

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (M.S.N.) MAJOR IN FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

Major Program

The Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree with a major in Family Nurse Practitioner is a 21-month (5-term) program in which registered nurses (RNs) with a bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) degree will advance their skills to the entry level for certification as a Nurse Practitioner (NP), one of the four advanced practice nursing roles. Instruction will be in a hybrid format with twice per term meetings at the School of Nursing in Round Rock, to assure that advanced level competencies have been met. The program will teach the NP to treat the whole family; however, that family chooses to identify itself. As a result, graduates will be prepared to treat diverse populations, with knowledge to promote health and to assess patients of all ages. Beyond focusing on the family as a population, the program will emphasize the primary care environment and recruit nurses interested in practicing in rural areas, to mitigate the burgeoning shortage of primary care providers both rurally and overall. In addition to achieving certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), graduates of the program will have developed competence in the theory and techniques of integrative health.

In addition to meeting all relevant professional competencies, M.S.N. graduates will be qualified to sit for one or more of the following certification exams:

- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Certification Exam (FNP)
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) Certification Exam (FNP)

Nursing Program Student Educational Outcomes

At the completion of the M.S.N. Family Nurse Practitioner program, a graduate of the St. David's School of Nursing will be able to:

- integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations,
- incorporate current and emerging genetic/genomic evidence as well as biopsychological paradigms in providing advanced nursing care to individuals, families, and communities while accounting for patient values and clinical judgment,
- design nursing care for a clinical or community-focused population based on biopsychosocial, public health, nursing, and organizational sciences,
- evaluate the nutritional, vitamin, supplemental, herbal interventions in individuals, groups, and communities,
- apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene, and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery,
- synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations,
- use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals and communities,
- integrate organizational science and informatics to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes,
- analyze nursing history to expand thinking and provide a sense of professional heritage and identity, and

- synthesize integrative practices based on biopsychoneurological scientific underpinnings, cognitive neuroscience, and psychoneuroimmunology.

Application Requirements

The items listed below are required for admission consideration for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes to admission requirements for semesters other than the current academic year can be found on The Graduate College's website (<http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu>). International students should review the International Admission Documents webpage (<http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international>) for additional requirements.

- completed online ApplyTexas application
- \$40 nonrefundable application fee
- \$50 nonrefundable international evaluation fee (if applicable)
- bachelor of science in nursing (B.S.N.) degree from a regionally accredited institution and from a nursing program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or other nationally-recognized nursing education accrediting body. Your B.S.N. degree must be reflected on your transcript when you apply.
- official transcripts required from **each institution** where course credit was granted
- minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in your last 60 hours of undergraduate course work (plus any completed graduate courses)
- minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in your nursing course work
- grade of C or better in a statistics course
- GRE scores not required
- current, valid unencumbered R.N. license or multi-state privilege to practice as a registered nurse in the state(s) in which the student will complete clinical courses
- persuasive personal essay persuading the admission committee that the student is a highly qualified applicant and that they should select the student for admission to the St. David's School of Nursing M.S.N. – F.N.P. Program
- resume/CV reflecting a minimum of one year of experience as an R.N. Students must have the equivalent of one year's experience as a R.N. prior to the application deadline for this program.
- three forms of recommendation from professionals competent to assess the student's academic capability and interest in pursuing a career as an F.N.P.

TOEFL or IELTS Scores

Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English proficiency waiver:

- official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
- official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and
 - minimum individual module scores of 6.0

This program does **not** offer admission if the scores above are not met.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing major in Family Nurse Practitioner requires 48 semester credit hours.

Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Advanced Practice Core		
NURS 5102	Advanced Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 5202	Advanced Health Assessment	2
NURS 5301	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5303	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3
Theoretical Foundation		
NURS 5106	Fundamentals of Appraisal and Translational Research II	1
NURS 5107	Fundamentals of Appraisal and Translational Research III	1
NURS 5204	Fundamentals of Appraisal and Translational Research I	2
NURS 5205	Health Care Leadership for a Changing World	2
Family Population Skills		
NURS 5141	Reproductive, Sexual and Obstetrical Health Practicum	1
NURS 5310	Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Practicum	3
NURS 5311	Behavioral Health Primary Care	3
NURS 5410	Adult/Gerontology Primary Care	4
NURS 5430	Pediatric & Adolescent Primary Care	4
NURS 5330	Pediatric & Adolescent Primary Care Practicum	3
NURS 5341	Reproductive, Sexual and Obstetrical Health	3
Integrative Nursing Specialty		
NURS 5208	Current Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 5350	Integrative Family Primary Care Practicum	3
NURS 5351	Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Integrative Nursing	3
NURS 5450	Integrative Family Primary Care	4
Total Hours		48

Comprehensive Examination Requirements

All candidates for graduate degrees must pass one or more comprehensive examinations.

Master's level courses in Nursing: NURS

Courses Offered Nursing (NURS)

NURS 5102. Advanced Health Assessment Practicum.

This course emphasizes advanced health assessment techniques and skills common to patient evaluation and development of differential diagnoses. Advanced physical assessment skills and identifying common signs and symptoms related to physical examination will be developed. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 5106. Fundamentals of Appraisal and Translational Research II.

This course builds upon work begun in the first research course. Emphasis will be placed on writing an evidence-based scholarly paper or project in collaboration with a faculty member. Presentation of the findings and submission of a paper for publication will be required in the final semester. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5107. Fundamentals of Appraisal and Translational Research III.

This course is a continuation of work begun in previous courses and will result in an evidence-based scholarly paper or project. Presentation of the findings and submission of a paper for publication will be required. This is a culminating project for the entire course of study. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5141. Reproductive, Sexual and Obstetrical Health Practicum.

Students will integrate research evidence into practice with adolescent and adult patients while working in clinical settings in collaboration with other health care professionals. Students will utilize a systematic approach of assessment to develop advanced practice treatment plans for patients seeking care related to reproduction, sexual and obstetrical health. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 4 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5202. Advanced Health Assessment.

This course emphasizes advanced health assessment techniques and skills common to family practice. Advanced skills in laboratory evaluation, taking and assessing patient history, and diagnostic capabilities, which are sensitive to cultural and developmental needs of a variety of patients in diverse settings, will be developed. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5204. Fundamentals of Appraisal and Translational Research I.

This course focuses on a variety of interest areas, related research and the evaluation of current research trends. There will be critique of research methodologies and outcomes into application within the clinical setting, as well as exploration of technological applications and student data compilations. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5205. Health Care Leadership for a Changing World.

This course will utilize documents from the World Health Organization, current research in the concepts of complexity leadership skills, creating adaptive systems, and new views on communication and intersubjectivity in collaborative relationships within these systems. Research in mindfulness and reflective practice will be employed. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5208. Current Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing.

The current professional and legal issues that influence advanced practice nursing, nursing education and the health care delivery system are discussed. Health care policy, changes in the economics of health care, and their impact on nursing are considered. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5301. Advanced Pathophysiology.

In preparation for advanced practice, this course will expand understanding of the pathophysiology underlying dysfunctions and interrelatedness of the processes of normal physiology and pathophysiology across the continuum of disease and return to wellness. Applications will be made utilizing lifespan perspectives of the process. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5303. Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics.

This course provides advanced knowledge in selecting pharmacologic agents and specific drugs, based on acute and chronic health problems in diverse populations. Knowledge of pharmacologic groups, indications and contraindications, dosing with special needs groups, adverse effects, and collaborative monitoring of pharmacotherapy and alternative therapies will be developed. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5310. Adult/Gerontology Primary Care Practicum.

This clinical experience encompasses adult through geriatric health care in a variety of clinical settings. Application of the principles for developing a differential diagnosis, clinical decision making, designing interventions for patient care, and treatment in a variety of clinical settings will be performed. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 12 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 5311. Behavioral Health Primary Care.

This course includes family system theories and their application to families. Common behavioral health diagnoses, such as anxiety, depression, and co-existing mental and physical illness, are investigated in relation to the human lifespan. The prevalence and incidence of behavioral health issues are considered in terms of diagnosis and theory. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5330. Pediatric & Adolescent Primary Care Practicum.

Students will integrate translational research evidence into practice with adolescent and pediatric patients while working in clinical settings in collaboration with other health care professionals. Students will utilize a developmental approach of assessing the pediatric and adolescent patient to create advanced practice treatment plans. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 12 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 5341. Reproductive, Sexual and Obstetrical Health.

This course examines issues of fertility and infertility in males and females as well as the diseases related to sexual health. Selected topics in obstetrics, genetics, adolescent sexuality, family planning, cancers, HIV/AIDS, and STI's will be explored. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5350. Integrative Family Primary Care Practicum.

This course develops skills in utilization of holistic assessment, as well as application of the principles for developing a differential diagnosis, clinical decision making, and designing interventions and treatment in a variety of clinical settings. Evaluation of traditional and complementary/alternative methods for supporting health promotion will also be explored. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 12 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

NURS 5351. Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Integrative Nursing.

This course includes nursing theories and the interrelatedness to the advanced practice role. Mind and body interconnectedness, allopathic and alternative care models are discussed. The developmental processes between wellness and illness are considered. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5360. Leadership Science: Foundational Thinking Skills, Governance, & Community & Provider Relationships.

This course will emphasize leadership skills in communication, leadership styles and organizational theory. Communication will focus on conflict resolution, presentation skills, and relationship building. Delivery systems, leadership styles, and demand for nursing will be examined. Complexity science, systems theory, and diversity required for organizing health care will be explored.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5361. Leadership Science: Performance and Quality Improvement.

This course will articulate performance improvement activities using evidence-based metrics to align patient outcomes with organizational goals. Methods for using quality metrics and action plans will be emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5362. Leadership Science: Patient Safety, Risk Management, Legal and Regulatory Requirements.

This course will examine areas of risk and liability. Students will develop systems that identify early warning indicators of problems and will explore "just in time" reporting. The concept of sentinel events and root cause analysis will be explored. Accreditation standards, legal regulations, and compliance requirements will be integrated. Prerequisite: NURS 5360.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5363. Leadership Science: Evidence-Based Practice for Nurse Leaders.

The students will explore evidence-based practice (EBP) for nurse leaders. This EBP course will equip nurses with the skills needed to effectively engage in EBP, to serve as EBP champions and mentors, and to lead projects within healthcare facilities.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5364. Leadership Science: Health Care Finance and Workforce Planning.

This course will emphasize workforce planning for nursing and the application of general principles of accounting. Twenty hours will be allocated to the development of a department operational and capital budget in collaboration with a nurse director or executive. Negotiation and monitoring of contracts and contract compliance will be explored.

Prerequisite: NURS 5360.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5365. Leadership Art: Ethics, Diversity, and Relationship Building.

This course will explore theories of culture and will include legal regulations that govern diversity. The relationship between medical ethics and corporate compliance will be explored. Methods for creating a trusting environment will be evaluated and the need for relationships with providers and academia will be illustrated. Prerequisite: NURS 5360.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5366. Leadership Art: Health Policy and Advocacy.

This course will focus on the need for leaders to belong to professional organizations to affect policy and advocacy. Participation in legislative activities will be promoted at the state and national levels. The impact of nurse leaders serving on boards that govern health care activities and organizations will be emphasized.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5367. Leader Within: Professional Accountability, Succession Planning and Reflective Practice I.

This course provides a mentored experience for the synthesis of critical thinking and reflections from didactic work with the practice of nursing leadership. Observational and independent learning activities will result in a Part I of the final capstone project reflecting culmination of program objectives.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5368. Leader Within: Professional Accountability, Succession Planning and Reflective Practice II.

This course is designed to be the culminating mentored experience for the synthesis of critical thinking and reflections from didactic work with the practice of nursing leadership. Students will evaluate and present their final capstone project, reflecting summation of program objectives.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5410. Adult/Gerontology Primary Care.

This course focuses on the collection of data, pertinent laboratory findings, diagnostic tests, differential diagnoses and plans for therapeutic intervention. Integration of theory, health promotion, disease prevention, and clinical decision making in a variety of clinical care settings as applied to adults and older adults will be emphasized. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

4 Credit Hours. 4 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5430. Pediatric & Adolescent Primary Care.

This course investigates the primary care management process to diagnose, treat, and follow up common illnesses of increasing complexity in pediatric and adolescents using family-centered and developmental perspectives. Perspectives of underserved populations in a variety of clinical settings will be explored. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

4 Credit Hours. 4 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter

NURS 5450. Integrative Family Primary Care.

This course emphasizes the evaluation of clinical indications and contraindications, potential risks, and methods of accessing evidence-based information about complementary and alternative care, nutrition, herbs and dietary supplements. Skills in educating patients, communicating and collaborating with other health professionals, and documenting and reporting adverse events will be mastered. Restricted to MSN degree students only.

4 Credit Hours. 4 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

Grade Mode: Standard Letter