

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Information for Prospective MSN Students

We are pleased to tell you about the Master's Program in Nursing at West Texas A&M University. The MSN Program was implemented in the fall of 1978. The master's degree options have been developed based not only on the nursing needs of Texas, but also on the expectations for the future of advanced nursing practice as informed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

Accreditation

The master's degree program in nursing at West Texas A&M University is accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>). As such, the graduate curriculum is designed using the AACN Essentials of Masters Education for Advanced Practice Nursing and is also congruent with the NTF criteria for the Family Nurse Practitioner track.

Role Specialization Degree Options

Comprehensive MSN

The Comprehensive MSN program prepares students to function at an advanced nursing practice level in complex environments. This on-line degree specialty allows students to focus their master's education in Nursing Administration/Management, or Nursing Education. All students will take the advanced clinical nursing courses of Pathophysiology, Pharmacotherapeutics, and Advanced Assessment to enhance clinical practice at an advanced level. Praxis coursework is personalized to address each student's specific learning objectives as well as current national guidelines for practice at the graduate level. Graduates work in hospitals, outpatient settings, administrative positions, educator positions, and in collaborative practice with physicians and other health care providers, and schools of nursing. (39-40 credit hours) This program of study is available mainly online.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)

A Nurse Practitioner is a registered nurse with advanced education who is able to assess, diagnose (nursing and medical), manage (including prescribing), and evaluate care for persons who are ill, injured, and / or have chronic diseases. Health promotion and disease prevention are integral in the NPs practice. The FNP practices independently and autonomously within the nurse practitioner scope of practice, and collaboratively with physicians and other health care providers. The FNP specialization

program prepares students for advanced practice nursing providing primary healthcare in diverse areas (e.g. underserved areas, clinics, occupational settings, independent practice.) This results in improved access to primary healthcare. (750 clinical hours) This program of study is available in a hybrid format with clinical experiences in Texas only. Clinical experience in a state outside of Texas will need to be approved by the program director prior to acceptance.

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

The WTAMU PMHNP program prepares students for advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) providing mental healthcare to diverse populations. Successful students are eligible to apply for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certification exam. This program is available in an online format with clinical experiences in Texas. Clinical experience in a state outside of Texas will need to be approved by the program director prior to acceptance. 750 clinical hours are required.

POST MSN — Role Specialization in Family Nurse Practitioner or PMHNP

The Post MSN FNP or PMHNP is designed as a certificate course of study that enables a practicing nurse who holds a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree to prepare for credentialing as a FNP or Psychiatric Certification. Upon completion of the prescribed course of study, the student's transcript indicates that he/she has completed the educational preparation as regulated by the Texas Board of Nursing. Completing students are eligible to take a national certification exam for licensure.

An applicant may take NURS 6303 Theories of Nursing as a non-degree seeking graduate student prior to entering the program. However, taking this course does not guarantee acceptance into the master's program. The six-year completion time starts with the first graduate course regardless of whether you are accepted or not. Contact the Graduate Coordinator if you are interested in this opportunity.

Upon successful completion of the program, all MSN graduates will be prepared to:

- Integrate scientific findings from nursing, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, quality improvement, and organization sciences for the continual improvement of nursing care across diverse settings.
- Recognize that organization and systems leadership are critical to the promotion of high quality and safe patient care.
- Be articulate in the methods, tools, performance measures and standards related to quality.
- Apply research outcomes within practice settings, work as a change agent, and disseminate results.
- Use patient-care technologies to deliver and enhance care and use communication technologies to integrate and coordinate care.
- Intervene at the systems level through policy development and advocacy strategies.
- Communicate, collaborate and consult with other health professionals.
- Integrate organizational skills for client-centered, culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management and evaluation in prevention strategies for identified populations.
- Integrate knowledge into practice.

We appreciate your interest in our master's nursing program. We are confident we offer an excellent master's level nursing education that creates more opportunities in your nursing career. We would love to hear from you if you have additional questions contact **Lacy Mueggenborg** at 806-651-2654 or by email at lmueggenborg@wtamu.edu or nursing@wtamu.edu.

Getting Started . . .

General information about WTAMU can be found online at www.wtamu.edu.

MSN Program Admission Requirements

To be eligible for consideration in the MSN program, the following items must be received by **September 1 for a spring (Jan) admission start, or March 1 for a fall (Aug) admission start.**

- Application to the Graduate School (available online through the Admission's webpage), <http://wtamu.edu/academics/graduate-school.aspx>
 - (\$40 application fee can be paid on-line).
- Application to the Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing (accessible on-line on the Graduate Nursing webpage), <https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-nursing-health-sciences/department-nursing/index.html>
 - (\$50 nursing application fee paid by check or money order to be submitted to the Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing)

*Please upload your Nursing application form along with any accompanying documentation to the graduate school admission webpage. **Mail your nursing application fee to the Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing, WTAMU Box 60969, Canyon, Texas 79016-0001.***

MSN Program Eligibility Requirements

Process for Admission to the Graduate Program in Nursing

Applicants will:

1. Submit both applications to the Graduate School and the Graduate Nursing Program by the deadline dates (Sept 1 or March 1).
2. The application process includes:
 - a. **Comprehensive MSN applicants** will hold an unencumbered (RN) license in the U.S. **FNP applicants** will hold an unencumbered (RN) license in TX. (Other states' registered nursing licenses will be considered on a case by case basis depending on the states' Board of Nursing and Board of Education requirements for supervision of NP students.) ALL applicants must hold a BSN from an accredited University:
 - b. Provide the Graduate School with official copies of all transcripts.
 - i. Applicants are encouraged to have a cumulative GPA for the last 60 hours of college credit of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Failure in any nursing coursework

will be taken into consideration. A Nursing GPA will also be calculated and taken into admission consideration. (If your GPA does not meet the minimum criteria, please contact the Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing for alternative admission considerations.)

- ii. Applicant will submit a resume or CV for review.
- c. Applicants meeting the minimum criteria will be scheduled for a phone interview with the Associate Department Head for Nursing Graduate Programs or a designee once the application file is processed, if deemed necessary for unanswered questions or explanations.
- d. Provide the School of Nursing with two clinical (non-academic clinical supervisor) references and contact information. The Graduate School will contact the references and responses must be received in a timely manner.
- e. Applicants will write a goal statement for graduate study in nursing as part of the application paperwork. This goal statement will be evaluated based on:
 - i. Clear focus related to a goal statement
 - ii. Supportive detail regarding the goal statement
 - iii. Organization of goal statement (clear introduction, body, and conclusion)
 - iv. Clarity, grammar, and punctuation
 - v. A word count of between 500-750 words
- f. Degree seeking students will have admission preference over non-degree seeking students (i.e. post-MSN FNP).

International Students: please contact the [International Office](#) for additional information regarding their admission criteria.

An MSN application may be viewed as incomplete, and may not be considered by the Graduate Nursing Admissions Committee if not received by the admission deadline, or processed completely before the Committee meets. Due to limited class sizes, all qualified applicants may not be granted admission to the program.

Applicants will be notified by email of acceptance or denial of admission into the nursing program. It is the applicant's responsibility to advise the Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing in writing of any address changes.

Graduation Requirements for the MSN Degree

- Course work: A minimum of 39-40 credit hours for the Comprehensive MSN; 46 credit hours for FNP Role specialty.
- A grade of "B" or higher in all graduate courses.
- Complete degree within 6 years of the date of the first graduate course.
- A maximum of 12 hours of graduate courses with grades of "B" or higher may be transferred if approved equivalent.
- Thesis or Non-Thesis Option (Oral and written comprehensive examination).
- MSN Degree Plan completed. Application for graduation.

Full-Time and Half-Time Status

Enrollment in nine semester credit hours is considered full-time for graduate studies. To be eligible for federal financial aid, graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of five semester hours.

Comprehensive Role Specializations are:

- Nursing Administration/Management
- Nursing Education (Educator)

Areas of employment can include, but are not limited to:

- Nursing managers or administrators
- Nursing faculty or clinical educators
- Nursing informatics specialists
- Quality improvement
- Case management
- Patient advocate
- Utilization management
- Clinical coordinator
- Patient/unit educator
- Nursing management
- School nursing
- Community nursing

FNP Role Specializations can include Advanced Practice Nursing in:

- Primary Healthcare
- Underserved Access to Healthcare Areas
- Clinics
- Occupational Settings
- Independent Practice

MSN CURRICULUM

2024-2025 Catalog

<i>COMPREHENSIVE MSN - (On-line)</i>			<i>FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER (FNP) (Hybrid-based)</i>		
<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Cr. Hr.</u>	<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Cr. Hr.</u>
NURS 6303 (O)	Theories for Nursing	3-3-0	NURS 6303 (O)	Theories for Nursing	3-3-0
NURS 6320 (O)	Pathophysiology	3-3-0	NURS 6320 (O)	Pathophysiology	3-3-0
NURS 6318 (O)	Nursing Populations and Settings	3-3-0	NURS 6318 (O)	Nursing Populations and Settings	3-3-0
NURS 6384 (O)	Pharmacotherapeutics	3-3-0	NURS 6384 (O)	Pharmacotherapeutics	3-3-0
NURS 6315 (O)	Advanced Assessment	3-2-2	NURS 6315 NURS 6116 (O)	Advanced Assessment Nursing Scope of Practice	3-2-2 1-1-0
NURS 6317 (O)	Nursing Research	3-3-0	NURS 6317 (O)	Nursing Research	3-3-0
NURS 6326 (O)	Nursing Informatics	3-3-0	NURS 6340/6341 (H)	Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Healthcare (150 cl hrs.)	6-3-0
NURS 6322 (O)	Bioethics and Advocacy	3-3-0	NURS 6342/6442 (H)	Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Healthcare II (195 cl hrs.)	7-4-0
NURS 6323 (P)	Role Practicum in Area of Concentration	3-3-0	NURS 6343/6443 (H)	Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Healthcare III (195 cl hrs.)	7-4-0
NURS 6324 (P)	Scholarly Clinical Praxis	3-1-6	NURS 6216 (O)	Issues: Nurse Practitioner Role Development	2-2-0
NURS 6372	Special Topics	3-3-0	NURS 6590 (P)	Capstone Clinical Practicum (210 clinical hours)	5-0-0
NURS 6382	Thesis OR 6000-level course Special Topics	3-3-0			
NURS 6392	Thesis OR 6000-level course Special Topics	3-3-0			
NURS 6120 (H)	Research Utilization Project required for non-thesis students				
TOTAL(MINIMUM) CREDIT HOURS = 39-40			TOTAL(MINIMUM) CREDIT HOURS = 46		

(O) Online; (H) Hybrid (3 campus attendance dates per semester); (P) Practica (requires clinical/field experiences)

MSN CURRICULUM

<i>Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner</i>		
<u>Course #</u>	<u>Course Name</u>	<u>Cr. Hr.</u>
NURS 6303 (0)	Theories of Nursing	3-3-0
NURS 6320 (0)	Pathophysiology	3-3-0
NURS 6318 (0)	Populations	3-3-0
NURS 6384 (0)	Pharmacology	3-3-0
NURS 6315 6315L (0)	Advanced Health Assessment	3-3-0
NURS 6317 (0)	Nursing Research	3-3-0
NURS 6245 (0)	Psychopharmacology	2-2-0
6347/6348 (P)	PMHNP Principles PMHNP Clinical	3-3-0 3-3-0
NURS 6349/6350 (P)	PMHNP Principles II PMHNP Clinical II	3-3-0 3-3-0
NURS 6351/6352 (P)	PMHNP Principles III PMHNP Clinical	3-3-0 3-3-0
NURS 6246 (P)	PMHNP Clinical Essentials	2-2-0
NURS 6453 (P)	PMHNP Clinical Practicum	4-0-4
	TOTAL (MINIMUM) CREDIT HOURS = 47	

- **First six (6) courses are required to be completed before Psychiatric core courses may be taken.**
- **Post FNP and Post PMHNP are required to take 3P's before attempting core portion of degree.**
- 3P's = Pathophysiology, Pharmacology, and Advanced Health Assessment
- **Exceptions to this will be determined by Associate Dean and Program Directors.**

Below is a sample Plan of Study (POS). There is some flexibility within the schedule, but this is the suggested sequence plan for optimal progression through the programs.

FNP Progression	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA
NURS 6303; Theories	√							√						
NURS 6317; Nsg. Research			√							√				
NURS 6318; Populations		√							√					
NURS 6320; Pathophysiology	√							√						
NURS 6384; Pharmacotherapeutics		√							√					
NURS 6315; Adv. Assessment NURS 6116 Nurse SOP			√							√				
NURS 6340/6341; FNP I (SU)					√								√	
NURS 6342/6442; FNP II (FA)						√					√			
NURS 6343/6443; FNP III (SP)				√								√		
NURS 6590; Capstone							√							√
NURS 6216; NP Role Issues							√							√
Hours per semester	6	6	7	7	6	7	7	6	6	7	7	7	6	7

Comprehensive Progression	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA
NURS 6303; Theories	√							√						
NURS 6317; Nsg. Research			√							√				
NURS 6318; Populations		√							√					
NURS 6320; Pathophysiology	√							√						
NURS 6384; Pharmacotherapeutics		√							√					
NURS 6315; Adv. Assessment			√							√				
NURS 6326; Nsg Informatics						√					√			
NURS 6322; Bioethics				*			√					√		
NURS 6324; Praxis				√								√		
NURS 6323; Practicum						√								√
NURS 6120; Synthesis (non-thesis only)						*	√							√
NURS 6372; Special Topics				√							√			
NURS 6382; Special Topics					√								√	
NURS 6392; Special Topics			*			√								√
Hours per semester	6	6	6	6	3	9	4	6	6	6	6	9	3	4
For the thesis option, student would replace two electives with NURS 6301 & 6302; Thesis I & II (39 hrs.)														

An example of elective modules includes (but not limited to); Clinical Teaching Strategies, Organization Behavior in Healthcare, Management/Leadership in Nurs Administration, Wellness-based Nursing, Informatics, Hlthcare Finance.

PMHNP Progression	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	FA	SP	SU	FA	SP	SU	FA
NURS 6303; Theories	√							√						
NURS 6317; Nsg. Research			√							√				
NURS 6318; Populations		√							√					
NURS 6320; Pathophysiology	√							√						
NURS 6384; Pharmacotherapeutics		√							√					
NURS 6315; Adv. Assessment-NP			√							√				
NURS 6349/6350 Principles/Clinical II (SU) NURS 6245 Psychopharmacology					√								√	
NURS 6351/6452 Principles/Clinical III (FA)						√					√			
NURS 6347/6448 Principles/Clinical (SP)				√								√		
NURS 6246 Clinical Essentials							√							√
NURS 6553 Clinical Practicum							√							√
Hours per semester	6	6	6	7	8	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	8	7

Note: Some students will have to complete 3p's before starting any clinicals. (Patho, Pharm, Adv. Health) Program Director will make this decision.

WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
Laura and Joe Street School of Nursing
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATE NURSING STUDENTS

Copies of the following immunization records must accompany your nursing application.

Required Vaccinations	Schedule for Vaccinations
Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)*	Students who were born on or after January 1, 1957, must have two (2) vaccinations/doses of measles containing vaccine administered since January 1, 1968; one (1) dose of rubella vaccine; and one (1) dose of mumps vaccine.
Varicella (chickenpox)*	Students must have two (2) doses of varicella vaccine, unless the first dose was administered prior to 13 years of age; OR a serologic test that is positive for varicella antibody; OR physician/parent documentation of varicella illness. To document prior varicella illness, please complete the attached form and include with application.
Tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td/Tdap)*	One (1) dose of tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td/Tdap) is required within the last ten (10) years.
Hepatitis B Vaccine Series*	Students must have the complete series (3 doses) of hepatitis B vaccine OR serologic confirmation of immunity for hepatitis B.
TB Skin Test	Vaccination must be done every year. If a student has a past-positive reactor, a report of the last chest X-ray must be included with the application.
Annual Influenza Vaccine	Students will be required to have an annual flu vaccine.
CPR Healthcare Provider Verification	

For more information, see the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention dated December 26, 1997, Vol. 46, and the Supplement to Hospital Infection Control, January, 1998; or call the Department of State Health Services, Immunization Division, 1-800-252-9152.

*See Texas Administrative Code, Title 25 Health Services, Part 1 Department of State Health Services, Chapter 97 Communicable Diseases, Subchapter B Immunization Requirements in Texas Elementary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education, **Rule 597.64 Required Vaccinations for Students Enrolled in Health-Related and Veterinary Courses in Institutions of Higher Education**, effective April 11 2004.

DOCUMENTATION OF PRIOR VARICELLA ILLNESS

Documentation of prior varicella illness can be provided by the following methods:

1. A serologic confirmation of varicella immunity (positive varicella IgG result).
2. A written statement from a physician, or the student's parent or guardian.

This is to verify that _____
(Name of student)

had varicella disease (chickenpox) on or about _____
(Approximate month/day/year)

and does not need the varicella vaccine.

(Signature) (Date)

(Relationship to student)