MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Master of Science degree program at the KU School of Nursing enlarges the focus of nursing, using as its foundation the basic baccalaureate nursing program. The master’s program curriculum includes the following components: Common Core, Leadership Core, Research Core and Functional Specialty Core. Leadership specializations include organizational leadership, public health nursing, and nursing informatics.

The KU School of Nursing’s baccalaureate, master’s, and doctor of nursing practice (DNP) programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.aacn.nche.edu), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 887-6791.

This organization is a nationally recognized professional accrediting body for collegiate nursing programs. The baccalaureate, master’s, and DNP programs also are approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (http://www.kbsn.org). The Nurse Midwifery Program is accredited by the Accreditation Division of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (http://www.midwife.org), 8403 Colesville Rd., Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910, (240) 485-1800.

Applications to the Master of Science in nursing program are accepted twice a year. **April 1st and September 1st** are the respective deadlines for fall and spring semesters.

**Application eligibility requirements include the following:**

1. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from a nationally accredited program (NLNAC or CCNE)
2. Current registered nurse licensure in at least one state in the United States
3. Minimum of one year of clinical work experience as a registered nurse preferred
4. Minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
5. Potential for leadership and application of scholarship in nursing
6. Potential to provide expert service and leadership in functional area
7. Completion of a graduate-level statistics course either prior to admission or during first semester of graduate study
8. Satisfactory criminal background check (completed once an offer of admission has been extended to applicant)

**English Language Requirements:** All applicants for study at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) whose native language is not English must demonstrate an established level of English language proficiency through either the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or the academic format of the EILTS (International English Language Testing System). The test must have been taken within two years of the first semester of enrollment.

Applicants who do not meet the admission criteria for regular admission status may be considered on an individual basis for provisional admission status as either degree-seeking or nondegree-seeking students.

See also Admission in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

**Organizational Leadership (OL) Specialty** (minimum 37 credit hours) - prepares nurses to assume leadership positions in hospitals and other health agencies.

**Common Core (6)**
- NRSG 755 Professionalism in Advanced Nursing Practice 3
- NRSG 748 Theories for Practice and Research 3

**Leadership Core (11)**
- NRSG 808 The Social Context for Health Care Policy 2
- NRSG 820 Program, Project, and Communication Planning 2
- NRSG 826 Global Perspective and Diversity in Healthcare 2
- NRSG 880 Organizational Foundations for Leading Change 3
- NRSG 885 Evaluation and Analysis for Healthcare Effectiveness 2

**Research Core (5)**
- NRSG 754 Health Care Research 3
- NRSG 898 Research Project in Nursing 2
  or NRSG 899 Thesis

**Specialty Core (15)**
- HP&M 822 Health Care Economics 3
- NRSG 881 Applied Budgeting and Finance 3
- NRSG 882 Introduction to Operations 3
  or NRSG 883 Complexity Science Approaches to Improve Organizational Effectiveness 3
- NRSG 886 Organizational Leadership Practicum 3
- NRSG 891 Human Resources and Workforce Development 3

Total Hours 37

**Nursing Informatics (NI) Specialty** (minimum 37 credit hours) - prepares the nurse with skills in analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation of information systems that support a full range of clinical and patient care functions.

**Common Core (6)**
- NRSG 748 Theories for Practice and Research 3
- NRSG 755 Professionalism in Advanced Nursing Practice 3

**Leadership Core (11)**
- NRSG 808 The Social Context for Health Care Policy 2
- NRSG 820 Program, Project, and Communication Planning 2
- NRSG 826 Global Perspective and Diversity in Healthcare 2
- NRSG 880 Organizational Foundations for Leading Change 3
- NRSG 885 Evaluation and Analysis for Healthcare Effectiveness 2

**Research Core (5)**
- NRSG 754 Health Care Research 3
- NRSG 898 Research Project in Nursing 2
  or NRSG 899 Thesis

**Specialty Core (15)**
- NRSG 853 Abstraction and Modeling of Healthcare Information 3
- NRSG 854 Knowledge Management in Healthcare 3
- NRSG 856 Health Informatics Practicum 3
- NRSG 857 Transforming Health Care through Use of Information Systems and Technology 3
University of Kansas School of Nursing

Joint Degree Program

Master of Science (Organizational Leadership) (MS) (p. 1) (p. 1)
Master of Health Services Administration (MHSA) (http://catalog.ku.edu/medicine/health-policy-management/mhsa)

Students who wish to earn master’s degrees in both Nursing (organizational leadership specialty) and Health Services Administration may elect the joint degree option. By combining some course work, the two degrees may be completed in a shorter time frame. Students in the MS/MHSA joint degree program must complete a total of 62 graduate credit hours: 33 credit hours in Health Policy & Management, and 29 credit hours in the School of Nursing. If completed separately, the MS in nursing requires 37 credit hours and the MHSA degree requires 52-54 credit hours.

II. Standards

A. Observation/Sensory-motor: Applicants must be able to observe demonstrations and learn from experiences in the basic sciences, including but not limited to, physiology and pharmacology, microbiology and pathophysiology laboratory situations. Applicants must be able to observe and learn from experiences in the clinical nursing laboratory such as the following examples: accurately read gradients/calibrations on a syringe; measure medications accurately; accurately recognize color changes on chemical reaction strips; assess heart, breath, abdominal sounds; assess normal and abnormal color changes in the skin; observe pupil changes; and observe digital or waveform readings.

B. Communication: Communications include not only speech but also reading, writing, and computer usage, including handheld digital access. Applicants must be able to communicate accurately and effectively with patients, caregivers, physicians, other health professionals, clinical facility staff, faculty and staff, peers, and the community in general in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive nonverbal communications.

C. Psychomotor: Applicants should have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Applicants should be physically able to collect specimens and perform basic tests (such as glucose finger stick, urine dipstick). Applicants should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of emergency treatment reasonably required of nurses are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, application of pressure to stop bleeding, and assist in moving and lifting patients using proper body mechanics. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and using tactile and visual senses.

D. Intellectual-Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative: Applicants must be able to comprehend and interpret documents written in English. Applicants should have cognitive abilities including measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. Critical thinking is the ability to synthesize knowledge and integrate the relevant aspects of a client’s history, physical exam findings and diagnostic studies. Problem solving, the critical skill demanded of nurses, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, the applicant should be able to comprehend three dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures in order to understand normal and abnormal anatomy and physiology.

E. Behavioral and Social Attributes: Applicants must possess the emotional health required to utilize their intellectual abilities fully, exercise good judgment, complete all responsibilities attendant to the nursing diagnosis and care of patients promptly, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and their families. Applicants must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to changing environments, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal
communication skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that should be assessed during the admissions and education process. As a component of nursing education, a student must demonstrate ethical behavior including adherence to the professional nursing and student honor codes. The honor code at the KU School of Nursing is the Professional Integrity System (PROFITS). KU PROFITS is a peer-oriented integrity system to promote an environment where academic honesty is valued and expected.

III. Reasonable Accommodation

Applicants who disclose a disability are considered for admission if they are otherwise qualified so long as such accommodation does not significantly alter the essential requirements of the curriculum and the educational program, or significantly affect the safety of patient care or others. When applicants or students disclose a disability, the provision of reasonable accommodations will be considered in an attempt to assist these individuals in meeting these required technical standards. Applicants whose response indicates that they cannot meet one or more of the expectations will be reviewed further by the University’s Office for Academic Accommodations, with applicant and faculty input, to determine if any reasonable accommodations are possible to facilitate successful completion of the nursing curriculum and preparation for the national registry examination.

It is important to give persons interested in enrolling in nursing a realistic view of the vigorous demands of the School of Nursing’s theoretical and practicum curriculum while at the same time investigating reasonable accommodations. Whether or not a requested accommodation is reasonable will be determined on a case by case basis. Interested individuals may schedule an orientation visit to the nursing skills laboratory and actual sites of the University of Kansas Hospital and/or University of Kansas Medical Center. These orientation visits enable persons to assess their interest and ability to function in the actual clinical areas and in learning and demonstrating manual skills.

Revised: May 9, 2014