NURSING M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
https://www.towson.edu/chp/departments/nursing/grad/nursing/

Program Director: Dr. Kathy Ogle
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Nursing is the foundation of the U.S. health care workforce. As the largest of the health professions, nurses serve as the primary contact and advocate for patients, families and communities. With the advent of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, the U.S. health care system witnessed a dramatic shift from acute, episodic care of individuals to population-based health. Population-based health focuses on health outcomes and the distribution of these outcomes among population groups. Population-based advanced nursing practice places a priority on keeping people well, reducing health risks, avoiding or managing chronic conditions and assuming accountability for health outcomes. Advanced nursing roles and responsibilities have expanded dramatically with this health care paradigm shift. Nurses are now being called upon to assume expanded roles in influencing population health at all levels, including administration, education, patient care delivery, and health policy. The master’s program in population-based health nursing at Towson University prepares advanced nurses at the graduate level to develop, implement and evaluate evidence-based population focused health programs, to assume advanced leadership roles in the evolving health care system and to serve as educators to future generations of nurses.

Reference:

Program and Clinical Requirements

In order to participate in Department of Nursing course work, students must provide evidence of the following:

- Positive antibody titer for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Positive antibody titer for Varicella
- Positive antibody titer for Hepatitis B (or declination waiver)
- Evidence of freedom from Tuberculosis (annual requirement)
- Evidence of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccination (at least once every ten years)
- Seasonal influenza vaccination
- Evidence of current health insurance
- Evidence of current Healthcare Provider CPR certification
- Evidence of completed education competencies (either through employer or through Blackboard)
  - HIPAA training
  - Bloodborne Pathogens training
  - TB Education training
- Other requirements as defined by clinical placement site(s)

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the Master of Science program must meet the general requirements for graduate study established by the Department of Nursing and as outlined in this catalog. Specifically, they must have:

- A baccalaureate degree with a major in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university and a nationally accredited nursing program**
- A minimum GPA of 3.00
- Completion of an elementary statistics and/or nursing research course (3 or more units) with a grade of C or higher
- Completion of an approved physical assessment course (3 or more units) with a grade of C or higher

Submit the following admission materials:

- A one-page personal statement in which the applicant discusses his or her reasons for seeking admission to the program and how the program will meet the applicant’s professional goals
- A current curriculum vitae or résumé
- The applicant must be licensed as a Registered Nurse (RN) in the State of Maryland or in a compact state (licensure as an RN in Maryland will be verified by the Department of Nursing)
- Two Letters of Recommendation to include emails of recommenders on application form - Professional or Academic

Applicants whose credentials do not meet the stated criteria for admission and believe their situation warrants special consideration are encouraged to contact the department for information related to its individual review policy.

Non-immigrant International Students

Program Enrollment: F-1 and J-1 students are required to be enrolled full-time. The majority of their classes must be in-person and on campus. See the list of programs that satisfy these requirements (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international/programs-complying/j1-f1-regulations.html), and contact the International Student and Scholars Office (https://www.towson.edu/academics/international/iso) with questions.

Admission Procedures: See additional information regarding Graduate Admission policies (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html) and International Graduate Application (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/international) online.

**See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/policies.html).

Degree Requirements

The M.S. degree in Nursing requires successful completion of a minimum of 36 units. Fifteen of these units will be determined by the concentration the student selects.

Nursing Education Concentration

Students who desire to teach in a nursing school or work in staff development or education in a health care agency will complete the following courses. These courses constitute the requirements for a
Certificate in Nursing Education (15 units). The certificate option may be selected alone, or serve as a component of the master's program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLTH 630</td>
<td>EPIDEMIOLOGY IN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 601</td>
<td>THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING PRACTICE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 603</td>
<td>NURSING RESEARCH</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 605</td>
<td>NURSING SYSTEMS IN HEALTH CARE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 802</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Graduate-level elective course from Nursing or a department outside of Nursing</td>
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**Nursing Education Courses**

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<td>NURS 600</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 610</td>
<td>CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 612</td>
<td>TEACHING AND LEARNING IN NURSING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 713</td>
<td>EVALUATION IN NURSING EDUCATION</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 810</td>
<td>TEACHING PRACTICUM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Units</td>
<td>36</td>
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**Clinician-Administrator Transition (CAT) Concentration**

Students interested in administration complete the Clinical-Administrator Transition concentration. Students completing this concentration receive the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Clinical Administrator Transition. The certificate option may be selected alone, or serve as a component of the master's program. Course work includes the following:

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**NURS 510 SPIRITUALITY, HEALTH AND NURSING PRACTICE (3)**
Application of theory and research to spiritual care of diverse client populations across the life span, and development of spiritual self-care plan of the provider. Prerequisites: One clinical course in nursing; RN status; or consent of the instructor.

**NURS 523 CRISIS AND STRESS MANAGEMENT (3)**
An integrated, comprehensive, multicomponent approach to crisis intervention in a variety of individuals, groups and settings. Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or HLTH 101.

**NURS 594 TRAVEL STUDY IN NURSING (3)**
Historical and contemporary sociopolitical factors that guide the delivery of health care to various population groups in other countries. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

**NURS 600 ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE (3)**
Advanced Clinical Practice examines the advanced pathophysiology, physical assessment and pharmacological treatments for clients with or at risk for common health alterations. Prerequisite: graduate nursing student status or consent of department.

**NURS 601 THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING PRACTICE (3)**
Prepares nurses to critically analyze and apply a wide range of nursing and related theories to research and clinical practice in order to develop a comprehensive and holistic approach to care. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

**NURS 603 NURSING RESEARCH (3)**
Prepares the nurse to identify clinical problems, critically evaluate nursing research, develop a research design, and apply research in practice. Prerequisites: Undergraduate research and/or statistics course and consent of instructor.

This is also an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program offered by the College of Health Professions.

The graduate of the Master of Science program will be able to:

1. Incorporate findings from the sciences and humanities to provide advanced nursing care to diverse populations.
2. Apply research outcome within the advanced nursing setting to improve care, and resolve problems with an emphasis on population-based health.
3. Function as part of an interdisciplinary team to improve health outcomes.
4. Integrate the appropriate use of information technology in the delivery of advanced nursing care for diverse populations.
5. Apply advocacy skills to influence policies related to nursing and health care.
6. Integrate theory, research and practice into a population-based health project.
7. Apply advanced nursing knowledge to a policy or political process.
8. Demonstrate a leadership role in education and health care settings.
9. Apply the concepts of continuous quality improvement to the delivery of advanced nursing care and healthcare services.
NURS 605 NURSING SYSTEMS IN HEALTH CARE (3)
Prepares the nurse to participate in the design, implementation and management of care in a variety of health care systems, provide quality cost-effective care, and assume a leadership role in the managing of human, fiscal, and physical health care resources. Prerequisite: consent of department.

NURS 610 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING (3)
Overview of theory and methods for the development of nursing educational delivery systems in academic and service settings. Prerequisite: consent of department.

NURS 612 TEACHING AND LEARNING IN NURSING (3)
Focuses on the application of learning theory and teaching methods in the classroom and clinical environments with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of diverse student populations. Includes instructional technology and micro-teaching experiences. Prerequisite: consent of department.

NURS 670 SPECIAL TOPICS IN NURSING (1-3)
An examination of current and evolving topics in nursing. The specific requirements and prerequisites will vary with each topic and will be designated by the by the department. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits provided a different topic is covered. Prerequisites: will vary according to topic.

NURS 671 SPECIAL TOPICS IN NURSING (1-3)
An examination of current and evolving topics in nursing. The specific requirements and prerequisites will vary with each topic and will be designated by the by the department. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits provided a different topic is covered. Prerequisites: Will vary according to topic.

NURS 701 ADVANCED POPULATION BASED HEALTH (3)
Focuses on the application of advanced nursing clinical reasoning to population based health. Evidence based program planning and evaluation models are applied to diverse population groups with unmet health needs across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on the advanced clinical nursing care of vulnerable populations in diverse community based settings. Prerequisites: all graduate core and concentration courses with the exception of the elective course, NURS 802, NURS 713, IDHP 610 (applies to Clinician to Administrator students only) and NURS 810 (applies to Nursing Education students only); and consent of department.

NURS 712 THE ADULT LEARNER (3)
Introduction to learning in adulthood, including context, development, process and practice. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

NURS 713 EVALUATION IN NURSING EDUCATION (3)
Emphasis is placed on the evaluation of student performance, teaching, courses and programs. Assessment measures of learner outcomes, faculty effectiveness and program quality will be explored. Students who have successfully completed NURS 710 will not receive additional credit for NURS 713. Prerequisites: NURS 600, NURS 610, NURS 612 (may be taken concurrently); and consent of department.

NURS 802 ADVANCED POPULATION BASED HEALTH PRACTICUM (3)
Students apply concepts and theories related to advanced population based health to diverse community practice settings where advanced nursing care is provided to vulnerable population groups. Students assume advanced nursing leadership roles in executing evidence based, scholarly, population-focused health projects to promote health among targeted populations. Prerequisites: all Graduate Core and Concentration Courses with the exception of the elective course, IDHP 610 (applies to Clinician to Administrator students only) and NURS 810 (applies to Nursing Education students only); and consent of department.

NURS 810 TEACHING PRACTICUM (3)
A practicum designed to apply new advanced nursing knowledge and skills in teaching and learning in academic or service settings. Self-assessment of teaching, discussion of the nurse educator role, and exploration of issues related to the teaching/learning environment will occur throughout the semester in weekly seminars. Prerequisites: NURS 600, NURS 610, NURS 612, NURS 713 (may be taken concurrently); and consent of department.