 consecutive months. Only one readmission
will be considered. Students who successfully complete the 12 semester hours of prescribed
courses will be admitted as regular Degree-Seeking students. Students pursuing the RN-MSN
option are not eligible for enrollment under the conditional admission status.

Admission Requirements for the RN-MSN Option

Registered nurses who have earned a diploma or associate degree in nursing and who
meet all other requirements for admission into the MSN degree program are eligible to ap-
ply for this entrance option. Articulation agreements exist between A&M-Corpus Christi
and associate degree nursing programs. Equivalency tables are available showing which
general education and nursing courses will be accepted for transfer.

RN-MSN students complete the standard course work in the MSN program. In addition,
the RN-MSN student must also:

1. Complete an associate degree in nursing or diploma in a nursing program from an
   accredited transferring college or university,
2. Successfully pass the registered nurse licensure examination and have an unen-
cumbered nursing license,
3. Complete 58 credit hours of designated general education and support courses in
   accordance with the A&M-Corpus Christi University Core Curriculum transfer
   policy requirements and the Baccalaureate in Nursing Degree requirements for
   prescribed support courses, as specified in the Undergraduate Catalog,
4. Achieve a GPA of 3.00 (4.00 scale) prior to admission.

Prior to beginning master’s level course work, the student will complete the following
prescribed course work:

1. NURS 3435 Health Assessment- may complete through
   Challenge Examination 3 sem. hrs.
2. NURS 4324 Nurse as Caregiver -may complete through
   Challenge Examination 3 sem. hrs.
3. NURS 4560 Nursing Care of Community 5 sem. hrs.
4. NURS 4671 Leadership/Management 6 sem. hrs.
5. NURS 4318 Nurse as Research Consumer 3 sem. hrs.

During the first semester of master’s level course work, the student must enroll in NURS
5302, Nursing as a Discipline and a Profession. In order to progress in the track, students
must maintain a 3.00 grade point average. The student may convert to the RN-BSN track
if unable to maintain the accelerated pace. If a dual purpose course has been completed at
the time a student moves to the RN-BSN track, that course will satisfy the undergraduate
requirement. If a challenge examination has been successful, the results may be transferred
to the RN-BSN track. If the challenge examination results are not successful, the student
will move to the RN-BSN track and take the course in question. The student may not reenter
the RN-MSN track.

Post Masters Certification. Post-masters certification is available for students that
have earned their MSN Degree. Certification will allow registered nurses to expand their
scope of practice beyond the role or population focus currently possessed. Post-Masters-
Certification-Only Students automatically will be considered to have completed the MSN
core courses based on the completion of the master’s degree. See Role Specialization Section
for available list of minor or post masters areas of study.
Non-degree-seeking students. Non-degree status is designated for the student who wants to enroll in graduate course work to meet unique personal or career goals that do not lead to a graduate degree or certification. Colleges may place restrictions on the enrollment of students admitted in this status. Students must see a nursing advisor and the graduate nursing department chair to discuss their educational career goals.

Program Requirements for all Nursing Graduate Students

The following program requirements apply to all nursing graduate students upon admission and throughout program of study.

1. Evidence of current unencumbered Texas licensure as a registered nurse is required of each student.
2. Students are required to complete a criminal background check through the College of Nursing and Health Sciences upon admission to the College.
3. Students are required to purchase professional liability coverage through the University. Fees for this coverage are included in the fees paid at the time of registration at the beginning of each academic year.
4. The Texas Department of State Health Services has specific immunization requirements for students involved with direct patient contact. Students who are not in compliance with these requirements will not be allowed to attend clinical laboratories. These requirements, as stated in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64 include the following:
   a) “Students may be provisionally enrolled for up to one semester to allow students to attend classes while obtaining the required vaccines and acceptable evidence of vaccination.”
   b) “Students cannot be provisionally enrolled without at least one dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment period.”
   c) “Polio vaccine is not required. Students enrolled in health-related courses are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis.”
   d) “One dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) is required within the last ten years.”
   e) “Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968.”
   f) “Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of rubella vaccine.”
   g) “Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of mumps vaccine.”
   h) “Students shall receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus.”
   i) “Students shall receive two doses of varicella vaccine unless the first dose was received prior to thirteen years of age.”

For additional information, please see the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, which is accessible at http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml.

Please note that some agencies have stricter requirements than the state minimum standards.

Rule 97.65 lists the following exceptions to the immunization requirements:

a) “Serologic confirmations of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella are acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella illness must consist of a laboratory report that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection.”
b) “A parent or physician validated history of varicella disease (chickenpox) or varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of vaccine. A written statement from a physician or the student’s parent or guardian, or school nurse, must support histories of varicella disease.”

5. Results of tuberculosis screening is required annually.
6. Students must successfully complete (with a grade of “C” or above) a course in statistics.
7. Current American Heart Association CPR Type C certification is required.
8. Students are required to complete a urine drug screen and submit results to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences upon admission to the college.
9. Health insurance coverage is highly recommended as neither the university nor clinical agencies are held responsible for emergency/health care arising from a laboratory assignment. (See University Student Handbook.)

Graduation Requirements

A. Course work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Courses</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Specialty Courses</td>
<td>25-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis Option</td>
<td>(4-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>37-57 credits required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Thesis

Students may negotiate to complete a thesis in lieu of a capstone course in some majors. Other students may choose to enroll in an additional 6 semester hours in order to complete a thesis. Each student in the thesis track must take a final oral exam during the last semester. The student’s graduate committee will administer the exam. It will cover topics related to the thesis as well as broad aspects of nursing. The student is responsible for scheduling the exam with the faculty involved. A student who fails the final oral exam may repeat it once, but may not repeat the exam until after an interval of four months or more. If a student fails the second oral examination, she/he will be terminated from the program.

Progression, Retention, and Dismissal

1. Students must repeat a course in which they earn a D, F, or W (Withdrawal) and may be placed on scholastic probation if their GPA falls below 3.0 because of the D, F, or W.
2. Scholastic probation status will be removed in accordance with university policy. (See Scholastic Probation and Enforced Withdrawal in this catalog.)
3. Students earning a grade of D, F, W or I (Incomplete) may not progress to courses for which that course is a prerequisite.
4. Students who earn a third C or below in the program cannot progress further and are required to withdraw from the program.
5. Administration and faculty reserve the right to dismiss students without previous warning for unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior. The conduct of nursing students should meet ethical standards as defined by the American Nurses Association (ANA) in the Code for Nurses. Personal integrity is reflected in professional judgments. Consequently, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for unprofessional or unsafe behavior. (See College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook for examples: http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook/index.htm).
6. Reapplication can be considered after 12 consecutive months following withdrawal or dismissal. Readmission is competitive and based upon availability of space in the program.

Students must meet the standards for minimal performance and progression established by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. (See catalog section on Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements.)
Advising
Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this catalog. Students are advised, however, that such information is subject to change without notice. Therefore, students should consult with their Nursing faculty advisors each semester prior to registration. Students should be aware that on campus, teleconferenced, and web courses are offered upon sufficient demand and faculty availability.

A student is assigned an academic advisor and together a program is planned according to the student’s academic, occupational and family needs. The faculty member and student work together until the student graduates. If for any reason the academic advisor-student assignment is not effective, either one can request that the dean assign another academic advisor.

Curriculum
Core Graduate Nursing Courses (12 sem. hrs.)
The core nursing courses consist of graduate-level study of the scientific knowledge that comprises the discipline and profession of nursing, and prepares the student for advanced nursing practice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5310</td>
<td>Science in Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5314</td>
<td>Research Design in Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5315</td>
<td>Diverse Health Care Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5316</td>
<td>Introduction to Advanced Practice Role Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Role Specialization
The student selects role specialization in advanced nursing practice or nursing leadership. A capstone course (identified below) is required for each specialization. The following courses are required for each specialization:

Leadership in Nursing Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5331</td>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5360</td>
<td>Health Care Financial Management / or HCAD 5325</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5362</td>
<td>Leadership Theories in Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5364</td>
<td>Organizational Design and Behavior in Nursing Practice Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5365</td>
<td>Quality and Outcomes Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5469</td>
<td>Patterns of Care Delivery (Capstone Course)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCAD 5320</td>
<td>Health Economics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCAD 5330</td>
<td>Health Law and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The program of study for Leadership in Nursing Systems Role Specialization is currently under revision. The revisions will be implemented to insure compliance with professional standards for these advanced practice roles and board requirements for certification examinations. Contact your academic advisor for the most current program of study.

Roles in advanced nursing practice include clinical nurse specialist or family nurse practitioner.

Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Medical-Surgical Nursing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5322</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacological Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5326</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology with Pathophysiological Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5331</td>
<td>Nursing Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5341</td>
<td>Wellness and Health Promotion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5624</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment and Differential Diagnosis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5633</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Specialty I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5634</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Specialty II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5639</td>
<td>Special Practicum in Advanced Practice: CNS (Capstone Course)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization
NURS 5322 Advanced Pharmacological Concepts 3
NURS 5323 Finance for the Nurse Practitioner 3
NURS 5341 Wellness and Health Promotion 3
NURS 5624 Advanced Health Assessment and Differential Diagnosis 6
NURS 5326 Advanced Physiology with Pathophysiological Applications 3
NURS 5644 Management of Acute and Chronic Illness I 6
NURS 5645 Management of Acute and Chronic Illness II 6
NURS 5746 Integrated Clinical Practice: FNP (Capstone Course) 7
Total 37

Post Masters Certificate Areas of Study

Family Nurse Practitioner
Registered nurses who earn a Post-Master’s certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner will be able to
1. Expand their practice as Advanced Practice Nurses in the care of family and individuals across the lifespan.
2. Demonstrate competency in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of primary care in a variety of healthcare settings.

Leadership in Nursing Systems
Registered nurses who earn a Post-Master’s certification in the Leadership in Nursing Systems specialty area of study will be able to
1. Expand their knowledge of leadership and management principles to foster change that supports the development of efficient and effective healthcare organizations.
2. Demonstrate competency in the planning, implementation and evaluation of work processes that support consistent achievement of desirable organizational and patient outcomes.

Nurse Educator
Registered nurses who earn a Post-Master’s certification in the Nurse Educator specialty area of study will be able to
The 13 credits within the Education Minor/Post Masters Certificate program prepare nurses for
1. Expand their area of practice to include teaching positions in academic and clinical education.
2. Demonstrate competency in curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation through the application of relevant education principles.

Students who complete post-master’s certification course work should meet requirements for national certification in the associated specialty area of practice.

Minor Area of Study
The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers three minor areas of study that provide students with a secondary specialization focus. The courses that constitute the minors are taken in addition to the courses required for the role specialization.

Nurse Educator
NURS 5352 Nursing Curriculum Planning and Development 3
NURS 5353 Theory and Concepts for Nurse Educator 3
NURS 5354 Classroom and Clinical Evaluation for Nurse Educators 3
NURS 5459 Application of Instructional Methods and Strategies in Teaching of Nursing 4
Total 13
Leadership in Nursing Systems
NURS 5360  Healthcare Financial Management  3
NURS 5362  Leadership Theories in Nursing Practice  3
NURS 5364  Organizational Design and Behavior in Nursing Practice Environments  3
NURS 5365  Quality and Outcomes Management  3
  Total  12

Nurse Researcher
NURS 5370  Grant Writing  3
NURS 5371  Research Ethics  3
NURS 5372  Clinical Trials  3
NURS 5398  Graduate Research or Project  3
  Total  12

Thesis Option
The thesis option is available for those students interested in pursuing scholarly investigation of a research proposal topic.
NURS 5399  Thesis  3

Graduate nursing courses are listed in the following section.

For Additional Information
Website:  http://www.conhs.tamucc.edu
Campus address:  Faculty Center, Room 161, phone (361) 825-5794
Mailing address:  College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5805

GRADUATE COURSES
The number of weekly lecture and laboratory hours associated with each course are designated by (lecture:lab) following the course semester hours. One lab hour = 3 contact hours. Additional laboratory work may be required to complete assignments. All courses involving labs will require appropriate fees. Didactic courses are delivered through online technology. Students must have access to a computer to complete course work.

NURS 5302.  3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
NURSING AS A DISCIPLINE AND A PROFESSION
Focuses on evaluation of the discipline and profession of nursing. The course is designed as a bridge course for students transitioning from the technical level of nursing to the professional practice of nursing at an advanced level. Emphasis is on integration of prior learning experiences with an expanded philosophical and theoretical understanding of the discipline and profession of nursing. Prerequisite: Admission to the RN-MSN track; successful challenge of NURS 4324, NURS 3435, NURS 4318, NURS 4560, and NURS 4671.

NURS 5310.  3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
SCIENCE IN NURSING
Exploration of the historical development and rationale of nursing theory. Examination of selected theories and conceptual frameworks, and their relationship to nursing practice and research. Emphasis is on the utilization of theories and models in nursing as a basis for a practice that provides a caring, comprehensive, and holistic approach to health care within a transcultural society.

NURS 5314.  3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
RESEARCH DESIGN IN NURSING
Study of intermediate and advanced aspects of research designs and methods relevant to investigation of nursing problems. Emphasis on investigation in clinical practice to advance nursing knowledge. Prerequisite: Statistics and introductory research course.

NURS 5315.  3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
DIVERSE HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENTS
This course provides theoretical, research, and practice foundations for analyzing, providing, organizing, and facilitating health care congruent with consumer and community culture and needs. Health-related problems of various populations, including but not limited to, the homeless, rural and urban poor, and other selected subcultures are considered.
NURS 5316. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCED PRACTICE ROLE DEVELOPMENT  
The course focuses on the development of knowledge and skills necessary for advanced practice. This includes, but is not limited to, negotiation, collaboration, crisis intervention, peer review, leadership, ethics, accountability and basic finances in advanced practice. Parameters of practice within various health care systems are integrated.

NURS 5322. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGICAL CONCEPTS  
Study of pharmacotherapeutics across the life span with emphasis on clinical decision-making. Laws governing Advanced Practice Nurses’ prescriptive privileges are included when appropriate. Discussion is based on current literature, research findings and case studies. Prerequisite or co-requisite: NURS 5326.

NURS 5323. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
FINANCE FOR THE NURSE PRACTITIONER  
Study of fiscal aspects of private practice, when to seek the services of a lawyer, analysis of and monitoring the cost-effectiveness of clinical decisions, the design of payment systems, fiscal management, and developing collaborative and interdependent relationships. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5326. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
ADVANCED PHYSIOLOGY WITH PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS  
Normal physiology and pathologic mechanisms of disease that serve as the foundation for clinical assessment, decision making and management in advanced practice nursing. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5331. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
NURSING INFORMATICS  
An introduction to the application of computers in nursing. Focuses on concepts and terminology related to computer technology, information management and their use in nursing leadership, nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing research. Designed for graduate students. Prerequisite: Computer Literacy.

NURS 5341. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
WELLNESS AND HEALTH PROMOTION  
A study of the complex integration of knowledge, research, and theory essential to developing clinical competence in the teaching-coaching function of the Advanced Practice Nurses. Selected models of health promotion, risk factors and early disease detection are explored. The course emphasizes the importance of situational, cultural, developmental, and individual perspectives in implementing disease prevention/health promotion activities. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5352. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
NURSING CURRICULUM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
Explores philosophies of nursing, characteristics of nursing curriculum and guidelines for development, implementation and evaluation of nursing curriculums. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5353. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
THEORY AND CONCEPTS FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR  
Focuses on the functional roles of the nurse educator: clinician, educator, consultant, change agent, and investigator. The concepts of role, change, curriculum development, instructional strategies, and evaluation methods are emphasized. Theories related to learning will be explored. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5354. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
CLASSROOM AND CLINICAL EVALUATION FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR  
Focuses on development of evaluation measures for judging student performance in the classroom and clinical laboratory. Emphasis will be on writing objective that represent the affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains and criteria representing clinical behaviors, construction and use of tests. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5360. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT  
Overview of concepts, principles and uses of basic accounting and budgeting information for the health care manager. Focuses on providing the nurse administrator with a basis for understanding the fiscal status of a health care organization. This course is cross-listed with HCAD 5325. For Graduate Nursing Students—Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5362. 3 sem. hrs. (2:3)  
LEADERSHIP THEORIES IN NURSING PRACTICE  
Examines the relationship of leadership and management theory and processes to nursing practice in both urban and rural health care settings. The independent and interdependent functions of the nurse leader at various levels of decision making are identified and analyzed. Concepts basic to organizational functioning and role relationships within a transcultural framework are considered. A clinical laboratory experience provides students opportunities to analyze the effectiveness of leadership behaviors. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5364. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN & BEHAVIOR IN NURSING PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTS  
Focuses on the application and utilization of the theories, concepts and principles of organizational design and behavior in nursing leadership. Includes major theoretical viewpoints from organizational dynamics and processes, and their employment in nursing leadership environments. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5365. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)  
QUALITY AND OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT  
Examines conceptual models of quality and their application to the management and evaluation of quality of care across health care settings. The role of outcomes measurement as a major indicator of quality of care is emphasized. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.
NURS 5370. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
GRANT WRITING
The course reviews differences and opportunities in foundation and governmental grants. The student is provided with the skills to search for appropriate grants and practice in the process of writing a grant.

NURS 5371. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
RESEARCH ETHICS
The course is an overview of ethical principles as applied to research. Historical and legal perspectives of research ethics are applied to current concepts of such principles as (but not limited to) informed consent and handling of data.

NURS 5372. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)
CLINICAL TRIALS
The course provides the student the experience of the integration of research and design principles into conducting a research study. The student will begin the course with a written proposal submitted to the IRB and conclude with pilot data collection.

NURS 5390. 1-3 sem. hrs.
TOPICS IN ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE
In-depth study of various leadership and clinical nursing practice areas. May be repeated when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

NURS 5391. 1-3 sem. hrs.
SEMINAR IN NURSING
In-depth study and discussion of various topics relevant to nursing. May be repeated when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

NURS 5396. 1-3 sem. hrs.
DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY
Area of study interest. Requires the permission of the Dean before registration.

NURS 5398. 1-3 sem. hrs.
GRADUATE RESEARCH OR PROJECT
Proposal development, project implementation or independent research under the direction of major professor. Students who have completed all requirements toward the Master of Science in Nursing degree except the thesis must enroll in this course each semester of the regular academic year under the direction of major professor. May be repeated a maximum of four times.

NURS 5399. 3 sem. hrs.
THESIS
Independent research under the direction of a faculty member. Credit will not be recorded until thesis is accepted by the thesis committee.

NURS 5459. 4 sem. hrs. (1:9)
APPLICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND STRATEGIES IN TEACHING OF NURSING
Provides opportunities to design, implement, and evaluate learning experiences in nursing education settings such as nursing academia, staff development, and/or continuing education. Emphasis is on the application of teaching, learning, and evaluation strategies in various clinical settings. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5352, 5353, 5354.

NURS 5469. 4 sem. hrs. (1:9)
PATTERNS OF CARE DELIVERY
Appraisal of various patterns of care delivery that develop in response to the evolving and increasingly complex resources in the health care delivery system. Students will complete a project evaluating the management and delivery of the continuum of care in one or more health care organizations. Students must earn a B or better grade to earn credit for this course. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5362, 5364, HCAD 5325 or NURS 5360, HCAD 5320, 5330. Capstone Course.

NURS 5624 6 sem. hrs. (4:6)
ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS
Study and practice of complex skills for comprehensive health assessment with focus on differentiation and interpretation of normal and abnormal findings across the lifespan. Focus extends to developing a comprehensive database to establish a list of differential diagnoses. Includes radiology, EKGs and common office tests performed in primary practice. Oral and written communication of findings in a collaborative relationship with other healthcare providers is emphasized. Variables related to rural and multicultural populations are incorporated into the total assessment. Students increase knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and communication skills. The clinical component of the course provides opportunity to interpret as well as practice complex assessment techniques. Students perform basic office tests and interpret other laboratory and diagnostic data as part of the assessment process. Prerequisite: Undergraduate health assessment course or BSN Level Competency Health Assessment Check-off for RN-MSN students. All Nursing Core Courses; NURS 5322 and NURS 5326.

NURS 5633. 6 sem. hrs. (3:9)
ADVANCED CLINICAL SPECIALTY I
During this course students will develop and apply the Clinical Nurse Specialist roles of: expert clinician, educator, researcher, change agent and consultant to provide evidenced-based advanced practice nursing care to Medical-Surgical patients requiring complex care who are experiencing alterations in cardiac, respiratory, endocrine systems, and fluid and electrolyte imbalances. Students will develop and implement interventions that improve patient outcomes. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5341, NURS 5326, and NURS 5624 or permission of instructor.

NURS 5634. 6 sem. hrs. (3:9)
ADVANCED CLINICAL SPECIALTY II
This course is a continuation of Nursing 5633, Advanced Clinical Specialty I. During this course students will develop and apply the Clinical Nurse Specialist roles of: expert clinician, educator, researcher, change agent and consultant to provide evidenced-based advanced prac-
nursing care to Medical-Surgical patients requiring complex care in immune, hematological, neurological, and muscular-skeletal systems. Students will develop and implement interventions that improve patient outcomes. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5341, NURS 5326, NURS 5624, NURS 5633 or permission of instructor.

NURS 5639. 6 sem. hrs. (1:15)  
SPECIAL PRACTICUM ADVANCED PRACTICE  
This course provides an environment for the graduate nursing student to practice in the unique roles of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS). Emphasis is placed on the CNS roles of advanced clinical practitioner, researcher, case manager, administrator, and educator. Opportunities are provided for the student to critically analyze and implement the CNS role in identified areas of professional interest. Students must earn a B or better grade to earn credit for this course. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5334. Capstone Course.

NURS 5644. 6 sem. hrs. (3:9)  
MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC ILLNESS I  
Study of clinical management of commonly occurring acute and chronic conditions in primary health care settings across the lifespan. Content includes study of symptom complexes, pathophysiology, epidemiology, clinical management, and prevention of complications. Emphasis is on symptom analysis, diagnostic reasoning, differential diagnosis, and prescription of therapeutic regimens. Attention is given to research-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments, and integration of nursing, developmental, family and transcultural theories to the diagnostic and management process. The clinical practice provides the opportunity for the student to perform comprehensive and episodic assessments, practice advanced skills in health assessment, diagnose commonly occurring illnesses, and suggest treatments under supervision in urban/rural communities. Prerequisites: NURS 5322, NURS 5323, NURS 5341, and NURS 5624.

NURS 5645. 6 sem. hrs. (3:9)  
MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC ILLNESS II  
Continued study of the clinical management of commonly occurring acute and chronic conditions in primary health care settings across the life span. Emphasis is on symptom analysis, diagnostic reasoning, differential diagnosis, and prescription of therapeutic regimens. The clinical practice provides the opportunity for the students to perform comprehensive and episodic assessments, practice advanced skills in health assessment, diagnose commonly occurring illness, and suggest treatments under supervision. Prerequisite: NURS 5644.

NURS 5746. 7 sem. hrs. (1:90)  
INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRACTICE: FNP  
Continued study of assessment and clinical management of selected health problems frequently seen in primary health care. The clinical portion provides for the development of clinical competence as the student integrates previously acquired knowledge into the enactment of the multiple roles for the nurse practitioner, and allows for a greater degree of interdependent practice based on the student’s abilities and progress. Student may work with a preceptor in multicultural and rural communities. Students must earn a B or better grade to earn credit for this course. Prerequisite: NURS 5645. Capstone Course.