

RN to MSN

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 online RN to MSN degree provides Associate and diploma degree prepared Registered Nurses an accelerated pathway to obtaining a Master of Science in Nursing degree while also obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. The RN to MSN degree is designed to facilitate the immediate and lifelong professional and personal development needs of Registered Nurses in the three areas of Practitioner, Scientist and Leader. Graduates of the RN to MSN program will be prepared to be agents of change in today's rapidly transforming healthcare industry.

The RN to MSN degree program at APUS is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>).

Note: This RN to MSN program is currently not open for admission to Tennessee residents or Washington State residents.

At this time, this program is not eligible for military tuition assistance; please speak with your admissions representative on other financial solutions.

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:

- Improve performance in the professional nursing role by developing leadership, management, sound clinical judgment, and communication skills to promote the health of individuals, families, and communities.
- Utilize evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and leadership principles to promote a culture of safety and achieve outcomes that are grounded in institutional values and professional ethics.
- Apply informatics and healthcare technologies to access critical information, to collaborate with other professionals, and to facilitate optimal patient-centered care.
- Apply scientific principles and the nursing process to evaluate responses to therapies and changes in patient health status.
- Integrate knowledge of human and organizational behavior to lead teams and to promote cultures of safety.

- Analyze the impact of financial, regulatory, and political decisions on local, national and global health outcomes.
- Synthesize knowledge of ethical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors to decrease health disparities, to advocate for diverse populations and to provide culturally relevant healthcare to individuals, groups and communities.
- Employ a spirit of inquiry to embrace the value of lifelong learning and to participate in professional activities that promote and shape the future of nursing.
- Apply the principles of ethical decision making to the practice of the master's prepared nurse
- Demonstrate leadership skills to support safe nursing practices continually improve patient-centered care.
- Advocate for healthcare policies that improve healthcare outcomes across the lifespan.
- 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

To apply to this program, you must hold the following:

- Associate degree or diploma from an accredited or board approved institution in nursing.
- Current, active, unencumbered registered nursing (RN) license
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Signed statement of understanding
- Current resume/CV
- 500-600 word statement of purpose and goals for this master's program

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

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
	General Education Requirements	30
	Registered Nurse License	30
	Major Required	30
	Elective Requirements	27
	Final Program Requirements (BSN)	3
	Select one of the following concentrations:	23-24
	Community and Public Health Nursing (p. 4)	
	Nurse Educator Track (p. 4)	
	Nurse Leader Track (p. 4)	
	Final Program Requirements (MSN)	3-4
	Total Semester Hours	147

Degree Program Requirements

General Education Requirements (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Arts and Humanities (6 semester hours)		
Select 2 courses from the following: ¹		6
ARAB100	Arabic I	
ARAB101	Arabic II	
ARTH200	Art Appreciation	
ARTH241	Film and Literature	
DSIN141	Image Enhancement using Adobe Photoshop	
FREN100	French I	
FREN101	French II	
GERM100	German I	
GERM101	German II	
JAPN100	Introduction to Japanese	
LITR215	Literature of American Encounters, Revolution, and Rebellion	
LITR218	From Abolition to #MeToo: Literature of the American Civil Rights Movement	
LITR222	Pivotal Figures in Early British Literature	

LITR225	British Literature from Wordsworth through the Wasteland
LITR231	Leadership in World Literature: Antiquity to the Early Modern Period
LITR233	Literature of the Newly Globalized World: The Individual's Struggle to Adapt
MUSI200	Music Appreciation
MUSI250	World Music and Cultures
PHIL101	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL110	Critical Thinking
PHIL200	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL202	Philosophy of Science
PORT100	Introduction to Brazilian Portuguese
RELS201	Introduction to World Religions
RUSS100	Russian I
SPAN100	Spanish I
SPAN101	Spanish II
STEM270	Thinking and Acting Ethically

Civics, Political and Social Sciences (6 semester hours)

Select 2 courses from the following: ¹		6
ANTH100	Introduction to Anthropology	
ANTH202	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
CHFD220	Human Sexuality	
COMM211	Social Media and Society	
COMM240	Intercultural Communication	
ECON101	Microeconomics	
ECON102	Macroeconomics	
EDUC200	Humane Education: A Global Interdisciplinary Perspective	
GEOG101	Introduction to Geography	
HOSP110	Practical Food Safety and Awareness	
IRLS210	International Relations I	
LITR212	Forgotten America--Under Represented Cultures in American Literature	
LITR235	Four Points of the Compass: Culture and Society Around the World	
POLS101	Introduction to Political Science	
POLS210	American Government I	
PSYC101	Introduction to Psychology	
SOCI111	Introduction to Sociology	
SOCI212	Social Problems	
SOCI220	American Popular Culture	
STEM280	Exploring Society and Cultures via Science Fiction	

Communication: Writing, Oral, and Multimedia (9 semester hours)

COMM120	Information and Digital Literacy	3
ENGL110	Making Writing Relevant	3
Select 1 course from the following:		3
COMM200	Public Speaking	
ENGL101	Proficiency in Writing	
ENGL115	Argumentation and Rhetoric	
ENGL210	Introduction to Literature	
ENGL220	Technical Writing	
ENGL221	Scientific Writing	
ENGL226	Effective Business Communication	
HRMT101	Human Relations Communication	
IRLS200	Information Literacy and Global Citizenship	
ITCC231	Introduction to Information Technology Writing	
MGMT100	Human Relations	
History (3 semester hours)		
Select 1 course From the following:		3
HIST101	American History to 1877	
HIST102	American History since 1877	
HIST111	World Civilization before 1650	
HIST112	World Civilization since 1650	
HIST121	Western Civilization before The Thirty Years War	
HIST122	Western Civilization since The Thirty Years War	
HIST221	African-American History before 1877	
HIST222	African-American History since 1877	
HIST223	History of the American Indian	
HIST270	History of Science	
STEM185	The History and Context of STEM	
Mathematics (3 semester hours)		
MATH120	Introduction to Statistics	3
Natural Sciences (3 semester hours)		
Select 1 course from the following:		3
BIOL180	Introduction to Biology	
BIOL181	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	
CHEM180	Introduction to Chemistry	
ERSC180	Introduction to Meteorology	
ERSC181	Introduction to Geology	
EVSP180	Introduction to Environmental Science	
PHYS180	Introduction to Physics	
SPST180	Introduction to Astronomy	
STEM100	Introduction to STEM Disciplines	
Total Semester Hours		30

¹ All literature courses require successful completion of ENGL101 - Proficiency in Writing or ENGL110 - Making Writing Relevant.

Registered Nurse License (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	Current active, unencumbered registered nursing license	30
Total Semester Hours		30

Major Required (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS300	Professional Transitions in Nursing	3
NURS310	Assessment, Evaluation and Clinical Decision-Making	3
NURS315	Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology	3
NURS340	Science of Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS400	Emerging Scholarship and Trends in Healthcare	3
NURS401	Caring for Today's Veterans	3
NURS421	Community Health I	3
NURS502	Population-Based Healthcare ¹	3
NURS504	Informatics and Technology ¹	3
NURS507	Leadership for the Master's Prepared Nurse ¹	3
Total Semester Hours		30

¹ NURS502, NURS504, NURS507 may not be taken until all courses, except NURS498, have been completed.

Elective Requirements (27 semester hours)

Select any courses that have not been used to fulfill major requirements. Credits applied toward a minor or certificate in an unrelated field may be used to fulfill elective credit for the major.

Final Program Requirements (BSN) (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS498	Senior Seminar in Nursing Studies (Must have a 'B' or better and to be taken as the last course before conferral) ¹	3
Total Semester Hours		3

¹ Prerequisite: Senior Standing and completion of all major courses prior to enrollment.

Total Degree Requirements for BSN Conferral = 120

Concentration in Community and Public Health Nursing (23 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 (23 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS500	Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS505	Healthcare Systems and Health Policy	3
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		23

Concentration in Nurse Educator Track (24 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.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS500	Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS505	Healthcare Systems and Health Policy	3
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		24

Concentration in Nurse Leader Track (24 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.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS500	Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS505	Healthcare Systems and Health Policy	3
HCAD605	Human Resource Management in Healthcare	3
HCAD650	The Business of Healthcare	3
HCAD651	Healthcare Finance	3
HCAD652	Operational Quality in Healthcare	3
HCAD520	Legal and Ethical Aspects of Healthcare Administration	3
NURS696	Practicum in Nursing Leadership	3
Total Semester Hours		24

Final Program Requirements (MSN) (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.

Total Degree Requirements for MSN Conferral = 27