

Graduate Master of Science in Nursing



"As advances in our healthcare system continue to improve and enhance the quality of life and life expectancy, there is a critical need to increase nurse educators in our industry that can prepare nurses at all levels to meet the provision of nursing services that the population will require. Here at Ottawa University, our Master of Science in Nursing program will give you the tools necessary to step into the classroom and produce future leaders in healthcare."

-Kathy Kump,
RN, MSN, MHSA, CWOCN, FNP
Director of Nursing

At Ottawa University

With the projected shortage of RNs in concert with the aging population, the demand for well-trained nurse educators and nursing leaders is projected to continue to experience rapid growth. According to the American Nurses Association Fast Facts report (2014), 79,659 qualified applicants were turned away from nursing baccalaureate and graduate programs in 2012 alone due to high nursing faculty vacancy rates. The need to add more opportunities for nurses to obtain their Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree presents an opportunity to actively address one of the components contributing to the forecasted nursing shortage with the specialization for Nurse Educators. In addition, the Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects a 16% growth in registered nursing professionals by 2024. This increase will place a larger emphasis on nurses who are prepared for leadership roles. Ottawa University's MSN program addresses this growing need within the nursing profession as well as the healthcare industry as a whole.

Education and Qualifications

This program is designed for the registered nurse who has graduated from an accredited nursing program with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. A current, unrestricted RN license (obtained in the U.S.) is required.

- ▶ Successful completion of a criminal background check.
- ▶ Current resume.
- ▶ Three professional or academic letters of recommendation.
- ▶ Career Statement of professional experience and goals in nursing.
- ▶ A bachelor's degree from an accredited nursing program with a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA (per 4.0 scale) on previous coursework.

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Core Courses

NRS 7000 Transition to the Graduate Nursing Role

Assists the nursing student with transition to graduate study at Ottawa University in order to enhance opportunities for success in the program. Historical perspective of the scientific and theoretical basis of nursing at the graduate level of practice is explored. Emphasis is placed on standards for scholarly writing and linkages between theory, practice and research in advanced nursing practice. Core competencies vital to all advanced practice roles and health care in complex systems are addressed. In addition, students explore the complex ethical responsibilities that are faced by today's nursing leaders.

NRS 7100 Advanced Pathophysiology

Focuses on advanced physiology and pathophysiology across the life span with emphasis on clinical decision-making when caring for patients with acute and chronic diseases. Disease prevention and health promotion are also emphasized.

NRS 7200 Advanced Pharmacology

Focuses on advanced pharmacotherapeutics across the life span with emphasis on clinical decision-making when caring for patients with acute and chronic diseases. Current issues and best practices in pharmacology are included.

NRS 7300 Advanced Health Assessment

Builds upon the student's previous health assessment knowledge and experience. Emphasis will be placed on holistic assessment, intervention and evaluation using a family-centered approach as well as an exploration of evidence-based strategies for prevention and management.

NRS 7400 Research to Improve Quality and Safety for Graduate Nursing Roles

Builds upon statistics and expands understanding of research methods and critical analysis of the literature as a foundation for evidence-based practice at the graduate level. There is a focus on the evaluation of outcomes and risk analysis to ensure the improvement of safety and quality in the care of diverse populations.

NRS 7500 Cultural Diversity, Policy and Advocacy within Population Health

Uses the principles of epidemiology to evaluate disease prevention and health promotion data when advocating for health care policies that meet the needs of diverse population groups. In addition, there is a deeper exploration of cultural diversity and cultural humility with a special emphasis on vulnerable populations.

Nurse Educator Specialization

NRS 7601 Foundations for Nurse Educator Practice

Introduces the theoretical and research base for nurse educator practice in a variety of settings. The nurse educator roles of teaching, service and scholarship are explored and include an emphasis on nurse educators as leaders and change agents who pursue continuous quality improvement within the educational environment. In addition, there is an emphasis on domains of learning and adult learning theory from a learner-centered philosophy. The goal of this approach is to facilitate learner achievement of desired outcomes.

NRS 7602 Teaching Strategies for Today's Nurse Educator

Emphasizes the theoretical and evidence base for effective teaching in nursing education. Students will examine and evaluate a variety of traditional and innovative teaching/learning strategies used in didactic, lab and clinical settings and identify best practices. There is an emphasis on creating a learner-centered environment that fosters student engagement, clinical reasoning and critical thinking. Techniques to assess student achievement of learning outcomes are highlighted.

NRS 7603 Curriculum Design and Assessment Techniques in Nursing Education

Explores models for curriculum design, development and evaluation within the context of organizational mission, philosophy, goals, and desired learning outcomes and competencies. There is a focus on internal and external factors influencing the curriculum. Also explores key strategies to enhance critical thinking in the development of instructional design, as well as test construction and item analysis. Analysis of assessment and evaluation data is addressed to facilitate student learning and enhance program effectiveness.

NRS 7604 Instructional Technology and Simulation in Nursing Education

Examines current and emerging instructional technologies and simulation used in a variety of nursing educational settings and e-learning environments, including online. Application, implementation and evaluation of instructional technologies and simulation concepts are explored to enhance understanding of evidence-based interactive learning practices for direct and indirect patient-care roles.

NRS 7605 Nurse Educator Practicum

Comprises the nursing education practicum in selected organization(s) with opportunities to apply educational knowledge, skills and concepts in a guided and transformational context in nursing education. An evidence-based practice approach is used to guide the scholarly project developed in this course and completed in the capstone.

NRS 7606 Nurse Educator Capstone

Focuses on the integration of knowledge with advanced nursing practice competencies in the role of nurse educator to demonstrate attainment of program outcomes. The scholarly project provides validation of the student's ability to translate evidence into practice, improve quality outcomes, advance interprofessional collaboration, embrace diversity, and lead change in nursing education.

Nurse Leadership Specialization

NRS 7701 Foundations for Nurse Leader Practice

Introduces the theoretical and research base for nurse leader practice in a variety of settings. There is an emphasis on nurse leaders as scholars and change agents who pursue continuous quality improvement within the health care environment. Professional communication skills such as conflict management and negotiation are addressed. There is a focus on human resource management in health care organizations, including the unique challenges encountered related to staffing, unionism, productivity, and performance evaluation in today's complex health care delivery settings.

NRS 7702 Health Information and Systems Management as a Nurse Leader

Examines the essential components of healthcare information systems and patient-care technology in complex healthcare settings. A systems approach is used to evaluate health care delivery modes and work design in order to improve key performance metrics.

NRS 7703 Legal and Ethical Issues for Nurse Leaders

Explores salient legal and ethical issues faced by nurse leaders. There is a focus on professional accountability, interprofessional communication, advocacy, embracing diversity, and promoting access to healthcare. In addition, evidence-based practice that is based on outcomes measurement and research is addressed.

NRS 7704 Business Concepts for Nurse Leaders

Provides opportunities to examine critical business acumen needed by nurse leaders. Healthcare economics, strategic planning, and financial management topics are explored to enhance the effectiveness of the nurse leader in today's complex health care environments.

NRS 7705 Nurse Leader Practicum

Comprises the nurse leadership practicum focusing on management of outcomes for individuals and populations. An evidence-based practice approach is used to guide the scholarly project developed in this course and completed in the capstone. Strategies to change practice for optimal outcomes are explored.

NRS 7706 Nurse Leader Capstone

Focuses on the integration of knowledge with advanced nursing practice competencies in the role of nurse leader to demonstrate attainment of program outcomes. The scholarly project provides validation of the student's ability to translate evidence into practice, improve quality outcomes, advance interprofessional collaboration, embrace diversity, and facilitate change as a nurse leader.