Overview of M. S. in Nursing Program  
Northern Illinois University  
School of Nursing and Health Studies  
Revised Curriculum Fall 2015

The School of Nursing and Health Studies offers programs of graduate study leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) in nursing.

The M.S. in advanced practice nursing track prepares students to sit for a certification examination as a family nurse practitioner. It is focused on primary care not acute care.

M. S. students in the nursing education specialization are prepared for teaching roles in academic and practice settings.

The master’s degree in nursing and post-graduate certificates at Northern Illinois University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation).

Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.)  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
Nursing Education

A minimum of four to six semesters is required for completion of the M.S. in nursing program. Study in the M.S. program may be full-time or part-time. Graduates are prepared for the nurse educator role or for an advanced practice family nurse practitioner role.

Current licensure with no encumbrance as a registered nurse in Illinois is prerequisite to enrollment in all nursing courses unless otherwise specified. Enrollment in the internship courses (NURS 603, NURS 623, NURS 633, NURS 653, NURS 663, and NURS 673) requires that planning be completed with appropriate faculty during the semester preceding each internship experience.

The graduate faculty may determine that a student not continue in the master’s program in nursing for failure to maintain professional standards.

Graduate students finalize their plan of study in consultation with an assigned adviser. A maximum of 6 semester hours of credit may be transferred from another college or university.

Program Requirements

Core Courses - Required for ALL Nursing M.S. Students (26 to 27)
NURS 601 Master’s Level Nursing Practice (2)  
ETR 521 Educational Statistics I (3)  
OR PHHE 605 Biostatistics in Public Health (4)  
OR BIOS 670 Biostatistical Analysis (3)  
NURS 602 Advanced Pathophysiology across the Lifespan (3)  
NURS 604 Advanced Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing (3)  
NURS 605 Advanced Pharmacology across the Lifespan (3)  
NURS 606 Advanced Physical Assessment across the Lifespan (2)  
NURS 607 Lab: Advanced Physical Assessment (1)  
NURS 701 Advanced Nursing Leadership (3)  
NURS 704 Clinical Prevention in Advanced Nursing (3)  
NURS 706 Informatics for Evidence-Based Practice (3)

One of the following tracks or specializations (15-24)

Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) Core Courses – Required for all APN Students (5)
NURS 608 Diagnostic Reasoning (2)  
NURS 650 Primary Care: Women across the Lifespan (1)  
Two of the following courses (1 total):
NURS 681 X-ray Interpretation (0.5)  
OR NURS 682 Suturing and Office Procedures (0.5)  
OR NURS 684 Electrocardiogram Interpretation (0.5)  
OR NURS 685 Orthopedic Skills (0.5)  
OR NURS 686 Billing and Coding Processes (0.5)  
NURS 698 Capstone: Program Synthesis (1)
Family Nurse Practitioner Track (19)
NURS 651 Primary Care: Infant, Child, and Adolescent (3)
NURS 652 Primary Care: Adults across the Lifespan (3)
NURS 654 Primary Care: Women during Reproduction (1)
NURS 653 Internship: Infant, Child, and Adolescent (4)
NURS 663 Internship: Women across the Lifespan (4)
NURS 673 Internship: Adults across the Lifespan (4)

Specialization in Nursing Education (15)
NURS 621 Foundations in Nursing Education I (3)
NURS 622 Foundations in Nursing Education II (4)
NURS 603 Education Practicum: Direct Care (2)
NURS 623 Education Practicum: Classroom Setting (3)
NURS 633 Education Practicum: Clinical Setting (2)
NURS 698 Capstone: Program Synthesis (1)

Course Descriptions

NURS 601 TRANSITION TO MASTER'S LEVEL NURSING (2). Enhancement of professional skills necessary for successful development of the advanced nursing practice roles. Focus on skilled communication, including written, verbal and non-verbal language; and development of advanced critical thinking skills. PRQ: Admission to MS nursing program. CRQ: None.

NURS 602 ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (3). Underlying principles common to disease processes. Physiology and pathophysiology of selected systems and subsystems illustrating altered health states across the life span. Integration of current evidence and technologies from nursing and other disciplines. PRQ: None. CRQ: NURS 601; or consent of program.

NURS 603 EDUCATION PRACTICUM: DIRECT CARE (2). Experience in an identified area of nursing practice with opportunities to integrate advanced knowledge and skills through a guided, multi-disciplinary, scholarly project to address a clinically-based issue or question. Refinement of clinical expertise in selected area. Expansion of the role of educator in professional nursing practice. PRQ: None. CRQ: NURS 621; and consent of program.

NURS 604 ADVANCED EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN NURSING (3). Evaluation and integration of evidence to guide improvements in nursing practice and health outcomes in diverse individuals and populations. Exploration of the collaborative role of the nurse in ethical, evidence-based nursing practice and scholarship. PRQ: None. CRQ: ETR 521 or PHHE 605 or BIOS 670; or Consent of School

NURS 605. ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (3). Principles of pharmacology for diverse populations across the lifespan. Emphasis on using clinical reasoning to analyze the processes of medications in managing patient health. Guidelines and procedures for prescribing and monitoring pharmacologic regimens used to treat common conditions. Comprehensive patient education related to all pharmacologic agents. Selected clinical experiences. PRQ: NURS 602; or consent of program.

NURS 606: ADVANCED PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (2). Expansion of prerequisite knowledge of physical assessment and health history. Emphasis on comprehensive physical, psychosocial, and cultural assessments across the lifespan. PRQ: Undergraduate Health Assessment Course and NURS 602. CRQ: NURS 607; or consent of program.

NURS 607: LAB: ADVANCED PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT (1). Simulated and practice experiences in physical assessment and obtaining health histories for the development of advanced skill in physical, psychosocial, and cultural assessment across the lifespan. CRQ: NURS 606; or consent of program.

NURS 608: DIAGNOSTIC REASONING (2). Builds on knowledge base of history taking and physical examination to develop a systematic approach to assessing common complaints in patients across the lifespan. Emphasis on cognitive principles and clinical reasoning strategies that are required to combine and synthesize patient data into differential diagnosis, identify the benefits and risks of tests and treatments, and formulate plans for patient management. CRQ: NURS 606 or consent of program.

NURS 621: FOUNDATIONS IN NURSING EDUCATION (3) Exploration of the philosophical and theoretical foundations of nursing education emphasizing nurse educator role formation. Analysis of legal, ethical, cultural, and
sociopolitical factors affecting nursing education. Course development and teaching strategies in various settings. PRQ: NURS 601 and NURS 604 and NURS 606 and NURS 607 and NURS 701 and NURS 704. CRQ: NURS 605 and NURS 706; or consent of program.

**NURS 622: FOUNDATIONS IN NURSING EDUCATION II (4).** Design and development of nursing curricula in education settings. Principles of assessment, measurement, and evaluation of learners, curricula, and programs in academic and healthcare settings. Focus on the use of evidence-based approaches in curricular design and evaluation. PRQ: NURS 621; or consent of program.

**NURS 623: EDUCATION PRACTICUM: CLASSROOM SETTING (3).** Plan, implement, and evaluate the delivery of nursing education in the classroom environment utilizing multiple delivery methods. CRQ: NURS 622; and consent of program.

**NURS 633: EDUCATION PRACTICUM: CLINICAL SETTING (2).** Plan, implement, and evaluate the delivery of nursing education content in the clinical academic setting utilizing multiple delivery methods. CRQ: NURS 622 and NURS 623; and consent of program.

**NURS 650: PRIMARY CARE: WOMEN ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (1).** Principles underlying the primary care management of common health and illness issues in women across the lifespan. Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. PRQ: NURS 605 and NURS 606 and NURS 607 and NURS 608 or consent of program.

**NURS 651: PRIMARY CARE: INFANT, CHILD, AND ADOLESCENT (3).** Principles underlying the management of common health and illness issues in infants, children, and adolescents in the primary care setting. Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. PRQ: NURS 605 and NURS 606 and NURS 607 and NURS 608; or consent of program.

**NURS 652: PRIMARY CARE: ADULTS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (3).** Principles underlying the primary care management of common health and illness issues in adults across the lifespan (including young adults, adults, and older adults). Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. PRQ: NURS 605 and NURS 606 and NURS 607 and NURS 608; or consent of program.

**NURS 653: INTERNSHIP: INFANT, CHILD, AND ADOLESCENT (4).** Clinical experiences in the management of common health and illness conditions of infants, children, and adolescents in the primary care setting. Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. CRQ: NURS 651; and consent of program.

**NURS 654: PRIMARY CARE: WOMEN DURING REPRODUCTION (1).** Principles underlying the primary care management of common health and illness issues in women during reproduction. Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. PRQ: NURS 606, NURS 607, NURS 608.

**NURS 663: INTERNSHIP: WOMEN ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (4).** Clinical experiences in the management of common health and illness conditions of women across the lifespan in the primary care setting. Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. CRQ: Family Nurse Practitioner Students: NURS 650 and NURS 652 and NURS 654; and consent of program.

**NURS 673: INTERNSHIP: ADULTS ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (4).** Clinical experiences in the management of common health and illness conditions of adults across the lifespan (including young adults, adults, and older adults) in the primary care setting. Emphasis on the impact of health and illness on the individual within the context of diverse families. May be repeated to a maximum of 12 credit hours. CRQ: Family Nurse Practitioner Students: NURS 652; and consent of program.

**NURS 681: X-RAY INTERPRETATION (0.5).** Clinical skills related to the assessment and management of patients with presentation of conditions requiring radiologic imaging. Focus on the presentation and diagnosis of conditions that are high volume or high risk. CRQ: Consent of program.

**NURS 682: SUTURING AND OFFICE PROCEDURES (0.5).** Basic and advanced skills in the management of wounds and select dermatological conditions. Emphasis on conditions that are high volume. CRQ: Consent of program.
NURS 684: ELECTROCARDIOGRAM INTERPRETATION (0.5). Clinical skills related to the assessment and management of patients with presentation of conditions requiring electrocardiogram interpretation. Focus on the presentation and diagnosis of conditions that are high volume or high risk. CRQ: Consent of program.

NURS 685: ORTHOPEDIC SKILLS (0.5). Clinical skills related to the assessment and management of patients with presentation of orthopedic injuries. Focus on the presentation and diagnosis of conditions that are high volume. CRQ: Consent of program.

NURS 686: BILLING AND CODDING PROCESSES (0.5). Clinical skills related to reimbursement by CMS and private payers. Focus on documentation required for billing and coding. CRQ: Consent of program.

NURS 698: CAPSTONE: PROGRAM SYNTHESIS (1). Focus on demonstration of achievement of all of the Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing. Must be taken during the final semester of the Master’s program. CRQ: Final Internship/Practicum and consent of program.

NURS 701: ADVANCED NURSING LEADERSHIP (3). Leadership and organizational theories with an emphasis on advanced nursing practice within complex organizational systems. Development of advanced nursing practice leadership skills with the purpose of collaborating with multiple disciplines. Preparation to lead multiple constituencies for ongoing improvement of health outcomes among individuals, aggregates, and systems. Quality improvement strategies and resource utilization are addressed ensuring accountability for quality health care and patient safety. Exploration of health policy development. PRQ: Admission to the D.N.P. program or Consent of School.

NURS 704 CLINICAL PREVENTION IN ADVANCED NURSING (3). In-depth analysis of population health and its dimensions. Exploration of models and strategies for clinical prevention to promote health, reduce risks, and prevent illnesses. Examination of the relationships between healthcare delivery models and health outcomes. Emphasis will be placed on advanced nursing practice leadership in designing, implementing, and evaluating clinical prevention services. PRQ: NURS 701; or Consent of School

NURS 706 INFORMATICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED NURSING (3). Advanced practice use of nursing informatics to promote and inform evidence-based practice in a healthcare setting. Emphasis on application and evaluation of informatics and technology to improve healthcare access, settings, efficiency, and cost. PRQ: NURS 702; or Consent of School.