Master of Science in Nursing, M.S.N.

Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing requires a minimum of 39 s.h. of graduate credit. The program has a clinical nurse leader focus. It is designed to build on general and professional baccalaureate study.

The M.S.N. curriculum consists of a core component of 21 s.h., which students take with College of Nursing doctoral students, and a specialization component of 18 s.h. that centers on the clinical nurse leader role.

Students must maintain a g.p.a. of at least 2.75 and must successfully complete a capstone project.

Graduate students in the College of Nursing must adhere to all Graduate College policies regarding academic standing, probation, and dismissal. Transfer credit applicable to the M.S.N. is limited and must be approved by the College of Nursing associate dean for academic affairs. Coursework taken 10 years or more before the M.S.N. final examination must be updated according to University policy.

The M.S.N. requires the following coursework every year for the clinical nurse leader focus two-year plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5009</td>
<td>Evaluating Evidence for Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5018</td>
<td>Quality and Safety</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5017</td>
<td>Clinical Education in the Care Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5021</td>
<td>Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology I for the Clinical Nurse Leader</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5022</td>
<td>Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology II for the Clinical Nurse Leader</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5636</td>
<td>Clinical Nurse Leader Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS:5666</td>
<td>Leadership in the Microsystem</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 39

See the M.S.N. course plan on the College of Nursing website for a semester-by-semester course schedule.

Admission

Applicants to College of Nursing graduate programs must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College on the Graduate College website.

Applicants must have a g.p.a. of at least 3.00. A criminal background check is required for all graduate students upon admission. The College of Nursing has additional application requirements, as follows.

Admission to the M.S.N. Program

Application requirements specific to the M.S.N. program are:

- a bachelor’s degree with a major in nursing from an accredited program;
- satisfaction of the legal requirements for the practice of nursing in Iowa;
- current written recommendations from three persons knowledgeable about the applicant’s competence in the practice of nursing and potential for leadership and scholarship (forms required);
- a current résumé, goal statement, and supplemental/information form;
- transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate coursework; and
- completion of an upper-level statistics course within five years of the application deadline (acceptable University
of Iowa courses include BIOS:4120 Introduction to Biostatistics, PSQF:4143 Introduction to Statistical Methods, STAT:3510 Biostatistics, and STAT:4143 Introduction to Statistical Methods).

Application deadline for the M.S.N. program is February 1. Applications are reviewed once a year. In order to be reviewed, the application must be complete with all materials submitted.

Applicant interviews are required for the M.S.N. program; in some cases, virtual interviews such as through Zoom may be arranged.

Due to the level of web-based coursework required, international students in the M.S.N. Clinical Nurse Leader program are not eligible for F-1 or J-1 student immigration status. Questions regarding visas and immigration documentation should be directed to International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).

**Career Advancement**

Students who constantly envision new ways to create change or innovate to improve health care delivery or nursing practice can thrive in a M.S.N. Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) role. The program prepares the CNL with the necessary knowledge and skills to make a difference both in a microsystem or a changing work environment. Upon graduation, CNL students are eligible for the certification exam.

The M.S.N. Clinical Nurse Leader provides students with eight essential roles to ensure job flexibility, including clinician, educator, advocate, outcomes manager, information manager, systems analyst, a role as a member of the profession, and with outcomes-based skills.