

NURSING, MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (149)

Program Coordinator

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The MSN builds on the first professional degree, the baccalaureate of science in nursing. The purpose of the program is to develop expertise in advanced nursing practice that demands increased accountability, proficiency, and leadership.

Concentration(s)

- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (MSNS)

BSN to MSN Program

Admission to the MSN program is competitive and limited to available space. Following initial review, if applicant meets minimum admission standards, consideration is given to the applicant's professional work experience, statement of professional and personal goals, and professional references. An interview will be requested following a review of admission materials but does not assure acceptance into the program.

Minimum admission requirements:

- Earned BSN degree from nationally accredited nursing program
- Hold unencumbered RN licensure at the time of application, and must be licensed in the state where clinical experiences will be completed
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale
- Applicants with a cumulative GPA between 2.75-2.99 in the BSN degree, will be considered for admission provided they have at least a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 hours of the BSN degree; and have a satisfactory review of additional required admission materials (goal statement, resume, references); plus a positive interview. Admission if approved will be on a probationary status requiring that the student earn a minimum grade of B in each course in the first 12 hours of the program.
- Psychiatric NP applicants must document at least one year of RN experience in a psychiatric mental health nursing before the start of clinical course in the program.

Additional Required Application Materials:

- A written goal statement (500-700 words in length, 12 pt. font, in Microsoft Word or RTF) describing your personal and professional career goals; your academic strengths and weaknesses; life modifications you will make to help you be successful in the program; and, your understanding of online or independent learning.
- Three professional references (on form provided) to include nurse manager or nurse administrator and nursing faculty if a recent (<3 yrs.) BSN graduate.
- Professional resume
- All program admission materials must be received prior to the due date noted on the program web page. An interview may be offered following a review of admission materials. Completion of an interview and acceptance by the Graduate School does not assure acceptance into the MSN program. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission. Applicants must reapply to be considered for the next admission cycle by updating the Graduate School application and submitting all required program materials.

**The Graduate Faculty may schedule a personal interview after all required forms have been received.*

BSN to MSN Progression Requirements

- MSN students must adhere to progression requirements found in the WKU Graduate Catalog.
- Additionally MSN students must earn a 3.0 (B) in each specialty course before progressing to the next course according to the recommended curriculum sequence.
- Document at least one (1) year of experience working with people with psychiatric-mental health conditions.

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission>) of this catalog for Graduate School admission requirements.

Program Requirements (43 hours) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration (43 hours)

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner is prepared at the graduate level to diagnose, prescribe and treat psychiatric illnesses and mental health conditions across the lifespan. This concentration prepares the graduate to sit for certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (across the lifespan). See special admission criteria on the program admission section.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
NURS 500	Advanced Pathophysiology for Nurse Educators	4
NURS 501	Nursing, Politics and Health Policy	2
NURS 503	Advanced Health Assessment	2
NURS 504	Theoretical Foundations of Professional Nursing	3
NURS 505	Advanced Health Assessment Clinical	1
NURS 506	Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice	1
NURS 507	Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Assessment and Clinical Interviewing Techniques	1
NURS 508	Advanced Issues in Professional Nursing	1
NURS 510	Graduate Nursing Research	3
NURS 511	Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner III	1
NURS 512	Research Applications	2
NURS 515	Advanced Pharmacology	4
NURS 523	Adv Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner I: Diag/Mgmt Psych Disorders in Adults and Elderly	3
NURS 524	Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner I: Clinical	2
NURS 525	Adv Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner II: Diag/Mgmt Psych Disorders in Child, Adolescent, Young Adult	3
NURS 526	Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner II: Clinical	2
NURS 527	Advanced Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner III: Internship	5
Graduate statistics course		3
Total Hours		43