

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

## Information for Prospective MSN Students

We are pleased to tell you about the Master's Program in Nursing at West Texas A&M University. The MSN Program was implemented in the fall of 1978. The master's degree options have been developed based not only on the nursing needs of north Texas, but also on the expectations for the future of advanced nursing practice as informed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the Institutes of Medicine (IOM).

## Accreditation

The master's degree program in nursing at West Texas A&M University is accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>). As such, the graduate curriculum is designed using the AACN Essentials of Masters Education for Advanced Practice Nursing and is also congruent with the NTF criteria for the Family Nurse Practitioner track.

## Role Specialization Degree Options

### Comprehensive MSN

The Comprehensive MSN program prepares students to function at an advanced nursing practice level in complex environments. This on-line degree specialty allows students focus their master's education in Nursing Administration/Management, or Nursing Education. All students will take the advanced clinical nursing courses of Pathophysiology, Pharmacotherapeutics, and Advanced Assessment to enhance clinical practice at an advanced level. Praxis coursework is personalized to address each student's specific learning objectives as well as current national guidelines for practice at the graduate level. Graduates work in hospitals, outpatient settings, administrative positions, educator positions, and in collaborative practice with physicians and other health care providers, and schools of nursing. (39-40 credit hours) *This program of study is available all online.*

### Family Nurse Practitioner

A Nurse Practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced education who is able to assess, diagnose (nursing and medical), manage (including prescribing), and evaluate care for persons who are ill, injured, and / or have chronic diseases. Health promotion and disease prevention are integral in the NP's practice. The FNP practices independently and autonomously within the nurse practitioner scope of practice, and collaboratively with physicians and other health care providers. The FNP specialization program prepares students for advanced practice nursing providing primary healthcare in diverse areas

(e.g. underserved areas, clinics, occupational settings, independent practice.) This results in improved access to primary healthcare. (46 credit hours) *This program of study is available in a hybrid format with clinical experiences in Texas only.*

### **POST MSN – Role Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner**

The Post MSN FNP is designed as a certificate course of study that enables a practicing nurse who holds a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree to prepare for credentialing as an FNP. Upon completion of the prescribed course of study, the student's transcript indicates that he/she has completed the educational preparation as regulated by the Texas Board of Nursing. Completing students are eligible to take a national FNP certification exam for licensure. *(For more information on the POST program, please contact the office for a POST information packet.)*

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An applicant may take NURS 6303 Theories of Nursing as a non-degree seeking graduate student prior to entering the program. However, taking this course does not guarantee acceptance into the master's program. The six-year completion time starts with the first graduate course regardless of whether you are accepted or not. Contact the Graduate Coordinator if you are interested in this opportunity.

### **Upon successful completion of the program, all MSN graduates will be prepared to:**

- Integrate scientific findings from nursing, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, quality improvement, and organization sciences for the continual improvement of nursing care across diverse settings.
- Recognize that organization and systems leadership are critical to the promotion of high quality and safe patient care.
- Be articulate in the methods, tools, performance measures and standards related to quality.
- Apply research outcomes within practice settings, work as a change agent, and disseminate results.
- Use patient-care technologies to deliver and enhance care and use communication technologies to integrate and coordinate care.
- Intervene at the systems level through policy development and advocacy strategies.
- Communicate, collaborate and consult with other health professionals.
- Integrate organizational skills for client-centered, culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management and evaluation in prevention strategies for identified populations.
- Integrate knowledge into practice.

We appreciate your interest in our master's nursing program. We are confident we offer an excellent master's level nursing education that creates more opportunities in your nursing career. **The Graduate Coordinator for the Nursing Program is Dr. Collette Loftin.** REMOVE THIS We would love to hear from you if you have additional questions at 806.651.2654 or nursing@wtamu.edu

## Getting Started . . .

General information about WTAMU is on the website at [www.wtamu.edu](http://www.wtamu.edu).

### MSN Program Admission Requirements

To be eligible for considered in the MSN program, the following items must be received by **September 1 for a spring (Jan) admission start, or March 1 for a fall (Aug) admission start.**

- Application to the Graduate School (available online through the Admission's webpage),  
<http://wtamu.edu/academics/graduate-school.aspx>  
(\$40 application fee can be paid on-line).
- Application to the Nursing Department (accessible on-line on the Graduate Nursing webpage),  
<http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/nursing-graduate-program.aspx>.  
(\$50 nursing application fee paid by check to be submitted to the nursing department)

*Please upload your Nursing application form along with any accompanying documentation to the graduate school admission webpage. Mail your application fee to the Department of Nursing WTAMU Box 60969 Canyon, Texas 79016-0001.*

### MSN Program Eligibility Requirements

#### Process for Admission to the Graduate Program in Nursing

##### Applicants will:

1. Submit both applications to the Graduate School and the Graduate Nursing Program by the deadline dates (Sept 1 or March 1).
2. The application process includes:
  - a. Comprehensive MSN applicants will hold an unencumbered (RN) license in the U.S. FNP applicants will hold an unencumbered (RN) license in TX. (Other states' registered nursing licenses will be considered on a case by case basis depending on the states' Board of Nursing and Board of Education requirements for supervision of NP students.)
  - b. Provide the Graduate School with official copies of all transcripts.
    - i. Applicants are encouraged to have a cumulative GPA for the last 60 hours of college credit of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Failure in any nursing coursework will be taken into consideration. A Nursing GPA will also be calculated and taken into admission consideration. (If your GPA does not meet the minimum criteria, please contact the Nursing Department for alternative admission considerations.)
    - ii. Applicant will submit a resume or CV for review.

- c. Applicants meeting minimum criteria will be scheduled for a phone interview with the Associate Department Head for Nursing Graduate Programs or a designee once the application file is processed.
- d. Provide the Department of Nursing with two clinical (non-academic clinical supervisor) references and contact information. The Department of Nursing will contact the references and responses must be received in a timely manner.
- e. Applicants will write a goal statement for graduate study in nursing as part of the application paperwork. This goal statement will be evaluated based on:
  - i. Clear focus related to a goal statement
  - ii. Supportive detail regarding the goal statement
  - iii. Organization of goal statement (clear introduction, body, and conclusion)
  - iv. Clarity, grammar, and punctuation
  - v. A word count of between 500-750 words
- f. Degree seeking students will have admission preference over non-degree seeking students (i.e. post-MSN FNP).

International Students: please contact the [International Office](#) for additional information regarding their admission criteria.

*An MSN application may be viewed as incomplete, and may not be considered by the Graduate Nursing Admissions Committee if not received by the admission deadline, or processed completely before the Committee meets. Due to limited class sizes, all qualified applicants may not be granted admission to the program.*

## **Graduation Requirements for the MSN Degree**

- Course work: A minimum of 39-40 credit hours for the Comprehensive MSN; 46 credit hours for FNP Role specialty.
- A grade of "B" or higher in all graduate courses.
- Complete degree within 6 years of the date of the first graduate course.
- A maximum of 12 hours of graduate courses with grades of "B" or higher may be transferred if approved equivalent.
- Thesis or Non-Thesis Option (Oral and written comprehensive examination).
- MSN Degree Plan completed.
- Application for graduation.

Applicants will be notified by mail of acceptance or denial of admission into the nursing program. It is the applicant's responsibility to advise the nursing department in writing of any address changes.

### **Full-Time and Half-Time Status**

Enrollment in nine semester credit hours is considered full-time for graduate studies. To be eligible for federal financial aid, graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of five semester hours.

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#### **Comprehensive Role Specializations are:**

- Nursing Administration/Management
- Nursing Education (Educator)

Areas of employment can include, but are not limited to:

- Nursing managers or administrators
- Nursing faculty or clinical educators
- Nursing informatics specialists
- Quality improvement
- Case management
- Patient advocate
- Utilization management
- Clinical coordinator
- Patient/unit educator
- Nursing management
- School nursing
- Community nursing

#### **FNP Role Specializations can include Advanced Practice Nursing in:**

- Primary Healthcare
- Underserved Access to Healthcare Areas
- Clinics
- Occupational Settings
- Independent Practice

# MSN CURRICULUM

2018-2019 Catalog

<b>COMPREHENSIVE MSN – (On-line)</b>			<b>FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER (FNP) (Hybrid-based)</b>		
<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Cr. Hr.</i>	<i>Course #</i>	<i>Course Name</i>	<i>Cr. Hr.</i>
NURS 6303 (O)	Theories for Nursing	3-3-0	NURS 6303 (O)	Theories for Nursing	3-3-0
NURS 6320 (O)	Pathophysiology	3-3-0	NURS 6320 (O)	Pathophysiology	3-3-0
NURS 6318 (O)	Nursing Populations and Settings	3-3-0	NURS 6318 (O)	Nursing Populations and Settings	3-3-0
NURS 6384 (O)	Pharmacotherapeutics	3-3-0	NURS 6384 (O)	Pharmacotherapeutics	3-3-0
NURS 6315 (O)	Advanced Assessment	3-2-2	NURS 6315 (O)	Advanced Assessment	3-2-2
NURS 6317 (O)	Nursing Research	3-3-0	NURS 6317 (O)	Nursing Research	3-3-0
NURS 6314 (O)	Advanced Nursing Education and Leadership	3-3-0	NURS 6611 (H)	Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Healthcare (135 cl hrs.)	6-3-9 SU
NURS 6322 (O)	Bioethics and Advocacy	3-3-0	NURS 6712 (H)	Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Healthcare II (180 cl hrs.)	7-3-12 FA
NURS 6323 (P)	Role Practicum in Area of Concentration	3-0-9	NURS 6713 (H)	Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Healthcare III (180 cl hrs.)	7-3-12 SP
NURS 6324 (P)	Scholarly Clinical Praxis (Incl. informatics)	3-1-6	NURS 6316 (O)	Issues: Nurse Practitioner Role Development	3-3-0
ELECTIVE	Elective	3 Cr. Hr.	NURS 6120 (O)	Research Utilization Project (required for non-thesis students only)	1-1-0
NURS 6301 or ELECTIVE	Thesis or 6000-level course that supports role or research interest	3-0-0 or 3-3-0	NURS 6490 (P)	Capstone Clinical Practicum (180 cl hrs.)	4-0-0
NURS 6302 or ELECTIVE	Thesis or 6000-level course that supports role or research interest	3-0-0 or 3-3-0			
NURS 6120 (H)	Research Utilization Project (required for non-thesis students only)	1-1-0			
<b>TOTAL(MINIMUM) CREDIT HOURS = 39-40</b>			<b>TOTAL(MINIMUM) CREDIT HOURS = 46</b>		

(O) Online; (H) Hybrid (3 campus attendance dates per semester); (P) Practica (requires clinical/field experiences)

Below is a sample Plan of Study (POS). There is some flexibility within the schedule, but this is the suggested sequence plan for optimal progression through the programs.

<i>7-semesters in hours</i>	6	6	6	6	3	9	4		6	6	6	6	9	3	4
<b>Comprehensive Progression</b>	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP		FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA
NURS 6303; Theories	√								√						
NURS 6317; Nsg. Research			√								√				
NURS 6318; Populations		√								√					
NURS 6320; Pathophysiology	√								√						
NURS 6384; Pharmacotherapeutics		√								√					
NURS 6315; Adv. Assessment			√								√				
NURS 6314; Nsg Edu & Ldrship						√						√			
NURS 6322; Bioethics				*			√						√		
NURS 6324; Praxis				√									√		
NURS 6323; Practicum						√									√
NURS 6120; Synthesis (non-thesis only)						*	√								√
*ELECTIVE				√								√			
*ELECTIVE (or Thesis)					√									√	
*ELECTIVE (or Thesis)			*			√									√
<i>6-semesters in hours</i>	6	6	9	9	3	7	0								

For the thesis option, student would replace two electives with NURS 6301 & 6302; Thesis I & II (39 hrs.)

- An example of elective modules includes (but not limited to); Clinical Teaching Strategies, Organization Behavior in Healthcare, Management/Leadership in Nurs Administration, Wellness-based Nursing, Informatics, Hlthcare Finance.

<b>FNP Progression</b>	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP		FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA
NURS 6303; Theories	√								√						
NURS 6317; Nsg. Research			√								√				
NURS 6318; Populations		√								√					
NURS 6320; Pathophysiology	√								√						
NURS 6384; Pharmacotherapeutics		√								√					
NURS 6315; Adv. Assessment-NP			√								√				
NURS 6611; FNP I (SU)					√									√	
NURS 6712; FNP II (FA)						√						√			
NURS 6713; FNP III (SP)				√									√		
NURS 6490; Capstone							√								√
NURS 6120; Synthesis							√								√
NURS 6316; NP Role Issues							√								√
Hours per semester	6	6	6	7	6	7	8		6	6	6	7	7	6	8

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

**IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS**

***Copies of the following immunization records must accompany your nursing application.***

Required Vaccinations	Schedule for Vaccinations
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)*	Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must have two (2) vaccinations/doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968; one (1) dose of rubella vaccine; and one (1) dose of mumps vaccine.
Varicella (chickenpox)*	Students must have two (2) doses of varicella vaccine, unless the first dose was administered prior to 13 years of age; OR a serologic test that is positive for varicella antibody; OR physician/parent documentation of varicella illness. To document prior varicella illness, please complete the attached form and include with application.
Tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td/Tdap)*	One (1) dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td/Tdap) is required within the last ten (10) years.
Hepatitis B Vaccine Series*	Students must have the complete series (3 doses) of hepatitis B vaccine OR serologic confirmation of immunity for hepatitis B.
TB Skin Test	Vaccination must be done every year. If a student has a past-positive reactor, a report of the last chest X-ray must be included with the application.
Annual Influenza Vaccine	Students will be required to have an annual flu vaccine.
CPR Healthcare Provider Verification	

For more information, see the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dated December 26, 1997, Vol. 46, and the *Supplement to Hospital Infection Control*, January, 1998; or call the Department of State Health Services, Immunization Division, 1-800-252-9152.

\*See Texas Administrative Code, Title 25 Health Services, Part 1 Department of State Health Services, Chapter 97 Communicable Diseases, Subchapter B Immunization Requirements in Texas Elementary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education, **Rule §97.64 Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-Related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education**, effective April 1, 2004.

DOCUMENTATION OF PRIOR VARICELLA ILLNESS

Documentation of prior varicella illness can be provided by the following methods:

1. A serologic confirmation of varicella immunity (positive varicella IgG result).
2. A written statement from a physician, or the student's parent or guardian

This is to verify that \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of student)

had varicella disease (chickenpox) on or about \_\_\_\_\_  
(Approximate month/day/year)

and does not need the varicella vaccine. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Relationship to student)