Nurses must be prepared to assist individuals, groups and populations to develop balanced, meaningful lives in our society. The nurse of the 21st century must be a competent health care provider as well as a professional leader, manager, coordinator, researcher, critical thinker and political activist. These roles must be enacted from a perspective of cultural competence, ethics and effective communication. The curriculum focuses on developing nursing professionals through education, research, scholarship and practice. The program promotes a learning environment that is student-focused, open, liberating and dynamic.

**UNIQUE PROGRAM FEATURES**

Course schedules are designed with special consideration to facilitate the family, work and study needs of registered nurses returning to school for the RN-MSN degree. Courses are now available online. The Southern Miss College of Nursing offers the qualified nurse the opportunity to bypass the bachelor’s degree and begin graduate-level courses after completing required undergraduate courses.
EMPHASIS AREAS
After completing required undergraduate courses, RN-MSN students may select one of four emphasis areas:
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (AGNP)
- Nurse Executive
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
- Graduation from an associate degree or diploma program accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission
- Admission to the Southern Miss Graduate School
- Proof of current unrestricted RN license in Mississippi
- Minimum of a “C” grade in each prerequisite course applicable to the nursing curriculum (Only one natural science course may be repeated, one time.)
- GPA of 3.0 in undergraduate nursing courses
- Proof of current CPR certification
- Proof of Hepatitis B immunization, current physical exam and TB skin test
- Submission of scores on the verbal and analytical sections of the GRE
- Three letters of reference