

Master of Science in Nursing Course Descriptions

- NRSRG 653 Theoretical and Professional Foundations of Nursing 3 hours**
This course provides an opportunity to explore theoretical models of practice in healthcare systems. The relationship between nursing systems models and other disciplines are examined. An emphasis is placed on developing a foundation for application of professional practice through using a systems approach.
- NRSRG 626 Moral/Ethical Decision-Making 3 hours**
This course provides the opportunity to study the nurses' role in moral and ethical decision making. This course will challenge the learner to examine moral and ethical value systems when encountering patients with acute and chronic disease processes. This course will allow the nurse to analyze the impact of moral, spiritual, ethical, social, and political values, as they relate to professional practice. Discussions center on recognizing physiological, moral, ethical, and spiritual variance among cultural norms and health care practices in varied racial and ethnic backgrounds. Students will reflect on their personal values as they relate to moral and ethical decision making, the role of change agent for others and nursing implications for professional, spiritual, and personal growth.
- NRSRG 628 Nursing Informatics 3 hours**
This course prepares students to use information systems and technology to support and improve patient care and to impact healthcare systems. This course builds on basic computer competencies and focuses on information literacy and management, including both electronic patient health information and provider decision support resources. Ethical and legal issues specific to the use of informatics will be explored in this course.
- NRSRG 629 Professional Role Development of the Nurse Educator and Nurse Leader/Manager 3 hours**
This course examines concepts of professional role development as a Nurse Educator in undergraduate nursing education or a Nurse Leader/Manager. These concepts include professional practice, assessment, teaching and learning strategies, evaluation, healthcare delivery systems, interdisciplinary collaboration, healthcare policy, finance, and personal obligation. The course builds on knowledge from moral and ethical decision-making theories and evidence-based practice. Opportunities to examine Christian philosophical views of leadership, change theory, barriers to change, and effective leadership strategies are explored. Students will define their role, including competencies, as they apply to the MSN practicum and future practice. Pre-requisites: NRSRG 674 and 628
- NRSRG 679 & 680 Evidence-Based Practice and Project Proposal Development I & II 4 hours**
This course provides an opportunity to examine the foundation for best practice, evidence-based nursing practice. An overview of qualitative and quantitative methodology, analysis of literature, research process, and data analysis will be presented. Strategies for devising research are explored and applied through an evidence-based practice (EBP) research proposal.
- NRSRG 673 & 674 Advanced Pathophysiology I & II 4 hours**
Advanced Pathophysiology is the first course in a three-part series which provides the scientific foundation for advanced nursing. This course focuses on the etiology, manifestations, and consequences of human pathological processes across the lifespan via an in-depth examination of genetics, risk, prevention, pathogenesis, morphology, and health impact. Case studies explore clinical presentation, diagnostic evaluation, and the process of team collaborative decision making in recognizing the appropriate treatment in primary care.
- NRSRG 675 & 676 Advanced Pharmacology I & II 4 hours**
This course integrates the knowledge of pathophysiology with the pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, therapeutics, physiological considerations, adverse reactions, contraindications, interactions, compliance concerns, and other issues that pertain to the use of pharmacological interventions in advanced nursing. Case studies explore the process for selecting effective, safe, and cost-efficient pharmacologic or integrative regimens in primary care. Prerequisites: NRSRG 673 & 674
- NRSRG 677 & 678 Advanced Physical Health Assessment I & II 4 hours**
This course builds on pathophysiological and pharmacological principles, and expands knowledge and skills of physical examination and psychosocial, spiritual, risk, and functional assessment for advanced nursing. A systematic process for health screening, diagnostic reasoning, and the triangulation of laboratory, radiographic, and other data in the identification of health problems are included. Case studies explore the process and documentation of health assessment in primary care. Prerequisites: NRSRG 673, 674, 675, 676

NRSRG 651

MSN Practicum

3 hours

The practicum proposal will be submitted during NRSRG 629. Experiences and previous coursework can be used as the foundation for the 150-hour practicum project, with a self-selected approved preceptor, where students apply the knowledge gained in the didactic courses of the specialty tracks. In addition, advanced pain management pathophysiology, assessment of pain and related symptoms, and pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment of pain guide discussions and assignments in each section of this course, designed to give graduate students in nursing advanced knowledge of pain management. The knowledge in this course may be used for clinical practice which emphasizes a multimodal analgesic approach. Various lectures by pain management experts, scholarly internet sources, websites of pain management societies, scholarly publications, classic and recent pain management research, as well as the core curriculum for the Advanced Pain Management Certification will be utilized. A 30-hour practical clinical experience in a pain management clinic, with a self-selected approved preceptor, allows the student to assess, evaluate, and apply the knowledge gained in this course. In total the student completes 180 hours during this practicum course. This practicum is divided into three sections, corresponding with the didactic courses in the Education Track (NRSRG 621, NRSRG 622, and NRSRG 624) or Leadership/Management Track (NRSRG 631, NRSRG 646, and NRSRG 647), which are taken congruently with this course. Each section of this course is 1 credit hour, for a total of 3 credit hours.

Education Track

NRSRG 621

Teaching Roles and Strategies

3 hours

Teaching as a profession is explored along with the role of an educator, the learning process, and teachers as leaders, mentors, and role models. Educational philosophy is examined including student centered learning. Students will examine factors that influence learning, explore critical topics in education, accreditation, educational organizations, funding, cultural diversity, and gender sensitivity. Students will begin to determine a personal teaching philosophy and determine appropriateness of various teaching strategies. Taken congruently with the first section of NRSRG 651. Prerequisite: NRSRG 629

NRSRG 622

Curriculum Design and Assessment

3 hours

The course will prepare the student to design curriculum and evaluate its effectiveness. Students will design, implement, and assess outcomes through a mini curriculum project. The student will consider their personal educational philosophy when determining ways to engage learners and assess learning outcomes. Various methods of course delivery are considered including distance delivery, Online modalities, and emerging trends in education. Taken congruently with the second section of NRSRG 651. Prerequisite: NRSRG 621

NRSRG 624

Evaluation in Nursing Education

3 hours

The student will integrate, apply, and evaluate the principles and concepts relative to a graduate level nurse educator. The student will build on their plan to design, implement, and evaluate a teaching component related to their specialization and practice setting. Students will critically reflect on their knowledge and revise their personal development plan. Taken congruently with the third section of NRSRG 651. Prerequisite: NRSRG 622

Leadership/Management Track

NRSRG 631

Nurse as a Leader and Manager of Care

3 hours

This course will examine various models of organizational, managerial, and leadership theory. The student will review mid-level and senior managerial and leadership roles within a health care organization. The student will consider trends in nursing and health care as a means to predict practice change. Theories on change, leadership, concepts of power, and empowerment will be examined as they relate to administrative roles. Students will clarify personal values as they relate to leadership attributes and determine their role in improving quality of nursing services. Taken congruently with the first section of NRSRG 651. Prerequisite: NRSRG 629

NRSRG 646

Healthcare: Financial and Resource Management

3 hours

In this course the student will integrate the concepts of leader, manager, and change agent as they relate to the health care environment. Consideration is given to mission, strategic planning, finance, systems analysis, and forecasting. Responsible management of human, fiscal, and physical resources is examined in the complexity of the health care organization. Strategies to ensure a quality workplace, staff support, and retention are discussed. Taken congruently with the second section of NRSRG 651. Prerequisite: NRSRG 631

NRSRG 647

Transforming Leadership in Nursing

3 hours

This course provides the opportunity for participants to integrate and apply previously learned principles and concepts relative to a graduate level manager and leader. Students will critically reflect on their knowledge and submit a business plan specific for their practicum site. Taken congruently with the third section of NRSRG 651. Prerequisite: NRSRG 646