
College of Nursing

Graduate Degrees

2000-2001

	Major	Degree
Master's Level	Nursing	Master of Science in Nursing
Doctoral Level	Nursing	Doctor of Philosophy



Nursing

College of Nursing

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**Associate Graduate Faculty*

Mission

The College of Nursing provides educational programs to prepare professional practitioners in the discipline of nursing for diverse populations; promotes service activities to the community, nursing profession, and The University; and fosters research and scholarly activities to expand nursing knowledge and practice. The curricula prepare the beginning generalist in professional nursing and the advanced practitioner for leadership in health care systems.

The faculty envision the College of Nursing as an academic entity in which a diversified body of undergraduate and graduate students are prepared as expert nursing professionals and are able to think critically and provide leadership at various levels in their fields of practice. The College is viewed as a center for the development of new knowledge and improved forms of practice for nursing.

The faculty envision that the College of Nursing of The University of Southern Mississippi will be distinguished as:

1. a statewide and regional center for nursing education, practice expertise, and leadership;
2. a center of academic excellence grounded in the most innovative nursing education and the most advanced research;
3. a provider of regional health initiatives to promote and maintain the health care of citizens; and
4. a center of doctoral education in nursing for the state.

Organization and Administration

The College of Nursing offers programs at three sites- Hattiesburg, the Gulf Coast, and Meridian. The Dean of the College of Nursing is responsible for the implementation of programs on all sites. There are campus coordinators at Meridian and the Gulf Coast who coordinate scheduling and student admission and advisement at these sites. The Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs is responsible for admission and advisement of graduate students on the Hattiesburg campus.

Master of Science in Nursing Degree Program

The College of Nursing offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with specialization in Adult Health Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Service Administration, and Psychiatric Nursing.

The purposes of the master's program in nursing are to provide study in advanced nursing practice and role development, and to provide a foundation for doctoral study.

Admission Requirements

The College of Nursing adheres to the University policies with regard to the admission of graduate students. In a limited number of cases, conditional admission may be granted to applicants who do not meet the minimum requirements. Members of all under represented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. In addition to meeting The University requirements for admission to graduate study, the master's program applicant must have:

1. graduated from a baccalaureate program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education,
2. a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) in undergraduate nursing courses and a minimum 2.75 GPA in the last 60 hours,
3. completed an introductory course in statistics,
4. physical assessment skills.

5. submitted scores on the verbal and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE),
6. unencumbered registered nurse (RN) license and experience as an RN,
7. proof of immunization against the Hepatitis B virus,
8. current cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate,
9. a yearly tuberculosis (TB) skin test,
10. proof of a recent health examination, and
11. submission of three letters of reference from employers, supervisors, teachers, or others who are qualified to assess the student's academic ability and readiness for graduate study. The letters should be sent to the Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs in the College of Nursing.

Exceptions to the above criteria must be approved by the Assistant Dean for the Graduate Program, the Dean of the College of Nursing, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

In addition to the above requirements, students who select the Family Nurse Practitioner Program must also submit a separate application to the College of Nursing Graduate Admissions Committee by March 1 for consideration for the fall class.

Academic Progression

A student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average each semester and may not earn more than one grade of C in one course in the program of study. Failure to meet this requirement will result in denial of progression in the graduate nursing program.

Additional Requirements

Students enrolled in any laboratory course must adhere to agency guidelines and must maintain their nursing license to practice throughout the program of study. Students must purchase liability insurance through The University. The insurance fee will be charged for each semester the student is enrolled in a clinical course at the time of registration. FNP students will be expected to purchase physical assessment equipment.

Curriculum

Forty-five (45) to fifty-two (52) credit hours are required to complete the program: 21 hours in the core and 24 to 31 hours in the area of emphasis, including clinical courses, guided electives, and support courses.

Depending upon enrollment and resources, all nursing emphases may not be available at the Hattiesburg, Gulf Coast, and Meridian campuses.

Emphasis Areas

Students may select from the following emphasis areas:

Adult Health Nursing

Required courses: NSG 646, 647, 648/648L, 640/640L, 641/641L and electives

Community Health Nursing

Required courses: NSG 621, 622/622L, 623/623L, and electives

Family Nurse Practitioner

Required courses: NSG 646, 647, 648/648L, 661/661L, 662/662L, 663/663L, 664L, MTC 601 and electives

Upon graduation, students are eligible to sit for the national certification examinations.

Nursing Service Administration

Required courses: NSG 612, 618/618L, 619, 679L, and electives

Psychiatric Nursing

Required courses: NSG 631, 632/632L, 633/633L, and electives

Core Courses:

	Hours
Graduate Level Statistics Course	3
NSG 600 Issues in Nursing and Health Care	3
NSG 601 Theory Development in Nursing	3
NSG 603 Nursing Research I	3
NSG 604 Nursing Research II	3
NSG 698 Thesis or NSG 691 Project and Elective	6

Master of Science in Nursing for Graduates of Diploma and Associate Degree Programs

In keeping with its commitment to excellence and leadership in nursing, the College of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree designed for nurses holding an Associate Degree (ADN) or a Diploma in Nursing. ADN or Diploma nurses may complete the degree requirements in two to two and one half (2-2 1/2) years of full time study. With this plan, students do not receive the Baccalaureate degree, but after completing prerequisites they may proceed with the graduate level courses. Students may elect to pursue the program of study on a part time basis. Students select an emphasis area on admission.

Admission Requirements

1. An Associate Degree or Diploma in Nursing from a program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education,
2. evidence of an unencumbered Registered Nurse License,
3. one year of clinical experience as an RN,
4. an overall GPA of 2.75 required for admission,
5. a minimum of a C grade in each course applicable to the nursing curriculum (only one natural science course may be repeated once),
6. a GPA of 3.0 in all nursing courses,
7. proof of immunization against the Hepatitis B virus,
8. proof of recent health examination,
9. tuberculosis skin test yearly,
10. current CPR certification,
11. submission of scores on the verbal and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE),
12. regular admission to the Graduate School, and
13. Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to assess the applicant's readiness for graduate study sent to the college.

Program Requirements

The generic Master of Science in Nursing degree requires a minimum of 94 undergraduate credit hours that include 30 hours of credit for lower division nursing courses. Credit is awarded following successful completion of NSG 403. The student must complete 23 hours of upper division nursing courses with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Students declare their emphasis area at the time of admission to the program. All candidates for the degree must complete a minimum of 45 semester hours of course work leading to the Master of Science in Nursing Degree. Students seeking admission to the Family Nurse Practitioner Program must meet the additional requirements for admission and complete a minimum of 52 semester hours of course work. Academic progression policies are the same for all master's degree students.

The students must complete the entire program of study in order to receive a degree.

Financial Assistance

Traineeships/scholarships may be available from federal and state funding sources depending on the selected area of study and availability of funding in any given year. Financial assistance also is available from the Financial Aid Office of The University. Funding resources are subject to change, and payback clauses may be part of the funding agreement.

Interdisciplinary Minor in Gerontology:

The College of Nursing participates in the Interdisciplinary Gerontology Minor offered with the College of Health and Human Sciences. A designated faculty adviser in the College assists interested students in completing the requirements for that minor. Specific requirements and courses available for the minor can be found in the Health and Human Sciences section of this **Bulletin**.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The purpose of the doctor of philosophy degree in nursing is to prepare scholars with expertise in selected, substantive areas who will contribute to the science and practice of nursing through systematic inquiry and theory development. Graduates will be prepared to meet state, regional, and national needs for doctorally prepared faculty in schools of nursing and other leadership positions in health related organizations.

The College has a collaborative program with the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. Each University grants its own degree, but there are common admission requirements and a common core of courses which may be taken on either campus. Each institution has different, selected fields of study.

Admission Criteria

Application for admission to the program must be completed by March 1 of the year students seek fall admission. Students will be selected for admission to the program based on the following criteria:

1. graduation from a Master's program in nursing with a practice focus accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education,
2. evidence of professional nursing experience,
3. evidence of current unencumbered licensure to practice professional nursing,
4. three letters of reference, including two from doctorally prepared nurses and one from a current or recent employer, that speak to the applicant's intellectual ability, academic potential, and professional achievement; the letters should be sent to the college,
5. evidence of communication skills,
6. a 3.50 grade point average on all previous graduate work,
7. satisfactory scores on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical sections of the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), and
8. an interview (personal or telephone) with one or more faculty members.

Academic Progression

A series of examinations and procedures mark the student's progression in the Ph.D. program.

1. A Qualifying Examination administered to determine that the student has the qualities necessary to complete the program and to plan an individualized program of study. The exam will be given between the sixth and tenth week of the first semester of study;
2. A Comprehensive Examination administered after all course work has been completed,
3. Selection of a dissertation committee which will oversee the student's work toward the degree;
4. A final Oral Examination (dissertation defense) which covers the dissertation research and related fields is administered at the completion of the dissertation;
5. Fulfillment of the residency requirement, which may be met by continuous enrollment of
6 semester hours for each of 4 consecutive semesters,
9 semester hours for each of 3 consecutive semesters, or
12 semester hours for each of 2 consecutive semesters;
6. Fulfillment of Research Tool(s) requirements, including the language requirement;
7. A 3.0 GPA is required for graduation.

Curriculum

Common Core—14-15 Semester hours

Course	Semester Hours
Philosophy of Science	3
Theory Development	3
Quantitative Research Designs	3
Qualitative Research Designs	3
Advanced Statistics	2-3

USM College of Nursing Core

(in addition to the common core)—18 Semester Hours

Course	Semester Hours
Theory Development II	3
Advanced Statistics	3
Instrument Development and Analysis	3
Issues in Bioethics	3
Issues in Leadership	3
Introduction to Nursing and Health Policy	3

Fields of Study

Students may select one of the three major fields of study: ethics, leadership, or policy analysis from which to complete 24 semester hours of study. Students will register for 9-12 semester hours in their fields of study and 9-12 hours of courses that will support their fields of study from other schools and departments in the University.

Emphasis Areas

Students must take 9-12 semester hours in the selected emphasis area:

Ethics

NSG 721, 722, 723, 724

Leadership

NSG 741, 742, 743, 744, 745

Policy Analysis

NSG 761, 762, 763, 764

A total of 12 semester hours is allotted for the Dissertation research. Each semester the student is enrolled in non-nursing courses, the student must also enroll in NSG 792 (Special Topics in Nursing Commonalities) for one semester hour.