

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

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The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is composed of the Department of Nursing, the Department of Communication Disorders, and the Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences. The academic programs of the college are supported by the West Texas A&M University Health Partners Clinic, a faculty practice,

primary care clinic in Amarillo, Texas, the Bivins Nursing Learning Center, the WTAMU Speech and Hearing Clinic, and the Sports and Exercise Sciences Human Performance Laboratory. Students learn in on-campus classrooms and laboratories and through distance-education methods. Clinical skills in all departments are practiced in numerous health-related agencies in the region.

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences is dedicated to developing professional and academic leaders in the health professions through educational programs that engage students effectively, provide high-quality clinical services to patients and clients, and contribute meaningful scholarship including evidence-based practice. This mission is achieved through the individual and collective efforts of highly qualified faculty and staff.

Department of Communication Disorders

Dr. Howard Wilson, department head
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Full Graduate Faculty: Viswanath, Wilson.

Associate Graduate Faculty: Barnes, Clark.

The Department of Communication Disorders offers an undergraduate bachelor's and a master's degree in communication disorders. The graduate program is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA). The department also offers the post-baccalaureate program for individuals who have an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than communication disorders and who desire to obtain a graduate degree in communication disorders. All of the communication disorder faculty members hold the Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA and also are licensed by the Texas Board of Examiners in speech-language pathology and audiology.

Degree and Major

- Master of Science (M.S.) Degree
- Major in Communication Disorders

Discipline	Course Prefix
Communication Disorders	CD

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

Master of Science (M.S.) Degree

Major in Communication Disorders

M.S. Degree Requirements (See requirements in the "Graduate School" section of this catalog.)

The WTAMU Communication Disorders Program is nationally accredited by the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA).

The primary goal of the master's degree program in communication disorders is to develop competent professional practitioners who are prepared to work with other disciplines and make contributions to the field of speech-language pathology and who are well grounded in diagnostic and therapeutic skills. Knowledge of and participation in research is strongly encouraged.

Length of the program may vary depending on the undergraduate background of the student; the master's degree in communication disorders is available with a thesis or non-thesis option. In addition, enrollment in clinical practicum each semester is required in order to achieve a total of 400 clinic clock hours.

Admission Requirements

In addition to University and Graduate School admission requirements, the program requires:

- A 500-word essay discussing personal and professional goals.
- Three letters of recommendation from undergraduate professors.
- Interview with the program director.

Department of Communication Disorders

The essay and letters of recommendation should be mailed directly to:

Dr. H. Howard F. Wilson
Department of Communication Disorders
West Texas A&M University
WTAMU Box 60757
Canyon, Texas 79016-0001

Ongoing Program Requirements

- Documentation required within the first two weeks of classes:
- Documented copy of liability insurance.
- Evidence of a current CPR card.
- Immunizations:
- Required—tuberculosis.
- Strongly recommended—rubella (women only) and hepatitis B.
- Courses with grades of “C,” “D,” “F,” “I” (incomplete), “IP” or “X” (drop or withdrawal) can not be used to satisfy requirements for graduate degree.

Completion/Graduation Requirements

- Take the Praxis NESPA specialty area exam. (ASHA examination; 600 or better is passing.)
- Students must demonstrate mastery of all learning outcomes that are part of the Knowledge and Skills Acquisition (KASA). The KASA learning outcomes are incorporated into and listed on the syllabi of each graduate course in communication disorders. This requirement helps meet standards of the Council of Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
- Pass comprehensive final exam.

Thesis and Non-Thesis Options

The master of science degree in communication disorders includes two options.

Thesis Option (36 hours)*

- CD 6305, 6310, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6350, 6370, 6375, 6388.
- CD 6301, 6302 (thesis).
- CD 6398, 6399 (to satisfy 400 clinical clock hours).

Non-Thesis Option (42 hours)*

- CD 6305, 6310, 6315, 6320, 6325, 6330, 6335, 6350, 6370, 6375, 6388, 6392.
- CD 6398, 6399 (to satisfy 400 clinical clock hours).

*Additional hours may be required to meet ASHA requirements.

Department of Nursing

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Full Graduate Faculty: Davenport, Davis, Reyes, H. Taylor.

Associate Graduate Faculty: Dean, Embrey, Jeffreys, McMinn, Phillips.

The master of science degree in nursing (M.S.N.) is built around a nursing theory core. Students select a role specialization in administration, education 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. Some courses are offered online or in a combination of traditional/online course work in which students meet periodically through the semester. 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 Department of Nursing, located on the main campus of WTAMU, includes classrooms, laboratories, the Bibins Nursing Learning Center that includes a simulation lab, 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.

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)

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 completed.
- A minimum 3.0 GPA with no grade below "C" for the last 60 hours taken.
- WTAMU Graduate School acceptance to include completion of the Graduate Record Examination. The

GRE must be taken to be considered for admission to the University Graduate School.

- Completion of a basic statistics course with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Current CPR certification.
- Current immunizations, including Hepatitis B.
- Current criminal background check within one year.
- For the Family Nurse Practitioner role, at least two years of recent clinical practice as an RN.
- Formal application to the Graduate Nursing Program (application fee required).

Refer to the "Graduate School" section of this catalog for further information about admission requirements.

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 49-hour curriculum.
- Pass the comprehensive examination synthesis requirement.
- Comply with any additional Department 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 and enroll in NURS 6120 during their last long semester.)

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 Department 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 must be taken prior to admission to the M.S.N. program; NURS 3304 is recommended.

Role Specialization in Nursing Administration (Major Code: 5705)

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

NOTE: If thesis option is selected, delete two electives and replace with NURS 6301 and 6302. If non-thesis option is selected, add NURS 6120.

Department of Nursing

Role Specialization in Nursing Education

(Major Code: 5706)

- NURS 6303, 6306, 6312, 6313, 6315, 6317, 6318, 6320, 6384, 6399.
- Nine hours of electives.

NOTE: If thesis option is selected, delete two electives and replace with NURS 6301 and 6302. If non-thesis option is selected, add NURS 6120.

Role Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner

(Major Code: 5707)

- NURS 6120, 6303, 6315, 6316, 6317, 6318, 6320, 6384, 6330, 6331, 6332, 6487, 6488, 6489, 6690.

Accelerated RN to M.S.N. Option

Registered nurses who are diploma or associate-degree prepared have the option to complete an accelerated path to the master of science in nursing degree. Students will complete course work toward the B.S.N./M.S.N. degree as described below:

- Complete required core and general education requirements of the B.S.N. degree. (55–56 semester credit hours).
- Complete required nursing major courses in the undergraduate nursing curriculum (21 semester credit hours).
- Receive credit from prior nursing education (escrow) in ADN and diploma programs (31 semester credit hours).
- WTAMU Graduate School acceptance to include completion of the Graduate Record Examination. The GRE must be taken to be considered for admission to the University Graduate School.
- Complete M.S.N. courses (39–40 semester credit hours—administration or education; 49 semester credit hours—FNP).
- Total semester credit hours for degree (146–147 semester credit hours—administration or education; 156 semester credit hours—FNP).
- Complete the degree plan for both undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- A dual degree B.S.N./M.S.N. will be awarded after successful completion of the plan of study.
- Student must meet all graduation requirements.

Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences

Lorna Strong, interim department head
 Virgil Henson Activities Center, Room 217
 WTAMU Box 60216
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 lstrong@wtamu.edu • www.wtamu.edu

Full Graduate Faculty: Chase, Lubker, Meyers.

Associate Graduate Faculty: Haasl, Strong.

The Department of Sports and Exercise Sciences graduate program leads to a master of science degree with a major in sports and exercise sciences. Students in the thesis program receive background preparation necessary for doctoral work in exercise science as well as expertise in physiological testing, exercise prescription and research. Graduates of this program have been successful in pursuing advanced degrees in exercise physiology and/or have been placed in careers in corporate fitness/wellness, sport equipment technology, sport performance analyses and branches of sports medicine-related specialties such as nutrition, cardiopulmonary, cardiac rehabilitation and psychology. Program goals are developed in conjunction with knowledge, skills and abilities identified by the American College of Sports Medicine as essential for successful professional preparation.

Students in the non-thesis program receive background preparation designed to meet the needs of persons interested in professions related to exercise science and are tailored to meet specific needs and interests of the individual graduate student.

All students are required to take a four-course core curriculum. Students then design a curriculum with their adviser to meet individual interests and needs.

Graduate Advising Requirement

Students should consult the graduate coordinator for adviser assignment. No later than the end of the first semester of graduate study, students must identify a graduate faculty member who agrees to serve as their graduate adviser. This adviser must be in the student's area of specialization.

Discipline	Prefix
Athletic Training	ATTR
Physical Education	PHED
Sports and Exercise Sciences	SES

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

Master of Science (M.S.) Degree

Major in Sports and Exercise Sciences (Major Code: 5449)

This degree is designed for persons in various fields of exercise and sport sciences who wish to concentrate their graduate work in exercise science. Students with undergraduate degrees in a field other than sports and exercise science or a related field may be required to complete leveling courses chosen and approved by the adviser and department head.

General Requirements

Admission

The following conditions are to be met:

- 3.0 or better undergraduate GPA and
- GRE score exceeding 50th percentile in at least one category of the GRE.

Conditional Admission

If a student does not qualify for admission, the student will be granted conditional admission when the following conditions are met:

- 2.5 or better undergraduate GPA and
- GRE score exceeding 25th percentile in at least one category of the GRE.

Interdisciplinary Studies (5143) students selecting department course work also must meet the criteria delineated above.

Program Requirements

Non-Thesis, 36-hour Program

36 total semester hours of approved courses which must include SES 6311, 6312, 6341 and 6351, plus an additional 24 semester hours in 6300-level or above courses (nine semester hours of which must be from sports and exercise sciences course offerings). Students will be required to pass a written and oral comprehensive examination.

Thesis, 36-Hour Program

36 total semester hours of approved courses which must include SES 6301, 6302, 6311, 6312, 6341 and 6351, plus an additional 18 semester hours in 6300-level or above courses. Students will be required to pass a written and oral comprehensive examination as well as thesis proposal and defense.