NURSING M.S.

Degree: Master of Science
Program Director: Kathy Ogle
410-704-4389
kogle@towson.edu (eaustin@towson.edu)

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 nursing practice places a priority on keeping people well, reducing health risks, avoiding or managing chronic conditions, and assuming accountability for health outcomes. 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 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)
- Three 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: See additional admission information in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/international.html)

**See Exceptions to Policy in Graduate Admissions (https://www.towson.edu/academics/graduate/admissions/apply/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>
</tr>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 605</td>
<td>NURSING SYSTEMS IN HEALTH CARE</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 701</td>
<td>ADVANCED POPULATION BASED HEALTH PRACTICUM</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 802</td>
<td>ADVANCED POPULATION BASED HEALTH PRACTICUM</td>
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Graduate-level elective course from Nursing or a department outside of Nursing

Nursing Education Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 600</td>
<td>ADVANCED CLINICAL PRACTICE</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
Nursing M.S.

**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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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 610</td>
<td>CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN NURSING</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 810</td>
<td>TEACHING PRACTICUM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
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</table>

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

1. Assume a leadership role in community-based nursing practice by participating in the design, implementation and management of care in a variety of health care systems.
2. Utilize the research process in clinical and administrative decision making to support the provision of excellence in the practice of community-based nursing.
3. Critically analyze and apply a wide range of nursing and related theories to research and clinical practice.
4. Integrate the tenets of nursing theory, values and ethical decision making to nursing practice in a community-based environment.
5. Implement the role of the nursing educator in a community-based teaching-learning environment in an academic or health service setting. (Nursing Education)
6. Improve the health care delivery system by providing nursing administrative leadership in community-based nursing practice settings. (Nursing Administration)
7. Synthesize core and concentration concepts integral to the provision of comprehensive community-based nursing practice.

**Courses**

**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 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 672 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 673 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 674 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 700 COMMUNITY BASED NURSING (3)  
Focuses on application of epidemiological frameworks and concepts in health promotion, environmental health and disease prevention with diverse groups across the life span. Emphasis will be placed on the nursing care of at-risk and vulnerable populations in community-based settings. Prerequisites: IDHP 600, NURS 601.

NURS 701 ADVANCED POPULATION BASED HEALTH (3)  
Focuses on the application of advanced 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 nursing care of vulnerable populations in diverse community based settings. Prerequisites: all core and concentration courses with the exception of the elective course, IDHP 610 (applies to Clinician to Administrator students only) and NURS 810 (applies only to Nursing Education students); 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).

NURS 800 ADVANCED COMMUNITY BASED NURSING PRACTICE (3-6)  
A clinical practicum designed to enhance the nurse’s previous learning and experiences while fostering the development of new nursing knowledge and skills in community-based settings with diverse populations. Includes a weekly seminar. Prerequisite: NURS 700.

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 care is provided to vulnerable population groups. Students assume leadership roles in executing evidence based, scholarly, population-focused health projects to promote health among targeted populations. Prerequisites: all core and concentration courses with the exception of the elective course, IDHP 610 (applies to Clinician to Administrator students only) and NURS 810 (applies only to Nursing Education students); department permission required.

NURS 810 TEACHING PRACTICUM (3)  
A practicum designed to apply new 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 in weekly seminars. Prerequisites: NURS 610, NURS 612, NURS 710, NURS 712 (may be taken concurrently).