



Nursing and Health Sciences

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Mission

The mission of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences is to educate the health care providers of today and leaders of tomorrow through the provision of excellent educational programs in the professions of nursing and the health sciences. The College identifies, attracts, and graduates students of high potential, especially those from groups who have been historically under represented in Texas health care. This mission is enhanced through faculty contributions to community service, leadership, practice, and research. These responsibilities are fostered within an interdisciplinary college by promoting a sense of community and caring, through a system of shared governance.

College of Nursing and Health Sciences Goals

The goals of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences assist the College in implementing the University and College missions.

1. To develop within the student the knowledge and skills necessary for beginning professional and advanced nursing practice, cultivating basic and specialized abilities needed to successfully pursue a career.
2. To promote the concept of nursing as caring and facilitate attainment of a care delivery system sensitive to multicultural communities and their health values.
3. To offer individuals the opportunity to increase the breadth and depth of the theoretical base for nursing practice, enhance and expand competence, prepare for role specialization and contribute to the discovery of new nursing knowledge.
4. To provide an educational environment of respect within which students may evolve as broadly educated, responsible and accountable professionals dedicated to the principles of lifelong learning.
5. To build a foundation for doctoral education.
6. To serve the community as nursing experts, leaders and consultants in professional organizations, health promoters, providers of health care policy information and advocates of ethical distribution and usage of resources.

Graduate Program

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers course work leading to the Master of Science in Nursing degree. Additionally, the college offers graduate courses in Health Care Administration.

Health Care Administration

Program Description

Graduate courses in health care administration are offered in support of the graduate degrees in nursing, public administration, and business administration. For details concerning the degree programs, consult the appropriate sections of the catalog. A Certificate in Health Care Administration is available for those students who hold a master's degree in another field and wish to complete a short course of study focused on health care administration.

Outcomes required for the effective health administrator include:

- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the theoretical and practical aspects of the health care delivery system from a historical, comparative, economic, cultural, and ethical perspective.
- Employ a variety of business and management skills and techniques including marketing, financial management, law, and information management to effectively and efficiently advance the goals of the organization.
- Demonstrate creativity in defining, negotiating and solving problems.
- Communicate and educate, using the most current information and communication technology.

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements for the certificate program are as follows:

- Master's degree from an accredited college or university.
- Admission to the University.

Certificate Requirements

A Certificate in Health Care Administration may be earned through completion of any five of the following six courses:

HCAD 5312	HCAD 5330
HCAD 5320	HCAD 5390
HCAD 5325	HCAD 5396

For Additional Information

Campus Address: Faculty Center, Room 161, phone 825-5794

Mailing Address: Graduate Department
College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5804

GRADUATE COURSES

HCAD 5312. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Focus on the major components of the American health care system and related issues in the administration of care delivery. Policy information and political issues are discussed.

HCAD 5320. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

HEALTH ECONOMICS AND POLICY

Analysis and evaluation of classical and modern economic theory, principles and procedures applicable to the health care delivery system and their implications for public policy.

HCAD 5325. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Survey of basic financial management techniques used in health care administration. Provides an understanding of cost analysis, strategic planning and forecasting techniques. This course is cross-listed with NURS 5360.

HCAD 5330. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

HEALTH LAW AND ETHICS

A study of the legal and related ethical aspects of the health care delivery system including governing boards, liabilities, consent and malpractice as well as other related topics. Current governmental, state and other regulating bodies are presented.

HCAD 5390. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

HEALTH CARE SELECTED TOPICS

In-depth study and discussion of various topics relevant to health care administration. May be repeated when topics vary.

HCAD 5396 1-3 sem. hrs.

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

See College Description. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

Nursing

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Program Description

The Master of Science in Nursing degree program enhances and expands the clinical competence of baccalaureate nurses. The focus of the program is to prepare nurses for advanced nursing practice in nursing leadership, as family nurse practitioners, or clinical nurse specialists. Emphasis is placed on facilitating health care delivery within a multi-cultural framework. The graduate nursing curriculum includes four core courses and specific courses related to role specialization. Three minor areas of study are also available for students seeking to refine their skills as leaders/managers, researchers, or educators. The variety of learning opportunities and the flexibility of options provided by the curriculum will accommodate the diverse clinical and functional interests of students who enroll in the program. Many of the graduate nursing courses are offered online. See the semester class schedule for details.

Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing degree will be able to:

- Critically analyze, interpret and utilize appropriate knowledge, research and theories to meet the health care needs of diverse urban and rural client populations.
- Collaboratively plan for the delivery of culturally consistent health care within the context of client social structure and world views.
- Employ leadership, management and teaching skills to foster change and continual improvement in health care in order to meet changing societal and environmental needs.
- Evaluate theory and research findings for integration into professional nursing practice.
- Develop competence and accountability in an advanced practice nursing role.
- Model caring, sensitivity and respect in the delivery of health care to culturally diverse populations.
- Value commitment to the advancement of the profession and discipline of nursing.
- Operationalize principles of ethical, legal, financial and economic theories as applied to health care delivery systems.

The expected outcomes for the Master of Science Degree in Nursing are also published in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook and at <http://conhs.tamucc.edu>.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120, (202) 887-6791 for a term of ten years until June 30, 2016. The goals of the program are published in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook found at <http://conhs.tamucc.edu>.

Texas Board of Nursing (BON) requires disclosure of criminal history or disciplinary action and an FBI background check before licensure is granted. In order to promote the safety of the clients in their care and to meet the requirements of the BON and affiliated clinical agencies, students will complete the background check before acceptance to the program is granted. See the BON web site www.bne.state.tx.us for the statutes and rules regulating licensure.

Admission Requirements

Procedures and requirements for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing Program are provided below.

1. A prospective student must complete an application to the University for admission to graduate study and to the MSN Program for degree student status. Application should be made through the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. (See the "Admission" section of the catalog.)

2. An applicant must have a satisfactory grade point average (4.0 scale): 3.00 GPA on the last 60 semester hours.
3. Evidence of current unencumbered Texas licensure as a registered nurse is required of each student.
4. Except as noted below, a baccalaureate nursing degree from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school of nursing is required. An applicant from a non-accredited program will be considered on an individual basis and will be required to submit the following credentials at the time of application: (a) course descriptions of nursing courses and clinical experiences, and (b) a letter from the dean stating progress being made toward accreditation.
5. A personal interview is optional. It may be initiated by the student or the Nursing Program.
6. Degree students who are registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees in disciplines other than nursing and who meet all other requirements for admission into the MSN degree program are required to enroll in 21 hours of undergraduate courses designated as follows:

MATH 2342	Statistics for Physical and Life Sciences	3 sem. hrs.
NURS 3435	Health Assessment	4 sem. hrs.
NURS 4318	Nurse as Research Consumer	3 sem. hrs.
NURS 4671	Leadership/Management	6 sem. hrs.
NURS 4560	Nursing Care of Community	5 sem. hrs.

These students may apply for admission to the MSN program during the last 12 semester hours of the prescribed BSN course work and must meet all MSN admission requirements.

7. Requests for exceptions from GPA or other admission requirements, supported by evidence of extenuating circumstances, will be considered by the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee, but only after an official Application for Admission has been filed. Such considerations for exceptions will be based on the individual student's experience and work performance since graduation; the academic record since graduation, if one exists; the student's motivation to continue career education; written statements submitted as part of the admission procedure regarding long and short term goals; and the student's anticipated change in his/her nursing role as a result of this educational experience.
8. As an exception to the requirements of the University transfer-of-credit policy, academic credit from non-regionally accredited entities may be considered if all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. The student for whom credit is being considered has been accepted into the Master of Science in Nursing program,
 - b. The credit is directly applicable to graduate nurse specialty courses,
 - c. The credit is offered from an educational program that is professionally accredited, and this accreditation is recognized by the Department of Education,
 - d. The courses have been reviewed by the Graduate Program Coordinator and forwarded with recommendation through the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences to the Director of Admissions and Records,
 - e. The number of transferred semester hours from all such sources above will not exceed 12 semester hours, and
 - f. The transfer and use of such credits meets all University requirements except where noted above.

After due consideration, as noted above, the Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee may permit a student who wishes to pursue the Master of Science in Nursing degree, but does not meet the requirements for admission to the Graduate Nursing Program, to enroll on a conditional status. Graduate nursing students enrolled in this status must take

the nursing core courses and will be excluded from enrolling in any other graduate courses. Conditional degree-seeking students must earn a grade of B or better in each of the prescribed courses. If a grade of less than B is earned during the period the student is registered under this classification, the student will be prohibited from further enrollment in the Graduate Nursing Program. The student may reapply after 12 consecutive months. Only one readmission will be considered. Students who successfully complete the 12 semester hours of prescribed courses will be admitted as regular Degree-Seeking students. Students pursuing the RN-MSN option are not eligible for enrollment under the conditional admission status.

Admission Requirements for the RN-MSN Option

Registered nurses who have earned a diploma or associate degree in nursing and who meet all other requirements for admission into the MSN degree program are eligible to apply for this entrance option. Articulation agreements exist between A&M-Corpus Christi and associate degree nursing programs. Equivalency tables are available showing which general education and nursing courses will be accepted for transfer.

RN-MSN students complete the standard course work in the MSN program. In addition, the RN-MSN student must also:

1. Complete an associate degree in nursing or diploma in a nursing program from an accredited transferring college or university,
2. Successfully pass the registered nurse licensure examination and have an unencumbered nursing license,
3. Complete 58 credit hours of designated general education and support courses in accordance with the A&M-Corpus Christi University Core Curriculum transfer policy requirements and the Baccalaureate in Nursing Degree requirements for prescribed support courses, as specified in the Undergraduate Catalog,
4. Achieve a GPA of 3.00 (4.00 scale) prior to admission.

Prior to beginning master's level course work, the student will complete the following prescribed course work:

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------|
| 1. NURS 3435 | Health Assessment- may complete through Challenge Examination | 3 sem. hrs. |
| 2. NURS 4324 | Nurse as Caregiver -may complete through Challenge Examination | 3 sem. hrs. |
| 3. NURS 4560 | Nursing Care of Community | 5 sem. hrs. |
| 4. NURS 4671 | Leadership/Management | 6 sem. hrs. |
| 5. NURS 4318 | Nurse as Research Consumer | 3 sem. hrs. |

During the first semester of master's level course work, the student must enroll in NURS 5302, Nursing as a Discipline and a Profession. In order to progress in the track, students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average. The student may convert to the RN-BSN track if unable to maintain the accelerated pace. If a dual purpose course has been completed at the time a student moves to the RN-BSN track, that course will satisfy the undergraduate requirement. If a challenge examination has been successful, the results may be transferred to the RN-BSN track. If the challenge examination results are not successful, the student will move to the RN-BSN track and take the course in question. The student may not reenter the RN-MSN track.

Post-Masters-Certification-Only Students automatically will be considered to have completed the MSN core courses based on the completion of the master's degree.

Non-degree-seeking students. Non-degree status is designated for the student who wants to enroll in graduate course work to meet unique personal or career goals that do not lead to a graduate degree or certification. Colleges may place restrictions on the enrollment of students admitted in this status. Students must see a nursing advisor and the dean to discuss their educational career goals.

Program Requirements for all Nursing Graduate Students

The following program requirements apply to all nursing graduate students upon admission and throughout program of study.

1. Evidence of current unencumbered Texas licensure as a registered nurse is required of each student.
2. Students are required to complete a criminal background check through the College of Nursing and Health Sciences prior to beginning any clinical courses.
3. Students are required to purchase professional liability coverage through the University. Fees for this coverage are included in the fees paid at the time of registration at the beginning of each academic year.
4. The Texas Department of State Health Services has specific immunization requirements for students involved with direct patient contact. Students who are not in compliance with these requirements will not be allowed to attend clinical laboratories. These requirements, as stated in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 97, Subchapter B, Rule 97.64 include the following:
 - a) "Students may be provisionally enrolled for up to one semester to allow students to attend classes while obtaining the required vaccines and acceptable evidence of vaccination."
 - b) "Students cannot be provisionally enrolled without at least one dose of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine if direct patient contact will occur during the provisional enrollment period."
 - c) "Polio vaccine is not required. Students enrolled in health-related courses are encouraged to ascertain that they are immune to poliomyelitis."
 - d) "One dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td) is required within the last ten years."
 - e) "Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of two doses of measles-containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968."
 - f) "Students must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of rubella vaccine."
 - g) "Students born on or after January 1, 1957, must show, prior to patient contact, acceptable evidence of vaccination of one dose of mumps vaccine."
 - h) "Students shall receive a complete series of hepatitis B vaccine prior to the start of direct patient care or show serologic confirmation of immunity to hepatitis B virus."
 - i) "Students shall receive two doses of varicella vaccine unless the first dose was received prior to thirteen years of age."

For additional information, please see the Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part 1,

Chapter 97, Subchapter B, which is accessible at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/index.shtml>.

Please note that some agencies have stricter requirements than the state minimum standards.

Rule 97.65 lists the following exceptions to the immunization requirements:

- a) "Serologic confirmations of immunity to measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella are acceptable. Evidence of measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, or varicella illness must consist of a laboratory report that indicates either confirmation of immunity or infection."
 - b) "A parent or physician validated history of varicella disease (chickenpox) or varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of vaccine. A written statement from a physician or the student's parent or guardian, or school nurse, must support histories of varicella disease."
5. Results of tuberculosis screening is required annually.

6. Students must successfully complete (with a grade of “C” or above) a course in statistics.
7. Current American Heart Association CPR Type C certification is required.
8. Health insurance coverage is highly recommended as neither the university nor clinical agencies are held responsible for emergency/health care arising from a laboratory assignment. (See University Student Handbook.)

Graduation Requirements

A. Course work	Semester Hours
Core Courses	12
Nursing Specialty Courses	25-39
Thesis Option	(4-7)
Total: 37-57 credits required	

B. Thesis

Students may negotiate to complete a thesis in lieu of a capstone course in some majors. Other students may choose to enroll in an additional 6 semester hours in order to complete a thesis. Each student in the thesis track must take a final oral exam during the last semester. The student’s graduate committee will administer the exam. It will cover topics related to the thesis as well as broad aspects of nursing. The student is responsible for scheduling the exam with the faculty involved. A student who fails the final oral exam may repeat it once, but may not repeat the exam until after an interval of four months or more. If a student fails the second oral examination, she/he will be terminated from the program.

Progression, Retention, and Dismissal

1. Students must repeat a course in which they earn a D, F, or W (Withdrawal) and may be placed on scholastic probation if their GPA falls below 3.0 because of the D, F, or W.
2. Scholastic probation status will be removed in accordance with university policy. (See Scholastic Probation and Enforced Withdrawal in this catalog.)
3. Students earning a grade of D, F, W or I (Incomplete) may not progress to courses for which that course is a prerequisite.
4. Students who earn a third C or below in the program cannot progress further and are required to withdraw from the program.
5. Administration and faculty reserve the right to dismiss students without previous warning for unsafe and/or unprofessional behavior. The conduct of nursing students should meet ethical standards as defined by the American Nurses Association (ANA) in the Code for Nurses. Personal integrity is reflected in professional judgments. Consequently, the College of Nursing and Health Sciences reserves the right to dismiss students from the program for unprofessional or unsafe behavior. (See College of Nursing and Health Sciences Student Handbook for examples: <http://conhs.tamucc.edu/nursingstuhandbook/index.htm>).
6. Reapplication can be considered after 12 consecutive months following withdrawal or dismissal. Readmission is competitive and based upon availability of space in the program.

Students must meet the standards for minimal performance and progression established by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. (See catalog section on Graduate Academic and Degree Requirements.)

Advising

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this catalog. Students are advised, however, that such information is subject to change without notice. Therefore, students should consult with their Nursing faculty advisors each semester prior to registration. Students should be aware that on campus, teleconferenced, and web courses are offered upon sufficient demand and faculty availability.

A student is assigned an academic advisor and together a program is planned according to the student’s academic, occupational and family needs. The faculty member and student work together until the student graduates. If for any reason the academic advisor-student assignment is not effective, either one can request that the dean assign another academic advisor.

Curriculum

Core Graduate Nursing Courses (12 sem. hrs.)

The core nursing courses consist of graduate-level study of the scientific knowledge that comprises the discipline and profession of nursing, and prepares the student for advanced nursing practice.

NURS 5310	Science in Nursing	3
NURS 5314	Research Design in Nursing	3
NURS 5315	Diverse Health Care Environments	3
NURS 5316	Introduction to Advanced Practice Role Development	3
	Total	12

Role Specialization

The student selects role specialization in advanced nursing practice or nursing leadership. A capstone course (identified below) is required for each specialization. The following courses are required for each specialization:

Leadership in Nursing Systems

NURS 5331	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 5360	Health Care Financial Management / or HCAD 5325	3
NURS 5362	Leadership Theories in Nursing Practice	3
NURS 5364	Organizational Design and Behavior in Nursing Practice Environments	3
NURS 5365	Quality and Outcomes Management	3
NURS 5469	Patterns of Care Delivery (Capstone Course)	4
HCAD 5320	Health Economics and Policy	3
HCAD 5330	Health Law and Ethics	3
	Total	25

Note: The program of study for Leadership in Nursing Systems Role Specialization is currently under revision. The revisions will be implemented to insure compliance with professional standards for these advanced practice roles and board requirements for certification examinations. Contact your academic advisor for the most current program of study.

Roles in advanced nursing practice include clinical nurse specialist or family nurse practitioner.

Clinical Nurse Specialist in Adult Medical-Surgical Nursing

NURS 5322	Advanced Pharmacological Concepts	3
NURS 5326	Advanced Physiology with Pathophysiological Applications	3
NURS 5331	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 5341	Wellness and Health Promotion	3
NURS 5624	Advanced Health Assessment and Differential Diagnosis	6
NURS 5633	Advanced Clinical Specialty I	6
NURS 5634	Advanced Clinical Specialty II	6
NURS 5639	Special Practicum in Advanced Practice: CNS (Capstone Course)	6
	Total	36

Family Nurse Practitioner Specialization

NURS 5322	Advanced Pharmacological Concepts	3
NURS 5323	Finance for the Nurse Practitioner	3
NURS 5341	Wellness and Health Promotion	3
NURS 5624	Advanced Health Assessment and Differential Diagnosis	6

NURS 5326	Advanced Physiology with Pathophysiological Applications	3
NURS 5644	Management of Acute and Chronic Illness I	6
NURS 5645	Management of Acute and Chronic Illness II	6
NURS 5746	Integrated Clinical Practice: FNP (Capstone Course)	7
	Total	37

The following courses may be modified for students in specialty areas who hold a master's or post master's and current national certification(s) to practice as an Adult Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, or Women's Health Nurse Practitioner:

NURS 5341	Wellness and Health Promotion
NURS 5644	Management of Acute and Chronic Illness I
NURS 5645	Management of Acute and Chronic Illness II
NURS 5746	Integrated Clinical Practicum

Minor Area of Study

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences offers three minor areas of study that provide students with a secondary specialization focus. The courses that constitute the minors are taken in addition to the courses required for the role specialization.

Nurse Educator

NURS 5352	Nursing Curriculum Planning and Development	3
NURS 5353	Theory and Concepts for Nurse Educator	3
NURS 5354	Classroom and Clinical Nursing for Educators	3
NURS 5459	Application of Instructional Methods and Strategies in Teaching of Nursing	4
	Total	13

Minor Area of Study, Nurse Educator/Post Masters Certificate Program Statement:

The 13 credits within the Education Minor/Post Masters Certificate program prepare nurses for teaching positions in academic and clinical education. Emphasis is on instruction in curriculum, program and course design, development, and evaluation. Focus is also placed on theory and concepts for the development of the nurse educator role. A laboratory experience consisting of teaching instruction in the academic or clinical area provides students with the opportunity to apply theory to classroom or clinical environments. The education minor/post masters certificate meets the curricular requirements for students to sit for the National League of Nursing Certified Nurse Educator Certification Examination.

Leadership in Nursing Systems

NURS 5360	Healthcare Financial Management	3
NURS 5362	Leadership Theories in Nursing Practice	3
NURS 5364	Organizational Design and Behavior in Nursing Practice Environments	3
NURS 5365	Quality and Outcomes Management	3
	Total	12

Nurse Researcher

NURS 5370	Grant Writing	3
NURS 5371	Research Ethics	3
NURS 5372	Clinical Trials	3
NURS 5398	Graduate Research or Project	3
	Total	12

Thesis Option

The thesis option is available for those students interested in pursuing scholarly investigation of a research proposal topic.

NURS 5399	Thesis	3
-----------	--------	---

Graduate nursing courses are listed in the following section.

For Additional Information

Web site: <http://www.conhs.tamucc.edu>

Campus address: Faculty Center, Room 161, phone (361) 825-5794

Mailing address: College of Nursing and Health Sciences

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412-5805

GRADUATE COURSES

The number of weekly lecture and laboratory hours associated with each course are designated by (lecture:lab) following the course semester hours. One lab hour = 3 contact hours. Additional laboratory work may be required to complete assignments. All courses involving labs will require appropriate fees.

NURS 5302. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

NURSING AS A DISCIPLINE AND A PROFESSION

Focuses on evaluation of the discipline and profession of nursing. The course is designed as a bridge course for students transitioning from the technical level of nursing to the professional practice of nursing at an advanced level. Emphasis is on integration of prior learning experiences with an expanded philosophical and theoretical understanding of the discipline and profession of nursing. Prerequisite: Admission to the RN-MSN track; successful challenge of NURS 4324, 3335.

NURS 5310. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

SCIENCE IN NURSING

Exploration of the historical development and rationale of nursing theory. Examination of selected theories and conceptual frameworks, and their relationship to nursing practice and research. Emphasis is on the utilization of theories and models in nursing as a basis for a practice that provides a caring, comprehensive, and holistic approach to health care within a transcultural society.

NURS 5314. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

RESEARCH DESIGN IN NURSING

Study of intermediate and advanced aspects of research designs and methods relevant to investigation of nursing problems. Emphasis on investigation in clinical practice to advance nursing knowledge. Prerequisite: Statistics and introductory research course.

NURS 5315. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

DIVERSE HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENTS

This course provides theoretical, research, and practice foundations for analyzing, providing, organizing, and facilitating health care congruent with consumer and community culture and needs. Health-related problems of various populations, including but not limited to, the homeless, rural and urban poor, and other selected subcultures are considered.

NURS 5316. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

INTRODUCTION TO ADVANCED PRACTICE ROLE DEVELOPMENT

The course focuses on the development of knowledge and skills necessary for advanced practice. This includes, but is not limited to, negotiation, collaboration, crisis intervention, peer review, leadership, ethics, accountability and basic finances in advanced practice. Parameters of practice within various health care systems are integrated.

NURS 5322. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

Study of pharmacotherapeutics across the life span with emphasis on clinical decision-making. Laws governing Advanced Practice Nurses' prescriptive privileges are included when appropriate. Discussion is based on current literature, research findings and case studies. Prerequisite or co-requisite: NURS 5326.

NURS 5323. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

FINANCE FOR THE NURSE PRACTITIONER

Study of fiscal aspects of private practice, when to seek the services of a lawyer, analysis of and monitoring the cost-effectiveness of clinical decisions, the design of payment systems, fiscal management, and developing collaborative and interdependent relationships. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5326. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

ADVANCED PHYSIOLOGY WITH PATHOPHYSIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS

Normal physiology and pathologic mechanisms of disease that serve as the foundation for clinical assessment, decision making and management in advanced practice nursing. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5331. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

NURSING INFORMATICS

An introduction to the application of computers in nursing. Focuses on concepts and terminology related to computer technology, information management and their use in nursing leadership, nursing education, nursing practice, and nursing research. Designed for graduate students. Prerequisite: Computer Literacy.

NURS 5341. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

WELLNESS AND HEALTH PROMOTION

A study of the complex integration of knowledge, research, and theory essential to developing clinical competence in the teaching-coaching function of the Advanced Practice Nurses. Selected models of health promotion, risk factors and early disease detection are explored. The course emphasizes the importance of situational, cultural, developmental, and individual perspectives in implementing disease prevention/health promotion activities. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5352. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

NURSING CURRICULUM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Explores philosophies of nursing, characteristics of nursing curriculum and guidelines for development,

implementation and evaluation of nursing curriculums.
Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5353. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

THEORY AND CONCEPTS FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR

Focuses on the functional roles of the nurse educator: clinician, educator, consultant, change agent, and investigator. The concepts of role, change, curriculum development, instructional strategies, and evaluation methods are emphasized. Theories related to learning will be explored. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5354. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

CLASSROOM AND CLINICAL EVALUATION FOR THE NURSE EDUCATOR

Focuses on development of evaluation measures for judging student performance in the classroom and clinical laboratory. Emphasis will be on writing objectives that represent the affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains and criteria representing clinical behaviors, construction and use of tests. Prerequisite: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5360. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

HEALTH CARE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Overview of concepts, principles and uses of basic accounting and budgeting information for the health care manager. Focuses on providing the nurse administrator with a basis for understanding the fiscal status of a health care organization. This course is cross-listed with HCAD 5325. For Graduate Nursing Students-Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5362. 3 sem. hrs. (2:3)

LEADERSHIP THEORIES IN NURSING PRACTICE

Examines the relationship of leadership and management theory and processes to nursing practice in both urban and rural health care settings. The independent and interdependent functions of the nurse leader at various levels of decision making are identified and analyzed. Concepts basic to organizational functioning and role relationships within a transcultural framework are considered. A clinical laboratory experience provides students opportunities to analyze the effectiveness of leadership behaviors. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5364. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN & BEHAVIOR IN NURSING PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTS

Focuses on the application and utilization of the theories, concepts and principles of organizational design and behavior in nursing leadership. Includes major theoretical viewpoints from organizational dynamics and processes, and their employment in nursing leadership environments. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5365. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

QUALITY AND OUTCOMES MANAGEMENT

Examines conceptual models of quality and their application to the management and evaluation of quality of care across health care settings. The role of outcomes measurement as a major indicator of quality of care is emphasized. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5370. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

GRANT WRITING

The course reviews differences and opportunities in foundation and governmental grants. The student is provided with the skills to search for appropriate grants and practice in the process of writing a grant.

NURS 5371. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

RESEARCH ETHICS

The course is an overview of ethical principles as applied to research. Historical and legal perspectives of research ethics are applied to current concepts of such principles as (but not limited to) informed consent and handling of data.

NURS 5372. 3 sem. hrs. (3:0)

CLINICAL TRIALS

The course provides the student the experience of the integration of research and design principles into conducting a research study. The student will begin the course with a written proposal submitted to the IRB and conclude with pilot data collection.

NURS 5390. 1-3 sem. hrs.

TOPICS IN ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE

In-depth study of various leadership and clinical nursing practice areas. May be repeated when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

NURS 5391. 1-3 sem. hrs.

SEMINAR IN NURSING

In-depth study and discussion of various topics relevant to nursing. May be repeated when topics vary. Offered on sufficient demand.

NURS 5396. 1-3 sem. hrs.

DIRECTED INDEPENDENT STUDY

Area of study interest. Requires the permission of the Dean before registration.

NURS 5398. 1-3 sem. hrs.

GRADUATE RESEARCH OR PROJECT

Proposal development, project implementation or independent research under the direction of major professor. Students who have completed all requirements toward the Master of Science in Nursing degree except the thesis must enroll in this course each semester of the regular academic year under the direction of major professor. May be repeated a maximum of four times.

NURS 5399. 3 sem. hrs.

THESIS

Independent research under the direction of a faculty member. Credit will not be recorded until thesis is accepted by the thesis committee.

NURS 5459. 4 sem. hrs. (1:9)

APPLICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND STRATEGIES IN TEACHING OF NURSING

Provides opportunities to design, implement, and evaluate learning experiences in nursing education settings such as nursing academia, staff development, and/or continuing education. Emphasis is on the application of teaching, learning, and evaluation strategies in various clinical settings. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5352, 5353, 5354.

NURS 5469. 4 sem. hrs. (1:9)

PATTERNS OF CARE DELIVERY

Appraisal of various patterns of care delivery that develop in response to the evolving and increasingly

complex resources in the health care delivery system. Students will complete a project evaluating the management and delivery of the continuum of care in one or more health care organizations. Students must earn a B or better grade to earn credit for this course. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5362, 5364, HCAD 5325 or NURS 5360, HCAD 5320, 5330. Capstone Course.

NURS 5624 **6 sem. hrs. (4:6)**

ADVANCED HEALTH ASSESSMENT AND DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

Study and practice of complex skills for comprehensive health assessment with focus on differentiation and interpretation of normal and abnormal findings across the lifespan. Focus extends to developing a comprehensive database to establish a list of differential diagnoses. Includes radiology, EKGs and common office tests performed in primary practice. Oral and written communication of findings in a collaborative relationship with other healthcare providers is emphasized. Variables related to rural and multicultural populations are incorporated into the total assessment. Students increase knowledge of anatomy, physiology, and communication skills. The clinical component of the course provides opportunity to interpret as well as practice complex assessment techniques. Students perform basic office tests and interpret other laboratory and diagnostic data as part of the assessment process. Prerequisite: Undergraduate health assessment course or BSN Level Competency Health Assessment Check-off for RN-MSN students. All Nursing Core Courses.

NURS 5633 **6 sem. hrs. (3:9)**

ADVANCED CLINICAL SPECIALTY I

During this course students will develop and apply the Clinical Nurse Specialist roles of: expert clinician, educator, researcher, change agent and consultant to provide evidenced-based advanced practice nursing care to Medical-Surgical patients requiring complex care who are experiencing alterations in cardiac, respiratory, endocrine systems, and fluid and electrolyte imbalances. Students will develop and implement interventions that improve patient outcomes. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5341, NURS 5326, and NURS 5624 or permission of instructor.

NURS 5634 **6 sem. hrs. (3:9)**

ADVANCED CLINICAL SPECIALTY II

This course is a continuation of Nursing 5633, Advanced Clinical Specialty I. During this course students will develop and apply the Clinical Nurse Specialist roles of: expert clinician, educator, researcher, change agent and consultant to provide evidenced-based advanced practice nursing care to Medical-Surgical patients requiring complex care in immune, hematological, neurological, and muscular-skeletal systems. Students will develop and implement interventions that improve patient outcomes. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5341, NURS 5326, NURS 5624, NURS 5633 or permission of instructor.

NURS 5639 **6 sem. hrs. (1:15)**

SPECIAL PRACTICUM ADVANCED PRACTICE

This course provides an environment for the graduate nursing student to practice in the unique roles of the clinical nurse specialist (CNS). Emphasis is placed on the CNS roles of advanced clinical practitioner, researcher, case manager, administrator, and educator. Opportunities are provided for the student to critically analyze and implement the CNS role in identified areas of professional interest. Students must earn a B or better grade to earn credit for this course. Prerequisites: All Nursing Core Courses, NURS 5334. Capstone Course.

NURS 5644 **6 sem. hrs. (3:9)**

MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC ILLNESS I

Study of clinical management of commonly occurring acute and chronic conditions in primary health care settings across the lifespan. Content includes study of symptom complexes, pathophysiology, epidemiology, clinical management, and prevention of complications. Emphasis is on symptom analysis, diagnostic reasoning, differential diagnosis, and prescription of therapeutic regimens. Attention is given to research-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments, and integration of nursing, developmental, family and transcultural theories to the diagnostic and management process. The clinical practice provides the opportunity for the student to perform comprehensive and episodic assessments, practice advanced skills in health assessment, diagnose commonly occurring illnesses, and suggest treatments under supervision in urban/rural communities. Prerequisites: NURS 5322, NURS 5323, NURS 5341, and NURS 5624.

NURS 5645 **6 sem. hrs. (3:9)**

MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE AND CHRONIC ILLNESS II

Continued study of the clinical management of commonly occurring acute and chronic conditions in primary health care settings across the life span. Emphasis is on symptom analysis, diagnostic reasoning, differential diagnosis, and prescription of therapeutic regimens. The clinical practice provides the opportunity for the students to perform comprehensive and episodic assessments, practice advanced skills in health assessment, diagnose commonly occurring illness, and suggest treatments under supervision. Prerequisite: NURS 5644.

NURS 5746 **7 sem. hrs. (1:90)**

INTEGRATED CLINICAL PRACTICE: FNP

Continued study of assessment and clinical management of selected health problems frequently seen in primary health care. The clinical portion provides for the development of clinical competence as the student integrates previously acquired knowledge into the enactment of the multiple roles for the nurse practitioner, and allows for a greater degree of interdependent practice based on the student's abilities and progress. Student may work with a preceptor in multicultural and rural communities. Students must earn a B or better grade to earn credit for this course. Prerequisite: NURS 5645. Capstone Course.