

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Debra Spring, Ph.D., Dean
School of Nursing Building
Natchez Campus
601-304-4302 FAX 601-304-4372

Degree Program/Concentration

Family Nurse Practitioner
Post Master Family Nurse Practitioner
Nurse Educator
Post Master Nurse Educator

Required Admission Test

GRE General Test
GRE General Test
GRE General Test
GRE General Test

Graduate Nursing Program

Linda Godley, Ph.D.
Interim Director of Graduate Nursing Program
School of Nursing
15 Campus Drive, Suite 115
Natchez, MS 39120
Phone: (601) 304-4303 FAX: (601) 304-4378

GRADUATE FACULTY

LaWanda W. Baskin, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing
Tearsanee Carlisle-Davis, D.N.P., Assistant Professor of Nursing
Brenda Collins, Post-M.S.N. FNP Assistant Professor of Nursing
Carolyn Dollar, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Nursing
Rebecca Fairchild, Ph.D., Assistant Dean and Associate Professor of Nursing
Linda Godley, Ph.D., Interim Director and Professor of Nursing
Katherine Hansen, M.S.N., Assistant Professor of Nursing
Natalie Royal, M.S.N., Assistant Professor of Nursing
Debra Spring, Ph.D., Dean, School of Nursing and Professor of Nursing
Eric Toran, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing
Geraldine Young, D.N.P., Assistant Professor of Nursing

Program Accreditation

The Master of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the:

Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211
601.432.6486

Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing
3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850
Atlanta, Georgia 30326
404.975.5000
Fax 404.975.5020

THE GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Mission

The Graduate Nursing Programs is devoted to educating nursing leaders and scholars committed to advancing the global healthcare needs of diverse and underserved populations through teaching, scholarship and service.

Program Description

The Graduate Nursing Program offers two options for baccalaureate prepared nurses. The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) option is designed to prepare graduates to provide global primary health care to diverse and underserved clients across the life continuum. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP). The program of study is designed to be completed in five (5) semesters (including one summer) and 44 semester hours of full-time continuous study.

The Nurse Educator (NE) option is designed to prepare qualified nurses to function as well-prepared educators in academic or healthcare settings. Upon completion of the program of study, graduates are eligible to write a national certification examination for Nurse Educators (NE). The program of study is designed to be completed in three (3) semesters (including one summer) and 35 semester hours of full-time continuous study.

The Post-Master's Certificate option is a special studies program for Master's prepared nurses pursuing certification in a specialty area or seeking a program of study that may lead to a change in role (e.g., a CNS seeking an FNP specialty certificate). Alcorn offers Post-Master's Certificate options for specialized study as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Nurse Educator (NE). Upon completion of the program of study, applicants are eligible to write a national certification examination.

Nurses with advanced education have more opportunities to implement new nursing science, impact and transform the overall design of health care, and become leaders in health care systems. Graduates from Alcorn's graduate nursing programs are prepared to sit for national certification examinations, function as expert clinicians, conduct quality research, and demonstrate effective leadership that emanates from a spirit of inquiry and a commitment to life-long learning. Programs consist of courses that are taught using online and hybrid methodologies.

Graduate Program Outcomes

1. Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge from nursing and other disciplines and evaluate this knowledge for use in guiding nursing research and advance practice.
2. Generate new practice approaches based on the integration of research, theory, and practice knowledge.
3. Provide leadership to foster collaboration with multiple stakeholders to improve access to health care.
4. Analyze implication of ethical and legal issues affecting advanced practice nursing and health care delivery in rural settings.
5. Analyze organizational structure, functions, and resources to improve the delivery of Health Care.
6. Communicate effectively in a scholarly manner using oral, written, and information technology in a variety of settings.
7. Assume complex and advanced leadership roles to initiate and guide change.
8. Provide client-centered care recognizing cultural diversity and the client or designee as a full partner in decision-making.
9. Employ best available evidence to continuously improve quality of advance practice.
10. Participate in professional organizations and activities that influence advanced practice nursing and/or health outcomes.

Admission Criteria

Applicants who are seeking admission to the Graduate Nursing Programs submit a complete application package. The application package includes:

1. Completion of the Alcorn State University Graduate School Application.
2. Official transcripts for all previous college course work.
3. Must be a graduate of an accredited nursing program.
4. Must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher in pre-requisite and nursing courses.
5. Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores taken within 5 years of application and a score of 3.0 or higher on the Analytical Writing component.
6. Current unencumbered license to practice nursing in a state or US territory and eligibility for licensure in the state in which you will complete your clinical practicums.
7. Provide three (3) letters of recommendation [professional, academic and personal] on official letterhead with original signatures specifying in detail the applicants' capabilities for graduate study and for future nursing practice.
8. If transferring from another graduate nursing program, the applicant must submit a letter of good academic standings from that program.
9. An interview with Graduate Nursing Faculty.
10. All transfer courses must be approved by the Director of Graduate Nursing Programs.

Applicants seeking a Post Master's Certificate must have a master's degree in nursing from an accredited college or university. The graduate progression within the School of

Applicants seeking a Post Master's Certificate must:

1. Hold a MSN degree in nursing from a nationally accredited college or university.
2. Hold an unencumbered license to practice nursing in a state or US territory and eligibility for licensure in the state in which you will complete your clinical practicums.
3. Have successfully completed the three (3) P's with a letter grade of 'B' or better: Advanced Pathophysiology [3.0 semester hours course]; Advanced Pharmacology [3.0

- semester hours course]; Advanced Physical Assessment [3.0 semester hours course];
and Advanced Physical Assessment Lab [1.0 semester hour course].
4. Have successfully completed a thesis or scholarly project.

Progression, Retention, & Dismissal

Full-time status requires enrollment in a minimum of nine (9) semester hours in the Fall and Spring, and six (6) semester hours in the Summer.

Based on the Alcorn State University Graduate School Policy a maximum of six consecutive calendar years from the date of first enrollment is allowed for completion of all degree requirements. Specific policies related to progression, retention, and dismissal can be found in the School of Nursing Graduate Student Handbook at: <http://www.alcorn.edu/academics/schools/son/index.aspx>.

Application deadline is **March 15th** for the **Family Nurse Practitioner Program** and **August 31st** for **Nurse Educator Program and Post Master's Certificate Option**.