

# Graduate Degree Program

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## Master of Science in Nursing

Read program information below on the graduate degree concentration to learn about the curriculum.

### Nurse Educator

## Program Overview

The Nurse Educator (NE) Option is designed to prepare graduates for a teaching career in undergraduate nursing programs. Emphasis is on the role of the nurse educator, curriculum design, teaching-learning strategies, and measurement and evaluation. Guided classroom and clinical practice with an experienced preceptor is required. The program of study may be completed in two years of full-time continuous study.

## Curriculum

### Course Requirements

#### Required Core Courses (21 hours)

Fall 1		Credits
NU 501	Rural Family and Community	3 hrs.
NU 503	Advanced Health Assessment	3 hrs.
NU 503L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab	1 hr.
NU 504	Research Methods	3 hrs.
Spring 1		Credits
NU 530	Foundations of Nursing Education	3 hrs.
NU 505	Theories of Advanced Nursing	3 hrs.
NU 506	Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics	3 hrs.
NU 593/594	Thesis/Research Project	2 hrs.

#### Required Specialty Courses (11 hours)

Summer 1		Credits
NU 531	Nursing Education Roles and Methods	3 hrs.
NU 532	Assessment and Evaluation for Nursing Education	3 hrs.
NU 534	Focused Clinical Practicum	1 hr.
NU 593/594	Thesis/Research Project	2 hrs.
Fall 2		Credits
NU 502	Pathophysiology	3 hrs.
NU 514	Rural Health Care Policy	3 hrs.
NU 533	Nursing Education Practicum	3 hrs.
NU 593/594	Thesis/Research Project	2 hrs.

**TOTAL 37 hrs.**

### Other Courses

*NU 511	Graduate Nursing Style Writing	3 hrs.
NU 592A	Thesis (Independent Study)	1-3 hrs.
NU 592B	Project (Independent Study)	1-3 hrs.

### Nursing Course Descriptions (NU)

**NU 501 – Rural Family and Community Dynamics (3 hours).** This course provides students with opportunities to explore cross culture patterns of family and community interactions. The structural and functional characteristics of rural families and communities in health and illness will be addressed. The origins and foundations of family and community will be presented along with theories and concepts related to change, survival, conflict and self-reliance as well as rurality, scholarship, and advanced practice nursing.

Co-requisites: NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504.

**NU 502 – Pathophysiology (3 hours).** This course focuses on functional aspects of the human body in health and illness. It reinforces basic physiological concepts, and prepares the student to apply advanced pathophysiological knowledge in order to provide holistic patient centered care in a primary care setting. It emphasizes functional aspects of the human body in health and illness, including epidemiology. The advanced concepts assist the advanced practice nurse in analyzing practice applications and in synthesizing knowledge from the science as a foundation for primary health care practice (Offered Fall Semester only).

Co-requisites: NU 501, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504.

**NU 503 – Advanced Health Assessment (3 hours).** This course enhances the ability to gather data through the interview and physical examination process using a variety of clinical tools and equipment. The scope of the course covers the life span from newborn to elderly, including the pregnant female. A systematic approach focuses on normal and abnormal findings within body systems. Proficiency is demonstrated in a laboratory and clinical setting.

Pre-requisite: Undergraduate health assessment course.

Co-requisites: NU 501, NU 503L, NU 504.

**NU 503L – Advanced Health Assessment Laboratory (1 hour).** The clinical laboratory practicum associated with NU 503 theoretical information. Skill development includes obtaining and recording a comprehensive physical examination and demonstrating advanced clinical judgment in the assessment of individuals. Evaluation of skills proficiency is conducted in the laboratory setting at the completion of grouped units and with the final comprehensive health assessment. The focus of this course is the rural family community.

Pre-requisite: Undergraduate health assessment course.

Co-requisites: NU 501, NU 503, NU 504.

**NU 504 – Research Methods (3 hours).** This course focuses on qualitative and quantitative research methods and how these methods have contributed to the development of nursing knowledge. Students will apply the research process in developing evidence based proposals for research studies or other research projects using a qualitative and/or quantitative method. This course culminates in the development of a research proposal with a primary focus in rural health.

Pre-requisite: Undergraduate statistics course.

Co-requisites: NU 501, NU 503, NU 503L.

**NU 505 – Theories of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 hours).** This course includes an emphasis on specific nursing and non-nursing theories that are essential to nurses' advanced role functions. It includes a focus on

directing care and providing leadership as well as on functions in a variety of role dimensions such as consultant, educator, supervisor, administrator, researcher, and primary health care provider. (Offered Spring Semester only)

Pre-requisite/co-requisite: None.

**NU 506 – Pharmacotherapeutics in Primary Health Care (3 hours).** This online course prepares nurses for professional roles in advanced nursing practice with knowledge of pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles of common drug categories used to prevent illness, and to restore and maintain health for client systems across the life span. Mechanisms of action, pharmacologic response, usual doses, adverse effects, indications, interactions, compatibilities, contradictions, and routes of administration will be emphasized in acute and chronic conditions. Legal consideration of prescription writing is incorporated. A scholarly approach is used to apply theory and research to pharmacotherapeutic regimens in rural family communities.

Pre-requisites: NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L.

**NU 507 – Clinical Management Theory I (2 hours).** This first clinical management theory course focuses on the diagnosis and treatment of the adult client, including the geriatric population. The student will gain knowledge concerning acute and chronic problems and conditions involving all body systems with the exception of the female reproduction system. The student will be exposed to health maintenance issues particular to this age group. All information is presented within the context of the individual, the family system, and the community as a whole.

Pre-requisites: NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L.

Co-requisite: NU 506, NU 508, NU 505.

**NU 508 – Clinical Management Practicum I (2 hours).** This is the first of four sequential courses that allows the student to perfect the required clinical skills of advanced nursing practice involved in the holistic care of the adult client experiencing acute and chronic problems and conditions involving all body systems. The student will demonstrate clinical competency in the safe management of health and illness status of adult clients in a rural primary care setting under the guidance of a qualified clinical preceptor. (Offered Spring Semester only)

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504.

Co-requisites: NU 505, 506, NU 507.

**NU 509 – Clinical Management Theory II (2 hours).** This second clinical management theory course focuses on the holistic diagnosis and treatment of the female client, including the pregnant, prenatal, postpartum and menopausal female and the newborn. The student will gain knowledge concerning acute and chronic problems and conditions in all body systems involving the female reproductive system and newborn patient. The student will be exposed to health maintenance issues particular to this client population. All information is presented with the context of the individual, the family system, and the rural community as a whole. Application of current research to clinical practice will be emphasized. (Offered Summer only).

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504, NU 505, NU 507, NU 508. Co-requisite: NU 510.

**NU 510 – Clinical Management Practicum II (2 hours).** This is the second of four sequential courses that allows the student to perfect the required clinical skills of advanced nursing practice involved in the holistic care of the female client experiencing a reproductive related problem or condition. The student will demonstrate clinical competency in the management of health and illness status of female clients in a primary care setting under the guidance of a qualified clinical preceptor (Offered Summer only).

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504, NU 505, NU 506, NU 507, NU 508. Co-requisite: NU 509.

**NU 511 – Graduate Nursing Style Writing (3 hours).** This online course is designed to review and extend the study of the scholarly writing process for graduate nursing students. Emphasis will be placed on interpretive, analytical, and evaluation thinking and writing skills. The course will review the formal writing process as outlined in the Publication of The American Psychological Association Manual. Students will express their ideas clearly and orderly based on the general principals of expository writing, using correct grammar and development of ideas to facilitate written communication. Students will explore the elements found in three manuscripts of scholarly writing used in healthcare professions: Critique Papers (policy, analysis, research article critiques); Literature reviews; abstracts; and formal classroom papers. A project will be utilized to assist in the submission of a journal article, scholarly paper, and/or research project. This is the first course that is required if the Analytical Writing component of the GRE is less than 3.0

Pre-requisites: None.

Co-requisite: None.

**NU 512 Clinical Management Theory III (2 hours).** This third clinical management theory course focuses on the holistic diagnosis and treatment of the pediatric client, including the newborn. The student will gain knowledge concerning acute and chronic problems and conditions involving all body systems. The student will be exposed to health maintenance issues particular to this client population. All information is presented within the context of the individual, the family system, and the rural community as a whole. Growth and developmental considerations will be emphasized (Offered Fall Semester only).

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504, NU 505, NU 506, NU 507, NU 508,NU 509, NU 510.

Co-requisite: NU 513.

**NU 513 – Clinical Management Practicum III (2 hours).** This is the third of four sequential courses that allows the student to perfect the required clinical skills of advanced nursing practice involved in the care of the pediatric client experiencing acute and chronic problems and conditions involving all body systems. The student will demonstrate clinical competency in the management of health and illness status of pediatric clients in a rural primary care setting under the guidance of a qualified clinical preceptor (Offered Fall Semester only).

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504, NU 505, NU 506, NU 507, NU 508,NU 509, NU 510.

Co-requisite: NU 512.

**NU 514 – Rural Health Care Policy (3 hours).** This online course will focus on rural health care policy, analysis and strategic planning for influencing health care legislation at the local, state, and federal levels. The impact of political, socioeconomic, legal, ethical, and legislative forces on health care for individuals, families, and communities who reside in rural areas will be explored. Issues relevant to health care delivery systems are examined.

Pre-requisite: NU 501.

**NU 518 – Synthesis Practicum (3 hours).** This the final clinical practicum that allows the student to perfect critical thinking ability as knowledge and skills are applied to the diagnosis and treatment of any body system disorder or condition occurring in any client situated across the life span. The student will demonstrate clinical competency in the management of health and illness status of any client presenting a rural primary care setting under the guidance of a qualified clinical preceptor (Offered Spring Semester only)

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 503L, NU 504, NU 505, NU 506, NU 507, NU 508,NU 509, NU 510, NU 512, NU 513;

Co-requisites: NU 590, NU 591.

**NU 530 – Foundations of Nursing Education (3 hours).** This course provides a scholarly introduction to theoretical and practical introduction to the philosophies, theories, processes, and procedures of curriculum

development and design. Major topics include historical evolution and learning theories for use in the advance practice nurse educator role in rural family community settings.

Pre-requisites: NU 501; Co-requisite: None.

**NU 531 – Nursing Education Roles and Methods (3 hours).** This online course provides an examination of the various activities inherent in the role of nurse educator, with an emphasis on the development and use of traditional and creative teaching methods in nursing education for rural settings.

Pre-requisite: NU 530; Co-requisite: None.

**NU 532 – Assessment and Evaluation in Nursing Education (3 hours).** This online course allows graduate nursing students to explore various theories of assessment and evaluation. Students will have the opportunity to compare and contrast various assessment and evaluation methods, which will include, but not limited to, strategies for use in admission, placement, progression, and graduation decisions in nursing education.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 505, NU 530, NU 531; Co-requisite: None.

**NU 533 – Practicum in Nursing Education (3 hours).** Using a scholarly approach, content of this practicum is individualized to address areas of student teaching interest, within the context of the course objectives and guidelines. The focus of this course is in the rural family community.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 505, NU 530, NU 53, NU 532; Co-requisites: None.

**NU 539 – Selected Topics in Clinical Nursing Science (3 hours).** This online course provides nurse educator students with the opportunity for further scholarly development of a substantive area of advanced nursing science knowledge in preparation for teaching selected nursing practice content. The focus of this course is in the rural family community.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 505, NU 530, NU 531; Co-requisite: NU 533.

**NU 590 ABC - Thesis in Research Process (2 or 3 hours).** This course will require the student to initiate and carry to completion a research thesis under the supervision of a faculty committee. Students must enroll in the course for a total of six semester hour's credit to satisfy the requirement for graduation. The nurse practitioner students are required to enroll in two (2) hours of NU 590 for three semesters and the nurse educator students are required to enroll in three (3) hours of NU 590 for two semesters to complete their plan of study.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 504, NU 505. Co-requisites: None.

**NU 591 ABC – Project in Research Process (2 or 3 hours).** This course will require the student to complete at least at three components of the research process under the guidance of a research mentor and complete a finished product demonstrating competency in nursing research. Students must enroll in the course for a total of six semester hour's credit to satisfy graduation requirements. The nurse practitioner students are required to enroll in two (2) hours of NU 591 for three semesters and the nurse educator students are required to enroll in three (3) hours of NU 591 for two semesters to complete their plan of study.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 504, NU 505. Co-requisites: None.

**NU 592 ABC – Independent Study in Nursing (1-3 hours).** This course provides nurse practitioner or nurse educator students with an opportunity to complete a thesis or project after expending the 6 hours required in their program of study. This course is faculty guided and may be repeated for credit with the faculty's approval.

Pre-requisite: None. Co-requisite: None

**NU 593 AB – Thesis in Research Process (3 hours).** This course will require the student in the Nurse Educator Track to initiate and carry to completion a research thesis under the supervision of a faculty committee. NE students must enroll in the course for a total of six semester hours to satisfy the requirement for graduation. The nurse educator students are required to enroll in (3) hours of NU 593 for two semesters to complete their program of study.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 504, NU 505. Co-requisites: None.

**NU 594 AB – Project in Research Process (3 hours).** This course will require the student in the Nurse Educator Track to complete at least three components of the research process under the guidance of a research mentor and complete a finished product demonstrating competency in nursing research. NE students must enroll in the course for a total of six semester hours to satisfy graduation requirement. The NE students are required to enroll in (3) hours of NU 594 for two semesters to complete their program of study.

Pre-requisites: NU 501, NU 504, NU 505. Co-requisites: None.

**NU 597 – End of Life Care (3 hours).** This elective course provides a scholarly exploration of philosophy of life that often leads to different conclusions on end of life experiences. Rationality and relationship of the “consistent life ethic” and the “quality of life ethic” are explored from the perspectives of an advanced practice nurse in rural cultures. The course is instructor taught through a web-enhanced format of Blackboard that incorporates self-paced instruction, case studies, professional slide show presentation, and student online discussion.

Pre-requisites: None. Co-requisites: None.