

Student Orientation to the MSN Program

School of Nursing
Walden University



**WALDEN
UNIVERSITY**

A higher degree. A higher purpose.

Walden University School of Nursing

The Master of Science in Nursing program combines the high academic standards of our accredited university with the flexibility and convenience of distance learning. This blend of scholarship and information technology makes it possible for you to balance work, family, and education to obtain a respected degree and attain your goals of professional development and continued learning.



Andrea Lindell, PhD, RN, ANEF

Associate Dean, School of Nursing

Welcome

From:

Vincent P. Hall, PhD, RN, CNE –
MSN SP Program Director



Linda Steele, PhD, ARNP, ANP-BC –
MSN NP Program Director



- *Welcome to the MSN program. We are pleased you chose the School of Nursing (SON) at Walden University for your graduate education, and we look forward to working with you. The purpose of this presentation is to provide you with valuable information you need to help with your success here at Walden.*

History

- Since 1970, Walden University has offered working professionals the opportunity to earn advanced degrees through distance learning. Today this comprehensive, accredited online university offers, among others, master's and doctoral programs in education, nursing, psychology, public policy, administration, health and human services as well as master's programs in information technology.

Accreditation



- Walden University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission.
- The Master of Science in Nursing degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), a national accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.



SON Vision and Mission

- **Vision**

- The SON envisions recognition as a preeminent 21st-century school of nursing in which the contributions of nursing, healthcare, and related sciences will transform the provision of nursing services along the continuum of care and across the human life span to meet the needs of individuals and local and global communities.

- **Mission**

- The SON provides academically rigorous and culturally and contextually relevant educational programs, based in the scholar-practitioner model, for a diverse array of nursing professionals seeking enhancement of critical-thinking skills, abilities to select and implement evidence-based practices, and core and specialty nursing knowledge in order to transform society.
- <http://www.waldenu.edu/about>

MSN Program Leadership

MSN SP Tracks (Core, Nursing
Education, Nursing
Informatics, and Nursing
Leadership and Management)

- Program Director
 - Vincent P. Hall, PhD, RN, CNE
 - E-mail: vincent.hall@waldenu.edu
- Specialty Coordinators
 - Core
 - Bobbie Sue Whitworth, PhD, MSN, RNC
 - E-mail: bobbie.whitworth@waldenu.edu
 - Nursing Education
 - Patti P. Urso, PhD, APRN, ANP-BC, CNE
 - E-mail: patti.urso@waldenu.edu
 - Nursing Informatics
 - Tracy Scott, DNP, RN-BC, FNP-BC
 - E-mail: tracy.scott6@waldenu.edu
 - Leadership and Management
 - Jeanne Morrison, PhD, MSN, RN
 - E-mail: jeanne.morrison@waldenu.edu

MSN Program Leadership

MSN NP Tracks (AGACNP, AGPCNP and FNP)

- Program Director
 - Linda Steele, PhD, ARNP, ANP-BC
 - E-mail: linda.steele@waldenu.edu
- Specialty Coordinators
 - AGACNP
 - Salma Hernandez, DNP, ACNP-BC
 - Email: Salma.hernandez@waldeunu.edu
 - AGPCNP
 - Deborah Palmer. EdD, FNP-BC
 - Email: deborah.palmer@waldenu.edu
 - FNP
 - Phyllis Morgan, PhD, FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP
 - E-mail: phyllis.morgan@waldenu.edu
 - PMHNP
 - Timothy J. Legg, PhD, PsyD(c), MS, RN-BC, ACRN, GNP-BC, PMHNP-BC, NEA-BC, CNE, CARN-AP, CPH, MCHES, FACHCA
 - Email: timothy.legg@waldenu.edu

Tips for Course Success

- **Links.** You will find the Course Information link on the left of your course homepage, and a course resource link is provided under each week of the course. Please explore these as they provide you with valuable information for the course.
- **Class Cafe.** When the course opens, please jump into the *Class Cafe* and introduce yourself to your colleagues and your faculty member. Introductions are required but will not be graded. If you have course questions, please use the *Contact the Instructor* link or e-mail the instructor.

Tips for Course Success (continued)

- **Syllabus and Assignments.** Review the syllabus and the assignments in detail. Note all of the graded content and point values. Some of your assignments may build on one another so it is important that you review the requirements and utilize instructor feedback to improve each subsequent assignment.
- **Time Management.** Based on your experience in the online classroom or with online learning, budget your time wisely to immerse yourself in course content. Those with little or no experience in the online classroom as a student should expect to invest more time. New content is presented each week on Monday, which is considered “Day 1.” Days of the week are numbered so, Tuesday is Day 2 through to Sunday as Day 7.

Tips for Course Success (continued)

- **Grade Calculation.** Course grades are calculated using a weighted grade formula. Weighting refers to different levels of weight given to particular assignments and weekly discussions within each course. For example, 11 weeks of discussions may be worth 30% of the total grade for the course, while the assignments may be worth 70% of the total grade for the course. Each course syllabus lists the weighting of the discussions and assignments. The grade book automatically calculates the total grade based on the weighted grade formula. If you wish to figure the weighted average of grades, you should identify the weight of each discussion and assignment first, then continue through the mathematical process of calculating the total grade based on each respective percentage.

Tips for Course Success (continued)

- **Kaltura Media Uploader:** Some of your assignments may require the use of Kaltura, which allows you to upload media (videos, etc.) in the classroom. Instructions for use of Kaltura are included with the course. Please familiarize yourself with the tool prior to the assignment(s) due date.
- **Immerse Yourself in Course Content:** Read all materials, use all study tools, and be sure you know which content items are graded.
- **Communication:** Read all announcements and e-mails from your faculty members. MSN courses are provided on an asynchronous basis, and these are the primary tools that faculty members use to communicate with students on a regular basis.

Tips for Course Success (continued)

- **Course Issues or Problems.** It is expected that MSN students will work with their faculty members to solve any course issues or problems they may have. Individual course faculty are always the first line for students when issues arise regarding assignments, grades, or absences that impact meeting course requirements. Students should follow the chain-of-command when dealing with course issues. If students cannot resolve issues with their instructor, then they should contact the coordinator for their track of study, followed by the program director for their track of study, if the coordinator cannot resolve the issue.

Tips for Course Success (continued)

- Academic Advising

- An academic advisor

- Will guide you throughout the duration of your degree on program requirements, university policies, and general best practices for success.
 - Is well-versed in your program requirements and the university policies outlined in the Catalog and Handbook.
 - Can assist you in understanding the many facets of your program.
 - Will help connect you with the right resources or departments if they cannot answer your question.

Academic Advising

- Academic Advisors will support you by
 - Explaining university, college, and departmental policies, procedures, and requirements.
 - Encouraging and guiding you to define and develop realistic goals.
 - Striving to respond to e-mails and voicemails within 1 business day.
 - Referring you to specialized university services and resources.
 - Monitoring and accurately documenting your progress toward degree completion.
 - Being honest and respectful in interactions with you and maintaining confidentiality.
 - Helping plan a course of study and offering advice about course loads, prerequisites, and committee nominations.

Resource Links for Students

Advising School of Health Sciences, MSN Advising	1-800-WALDENU, option 3	sonmaadvising@waldenu.edu http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/academicadvising
Disability Services Accommodations, release of information, registering with disability services	1-800-925-3368	disability@waldenu.edu http://www.waldenu.edu/experience/support-services/disability-services
Library Identifying, obtaining, and/or evaluating scholarly information for papers, KAMs, and theses or dissertations	1-800-930-0914 Reference hours (EST) are: -Monday–Thursday: 8 a.m. to midnight. -Friday: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. -Saturday–Sunday: 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.	library@waldenu.edu http://library.waldenu.edu/

Resource Links for Students

Student Support and Customer Service For general Walden customer service including technical assistance with your online courses, you may contact the Student Support and Customer Service Team during normal business hours.	1-866-925-HELP (4357) 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	support@waldenu.edu https://my.waldenu.edu/portal/User/LCPLogin.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fportal%2fUser%2fdefault.aspx
Writing center There are many resources for help with scholarly writing, APA style, and grammar and composition.		http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/home
MS Office® Series Tutorials on Word, Excel, and PowerPoint functionality.		http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/ASC/skillbuilder/msoffice

Resource Links for Students

Field Training Resources and Guidance	mcpfieldtraining@waldenu.edu http://ecampus.waldenu.edu/c/Student_Faculty/StudentFaculty_18292.htm
SON Faculty Webpage	http://www.waldenu.edu/colleges-schools/school-of-nursing/faculty
Walden University Catalog , Student Handbook, and University Guidebooks	http://catalog.waldenu.edu/

Practicum Experience

- Although you have just started the MSN program, it is not too early to start thinking about your practicum experience.
- All MSN tracks include a practicum. Review your Program of Study (POS) so you are aware of when your practicum experience will begin.

Practicum Experience

The SON Field Experience website provides you with the information you need to plan your practicum. It also provides you with a link to the MSN Practicum Manuals (NP and SP) that outline the requirements and application process for your experience. Students are expected to be familiar with the manual and dates for practicum applications. You can access the website at:

<http://academicguides.waldenu.edu/fieldexperience/son>



*We are honored that you have chosen
Walden University School of Nursing. We will
be with you every step of the way throughout
your journey here at Walden U.*

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