Master of Science in Nursing

The Master of Science degree in nursing enlarges the focus of nursing, using as its foundation the basic baccalaureate nursing program. The program's goals are directed toward educating the nurse leader. Leadership specializations include organizational leadership, public health nursing, clinical research management, and nursing informatics.

The School of Nursing is one of 3 schools at the University of Kansas Medical Center (http://www.kumc.edu) in Kansas City, Kansas. Academic programs at KU Medical Center are offered through the Schools of Health Professions, Medicine, and Nursing. The Office of Graduate Studies at KUMC handles matters related to graduate programs in Health Professions, Medicine, and Nursing.

The School of Nursing uses the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctor of nursing practice (D.N.P.) 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 D.N.P. programs also are approved by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (http://www.ksbn.org). The Nurse Midwifery Program is accredited by the Accreditation Division of the American College of Nurse-Midwives (http://www.midwife.org), 818 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 728-9860. The Nurse Anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Programs, 222 S. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001, 847-655-1160.

M.S. Admission

Applications to the Master of Science in Nursing program are accepted twice a year. April 1 is the deadline for the fall semester and September 1 is the deadline for spring semester. Prospective students can apply using the KU Medical Center online application: https://www.applyweb.com/apply/kumc/

Application eligibility requirements include the following:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from a nationally accredited program (NLNAC or CCNE)
- Current registered nurse licensure in at least one state in the United States.
- Minimum of one year of clinical work experience as a registered nurse
- Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Completion of a graduate-level statistics course either prior to admission or during first semester of graduate study.
- Satisfactory criminal background check
- For international applicants whose native language is not English, a satisfactory score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language or the International English Language Testing System taken within the last 2 years is required. Visit KUMC Graduate Studies for information.

M.S. Degree Requirements

The Master of Science degree in nursing requires completion of an approved curriculum with a grade-point average of B or above, a written thesis or project, and a comprehensive oral examination. The program enlarges the focus of nursing, using as its foundation the basic baccalaureate nursing program. The program’s goals are directed toward educating the nurse leader. Leadership specializations include organizational leadership, public health nursing, clinical research management, and nursing informatics.

Nursing Major

Leadership

- The organizational leadership (OL) specialization prepares nurses to assume leadership positions in hospitals and other health agencies.
- The public health (PH) specialization prepares nurses to develop advanced community-based interventions and determine outcomes with emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention strategies for a targeted population.
- The clinical research management (CRM) specialization prepares the nurse to plan and implement clinical research trials.
- The nursing informatics (NI) specialization 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.

Joint Degree

Students may combine the Master of Science in Nursing (specialization in organizational leadership) with the Master of Health Services Administration. By combining some course work, the 2 degrees may be completed in fewer hours than if pursued independently.

Program Components

The leadership major presents a theoretical base specific to each specialization. Specialization courses are accompanied by practical experience that allows students to apply theory in a health care setting.

The M.S. in Nursing curriculum includes four core components: common, leadership, research and specialty. Organizational Leadership and Nursing Informatics require 37 credit hours. Public Health requires 39 credit hours. Clinical Research Management (CRM) requires 41 credit hours.

Common Core

Common core nursing courses provide the core knowledge and skills essential to the nurse practicing in any advanced area of nursing. Courses in this area are NRSG 748, NRSG 754, and NRSG 755.

Leadership Core

Courses in the leadership core provide the theoretical basis for the specializations in organizational leadership, public health nursing, and nursing informatics. Courses in this category are NRSG 808, NRSG 820, NRSG 826, NRSG 880, and NRSG 885. CRM requires NRSG 820, NRSG 826, and NRSG 880 from the leadership core and NRSG 731, NRSG 813, NRSG 806, and NRSG 812 from the advanced practice (see D.N.P. section).

Nursing Research

Nursing research courses focus on the ability of the nurse to use research and participate in the development of new knowledge in nursing and health care. Courses in this category are NRSG 754 and NRSG 898(project) or NRSG 899(thesis).
Specialty Core
Courses in this category provide the information necessary for practice at the graduate level.

Leadership Specializations

- Courses for organizational leadership are:
  - NRSG 881 Applied Budgeting and Finance 3
  - NRSG 882 Introduction to Operations 3
  - or NRSG 883 Complexity Science Approaches to Improve Organizational Effectiveness
  - NRSG 886 Practicum in Organizational Leadership 1-3
  - NRSG 891 Human Resources and Workforce Development 3
  - HP&M 822 Health Care Economics 3

- Courses for public health nursing are:
  - NRSG 809 Health Promotion and Complementary Therapeutics 3
  - NRSG 827 Advanced Concepts Public Health Nursing 2
  - NRSG 828 Public Health Nursing: Practicum I 3
  - NRSG 829 Public Health Practicum 3
  - PRVM 800 Principles of Epidemiology 3
  - PRVM 830 Environmental Health 3

- Courses for clinical research management are:
  - NRSG 823 Research Clinical Trial Management: Pre-Study Activities 3
  - NRSG 824 Research Clinical Trial Management: During Study Activities 3
  - NRSG 825 Research Clinical Trial Management: Post-Study Activities and Practicum Experience 3
  - NRSG 833 Managing Clinical Research Projects 3

Advanced practice core:
- NRSG 731 Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics for Advanced Practice Nursing 1
- NRSG 806 Advanced Physiology 4
- NRSG 812 Advanced Pathophysiology 3
- NRSG 813 Applied Drug Therapy 3

- Courses for nursing informatics are:
  - NRSG 853 Abstraction and Modeling of Healthcare Information 3
  - NRSG 854 Knowledge Management in Healthcare 3
  - NRSG 856 Health Informatics Practicum 1-3
  - NRSG 857 Transforming Health Care through Use of Information Systems and Technology 3
  - NRSG 858 Health Data: Theory and Practice 3-4

Flexible Scheduling
The majority of students in the M.S. program are part-time students and many students are employed. To accommodate student need and preference, many courses are offered online. Online classes typically include both asynchronous and synchronous learning activities.

Thesis/Project Option
The student may choose to complete a thesis for six credit hours (NRSG 899) or to complete a project for two credit hours (NRSG 898). The project involves applying aspects of the research process to the student’s area of nursing practice. A number of options are available for the project. Both thesis and project involve a formal paper and a comprehensive oral examination covering the area of study.