

Division of Nursing

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Full Graduate Faculty: Davenport, Davis, Jeffreys, Shum, Taylor.

The master of science degree in nursing (M.S.N.) is built around a nursing theory core. Students select a role specialization in administration, teaching or family nurse practitioner (FNP). A post master's FNP course of study is available for nurses with an M.S.N. degree who seek to become FNPs. Graduate nursing courses are grouped in block scheduling, allowing students to come to campus one day a week for six hours credit. Some courses are offered online or in a combination of traditional/online coursework in which students meet periodically through the semester, but the majority of the coursework is online. The M.S.N. program in nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Students who select the FNP role are eligible to apply for State Board of Nursing approval to practice as an FNP after successfully passing a national certification examination.

The Division of Nursing, located on the main campus of WTAMU, includes classrooms, laboratories, a Learning Center and faculty offices. Clinical experience is provided in health facilities in Amarillo, Canyon and area communities.

| Discipline | Course Prefix |
|--------------|---------------|
| Nursing..... | NURS |

NOTE: See the "Academic Courses and Abbreviations" and "Course Descriptions" sections of this catalog for a complete list of courses offered by the University.

Admission Requirements

In addition to University requirements for admission, the applicant must have:

- A minimum of a B.S.N. degree from a CCNE- or NLN-accredited school of nursing and RN licensure in good standing in the state in which practicums will be done.
- A minimum average of "B" with no grade below "C" for the last 60 hours taken.
- Graduate School acceptance and completion of the Graduate Record Examination. The GRE must be taken prior to registering for the first graduate course.
- Completion of a basic statistics course with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Current CPR certification.
- Current immunizations, including Hepatitis B.
- Professional liability insurance coverage.
- For the Family Nurse Practitioner role, at least two years of recent clinical practice as an RN.

- Before clinical experiences commence, criminal background checks may be required.

Conditional admission may be granted for students with admission scores that do not meet Graduate School admission standards, following individual review. Refer to the "Graduate School" section of this catalog for further information about conditional status.

Transfer Students

Refer to "Procedures and Policies" section of this catalog.

General Requirements

Each student will:

- Complete an approved curriculum of at least 39 semester hours with at least a "B" in every course. Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students must complete the approved 48-hour curriculum.
- Pass the comprehensive examination—portfolio synthesis requirement.
- Comply with any additional Division of Nursing and general University requirements for the master of science degree.
- Select one of two thesis options:
 - Option 1—Thesis
 - Option 2—Non-Thesis (Student must take six additional hours that enhance research skills or role specialization.)

Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) Degree

Role Specializations in Nursing

- Nursing Administration (Major Code 5705)
- Nursing Education (Major Code 5706)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (Major Code 5707)

Nursing Core

- Required of all M.S.N. students—NURS 6303, 6317, 6318.

NOTE: NURS 6320 and 6384 may be taken prior to admission to the Division of Nursing M.S.N. program. The six-year limit for attaining the M.S.N. degree begins with the first graduate course, even if that course is taken prior to official admission to the nursing program. Statistics is a leveling course that may be taken prior to admission to the M.S.N. program or the first semester of master's work; NURS 3304 is recommended.

Role Specialization in Nursing Administration (Major Code: 5705)

- NURS 6303, 6306, 6307, 6308, 6309, 6317, 6318.
- 18 hours of electives.

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NOTE: If thesis option is selected, delete two electives and replace with NURS 6301 and 6302.

Role Specialization in Nursing Education

(Major Code: 5706)

- NURS 6303, 6306, 6311, 6312, 6399, 6315, 6317, 6318, 6320, 6384.
- Nine hours of electives.

NOTE: If thesis option is selected, delete two electives and replace with NURS 6301 and 6302.

Role Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner

(Major Code: 5707)

- NURS 6303, 6315, 6316, 6317, 6318, 6320, 6384, 6330, 6331, 6332, 6487, 6488, 6489, 6690.

Accelerated RN to M.S.N. Option

Registered nurses have the option to complete an accelerated path to the master of science in nursing degree. Students will complete coursework toward the M.S.N. degree as described below:

- Complete required core and general education requirements of the B.S.N. degree. (60 semester credit hours).
- Complete required nursing major courses in the B.S.N. degree (24 semester credit hours).
- Receive credit from prior nursing education (escrow) in ADN and diploma programs (31 semester credit hours).
- Take GRE and apply to Graduate School.
- Complete M.S.N. courses (36 semester credit hours—administration or education; 48 semester credit hours—FNP).
- Total semester credit hours for degree (151 semester credit hours—administration or education; 163 semester credit hours—FNP).