



CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM INFORMATION BOOKLET



Overview

The Department of Nursing is committed to providing excellence in nursing education that prepares nurses to integrate critical thinking to solve diverse patient care issues, embrace diversity, integrate evidence-based nursing care and demonstrate professional standards in nursing practice. The nursing department seeks to develop collaborative partnerships and innovation in nursing education, scholarship, practice and service. Student responsibility for participation in learning is fostered through the utilization of contemporary teaching methodologies. Student professional growth and development as an exemplary life-long learner, member of the profession, and accountable advocate are emphasized throughout the program.

Mission – Building upon the mission, vision and guiding principles of Claflin University, the department's mission is to use disciplined study to explore and confront the substantive challenges facing the global society to provide students with education to enhance their skills to improve health and well-being of the community and beyond, and to enhance job marketability to meet global health needs; emphasizing critical and analytic thinking and the knowledge to serve in health care settings with diverse populations.

General Objectives:

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program at Claflin University, graduates will be able to:

1. critique, evaluate, and synthesize theoretical or scientific findings from nursing and other relevant fields for continual improvement of nursing care across diverse settings. (EMEN* - I)
2. demonstrate leadership in ethical and clinical decision-making using a system's perspective to apply quality principles within an organization. (EMEN - II, III)
3. apply research outcomes within the practice setting, resolves practice problems, and disseminates result. (EMEN - IV)
4. communicate, collaborate, and consult with other health professionals to manage and coordinate care integrating patient-care technologies in care coordination. (EMEN - V, VII)
5. provide holistic care in an advanced specialty nursing practice respectful of a client's cultural, spiritual, ethnic, and gender diversity, within an increasingly global, multicultural society. (EMEN -VIII, IX)
6. employ advocacy and health policy strategies to influence health care. (EMEN - VI)

*EMEN – The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (Published by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2011)

Target Population: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates seeking advanced practice or leadership specific roles in nursing and healthcare.

Course Delivery: Online, clinical learning and onsite clinical intensives.

Admissions

1. Application submitted to the Office of Admissions accompanied by the appropriate application fee (please see [Admissions](#) website), which is neither deductible nor refundable. The application for admission and supporting credentials must be received

in the Office of Admissions by the published deadline. Materials submitted in support of this application cannot be returned.

2. Possession of a four-year US (or equivalent) Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing degree with at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA from an accredited college or university with national nursing accreditation.
3. Official transcripts of all previous academic work attempted beyond high school. Transfer credit posted on the records of other institutions is unacceptable and official transcripts of these credits must be supplied.
4. Official copies of Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for International Students. A score of 80 or higher (550 or higher prior to 2007) will be required.
5. Three letters of recommendation from former professors/ instructors or professionals qualified to comment on the applicant's graduate study potential. (i.e. past or present employers and/or past faculty members).
6. A 300-500-word essay describing the applicant's objective in undertaking graduate study.
7. A current resume or Curricula Vitae (CV).
8. Verification of unencumbered RN licensure and BLS certification

Curriculum Requirements

Students must complete the prescribed program of study (POS) to complete the MSN. A sample POS follows:

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Curriculum

Students enrolled in the MSN program must take all courses listed under track-specific requirements to complete degree requirements. Courses are listed below in numerical order and on pages 5 and 6 using the program of study order that the courses should be taken to graduate in a timely manner.

MSN – Family Nurse Practitioner Curriculum Required Courses for Degree Completion

Course Number, Name, and Credit Hours

NURS501: Advanced Pharmacology 3
NURS502: Advanced Pathophysiology 3
NURS503: Health Policy, Ethics, and Legal Issues* 3
NURS504: Research Methods and Evidenced Based Practice* 3
NURS505: Organizational Theory and Role Transition 2
NURS506: Theoretical Foundations in Nursing* 3
NURS509: Advanced Health Assessment – Across the Lifespan (50h clinical) 4
NURS511: Advanced Care Management I- Adults – (150h clinical) 5
NURS601: Epidemiology, Population Health, and Related Biostatistical Principles 3
NURS611: Advanced Care Management II- Adults – (150h clinical) 5
NURS614: Advanced Care Management III- Special Populations (pediatrics, geriatrics, women's health) – (6) (200h clinical) 6
NURS617: Role Practicum and Residency -Family Medicine (200h clinical) 6

Program completion = 46 credit hours

*Course taken by all MSN students (both tracks)

MSN – Nursing Leadership/Administrator Curriculum Required Courses for Degree Completion

Course Number: Name and Credit Hours

NURS503: Health Policy, Ethics, and Legal Issues* 3
NURS504: Research Methods and Evidenced Based Practice* 3
NURS506: Theoretical Foundations in Nursing* 3
NURS507: Advanced Nursing Informatics 3
NURS512: Management and Leadership for Nursing Administration 3
NURS513: Quality and Safety in Nursing 3
NURS602: Nursing Management of Human Resources 3
NURS605: Financial Management in Nursing 3
NURS607: Patient Education and Advocacy 3
NURS603: Organizational and Health Systems in Nursing 3
NURS613: Nursing Leadership Practicum 6

Program completion = 36 credit hours

*Course taken by all MSN students (both tracks)

Master of Science (MSN) in Nursing Curriculum

Program of Study – MSN – Family Nurse Practitioner

	CH
Fall - Year 1	
NURS501: Advanced Pharmacology	3
NURS502: Advanced Pathophysiology	3
Spring - Year 1	
NURS509: Advanced Health Assessment – Across the Lifespan (50h clinical)	4
NURS506: Theoretical Foundations in Nursing*	3
Summer - Year 1	
NURS511: Advanced Care Management I- Adults – (150h clinical)	5
NURS504: Research Methods and Evidenced Based Practice*	3
Fall - Year 2	
NURS611: Advanced Care Management II- Adults – (150h clinical)	5
NURS601: Epidemiology, Population Health, and Related Biostatistical Principles	3
Spring - Year 2	
NURS614: Advanced Care Management III- Special Populations (pediatrics, geriatrics, women's health) – (6) (200h clinical)	6
NURS505: Organizational Theory and Role Transition	2
Summer – Year 2	
NURS617: Role Practicum and Residency -Family Medicine (200h clinical)	6
NURS503: Health Policy, Ethics, and Legal Issues*	3

Program completion = 46 credit hours in 24 months

Program of Study – MSN – Nurse Leader/Administrator

Spring – Year 1		CH
NURS506: Theoretical Foundations in Nursing*		3
NURS607: Patient Education and Advocacy		3
NURS605: Financial Management in Nursing		3
Summer – Year 1		
NURS602: Nursing Management of Human Resources		3
NURS512: Management and Leadership for Nursing Administration		3
NURS504: Research Methods and Evidenced Based Practice*		3
Fall – Year 2		
NURS507: Advanced Nursing Informatics		3
NURS513: Quality and Safety in Nursing		3
NURS603: Organizational and Health Systems in Nursing		3
Spring – Year 2		
NURS503: Health Policy, Ethics, and Legal Issues*		3
NURS613: Nursing Leadership Practicum		6
Program completion = 36 credit hours in 18 months		

*Course taken by all MSN students (both tracks)

Course Descriptions

NURS501: Advanced Pathophysiology - This course provides students with advanced content in the examination of pathophysiologic principles and common pathological conditions. The focus of this course will be to explore, analyze, apply and evaluate on commonly occurring episodic, chronic, and genetic conditions across the lifespan. This course will provide a foundation for diagnostic reasoning, clinical screening/diagnostic evaluation, and clinical decision making in the management of disease with the goal on maintenance and attainment of full health potential. *Prerequisite: Admission to the FNP program.* (3CH)

NURS502: Advanced Pharmacology - In this course the student reviews the basic principles of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacotherapeutics of drugs commonly used in disease prevention and management. Methods for screening, risk stratification, and monitoring for clinical effectiveness will be explored. Side effects, contraindications, and toxicities, as well as, factors related to adherence, compliance, and patient education will be discussed. Emphasis is placed on drug selection based on evidence-based rationales for therapeutic choices in combination with the consideration for variables affecting drug selection such as gender, age, reproductive status, and ethno-cultural variation, provider biases, financial, and personal preference. Students will use current clinical based guidelines to plan and promote safe practice for patients with acute and chronic illness across the lifespan. *Prerequisite: Admission to the FNP program.* (3CH)

NURS503: Health Policy and Advocacy*

This course is designed to cultivate an understanding of health care policy formation and evaluation in improving the health of the public. Leadership, ethics, organizational, and communication theories and strategies will be examined in the framework of nursing science for the facilitation of organization change and practice wide initiatives. Will facilitate knowledge of professional integrity and ethical decision making as it pertains to the advanced practice role. The student will evaluate health policy on a local, state, national and global level. Students will explore how research can motivate change in public health and policy making. Students will critically analyze the nurse's role in public policy formation, finance, and politics. Students will participate in implementation of health policy to promote health and prevent disease. (3CH)

NURS504: Research Methods and Evidence Based Practice*

In this course the student will develop and refine research critique skills to methodically approach problems in healthcare. Both quantitative and qualitative research designs will be explored for essential understanding of research elements. Students will conduct a thorough search of literature and critically appraise the evidence in order to formulate a clinical problem/need. Based on this critical appraisal the student will design an evidence-based quality improvement project. (3CH)

NURS505: Organizational Leadership, Role Transition, and Interprofessional Collaboration within Complex Adaptive Systems

- In this course, students will examine the role of the advanced practice nurse as a leader in the clinical, political and research arenas of nursing practice. This course will focus on team building and professional collaboration in order to provide quality care and patient safety. This course will facilitate precision in developing professional provider-patient relationships, adverse organizational cultures, increased provider accountability and responsibility for clinical performance. This course will prepare the student to transition from clinical expert to the advanced practice role. (2CH)

NURS506: Theoretical Foundations in Nursing* - In this course students will analyze and critique nursing theories from natural, behavioral and applied health sciences. The student will demonstrate how nursing theory is applied to research, evidence-based practice, and quality improvement. The focus of this course is to address nursing theories, quality improvement models, and evidence-based practice as they pertain to the quality and safety of healthcare. (3CH)

NURS507: Advanced Nursing Informatics - This course prepares the student to utilize informatics and health care technologies in the management of individuals, groups and organizations for the coordination of patient care and the improvement of patient outcomes. Processes related to selecting and integrating informatics software in various clinical and administrative settings will also be covered. (3CH)

NURS509: Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan - This course expands on prior clinical assessment knowledge with emphasis on detection of abnormalities in physical, psychosocial, behavioral, and genetic assessments. Students will develop complex skills in patient interviewing, history taking, screening, physical exam, and anticipatory guidance. Additional focus will be on completing these complex skills in a fair, inclusive, and respectful manner. Will discuss accurate communication and documentation of the advanced clinical assessment in the setting of nursing informatics and the electronic health record as well as online patient portals, in a timely manner. This course will require an on-campus evaluation of physical exam and documentation skills. *Prerequisite: NURS501 (Advanced Pathophysiology) and NURS502 (Advanced Pharmacology)* (4CH)

NURS511: Advanced Care Management I- Adults (ACM I) - This course will incorporate previously learned advanced health assessment skills and pharmacological principles of prescribing in the adult population to assess, diagnose, and manage common episodic and chronic medical, behavioral, and psychosocial conditions within the context of differing social, cultural, and genetic environments. This course will focus on formulating differential diagnoses based on obtained chief complaints and health history. This course will help to transition from nurse to advanced practice provider. Decision making will be rooted in evidenced based practice and guidelines. Knowledge of health disparities, social determinants of health, epidemiological principles, palliative care and ethical principles will be incorporated to guide comprehensive decision making and care. Focus on provider communication to the patient, family, and interdisciplinary team in terms of referrals, face to face communication and EHR/patient portals will also be discussed. Practicum: will be a precepted experienced working on assessment, diagnosis, and management of patients with both episodic and chronic medical conditions. Requires on campus Intensive. (150 clinical hours) *Prerequisite: NURS501 (Advanced Pathophysiology) and NURS502 (Advanced Pharmacology)* (5CH)

NURS512: Management and Leadership for Nurse Administration – In this course, students develop skills in the areas of leadership and management such as designing, implementing, and evaluating models and programs of care to meet the population or systems' needs. Students explore management of quality, work processes, human resource management, ethical decision making, and assessment of clinical resources from managerial and economic perspectives. Students also examine leadership styles and innovations. (3CH)

NURS513: Quality and Safety in Nursing – The focus of this course is quality and safety competencies to prepare nurse leaders for development and execution of quality improvement and patient safety programs. Students examine issues and concepts such as creating a culture of patient safety and behavioral knowledge and skills in leading interdisciplinary teams. The influence of external forces on quality improvement and patient safety agendas along with health disparities and national and state trends in healthcare will be examined. Student are expected to reshape their professional identity as recommended by the Institute of Medicine (IOM). (3CH)

NURS601: Epidemiology, Population Health, and Related Biostatistical Principles - Students are introduced to statistical principles to explore, analyze, and disseminate aggregate health data. Included are basic statistical principles and procedures to address common nursing issues and guide practice and management as it pertains to evidence-based practice and population-based care. This course will also focus on the variability and disparities in population trends. (3CH)

NURS 602: Nursing Management of Human Resources - This course focuses on incorporating the functions of human resource management in organizations to create a competitive edge through employee empowerment. Core human resource concepts are introduced and applied to optimize human capital within a variety of healthcare settings, including compensations and benefits, employee recognition, and employee/labor relations. National, regional, and local strategies and workforce trends are discussed related to best practices for the selection, retention, and management as a healthcare employer of choice. Emphasis is placed on code of ethics, staffing organizations, training and development, employee relations, long term planning and succession planning. This course will provide a forum for the analysis and synthesis of human resources specific to the role of nursing and healthcare administrators. (3CH)

NURS 603: Organizational and Health Systems Dynamics - This course introduces the student to organizational, systems, and complexity theory analysis with an emphasis on nursing leadership roles, strategic planning, systems thinking and conceptualizing organizations as complex adaptive systems. (3CH)

NURS 605: Financial Management in Nursing - This course introduces nonfinancial students to the fundamental concepts and skills used in healthcare finance to provide the fundamental knowledge base for financial management of health systems within a single agency or institution. Course content comprises management and leadership roles; organizational structures, tax structures and how to interpret and perform analysis of financial statements; basis concepts of reimbursement and various structures and stakeholders; cost analysis and business case development to support returns on investment; strategic planning, resource allocation, budgeting and capital budgeting processes; impact and planning for legal and regulatory issues. (3CH)

NURS607: Patient Education and Advocacy - This course focuses on developing patient education skills to advocate for patients, families and populations. The student will incorporate health literacy issues to determine appropriate technological and written tools for enhancing and extending patient learning. (3CH)

NURS611: Advanced Care Management II- Adults (ACM II) – Expands upon content in ACM I, with additional focus on assessment, prescribing, laboratory findings, diagnostic interpretation and follow-up, referrals, planning, and coordination of care. This course will continue to integrate evidenced based practice into clinical decision making of acute and chronic disease management and prevention. Knowledge of health disparities, social determinants of health, epidemiological principles, palliative care and ethical principles will be incorporated to guide comprehensive decision making and care. Practicum: will be a precepted experience aimed at assessment, diagnosis, with increased autonomy on plan development and lab interpretation in management of patients with both episodic and chronic medical conditions. (150 clinical hours) Requires on campus Intensive. *Prerequisite: NURS511 (Advanced Care Management I).* (5CH)

NURS613: Nursing Leadership Practicum - Nursing Leadership Practicum: This course provides opportunities to design, implement, and evaluate learning experiences in nursing leadership or administrative settings. This course is the culmination of knowledge gained throughout the program and is to be completed in the student's final semester of the MSN program. Students will identify an area of concentration and develop individualized learning objectives that are approved by the course instructor. (6CH)

NURS614: Advanced Care Management III- Special Populations (pediatrics, geriatrics, women's health) – (6) (200h clinical): This final advanced care management course will incorporate basic principles from ACM I and ACM II including knowledge of health disparities, social determinants of health, epidemiological principles, palliative care and ethical principles will be incorporated to guide comprehensive decision making and care. This course will continue to integrate evidenced based practice into clinical decision making of acute and chronic disease management and prevention. The course will integrate previously learned pharmacological principles of prescribing to pediatric, reproductive/maternal health, and geriatric populations. This course will introduce pediatric growth and developmental as well as assessment and management strategies for problems commonly encountered in primary care. This course will focus on women's health, including well pregnancy, and assessment and management of commonly encountered GYN concerns in primary care. This course will additionally address geriatrics and the aging population regarding the risks of polypharmacy, the discussion of palliative care and end of life goals, assessing safety and DME, resources for the aging population, management of diseases related to aging. Practicum: Must include 50 hours from each pediatrics, geriatrics, and women's health. Requires on campus intensive. *Prerequisite: NURS611 (Advanced Care Management II).* in primary care. (6CH)

NURS617: Role Practicum and Residency -Family Medicine - This course will focus on role integration as the student transitions to functioning as an advanced practice provider with the leadership of a clinical mentor. This course will help to solidify the role and development of the family nurse practitioner as a leader and member of the interdisciplinary team. Students will demonstrate increased responsibility and accountability for disease management and prevention for populations across the lifespan. Students will demonstrate competency and implement holistic, patient centered, and culturally competent plans of care. Practicum: precepted clinical focus on all ages with a requirement of 50h dedicated to pediatrics (200h). *Prerequisite: NURS614 (Advanced Care Management III).* (6CH)



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