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 focused 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 a career in nursing education in the academic or practice settings. Our faculty brings real-world insight into the classroom and all are dedicated to sharing their areas of expertise with each student. This, along with a convenient campus location, hybrid (web-based and live classroom work) courses, and flexible scheduling, creates a quality learning experience that is attuned to the MSN student’s needs.

Graduates from this program will be able to function as competent nurse educators and have the academic preparation to enter doctoral studies. Our outstanding simulation laboratories and experience with technology integration will prepare professional nurses for cutting-edge, evidenced-based, teaching-learning strategies. Alvernia University understands that today’s nurse educators are required to manifest whole new domains of knowledge and skills including understanding diversity and keeping pace with scientific advances and social or market changes.

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.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Students are eligible for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program when the following criteria have been met:

- Official transcript(s) indicating that the applicant has earned a baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from a 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 Coordinator of Graduate Admissions & Student Services if not included in the application packet.
- Photocopy of valid Pennsylvania license as a Registered Nurse.
- Interview with MSN Program Coordinator or designated faculty member after all the required application materials have been received.

* Waived for BSN graduates of Alvernia University
CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The MSN graduate has the content knowledge and skills to successfully achieve Advanced-Practice Certification for Nurse Educator through the National League for Nursing’s Certified Nurse Educator™ Examination. The program prepares students for entry into nursing doctoral education in either a practice or research focused program. The MSN program will facilitate a student’s learning through the specialty practice of nursing education in order to fulfill various roles as a nurse educator upon graduation, for example:

- Faculty in Baccalaureate, Associate, and Diploma Schools of Nursing
- Staff Development Instructor
- Clinical Educator
- Health Educator in various community and health care settings

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW (36 Credits)

Each course includes a combination of web-based and live classroom work.

Required Interdisciplinary Courses (9 credits)

- COR 510 Moral Leadership 3 credits
- COR 600 Organizational and Professional Ethics (take in final 12 credits) 3 credits
- Elective 3 credits

Nursing Education Courses (12 credits)

- NUR 560 Policy and Curriculum 3 credits
- NUR 630 Measuring Educational Outcomes 3 credits
- NUR 640 Evidenced-Based Teaching Practice 3 credits
- NUR 642 Teaching Strategies in Nursing: Practicum 3 credits

Nursing Practice Courses (9 credits)

- NUR 530 Advanced Health Assessment 3 credits
- NUR 540 Advanced Pathophysiology/Pharmacology 3 credits
- NUR 632 Evidenced-Based Clinical Practice: focus choices below 3 credits
  (Choice of clinical focus in adult health, maternal-child, community, or behavioral health)

Nursing Theory and Research Courses (6 credits)

- NUR 550 Professional Nursing Theory and Research 3 credits
- NUR 650 Nurse Educator Role Synthesis: Capstone (take in final 12 credits) 3 credits

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alvernia University
School of Graduate and Continuing Studies
Phone: 1.888.ALVERNIA ext. 6 (1.888.258.3764/610.796.8228)
grgraduate@alvernia.edu
www.alvernia.edu