



Master of Science in Nursing



The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program provides a graduate degree in nursing that prepares professional nurses for advanced roles in nursing education, administrative or healthcare informatics positions. Alvernia University understands that today's master's-prepared nurses are required to keep pace with scientific advances and social or market changes. Faculty incorporate practical experience into the classroom and are dedicated to sharing their areas of expertise with students. 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 teach new and experienced RNs 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 resource tools and strategies to manage quality initiatives; and how to develop and implement a strategic plan to attain performance excellence.

The **Healthcare Informatics track** prepares the MSN graduate to fully practice within the scope and standards of the nurse informaticist role. Students are prepared to be integral members and leaders of technology integration decision-making teams within healthcare systems. Students develop key theoretical and skill competencies in the domains of informatics professional practice, regulations, system design life cycle, data management and healthcare technology.

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), CNEA 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 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.
- Current résumé.
- 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 a specific form supplied with admission packet.
- Essay following specific guidelines for both content and format.* Guidelines are available from the MSN Enrollment Coordinator in the School of Graduate and Adult Education, if not included in the application packet.
- Photocopy of valid Pennsylvania state license as a Registered Nurse.
- A meeting with the MSN Program Coordinator 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

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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

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.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (TOTAL 36 CREDITS)

CORE Courses (all tracks)

COR 520 Ethics and Moral Leadership (interdisciplinary course).....	3 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 Application of Advanced Nursing Strategies: Practicum	3 credits

CAPSTONE Course (according to track, one of the following is taken in the final 12 credits)

NUR 651 Nurse Educator Role Synthesis: Capstone	3 credits
NUR 652 Nursing Leadership Role Synthesis: Capstone.....	3 credits
NUR 653 Nurse Informaticist Role Synthesis: Capstone.....	3 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.

For Nursing Education track

NUR 530 Advanced Health Assessment.....	3 credits
NUR 540 Advanced Pathophysiology/Pharmacology	3 credits
NUR 560 Policy and Curriculum.....	3 credits
NUR 630 Measuring Educational Outcomes.....	3 credits
NUR 640 Evidence-Based Teaching Practice	3 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 leaders 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.

For Nursing Leadership and Administration track

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

The MSN Program **Healthcare Informatics track** is designed to develop the skills used to devise customized solutions to a range of Healthcare Information (HIT) challenges. Students are prepared to lead multidisciplinary teams, plan and execute HIT projects, and advise on HIT compliance issues. Application of theory and research principles is evidenced in a capstone project.

For Healthcare Informatics track

[*online, in cooperation with Harrisburg University of Science and Technology]

* HCIN 550 Introduction to Healthcare Analytics.....	3 credits
* ISEM 545 Healthcare Data.....	3 credits
* HCIN 515 Essential Informatics Skills I.....	3 credits
* HCIN 520 Essential Informatics Skills II.....	3 credits
NUR XXX MSN Nursing Elective.....	3 credits

ACCREDITATION

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 approval, 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, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001.

www.ccneaccreditation.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

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