



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING WITH A CONCENTRATION IN PUBLIC HEALTH – ACCELERATED RN-MSN (MSNPHA)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This graduate degree in nursing will provide students with the academic knowledge, skills, and expertise in health promotion, including healthy living, disease prevention, epidemiology, communication, environmental science, public health policy, leadership, and evidence-based practice. Graduates will begin to integrate health promotion and prevention to analyze, understand, and collaborate with community health partners to address population health issues. This online program consists of core courses, specialty concentration courses, and clinical courses. This program is for licensed registered nurses (current, unrestricted license) with an Associate Nursing degree interested in advancing their careers to become a public health nurse.

Prior to enrollment, individuals considering a Master of Science in Nursing program should check with their applicable state board of nursing before enrolling in any graduate nursing program for any specific state requirements.

Students enrolled in this program are not eligible to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

CORE MSN PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this program, the student should be able to:

1. Integrate scientific evidence from nursing and biopsychosocial disciplines, genetics, public health, quality improvement, and organizational sciences when designing and implementing outcome measures in diverse settings and through the lifespan.
2. Demonstrate leadership skills that emphasize ethical and critical decision-making, fiscal responsibility, inter-professional relationships that promote safe, quality care within a systems framework.
3. Apply methods, tools, performance measures, and evidence-based standards when evaluating quality indicators within an organizational system.
4. Synthesize theories, models and research findings inherent to nursing practice, education and management to guide an organization or healthcare system towards achieving successful outcomes.
5. Apply client/patient care technologies and informatics to coordinate and ensure safe quality care and promote effective communication among members of the inter-professional healthcare team.
6. Analyze ethical, legal and sociocultural factors to influence policy development and healthcare delivery systems that promote the health of individuals and populations.
7. Articulate a leadership role within inter-professional teams through effective communication, collaboration and consultation with other professionals to manage, coordinate care and provide safe, quality family-centered and population-based care.
8. Incorporate organizational and culturally sensitive client and population centered concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of direct and indirect evidence-based health promotion care and services to specified individuals, families and populations.
9. Implement scholarly activities in selected individuals, populations, and systems.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are expected to meet all the core MSN program outcomes as well as the Public Health program outcomes. Upon completion of this program, the student should be able to:

1. Develop health promotion and prevention strategies.
2. Describe the impact of cultural humility on client care in a public health role.
3. Analyze the impact of policy on the planning and delivery of care.
4. Coordinate population-based care in a public health role.
5. Integrate epidemiology into population-based practice.

6. Implement the role of the public health nurse in a variety of settings.

CONDITIONAL ENROLLMENT FOR MSN

A student who has earned a BSN degree, but has not received licensure results may be conditionally admitted to the MSN program. A student who is admitted conditionally must sign an acknowledgement that they must provide evidence of a current, active, and unrestricted license as a registered nurse in the state in which they live by the end of the first 8-week session. Failure to provide evidence by the last day of the session will result in the student being unregistered from the MSN program. All grades will be expunged, and federal funds will be returned. A student who subsequently completes the licensure requirement may re-apply for admission, however may be required to repeat the previously attempted coursework.

PROGRAM CONTENT

A minimum of 52.00 semester credit hours is required for graduation.

REQUIRED BRIDGE COURSES

All courses, 16.00 semester credit hours, are required prior to completing graduate level coursework.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
EN 304	English Composition II	EN 104, EN 111	3.00
MA 320	Statistics	MA 109	3.00
NSG 321	Advanced Leadership and Management	None	3.00
NSG 323	Community and Public Health Nursing	None	5.00
NU 480	Dimensions of Advanced Nursing Practice	None	2.00

REQUIRED CORE COURSES

All courses, 15.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
HA 610	Health Policy and Management	BU 530 or NU 560	3.00
NU 500	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing	None	3.00
NU 525	Technology and Nursing Informatics in Advanced Practice	None	3.00
NU 530	Organizational Systems and Behaviors	None	3.00
NU 560	Research Methods and Evidence-Based Practice	MA 320 or equivalent	3.00

REQUIRED DIRECT CARE COURSES

All courses, 9.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
NU 610	Advanced Health Assessment	NU 500, NU 560	3.00
NU 621	Advanced Pathophysiology	NU 500, NU 560	3.00
NU 636	Advanced Pharmacology	NU 500, NU 560	3.00

REQUIRED COURSES IN PUBLIC HEALTH CONCENTRATION

All courses, 12.00 semester credit hours, are required.

Course Number	Course Name	Prerequisites/Corequisites	Semester Credit Hours
NU 655	Foundations of Public Health Nursing	NU 500, NU 560	3.00
NU 656	Public Health Nursing Advocacy and Policy	None/NU 655	3.00
NU 657	Public Health Promotion and Education Clinical	None/NU 656	3.00
NU 658	Professional Practice in Public Health Nursing Clinical	NU 657	3.00

Distribution of Clock Hours by Course				
Course Number	Lecture Hours	Clinical Hours	Total Clock Hours	Credits
EN 304	45.00		45.00	3.00
MA 320	45.00		45.00	3.00
NSG 321	45.00		45.00	3.00
NSG 323	60.00	45.00	105.00	5.00
NU 480	30.00		30.00	2.00
HA 610	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 500	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 525	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 530	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 560	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 610	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 621	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 636	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 655	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 656	45.00		45.00	3.00
NU 657	30.00	45.00	75.00	3.00
NU 658	15.00	90.00	105.00	3.00
Totals	720.00	180.00	900.00	52.00

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR NEW COURSES

NU 655 Foundations of Public Health Nursing

This course introduces students to public health nursing roles and responsibilities. Students will explore historical influences in public health nursing practice and analyze public health impacts in a variety of settings. Students will review epidemiological methods of data analysis in conjunction with health promotion frameworks to develop health promotion activities. Students will explore population health promotion frameworks and identify strategies to develop a health promotion project proposal for a select population.

NU 656 Public Health Nursing Advocacy and Policy

This course introduces students to the unique advocacy role in public health nursing practice. Students will explore policy and regulatory activities that impact populations and identify strategies to include stakeholder preferences in health promotion planning. Students will identify the impact of policies on disparate health outcomes and evaluate interventions to improve population-based outcomes. Students will develop communication strategies to enforce public health regulatory activities that contribute to the health and safety of a select population.

NU 657 Public Health Promotion and Education Clinical

This course focuses on health disparities in various populations and regions, including globally. Students will explore environmental influences that impact populations and identify public health activities that mitigate population health risks. Students will explore community engagement strategies and demonstrate ethical public health nursing practice with a population of interest. Students will focus on demonstrating competency in public health nursing standards while designing a health promotion project. In addition, contemporary topics focused on the impact of environmental and global justice will be explored.

NU 658 Professional Practice in Public Health Nursing Clinical

This course focuses on integrating concepts learned in previous courses and applying them through a clinical experience working directly with a population of interest. Students will collaborate with diverse stakeholders to develop and present a health promotion project plan that reflects stakeholder needs. Students will evaluate the efficacy of the project plan and revise based upon stakeholder input. Students will complete a professional practice appraisal and identify strategies to achieve career goals in alignment with public health nursing practice standards.