

Master of Science in Nursing

The mission of the American Public University System's Nursing Program is to "provide quality, affordable, and accessible higher education for professional registered nurses to foster lifelong learning through a spirit of inquiry in order to prepare students for service and leadership roles in a diverse and global society."

The Master of Science in Nursing program prepares you to be an effective leader in the nursing profession and to be an agent of change in the delivery of health care. The transformational changes occurring in healthcare today make advanced nursing practice essential to the provision of safe, patient-centered care. As a nurse educator or nurse leader, you can help lead the change to move nursing into the future.

The master's degree program in nursing at APUS is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>).

Note: This Master of Science in Nursing program is currently not open for admission to Tennessee residents or Washington State residents.

This program has specific admission requirements.

Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

- Apply the principles of ethical decision making to the practice of the master's prepared nurse.
- Demonstrate leadership skills to support safe nursing practices and continually improve patient-centered care.
- Advocate for healthcare policies that improve healthcare outcomes across the lifespan.
- Translate theoretical knowledge, research and evidence-based practice to influence the delivery of high-quality, safe care to diverse populations in a variety of settings.
- Apply data management principles in the delivery of cost-effective care to improve health outcomes.
- Analyze how healthcare policy and health care economics affect change within the healthcare system.
- Demonstrate effective inter-professional communication and collaboration to support safe and efficient coordination of care.
- Reflect on personal commitment to lifelong learning to gain the competencies needed to lead the provision of care in a complex and changing healthcare environment.

Programmatic Admission Requirements

This program is currently not open for admission to residents of Washington or Tennessee.

For this program, the following documentation is required and must be provided prior to course registration:

- Official transcripts showing a conferred Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a program accredited by: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE (<https://www.aacnursing.org>)), Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN (<https://www.acenursing.org>)), or Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (CNEA ([http://www.nln.org/accreditation-services/the-nln-commission-for-nursing-education-accreditation-\(cnea\)](http://www.nln.org/accreditation-services/the-nln-commission-for-nursing-education-accreditation-(cnea))))
- Current and active unencumbered registered nurse (RN) in state where practicums will be conducted
- Minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the baccalaureate nursing degree
- Successful completion of an undergraduate level statistics course with a "C" or higher
- Current resume/CV
- Signed statement of understanding (SOU)
- 500-600 word statement of purpose and goals for graduate education*

*Writing style should be scholarly and coherent with no grammatical errors. Provide in 500-600 words a description of relevant work experience, and clearly articulated reasons for applying to the master's program. Long-term goals or professional career aspirations should be included.

Note: You must complete this program within 5 years of starting your first nursing (NURS) course.

Please visit our AMU (<https://www.amu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) or APU (<https://www.apu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) graduate admission page for more information on institutional admission requirements.

Need help?

If you have questions regarding a program's admission requirements, please contact an admissions representative at 877-755-2787 or info@apus.edu.

Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	Core Requirements	15
	Select one of the following concentrations:	17-18
	Community and Public Health Nursing (p. 2)	
	Nurse Educator Track (p. 2)	
	Nurse Leader Track (p. 3)	
	Final Program Requirements	3-4
	Total Semester Hours	36

Degree Program Requirements

Core Requirements (15 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS502	Population-Based Healthcare ¹	3
NURS500	Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS504	Informatics and Technology	3
NURS505	Healthcare Systems and Health Policy	3
NURS507	Leadership for the Master's Prepared Nurse	3
	Total Semester Hours	15

¹ Required as the first course in this program.

Students must choose a concentration for this degree program and may select from the Concentration in Community and Public Health Nursing, Concentration in Nurse Educator Track or Concentration in Nurse Leader Track concentrations.

Concentration in Community and Public Health Nursing (17 semester hours)

The community/public health nursing concentration prepares nurses to serve, protect, and promote the health of communities locally and globally through the application of three core functions of public health: assessment, policy development, and assurance. Students are prepared to serve as change agents practicing with a justice approach that is collaborative, promotes health and equity, and engages community gatekeepers and stakeholders. Graduates are equipped to analyze determinants of health using epidemiological data and other evidence. They are also prepared to apply social and behavioral science theories, models, and principles to develop or improve programs to address public health issues and to promote

public health policies, programs, and resources that improve health outcomes.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Analyze social determinants of health that affect the health of a community.
- Evaluate prevention strategies of communities to identify opportunities for improvement in health and disease prevention of vulnerable populations.
- Enhance the health of a vulnerable population through interprofessional coordination, planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of a public health nursing intervention for a selected community.

Concentration Requirements (17 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PBHE520	Biostatistics with Lab	4
PBHE527	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Health	3
PBHE550	Research Methods in Public Health	3
PBHE607	Epidemiology	3
NURS654	Program Development and Evaluation in Community and Public Health Nursing	4
	Total Semester Hours	17

Concentration in Nurse Educator Track (18 semester hours)

Looks at curriculum, instruction, and assessment in nursing education with a focus on teaching and evaluations for nurse educators.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply programmatic objectives to the nurse educator role in clinical or academic settings.
- Create educational and curricular materials for a variety of audiences.
- Evaluate effectiveness of teaching strategies and modalities.

Concentration Requirements (18 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS601	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS604	Advanced Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	3
NURS606	Nursing Curriculum Development, Assessment and Evaluation	3
NURS610	Learner-Centered Teaching Methodologies	3
NURS620	Educational Assessment and Evaluation for Nurse Educators	3
NURS695	Practicum in Nursing Education	3
Total Semester Hours		18

Concentration in Nurse Leader Track (18 semester hours)

Offers a focus in leadership, human resource management, and operational quality. Healthcare business and finance are also covered.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply programmatic objectives to the role of the nurse leader.
- Advocate for business practices that promote healthcare quality and patient safety.
- Synthesize knowledge of key business and human resources practices to lead healthcare teams.

Concentration Requirements (18 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
HCAD650	The Business of Healthcare	3
HCAD651	Healthcare Finance	3
HCAD652	Operational Quality in Healthcare	3
HCAD605	Human Resource Management in Healthcare	3
HCAD520	Legal and Ethical Aspects of Healthcare Administration	3
NURS696	Practicum in Nursing Leadership	3
Total Semester Hours		18

Final Program Requirements (3-4 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select 1 course from the following:		3-4
NURS694	Community and Public Health Nursing Practicum with Capstone Project (4 semester hours) ¹	
NURS699	Evidence-Based Practice Capstone Project (3 semester hours) ²	
Total Semester Hours		3-4

¹ Taken once all other degree requirements have been met. Students who select a Concentration in Community and Public Health Nursing must take this course.

² Taken once all other degree requirements have been met. Students who select a Concentration in Nurse Educator Track or Concentration in Nurse Leader Track must take this course.