COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING – NURSING INFORMATICS

Lead Teams Using Electronic Technologies to Improve Patient Outcomes

If you are interested in advancing your knowledge and skills using innovative electronic technologies to improve and evaluate health care, the Master of Science in Nursing with specialization in Nursing Informatics (MSN-NI) is ideal for you.

Having knowledge and skills in the use of health information technologies is an essential and expected characteristic for all practicing nurses. By seeking advanced education in nursing informatics theory and practice, you'll position yourself for a leadership role in improving the quality, safety, outcomes, and value of health services in the United States. As the need to use information technology and wireless mobile devices and their applications increases across health care settings and patient homes, so too does the number of positions seeking MSN-prepared nurses to lead interprofessional teams in informatics.

Program Highlights:

- Entire program is completed online
- 4-week courses
- Degree can be completed in 12 to 15 months, based on entry method and pathway option
- Minimal requirement of 200 hours of preceptorship experience
- Incorporation of Interdisciplinary Professional Education (IPE) with Health Care Informatics discipline.
- Preceptorship is completed in faculty-approved clinical settings.
- One-on-one faculty advising and consultation with industry experts

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PLANETREE
Silver Designated
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Starts Every January and July
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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, HEALTH INFORMATICS SPECIALIZATION

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The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is for Registered Nurses who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree, or a Bachelor Degree in Nursing (BSN). In keeping with the standards for graduate education for advanced practice nursing delineated by the American Association of College of Nursing in the Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nurses, the purpose of the MSN program is to prepare students to assume leadership roles in their particular specialization. Masters level nursing education is the appropriate level of education for nursing professionals who are seeking roles that require advanced practice skills in order to function as providers and organizers of the health care delivery process.

The Specialization in Nursing Informatics is designed for nurses who seek advanced education in informatics theory and practice. Nurses play an important leadership role in the implementation of health information technology in health care delivery organizations. Potential students include nurses who participate and, in some instances, lead the successful deployment of health information technologies to achieve improvement in the quality, safety, outcomes and thus value of health services in the United States. The goal is to prepare RNs for leadership roles in informatics that includes the information and knowledge management best practices and effective technology capabilities for nurses identified through the Technology Informatics Guiding Education Reform Initiative. The specialty courses offered in the MSN Program of Study in Nursing Informatics are designed using the Interprofessional Education (IPE) Model to develop IPE Competencies. Graduates are being prepared to take one of the following Health Information Management Systems Society's (HIMSS) competency-based certification examinations depending on their length of experience in the field: Certified Associate in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CAMINS), or Certified Professional in Healthcare Information and Management Systems (CPHIMS). Graduates also are being prepared to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) competency-based certification examination in nursing informatics (RN-BC).

This program is approved by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

MSN Admission Requirements

The following candidates are eligible for admission into the MSN program:

1. Candidates who hold a BSN degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable, and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees.

2. Candidates who currently enrolled in the final course of their BSN degree program at National University or recently graduated from National University with their BSN. (Candidates in the RNBSN Completion Program are eligible to take MSN courses in the last month of their RN to BSN Completion Program) and meet the University requirements for graduate study, listed in the General Catalog under Academic Information for Graduate Degrees including Admission in the Term prior to Bachelor's Degree Completion.

*Candidates will be conditionally accepted into the MSN program until the following proofs are provided. Students may not begin specialization courses until the conditional acceptance is lifted, by providing proof of the following:

- Current, active and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence

- Proof of Employment offer in the capacity of a registered nurse (RN)

If candidates are unable to show proof of RN license and employment offer, admission to the MSN program will be rescinded.

RN to MSN Candidate Requirements

Candidates who hold a nursing diploma, or an associate nursing degree from a nursing program that meets one of these criteria 1) State Board of Nursing approved, 2) Nationally accredited nursing program, 3) from a regionally accredited University/School, if applicable and have completed a General Education curriculum or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) in these areas:

- Physical and Biological Sciences

- Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning

- Social and Behavioral Sciences

- Arts, Humanities and Language

- Writing, Speech and Communication

*Exception: Candidates do not need to have a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program as specified in Academic Information for Graduate Degrees and Credentials, Admission procedures.

Candidates wishing to be admitted under the exception must select one of the RN-MSN pathway options, and successfully complete the required courses prior to beginning Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) core requirements. RN-MSN Option 1 includes NSG 500 RNMSN Portfolio Transition; OR Option 2 includes NSG 444/444A Community Population Nursing with Lab, and NSG 442/442A Nursing Leadership and Management with Lab, and NSG 447/447A Quality Improvement with Lab).

All MSN Candidates including RN to MSN

- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Candidates with a GPA of 2.5-2.99 will be considered by the MSN Admission Committee on a case by case basis

- Have completed the MSN application packet

- Have completed the NU Graduate admission application

Candidates who graduated from a BSN program other than NU must

- Provide proof of current, active and unencumbered RN license in the State of employment and/or residence.

- Provide one official transcript from each college or university attended to the Registrar's office

- Provide two professional recommendation forms, preferably from individuals who hold graduate or doctoral degrees

- Provide one professional goal statement

Prior to the start of their specialization courses, all candidates must

- Provide evidence of current, active professional liability and malpractice insurance coverage throughout the program

- Provide evidence of specified immunizations, a report of a recent physical examination, a clear drug screen and background check and current BLS certification.

Additional Program Information

A. Candidates are required to meet with their Admission Advisor to review the process for applying to and acceptance into the Nursing program. The specifics described are: program of study, schedules of courses, requirements for progression in the program. Note: Prospective students should review the MSN packet before submitting the application.

B. Students should be proficient in operating a personal computer, including: demonstrated competency in standard computer operating systems and electronic filing systems, basic keyboarding skills, organizing and sorting electronic documents; demonstrated knowledge of standard computer applications to include Microsoft Word and Excel; familiarity with using internet browsers and standard email systems such as MS Outlook.

C. MSN core courses and Nursing Informatics specialization courses are 100% online apart from capstone course requirements. All accepted applicants must attend one virtual online program orientation.

D. Students who request a change in specialization after they have been admitted to a prior specialization must resubmit an application packet including a new goal statement, and one recommendation form completed addressing the new specialization area. A new resume is not required. All prerequisites must be met prior to admissions into the new specialization. The new application will be re-submitted via the Graduate Nursing e-form Application in SOAR by the Admission Counselor.

E. Students who withdraw from the program or withdraw their application prior to beginning the program will not need to reapply if the point of initial application occurred within one year of reapplication. Students requesting to be re-admitted after one year of initial application for admissions will need to resubmit a new application packet including all required items needed for the application packet and drug screening, background check, immunizations and physical examination. Re-application to the program does not guarantee acceptance or provide an advantage to being accepted.

NOTE: Additional fees apply as described:

- RN-MSN students taking NSG 500 carry additional fee of $3,280

- RN-MSN students taking NSG 442/A and NSG 444/A carry additional fee of

$260

- NI Area of Specializations carry additional program fees of $475

MSN Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:
- Implement appropriate theories, models, frameworks and concepts for nursing and non-nursing disciplines when designing interventions that influence healthcare outcomes for diverse populations in a variety of settings

- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams, to evaluate fiscally appropriate healthcare delivery systems that integrate research and clinical expertise to provide evidence-based, patience-centered care

- Evaluate economic, policy, environmental and social forces that impact nursing practice, health care delivery and quality of health care

- Participate in the analysis, implementation and evaluation of strategies for improving nursing practice through the implementation of health information systems and technologies

- Demonstrate a professional commitment to creating an environment of lifelong learning for patients, families, communities and other healthcare practitioners

Health Informatics Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:
- Collaborate with interprofessional teams to conduct a needs assessment, plan, design, transition to and evaluate information systems and innovative technologies

- Employ evidenced-based practice resources and references to support the adoption and use of healthcare technologies at the point of care

- Evaluate ongoing quality and process improvement for patient-centered care systems that optimize clinical workflow, care coordination and patient outcomes

- Appraise the healthcare technology environment to ensure compliance with ethical, legal and regulatory mandates and professional standards for advanced practice

Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Nursing requires a minimum of 49.5-82.5 quarter units of graduate credit, with a minimum of 40.5 quarter units completed at National University. Refer to the General Catalog section on graduate admission requirements for specific information regarding admission and evaluation. Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must maintain a B (84%) in all core and specialization courses. Students participating in the Nursing Informatics specialization must complete 200 hours of a preceptored practicum experience within their specialty capstone course.

RN-MSN Pathway Options and Course Requirements

Candidates that do not hold a Bachelor's degree for admission to the graduate program will follow one of the RN-MSN pathway. Candidates accepted into the RNMSN must provide completion of an associate degree in nursing or diploma Nursing Program and hold an unencumbered Registered Nurse license.

Option 1

Only if a student holds an associate degree in nursing or diploma in nursing and have at least one year of registered nursing experience in leadership, community health and quality improvement are eligible to complete NSG 500.

(1 course, 6 quarter units)

NSG 500 RN-MSN Portfolio Transition
    (6 quarter units)

Option 2

Student holds an associate degree in nursing or diploma in nursing with no registered nursing experience in leadership, community health and quality improvement.

ALL the following six (6) courses (25.5 quarter units)

NSG 444 Community Population NSG
    (6 quarter units)
    Corequisite: NSG 444A
NSG 444A Comm Pop NSG Practicum
    (3 quarter units)
    Corequisite: NSG 444
NSG 442 NSG Leadership and Management
    Corequisite: NSG 442A
NSG 442A NSG LDRSHP & MGMT Practicum
    (3 quarter units)

    Corequisite: NSG 442
NSG 447 Qual Improvement
    Corequisite: NSG 447A
NSG 447A Qual Improvement Practicum
    Corequisite: NSG 447

MSN Core Requirements

(6 courses; 27 quarter units)

NSG 600 Advance Practice Nursing
NSG 620 Theory in Advanced Practice
NSG 623 Biomedical Statistics
NSG 606 Health Policy & Finance
NSG 622 QI & Project Management
NSG 607 EBP for Advanced NSG Practice

Students must pass all core courses before beginning specialization courses.

Specialization in Informatics

(5 courses; 22.5 quarter units)

Students must pass all MSN Core Courses before beginning any specialization courses.
HTM 552 EHR Meaningful Use
HTM 660 System Management and Planning
HTM 520 Health Information Exchange
HTM 680 Health Informatics Case Study
    Prerequiste: HTM 520, HTM 552 and HTM 660
HTM 692 Health Informatics Capstone
    Prerequiste: HTM 680