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|  | **NURSING** |  |
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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING



**Introduction**

The graduate program in Nursing is built on the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The pro- gram is designed to prepare students who are highly knowledgeable in advanced clinical nursing and whose education will enable them to make significant contributions to health care. The Nursing program is accredited by the National League for Nursing.

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The purposes of the Master’s program are to prepare students who are:

1. Advanced practice nurses: family nurse practitioners or nurse educators.

2. Beginning researchers.

3. Highly knowledgeable individuals who are capable of influencing policy-making that impacts health care delivery.

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing degree, the graduate will be able to:

1. Critically analyze health care data in order to promote optimal health.

2. Participate as a researcher and a consumer of research in advancing nursing science and prac- tice.

3. Integrate synthesized knowledge of behavioral and natural sciences, humanities, technology and nursing science to perform advanced-practice nursing roles.

4. Exhibit expertise in the advanced-practice nursing role of family nurse practitioner or nurse educator.

5. Engage in professional and scholarly activities that promote the profession of nursing and in- divdual development in advanced-practice nursing.

6. Assume advanced leadership roles, including collaborating with members of interdisciplinary teams, and influencing policy-making that impacts positively on health care delivery.

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**Admission Requirements**

To enter the program leading to the Master of Science in Nursing degree, the student must meet the requirements established by the Graduate School of Albany State University. The prospective student should contact the Graduate School or the Coordinator of the Graduate Nurs- ing Program well in advance of the planned entry date. In addition, the applicant should have the following:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing.

2. An undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0.

3. A current RN license to practice in Georgia.



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4. A personal interview with the Coordinator of the Graduate Nursing Program.

5. A Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of 800 or better or a Miller Analogies Test

(MAT) score of 44 or better.



6. Two letters of reference regarding professional accomplishments and academic potential.

7. Completed prerequisite undergraduate courses in statistics, pathophysiology, nursing research and health assessment.

Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program does not ensure admission to the Family Nurse Practitioner program. The prospective FNP student should have at least one year of nursing expe- rience and should send required items listed below to the Director of the FNP program well in ad- vance of the planned entry date:

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1. Letter requesting admission to the FNP program.

2. A personal statement of approximately 300 words describing the student’s professional goals.

3. A résumé.

**Regular Admission**

For regular admission, the applicant must meet all admission requirements described above.

**Provisional Admission**

Applicants who do not fully meet the requirements for regular admission may be considered for provisional admission. The Graduate Nursing Admission Committee will evaluate each appli- cant on an individual basis. In some instances, the applicant may be required to fulfill prerequi- sites prior to consideration of this status. An applicant admitted under provisional status is limited to nine (9) semester hours and must make a “B” or better in each course attempted. An applicant who attains less than a 3.0 cumulative GPA will be withdrawn from the program. The applicant will be admitted to regular graduate status if he/she achieves a “B” or higher in each course taken in provisional status.

**Non-degree Admission**

This category is provided to accommodate the applicant who has the potential for graduate study, but at the time of the application does not intend to seek a graduate degree; or for the appli- cant who wishes to take a specific course for personal enrichment or job-related requirements. A student is admitted to this status at the option of the Department of Nursing on a space-available basis. A student seeking regular graduate admission status is given preference when the number of applicants to be admitted is limited.

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An Albany State University undergraduate Nursing student with senior standing may register for graduate courses if the following conditions are met:

1. The student has a cumulative 3.0 grade-point average.

2. The Vice President for Academic Affairs approves the academic department’s recommendation for the student to enroll in graduate courses.

3. The student limits his/her graduate enrollment to a total of 9 semester hours-of study. No more

than 6 semester hours of graduate credits may be undertaken in a given semester.

4. During the semester in which graduate enrollment is allowed, the student’s registration is lim-

ited to a total of 9 semester hours (combined graduate and/or undergraduate hours).

An undergraduate student from another institution may not be admitted to graduate nursing courses at Albany State University. Admission to non-degree status does not warrant or secure ad- mission to the Graduate Nursing Program.

**RN to MSN-FNP Program of Study**

The RN to MSN concentration provides registered nurses (RNs) an opportunity to complete a graduate degree with two bridge semesters in which the student takes undergraduate and graduate courses following by the remaining semesters of graduate coursework. The two undergraduate courses specific to the RN-MSN concentration are NURS 4413 and NURS 4346.

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**RN-MSN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**



Graduates of associate degree programs who choose the RN-MSN concentration must com- plete required select core requirements of undergraduate course work prior to admission into the MSN program. The students must be eligible for Regular admission to the Graduate School. The minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 is required. A minimum score of 800 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) of 800, or a minimum score of 402 on the Miller Analogy Test (MAT) is re- quired. The graduate will receive the MSN degree but will not also receive a BSN degree.

D EGREE

Students who decide to not complete the MSN degree but want the BSN degree must then complete the courses/electives needed to obtain the BSN.

The RN-MSN applicant submits an undergraduate application along with a one time applica- tion fee ($20) to Albany State University. The application is to be sent to the Admissions Office. [The form is available online at www.asurams.edu,](http://www.asurams.edu) admissions, as well as at GA411. The student must check either: RN-MSN Family Nurse Practitioner or RN-MSN Nurse Educator.

The applicant is to request that original transcripts from each school the student has previ- ously attended be submitted to the Undergraduate Admissions Office at the time of applying for admission to ASU.

The student will submit a) a graduate application (available online through the Graduate School), b) copy of current Georgia nursing license; c) two professional letters of reference; and d) copy of current CPR card to the Department of Nursing. These materials will be maintained in the student’s folder in the Nursing Department until the student completes undergraduate courses. Upon receipt of these documents, the student will be contacted and a program of study will be prepared to ensure completion of required undergraduate courses.

No later than midterm during the last semester of undergraduate coursework, the RN-MSN

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student must take and pass either the GRE (required score of 800) or the MAT (required score of at least 402).

**Planned Program of Study**

Within the first nine semester hours of study, the student is required to complete a planned de- gree program of study with the advice and approval of the Coordinator of the Graduate Nursing Pro- gram. Copies of this planned degree program will be filed with the Graduate School, the Department of Nursing and the Registrar’s office.

**Curriculum**

The Family Nurse Practitioner curriculum consists of a minimum of 44 semester hours. The curriculum for nurse educator concentration consists of a minimum of 36 semester hours.

**1. Family Nurse Practitioner: Vulnerable Communities (minimum of 44 hours)**

NURS 5100 Advanced Health Assessment......................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5111 Nursing Theory Development .....................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5120 Advanced Nursing Research .......................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5210 Advanced Pathophysiology .........................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5220 Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities.............................................2 hrs. NURS 5410 Introduction to Family Primary Care ..........................................................4 hrs. NURS 5421 Primary Care of Children ............................................................................5 hrs. NURS 5910 Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice .............................................3 hrs. NURS 6101 Primary Care of Women ..............................................................................4 hrs. NURS 6211 Primary Care of Adults ................................................................................5 hrs. NURS 6310 Primary Care Issues in Health Promotion of Communities. .......................2 hrs. NURS 6820 Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum ..........................................................4 hrs. NURS 6920 Thesis/Scholarly Project ..............................................................................3 hrs.

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**Elective Options:**



NURS 5510 Family Primary Care Clinical......................................................................2 hrs. NURS 5422 Primary Care of Children Clinical...............................................................2 hrs. NURS 6102 Primary Care of Women Clinical ................................................................2 hrs. NURS 6212 Primary Care of Adults Clinical ..................................................................2 hrs.

**II. Nurse Educator (minimum of 36 hours)**

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NURS 5111 Nursing Theory Development .....................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5120 Advanced Nursing Research .......................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5210 Advanced Pathophysiology .........................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5220 Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities.............................................2 hrs. NURS 5621 Advanced Practice Nursing I .......................................................................5 hrs. NURS 5910 Advanced Pharmacology .............................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5950 Curriculum Development in Nursing ..........................................................3 hrs. NURS 6001 Instructional Strategies and Evaluation .......................................................3 hrs. NURS 6620 Advanced Teaching Practicum ....................................................................5 hrs. NURS 6622 Advanced Practice Nursing II......................................................................5 hrs. NURS 6920 Thesis/Scholarly Project ..............................................................................3 hrs. **Elective Options**

NURS 5100 Advanced Health Assessment......................................................................3 hrs. NURS 5320 Health Care Policy.......................................................................................3 hrs.

*\*\*An accelerated track is available for students who are interested in completing the program early, studying in two semesters and two summers.*

**Comprehensive Examination Policy**

Comprehensive examinations are required of the student who has completed all core course work and has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater. The examinations are designed to test the ability of the student to articulate ideas in a scholarly manner in the core, research and major areas of concentration.

. Each area of concentration in the graduate program will administer a content-specific comprehensive examination after the student has completed the specialty courses.

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The Preliminary and Final Comprehensive examinations will be administered only once in any given semester during the week of final exams. The student should apply in writing to the Co- ordinator of the Graduate Nursing Program to take the preliminary comprehensive exam at least one month prior to the first day of final exams.

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**Degree Requirements**



To earn the Master of Science in Nursing degree, a student must meet the criteria identified below:

1. Earn a grade of “B” or better on all graduate work attempted, including transfer credits approved in advance of enrollment.

2. Earn 27 of the 36 hours required for degree for Nurse Educator or 35 of the 44 hours required for degree for the Family Nurse Practitioner in residence at Albany State University.

3. Pass a written comprehensive examination in area of concentration.

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4. Complete a thesis or major research project.

5. Complete all requirements for the degree within six years of time of first enrollment in the

Graduate Nursing Program.

GRADUATE FACULTY

**Alford, Linda, D.N.P.**, Medical College of Georgia. *Specialty: Family Nurse Practitioner*

**Grimsley, Linda, D.S.N.**, University of Alabama at Birmingham. *Specialty: Community Mental*

*Health Nursing*

**Johnson, Joyce, Ph.D.**, University of Mississippi. *Specialty: Cardiovascular and Critical Care*

**Miller, Dorothy, MSN, Regis University. *Specialty: Nursing Education***

**Mitchell, Teresa, Pharm.D.**, Florida A&M University. *Specialty: Pharmacy*

P ROGRAMS

**Peters, Zelda, M.S.N.**, Albany State University. *Specialty: Family Nurse Practitioner*

**Rodd, Jan**. MN, Emory University. *Specialty; Nursing Education*

Williams, Cathy**, DNP, Medical College of Georgia. *Specialty: Community Health, Education, Leadership***

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**NURS 4413 -- RN-MSN Transitions .................................................................................6 credits** This online course examines nursing history, trends, and conceptual framework, including Al- bany State University’s nursing framework. Students examine teaching and learning concepts. The evolving role of the advanced practice nurse is analyzed and evaluated. The course exam- ines the leadership, management, and organizational theories, including nursing theories that utilize leadership and management concepts. Students plan assignments and leadership/man- agement actions through simulated clinical learning activities.

**NURS 4346 -- RN-MSN Seminar.......................................................................................2 credits** This course is designed to strengthen the student’s ability to successfully meet requirements including the Departmental Exit Examination prior to graduation by providing an in-depth critique and assessment of basic nursing content and ensuring an appropriate laboratory sup- port environment for the student’s practice and role acquisition.

**NURS 5100 - Advanced Health Assessment..........................................................................3(2-4)** This course includes the processes, techniques and skills of advanced health assessment which builds on basic and experiential knowledge of assessment. *Prerequisites: Admission to Gradu- ate Nursing Program or approval of Coordinator of Graduate Nursing Program.*

**NURS 5111 - Nursing Theory Development...........................................................................3(3-0)** This course explores conceptual and theoretical models and areas of advanced specialization as a basis for role development and nursing practice. Theoretical assumptions and conceptual mod- els are related to nursing practice, nursing research and nursing education. *Prerequisites: Ad- mission to Graduate Nursing Program or approval of Coordinator of Graduate Nursing Program.*

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**NURS 5120 - Advanced Nursing Research.............................................................................3(3-0)** This course emphasizes quantitative and qualitative research methodologies and the applica- tion of technology in data analysis. Students formulate a beginning approach to proposal de- velopment. *Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or approval of Coordinator of Graduate Nursing Program.*



**NURS 5210 - Advanced Pathophysiology................................................................................3(3-0)** This course emphasizes the complexity of normal physiological and psychological functions and the disruption of homeostasis in understanding the disease process and/or illness. The in- volvement of multisystems in the clinical manifestation of the disease process and diagnoses will be delineated. *Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program.*

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**NURS 5220 - Family Diversity in Vulnerable Communities.................................................2(2-0)** The students apply concepts, theories and methodology of transcultural nursing to clients of di- verse populations. *Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program.*

**NURS 5310 - Family and Community Health........................................................................3(3-0)** This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis of family and community health. The focus is on primary prevention, health promotion and health risk reduction. *Prerequisite: Ad- mission to Graduate Nursing Program.*

**NURS 5410 - Introduction to Family Primary Care...............................................................4(2-8)** This course introduces the concept of primary health care of children, adults and families. The focus is on health promotion and disease prevention with medically underserved populations. *Prerequisites: NURS 5100 and 5110 and admission to Family Nurse Practitioner track.*

**NURS 5421- Primary Care of Children..................................................................................5(3-8)** This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis for health promotion and disease preven- tion for children, adolescents and their families. Content includes health maintenance, health teaching and behavioral/developmental issues, counseling and nursing management of well child health and selected illnesses common to childhood. *Prerequisites: NURS5210, 5410, and5910.*

**NURS 5422 - Primary Care of Children Clinical.................................................................2(0-8)** A clinical elective in child health care designed to enhance advanced nursing practice by pro- viding additional opportunities for analysis, synthesis and application of child health care the- ory with underserved rural and low-income children and their families. *Prerequisite: NURS*

D EGREE

*5410; Corequisite: NURS 5421.*

**NURS 5510 - Family Primary Care Clinical.........................................................................2(0-8)** A clinical elective in family primary care designed to enhance advanced nursing practice by providing additional opportunities for analysis, synthesis and application of family health care theory with families. *Corequisite: NURS 5410.*

**NURS 5621 - Advanced-Practice Nursing I...........................................................................5(3-8)** The first of a two-clinical-course sequence in application of theories and concepts related to the clinical nurse specialist’s role in Community Health, Parent-Child Health and Psych-Mental Health. *Prerequisites: NURS 5210, 5310.*

**NURS 5910 - Pharmacology in Advanced Nursing Practice................................................3(3-0)** This course provides the advanced-practice health care provider with knowledge of pharmaco- logical agents used in treatment of adults, adolescents and young children. Emphasis is on in- dications, mechanisms of action, prescriptive drugs, protocols, techniques and dosages. *Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or approval of Coordinator, Graduate Nursing Program.*

**NURS 5950 - Curriculum Development in Nursing.............................................................3(3-0)**

This course is designed to prepare the nurse educator for a role in curriculum development with

emphasis on the general nursing curriculum and those of its specialities. It explores all the fac- tors for consideration in putting together a nursing educational curriculum from planning to the stage of evaluation. Special consideration will be given to philosophies, nursing theories, health needs and problems; needed human and material resources; legal and administrative consider- ations; student affairs and services; curriculum implementation and curriculum evaluation.

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**NURS 6000 - Directed Study...............................................................................................Variable** Independent exploration of a topic from a nursing practice, education or administration per- spective. *Prerequisite: Approval of Coordinator, Graduate Nursing Program.*



**NURS 6001 - Instructional Strategies and Evaluation.........................................................3(3-0)** This course focuses on the implementation of various teaching strategies and the measurement of learning outcomes. *Prerequisites: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or approval of Graduate Nursing Coordinator.*

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**NURS 6101- Primary Care of Women...................................................................................4(2-8)**

This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis for advanced nursing management of

women. Content includes health maintenance, health teaching, behavioral/developmental is- sues, counseling and nursing management of pregnancy and health problems of women. *Pre- requisite: NURS 5421.*

**NURS 6102 - Primary Care of Women Clinical....................................................................2(0-8)** A clinical elective in women’s.health to provide additional opportunities for analysis and syn- thesis of theory of care with underserved and rural women. *Corequisite: NURS 6101.*

**NURS 6211 - Primary Care of Adults....................................................................................5(3-8)** This course presents the theoretical and clinical basis for health promotion and disease pre- vention of adults/older adults and their families. Content includes health maintenance, health teaching, developmental issues, counseling and nursing diagnosis and management of com- mon minor, acute and chronic health problems found in adults. *Prerequisite: NURS 6101.*

**NURS 6212 - Primary Care of Adults Clinical......................................................................2(0-8)** Clinical elective in adult health care to enhance advanced-nursing practice. *Corequisite: NURS6211.*

**NURS 6310 - Primary Care Issues In Health Promotion of Communities........................2(2-0)** This seminar focuses on care needed to meet the needs of clients with sensitivity to community and cultural differences. *Prerequisite: NURS 6101.*

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**NURS 6620 - Advanced Teaching Practicum........................................................................3(2-6)** This practicum is designed to foster the student’s development and competency as an educator. The focus of the experience is the application of curricula and learning theories to instructional design for nursing education. The practicum consists of experiences in both classroom and clin- ical teaching under the supervision of a senior faculty. The experiences are designed to provide an opportunity for the student to experience a career in the academic world of higher education.

**NURS 6622 - Advanced Practice Nursing II.........................................................................5(3-8)** This is the second of the two-clinical-course sequence in application of theories and concepts related to the clinical nurse specialist role development in Community Health, Parent-Child Health and Psych-Mental Health. *Prerequisites: NURS5621 and satisfactory completion of Pre- liminary Comprehensive exam.*

**NURS 6820 - Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum...........................................................4(1-12)** An integrated clinical practicum focused on development and implementation of the ad- vanced-practitioner role. Students are involved in a preceptorship in rural/urban family prac- tice settings under the supervision of a clinical preceptor and graduate faculty.

*Prerequisite: Completion of all course work and satisfactory completion of preliminary com- prehensive examination.*

**NURS 6920 - Thesis/Research Project...................................................................................3(3-0)**

Research methodologies are used to investigate a nursing problem. *Prerequisite: NURS 5120.*