Master of Science in Nursing

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS IN BRIEF
Alvernia is a Franciscan University rooted in the Catholic and liberal arts traditions, dedicated to the ideals of service in the helping professions. Our rich heritage of service and strong faith resonates in contemporary ways in our campus life and academic programs. Alvernia University’s graduate programs are designed for the working professional who places equal value on intellectual achievement and professional growth. Our faculty and staff are committed to teaching, guiding, and supporting our students in all aspects of their experience at Alvernia University; from course selection and scheduling to connecting with peers and colleagues.

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program provides a graduate degree in nursing that prepares professional nurses for advanced roles in nursing education or administrative positions. Alvernia University understands that today’s masters prepared nurses are required to keep pace with scientific advances and social or market changes. Our faculty incorporates practical experience into the classroom and are dedicated to sharing their areas of expertise with each student. This, along with a convenient campus location, blended courses (virtual and face-to-face class sessions), and flexible scheduling, creates a quality learning experience that is attuned to the MSN student’s family and work schedules.

The Nursing Education track teaches the professional nurse how to instruct pre-licensure students in both didactic and clinical settings, and teaching new and experienced RN’s in staff development positions. Our outstanding simulation laboratories and experience with technology integration will prepare professional nurses for cutting-edge, evidenced-based, teaching-learning strategies.

The Nursing Leadership and Healthcare Administration track prepares students to practice as a nurse manager or executive in the healthcare system. MSN students learn how to influence and set strategic and financial priorities and quality and safety initiatives. Students develop competencies in understanding the delivery of healthcare from a regional, national, and global perspective; key concepts of business management, budgeting processes, management of human resources tools and strategies to manage quality initiatives; and how to develop and implement a strategic plan to attain performance excellence.

ACADEMIC QUALITY
The MSN Program is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Accreditation is an indication of public approbation, attesting to the quality of the educational program, and the continued commitment of the sponsoring institution to support the program. For further information about the accreditation of the MSN Program, please contact the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036-1120, www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation.

CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
Your MSN degree can open the doors to a wide variety of opportunities in many different areas of healthcare, education, and business. Graduates of the MSN Program may be eligible to apply for certification through various national accrediting programs.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Alvernia University
School of Graduate Studies
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www.alvernia.edu
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Students are eligible for admission to the MSN program when the following criteria have been met:

- Official transcript(s) indicating that the applicant has earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from an ACEN (formerly NLNAC) or CCNE accredited program at a college or university.
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in a BSN Program.
- Satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) within the past five (5) years. GRE or MAT may be waived if GPA is 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale and all other admission criteria are satisfactory.
- Completion of an undergraduate statistics and research course with a grade of “C” or better. If not completed, the courses must be taken in conjunction with graduate courses at Alvernia University.
- Minimum of one (1) year recent relevant practice in nursing.
- Three (3) recommendations (preferably from professional nurses with graduate degrees) regarding applicant’s practice and potential for graduate work in nursing.* In lieu of letters, MSN candidates must obtain references using specific form supplied with admission packet.
- Current resume.
- Essay following specific guidelines for both content and format.* Guidelines are available from the RN to BSN and MSN Outreach Coordinator in the School of Graduate and Adult Education, if not included in the application packet.
- Photocopy of valid Pennsylvania license as a Registered Nurse.
- A meeting with the MSN Program Director or designated faculty member after all the required application materials have been received to review the curriculum and course schedule.

* Waived for BSN graduates of Alvernia University

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (36 Credits)
The MSN Program Nursing Education track is designed for professional nurses who are seeking a career in nursing education. An in-depth study in the area of nursing education and a selected clinical practice focus are emphasized in this track. Application of theory and research principles is evidenced in a capstone project.

**Interdisciplinary Course (3 credits)**
COR 520 Ethics and Moral Leadership 3 credits

**Nursing Education Courses (9 credits)**
NUR 560 Policy and Curriculum 3 credits
NUR 630 Measuring Educational Outcomes 3 credits
NUR 640 Evidence-Based Teaching Practice 3 credits

**Nursing Practice Courses (6 credits)**
NUR 530 Advanced Health Assessment 3 credits
NUR 540 Advanced Pathophysiology/Pharmacology 3 credits

**Core Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership Courses (18 credits)**
NUR 550 Professional Nursing Theory and Research 3 credits
NUR 570 Healthcare Informatics 3 credits
NUR 611 Interprofessional Collaboration: Leadership Skills to Increase Cultural Competency 3 credits
NUR 633 Evidence-Based Practice to Improve Population Health 3 credits
NUR 643 Educational and Administrative Strategies in Nursing Practice (Practicum)* 3 credits
NUR 651 Nurse Educator Role Synthesis: Capstone* 3 credits
*Take in final 12 credits

The MSN Program Nursing Leadership and Healthcare Administration track is designed to develop qualities and skills to be effective nursing leaders within local, regional, or national healthcare settings. Students in this track are prepared to be an integral member and leader of decision-making teams. An in-depth study in the area of nursing leadership and administration is the focus of this track. Application of theory and research principles is evidenced in a capstone project.

**Interdisciplinary Course (3 credits)**
COR 520 Ethics and Moral Leadership 3 credits

**Nursing Leadership and Healthcare Administration Courses (15 credits)**
NUR 515 Effective Leadership in Healthcare Organizations 3 credits
NUR 525 Financial Management for Healthcare Leaders 3 credits
NUR 535 Human Resources Management in Healthcare Organizations 3 credits
NUR 625 Leadership in Advanced Administrative Practice Roles 3 credits
NUR 635 Health Policy, Politics and Advocacy 3 credits

**Core Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership Courses (18 credits)**
NUR 550 Nursing Theory and Research 3 credits
NUR 570 Healthcare Informatics 3 credits
NUR 561 Interprofessional Collaboration: Leadership Skills to Increase Cultural Competency 3 credits
NUR 633 Evidence-Based Practice to Improve Population Health 3 credits
NUR 643 Educational and Administrative Strategies in Nursing Practice (Practicum)* 3 credits
NUR 652 Nursing Leadership Role Synthesis: Capstone* 3 credits
*Take in final 12 credits