M.S.N. Nursing Education

This program is offered online through UTEP Online (https://www.utep.edu/extendeduniversity/utepconnect/).

This major prepares professional nurses for the nurse educator role in academic or clinical settings. The curriculum integrates masters' essential areas as described by the **American Association of Colleges of Nursing (2011)**, graduate-level advanced practice core courses, and education-focused specialty courses.

The curriculum is distinctively different from other nurse educator programs in several aspects. Graduate-level advanced practice courses are taught specifically for educators, and there is a focus on integration of best practices in simulation pedagogy throughout the curriculum. Additionally, during the two final mentored experience courses, students have the opportunity to work closely with professionals who have expertise in improving health outcomes for specific clinical populations, and with expert nurse educators.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The Master of Science degree in Nursing (MSN) prepares professional nurses for post-graduate roles in a variety of advanced practice and specialty areas. Graduates have increased autonomy and independence in their practice and are eligible to apply for national certification. The Master of Science in Nursing provides the graduate the opportunity to:

UTEP's MSN program outcomes incorporate nationally recognized educational and professional standards and competencies. Upon program completion graduates will be able to:

1. Apply theoretical perspectives, scientific evidence, and visionary thinking to critically analyze and lead complex organizational systems and implement innovative change.
2. Use interpersonal, inter-professional and organizational communication and relationship-building skills to create and lead highly functioning, reliable and healthy teams.
3. Combine business skills and principles, evidence-based practice, informatics, and quality and safety strategies and metrics to lead care systems for improvement of processes and outcomes.
4. Employ state, federal and global health policy(ies) to advocate for healthcare reform and improve health outcomes for all.
5. Model professionalism, integrity, ethical decision making and respect for differing points of view and with diverse populations.
6. Utilize research for the improvement of nursing practice and the advancement of nursing as an academic discipline.
7. Ascertain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to continuously improve the quality and safety of the health care systems in which they practice through lifelong learning.

MSN Applicants have the choice of three majors: a) Nursing Education; b) Nurse Practitioner with concentrations in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care, Family, and Pediatrics Primary Care or Acute Care; and c) Nursing Systems Management. Total required semester hours vary from 33 to 49.

Interested nurses apply online through the Graduate School Web site (http://graduate.utep.edu/) and send official transcripts directly to the Graduate School. After individual evaluation, the Dean of the Graduate School upon recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee makes the final decision regarding admission.

Admission Requirements

1. Valid, unencumbered Registered Nurse (RN) license from the state of current practice.
2. Completed application for the Graduate School at UTEP.
3. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or equivalent education at a foreign institution.
4. Applicants whose degrees are from non-English speaking institutions are required to demonstrate English proficiency. Please consult the Graduate School (https://www.utep.edu/graduate/future-students/applicant-timelines.html) website for required scores.
5. Admission Levels
   a. Full Admission: Undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or greater
   b. Conditional Admission: Undergraduate GPA of 2.00-2.99. Must achieve a B or better on first 3 core courses.

Online Learning Requirements

To be successful, students must purchase or have accessible a computer with reliable internet access, most current Microsoft Office and other software essential for online learning.

Compliance Requirements for MSN Program

Compliance **must** remain current throughout the semester in which the student enrolls or the student risks being dropped from courses. Once admitted, students provide compliance documentation directly to the Compliance Officer (https://www.utep.edu/nursing/resources/clinical-compliance.html). See compliance website (https://www.utep.edu/nursing/resources/clinical-compliance.html) for more information.

Travel Requirements

The new MSN student face-to-face orientation occurs on the UTEP campus prior to the start of each semester (fall, spring and summer). Attendance is strongly encouraged for all graduate nursing students.

Nurse practitioner students are required to travel to UTEP's campus up to a maximum of three times during the semesters in which they are enrolled in clinical courses. The number of on campus times varies according to the NP concentration. This time is used for self and faculty evaluation of clinical competencies.

Due to the limited number of appropriate clinical placements, nurse practitioner students may be required to travel 200 miles or more to fulfill clinical requirements.

Student Employment

Student employment is a personal decision; however, it is the student's responsibility to arrange work obligations to support the required education commitments for classes and clinical experiences. We strongly encourage NP students in the last three semesters of study to immerse themselves into the role and to limit outside employment.

Degree Requirements

The College of Nursing attempts to accommodate flexibility in course offerings with respect to weekend, evening, and summer classes and online delivery. Courses with enrollment of less than seven individuals are subject to cancellation.
Graduate students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 ("B average") in order to remain in good academic standing. Additionally, any graduate nursing student achieving a grade lower than B in any of the Graduate Core or Advanced Practice Core courses must repeat the course and earn a grade of B or better. Students earning two grades of C in any graduate nursing course will be dismissed from the Graduate Nursing Program. Students earning a grade of D or F in any graduate nursing course will be dismissed from the Graduate Nursing Program.
All degree requirements for the M.S.N. must be completed within six years.

Degree Plan

Required Credits: 33

Year 1

Code	Title	Hours
MSN in Nursing Education (All courses require a grade of B or better) [1]		
Semester 1		
Term A		
NURS 5310	Nursing Theory	3
Term B		
NURS 5370	Rsrch Appraisal & Application	3
Semester 2		
Term A		
NURS 5338	Health Policy and Advocacy	3
Term B		
NURS 5319	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
Semester 3		
Term A		
NURS 5362	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
Term B		
NURS 5220	Advanced Health Assessment	2
NURS 5121	Adv Health Assessm. Practicum	1
Total Hours		**18**

Year 2

Code	Title	Hours
MSN in Nursing Education (All courses require a grade of B or better) [1]		
Semester 4		
Term A		
NURS 5347	Effective Teach Strat Nurs Edu	3
Term B		

NURS 5348	Eval of Learning in Nurs Edu	3
Semester 5		
Term A		
NURS 5369	Popul Health Out. Mentored Exp	3
Term B		
NURS 5345	Curriculum Develop in Nurs Ed	3
Semester 6		
Term A		
NURS 5374	Nurs Educ Mentored Experience	3
Total Hours		**15**

Code	Title	Hours
Total Hours		**33**

[1] Graduate students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 (B average) in order to remain in good academic standing. Additionally, any graduate nursing student achieving a grade lower than a B in any of the Graduate Core or Advanced Practice Core Courses must repeat the course and earn a grade of B or better. Students earning two grades of C in any graduate nursing course will be dismissed from the Graduate Nursing Program. Students earning a grade of D or F in any graduate nursing course will be dismissed from the Graduate Nursing Program.