

Master of Science in Nursing, MSN

Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) requires 33, 39, or 66 s.h., depending on the subprogram students choose to complete. Students maintain a Graduate College program grade-point average of at least 2.75.

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 MSN is limited and must be approved by the program director and College of Nursing associate dean for undergraduate/RN programs or associate dean for graduate practice programs. Coursework taken 10 years or more before the MSN final examination must be updated according to university policy.

MSN Subprograms

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Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

The Master of Science in Nursing with a clinical nurse leader subprogram is not admitting new students for 2025–26.

The Master of Science in Nursing with a clinical nurse leader subprogram requires 39 s.h. of credit, including 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. The clinical nurse leader subprogram focuses on improving the quality of patient care and helping professional nurses to thrive in the health care system. The clinical nurse leader role has demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes, elevating current evidence-based practice, enhancing quality, and providing continuous leadership in the microsystem.

Students must successfully complete a capstone immersion.

Two-Year Plan

The MSN with a clinical nurse leader subprogram requires the following coursework for a two-year plan.

First Year, Two-Year Plan

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5009	Evaluating Evidence for Practice	3
NURS:5017	Quality and Safety	3
NURS:5018	Clinical Education in the Care Environment (offered in summer odd years)	3
NURS:5021	Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology I for the Clinical Nurse Leader	3
NURS:5022	Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology II for the Clinical Nurse Leader	3
NURS:5636	Clinical Nurse Leader Seminar	3

NURS:5666	Leadership in the Microsystem	3
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Total Hours 21

Second Year, Two-Year Plan

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5007	Applied Epidemiology	3
NURS:5010	Clinical Data Management and Evaluation	3
NURS:5016	Health Care Infrastructure and Informatics	3
NURS:5037	Health Promotion and Assessment for Clinical Nurse Leaders	3
NURS:5696	Clinical Nurse Leader Capstone Clinical Immersion	6

Total Hours 18

Three-Year Plan

The MSN with a clinical nurse leader subprogram requires the following coursework for a three-year plan.

First Year, Three-Year Plan

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5009	Evaluating Evidence for Practice	3
NURS:5018	Clinical Education in the Care Environment (offered in summer odd years)	3
NURS:5021	Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology I for the Clinical Nurse Leader	3
NURS:5022	Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology II for the Clinical Nurse Leader	3
NURS:5636	Clinical Nurse Leader Seminar	3

Total Hours 15

Second Year, Three-Year Plan

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5007	Applied Epidemiology	3
NURS:5017	Quality and Safety	3
NURS:5037	Health Promotion and Assessment for Clinical Nurse Leaders	3
NURS:5666	Leadership in the Microsystem	3

Total Hours 12

Third Year, Three-Year Plan

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5010	Clinical Data Management and Evaluation	3
NURS:5016	Health Care Infrastructure and Informatics	3
NURS:5696	Clinical Nurse Leader Capstone Clinical Immersion	6

Total Hours 12

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

Entry Into Practice

The Master of Science in Nursing with an entry into practice subprogram requires 66 s.h. of credit. The subprogram is an innovative program located on the Iowa City campus. It can be completed in five sessions. The entry into practice subprogram leads to a MSN degree that prepares students who do not currently have a nursing degree an opportunity to enter the health care workforce quickly. Class sizes are small and offer unparalleled educational excellence and clinical practice.

The MSN with an entry into practice subprogram requires the following coursework.

First Year, Entry Into Practice

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:3128	Health Assessment and Communication Across the Lifespan	3
NURS:3138	Nursing and Pharmacological Interventions I	5
NURS:3151	Introduction to Clinical Concepts for Nursing	2
NURS:3438	Nursing and Pharmacological Interventions II	5
NURS:3451	Basic Clinical Concepts for Nursing	1
NURS:3640	Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing	3
NURS:3645	Mental Health Nursing Practicum	2
NURS:3650	Community and Public Health Nursing	3
NURS:3651	Advanced Clinical Concepts for Nursing	1
NURS:5017	Quality and Safety	3
NURS:5210	Foundations of Professional Nursing	1
NURS:5215	Medical Surgical Care of Chronically Ill Adults	3
NURS:5220	Medical Surgical Care of Acutely Ill Adults	3
NURS:6808	Population Health for Advanced Practice	3
NURS:6811	Social Determinants of Health and Health System Inequities	3
Total Hours		41

Second Year, Entry Into Practice

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:3620	Gerontological Nursing	3
NURS:3631	Nursing Care of Children and Families	2
NURS:3632	Nursing Care of Childbearing Families	2
NURS:4155	Nursing Internship	5
NURS:5002	Leadership and Management Essentials	3
NURS:5009	Evaluating Evidence for Practice	3

NURS:5015	Health Systems, Finance, and Economics	3
NURS:5225	Community Health Across the Lifespan Practicum	4

Total Hours **25**

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

Nursing Systems Administration (NSA)

The Master of Science in Nursing with a nursing systems administration subprogram requires 33 s.h. of credit. It can be completed on a two-and-a-half year plan (five semesters). The subprogram focuses on preparing nurse leaders to serve in a variety of managerial and leadership capacities in all practice environments. The program focuses on graduate-level practice in nursing and health care leadership and the interventions that influence health care outcomes for individuals, populations, or systems.

Students must successfully complete a graduate-level guided capstone program implementation project.

The MSN with a nursing systems administration subprogram requires the following coursework.

First Year, NSA

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5002	Leadership and Management Essentials	3
NURS:5009	Evaluating Evidence for Practice	3
NURS:6550	Advanced Leadership and Management	3
NURS:6553	Seminar on Innovations	4

Total Hours **13**

Second Year, NSA

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5010	Clinical Data Management and Evaluation	3
NURS:5017	Quality and Safety	3
NURS:6551	Financial Management	4
NURS:6808	Population Health for Advanced Practice	3

Total Hours **13**

Third Year, NSA

Course #	Title	Hours
NURS:5016	Health Care Infrastructure and Informatics	3
NURS:5697	Specialty Practice in Nursing Systems	4

Total Hours **7**

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