

# **SCHOOL OF NURSING**

Christine P. Sharpe, Ph.D., R.N. Interim Dean

Office: Home Economics and Nursing 110

Phone: (615) 963-5251

MAJOR: NURSING

DEGREE: Master's of Science in Nursing DEGREE: (M.S.N.)

Barbara E. Brown, Ed.D., R.N. Program Director

Office: Home Economics and Nursing 312

Phone: (615) 963-5252

The School of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with two concentrations, one in Family Health Nursing and the other in Holistic Nursing. The special mission of Tennessee State University School of Nursing master's program is to provide educational access for minority and non-traditional students. The MSN program provides a flexible curriculum with evening learning options for part-time students. The graduates of the program will enhance and advance their practice in settings of greatest need.

## Statement of Purpose

The curriculum of the Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is based on the philosophy of the University and the School of Nursing. The purpose of the master's degree program is to prepare nurses for advanced clinical practice and for nursing leadership positions in all types of health care settings. The MSN curriculum is organized to support students' progressive learning of advanced nursing knowledge and skills. The major concepts of the curriculum are advanced practice nursing roles, clinical management processes for families in primary and acute health care settings, holistic health care, theory and research based practice, and ethical, legal, and policy health care issues.

The program is designed to ensure students are knowledgeable in these areas:

1. Nursing theory and research concepts and their application to practice;
2. Advanced clinical practice; and
3. Role competence.

The program provides for a range of electives that complement the area of concentration. Students can transfer in six (6) hours of previous graduate level courses or choose two elective courses that support their individual educational goals. There is also the opportunity to carry out independent research (thesis) or to complete a guided Scholarly project. The master's program provides the foundation for doctoral study.

The MSN Program is fully approved by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The NLNAC is a resource for information about tuition, fees, and length of programs. For specific information contact the NLNAC at 61 Broadway, New York, NY 10006, 1-800-669-1656.

## Objectives

At the completion of the program the graduate will be able to:

1. Provide advance, holistic nursing care to families in primary health care settings according to current standards of practice;
2. Analyze concepts, principles, and theories of advanced nursing knowledge with application to clinical problems and promotion of wellness;
3. Investigate clinical problems which test nursing theory and contribute to the expanding knowledge base of nursing science and specialty practice;

4. Function as a transformational leader and case manager to solve complex clinical and organizational problems in a variety of health care delivery systems;
5. Analyze holistic, ethical, legal, and health care policy issues that impact the nursing profession and the delivery of quality health care;
6. Participate in educational activities and service which positively influence the quality of life in the community;
7. Integrate the major curricular concepts into advanced nursing practice roles;
8. Promote individualized and culturally relevant health care services for families; and
9. Prepare for doctoral study.

#### Admission

Students in the graduate nursing program will meet the University admission, candidacy, and graduation requirements as listed in the Graduate catalog. Students should review the Graduate catalog for University requirements and policies. The sequence of nursing courses begins in the first semester of Summer Session.

Applicants who have completed graduate level nursing courses at other institution(s) need to have earned at least a grade of "B" in each course to be eligible for admission. Individuals who have previously earned grades of less than "B" in any graduate nursing course at another institution are not eligible for admission to the TSU MSN program.

#### Transfer of Graduate Level Nursing Courses

Graduate level nursing courses completed at other institutions, with grades of at least "B" and taken within the last 3 years will be evaluated on an individual basis.

#### Unconditional Admission

Requirements for unconditional admission are:

1. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in all required courses (general education and nursing) for the BSN degree OR in all the nursing courses required for the BSN degree. Graduate level courses are not counted in calculating the GPA,
2. Completion of courses in health assessment, statistics, and computer science. Applicants with deficiencies in any of these areas will be considered for conditional admission and must remove the deficiencies by the end of the first semester of enrollment,
3. Graduation from an NLN accredited baccalaureate nursing program,
4. A current Tennessee R.N. license, and
5. A combined verbal and quantitative score of 900 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or a score of 30 on the Miller's Analogy Test (MAT).
6. A score of 1000 on the GRE or a score of 35 on the MAT may compensate for a GPA between 2.6 and 2.9; students will be evaluated on an individual basis.

#### Application Materials

Applicants should submit all the required application materials, by March 15th, to the Graduate School

1. Completed Graduate School applications with fee,
2. Two completed reference forms, one from a current clinical supervisor and one from a nursing faculty,
3. Official transcripts from all previous colleges,
4. Resume and copies of TN RN license, certification, professional organization memberships, community service, continuing education, CPR and liability insurance,
5. Written statement of professional goals, upon completion of the MSN degree, maximum of 1 page, double spaced, typed.
6. Documentation of current professional nursing experience.

#### Interview

An interview with the Nursing Admission Committee will be scheduled after the completed admission packet is received from the Graduate School.

The interview is a required part of the admission criteria.

#### Conditional Admission

Students who do not meet the unconditional admission requirements may be considered for conditional admission if they can demonstrate graduate potential by other means. Students must have an 870 score on the GRE or 25 on the MAT and have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 2.6.

Students who are admitted conditionally must meet the following requirements to be considered for unconditional admission status:

1. Completion of 6 hours of non-nursing graduate courses approved by the Program Director, and
2. A grade of "B" or better in each course.

#### PROCESS FOR CHANGE OF STATUS FROM CONDITIONAL TO UNCONDITIONAL ADMISSION

Students must meet all the requirements for unconditional admission before taking courses in the major.

Students who have completed the conditional admission requirements must apply for review by the Admission Committee and be approved for change of status. The request for review must be submitted by March 15th.

#### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Special requirements before entering the MSN clinical courses include current CPR certification, professional liability insurance, and meeting OSHA and agency required health requirements.

#### Retention

Students must earn a minimum of a grade of "B" in all courses required for the degree. Grades of less than "B" are considered failing. They are counted in the cumulative GPA but are not counted in the requirements for the degree.

#### Progression

The nursing courses are sequential and must be completed according to the approved program of study. Students must earn a minimum of a "B" in the nursing courses to progress in the program.

Students are expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress. Students who do not take nursing courses for two consecutive semesters (Fall - Spring - Summer) are not in good standing and must re-apply to the program. Individual plan of study is designed for part-time students.

#### Re-admission

A student who earns a "C" in a nursing course may request permission to repeat the course. This request will be reviewed by the Admission Committee on an individual basis. This is a one time option. A student who earns a second "C" is not eligible to continue in the program. Students who earn "D's" and "F's" are not eligible to repeat the course.

#### Candidacy and Graduation

Students must meet all the University Graduate School and School of Nursing requirements for candidacy and graduation.

All students must successfully complete a final examination as required by the Graduate School. For thesis students, the examination will consist of an oral defense of the thesis. For non-thesis students, the written examination will include content from the entire program of study and may, at the discretion of the student's committee, be followed by an oral examination.

#### Financial Assistance

Upon acceptance into the graduate program, students may apply for available stipends or financial aid. Full-time students (taking 9 hours each semester) may apply for teaching or research assistantships, and nurse traineeships.

#### Curricular Requirements

The goal of the master's program is to prepare professional nurses at a level of knowledge, skills, and values to provide advanced, holistic comprehensive clinical nursing care to individuals and families with complex health care problems in primary health care settings.

The curriculum provides a core of nursing and general knowledge as a foundation for advanced family health nursing practice which blends traditional clinical nurse specialist and family nurse practitioner roles.

Students identify and work towards achieving their individual career goals. Clinical preceptors and specialized seminars assist the student to focus on the knowledge and skills needed for their area of advanced nursing practice. Graduates may be eligible to become certified as family nurse practitioners.

Content is organized and sequenced to assist students to move from a general knowledge base to one that is more complex and specialized. The program consists of six (6) semesters of full-time studies with 43 credits required for graduation. Clinical practicum, field study, thesis or a scholarly project and comprehensive examination are part of the program. Students have the option of full-time or part-time study.

All students take the foundational courses first which provide holistic advanced knowledge, experiences, and competencies in nursing research, current and emerging theories, roles, ethical decision making, management of health care information, psychosocial, pathophysiological, pharmacotherapeutics, holistic assessment, and professional relationships.

Throughout the curriculum, faculty assist students to analyze nursing theorists' approaches to clinical management, consumers of perspective health care, and the environment in which nurses practice. Nursing theory and research are placed before the clinical courses so students can integrate the knowledge into their advanced clinical practice. Faculty in the clinical practicums guide students in their testing and application of theory.

Students take Nursing Informatics as their first course in the curriculum in order to provide for them the knowledge and skills which are foundational to research and practice in complex primary health care settings. The nursing research course expends upon undergraduate research knowledge. These two courses provide the foundation for their thesis or project investigations.

Courses in the Family Health and Holistic Nursing clinical concentrations assist students to apply clinical management processes, in progressively complex primary health care situations and settings. There are three courses with both theory and clinical experiences. Faculty assist students to build on their theoretical base and to pursue specific areas of interest with families in different settings.

Each credit hour of didactic teaching equals one 50 minute class period per week. One credit hour of clinical equals 5 clinical hours per week. The allocation of course credits to theory and clinical is determined by the faculty and is based on course content and objectives, and required learning activities.

Students may elect to do a Scholarly Project or Thesis as partial fulfillment for graduation.

#### Scholarly Project

Each student in the MSN program must conduct a scholarly project as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the completion of the degree. The initial step shall be the development of a proposal under the direction of an assigned faculty member. Faculty members who chair thesis or projects hold Graduate School status as approved by the Graduate Council. The proposal must be approved by the project advisor and the graduate faculty in the School of Nursing. Approval of the proposal by the graduate faculty shall constitute formal approval to pursue the scholarly project described therein.

The subject of the project must be an investigation of a topic of the current School of Nursing Research and Scholarly agenda. The project should produce useful conclusions and recommendations. A project director must be a member of the School of Nursing graduate faculty and involved in Nursing Research and Scholarly activities.

Scholarly Project students must enroll in NURS 522 for two consecutive terms (6 hours). Detailed directions for the Scholarly Project may be obtained from one's advisor.

#### Description of Course Requirements

##### Foundational Courses (18 hours)

NURS 500	Nursing Theory	3 credits
NURS 502	Research in Nursing Practice	3 credits
NURS 504	Role Development:	

	Theory and Practice	3 credits
NURS 506	Nursing Informatics	3 credits
NURS 508	Holistic Nursing	3 credits
NURS 521	Pathophysiology	3 credits

Major Concentration (16 hours) - Family Nurse Practitioner

NURS 510	Family Health and Nursing Assessment Across the Life Cycle	4 credits
NURS 528	Pharmatherapeutics	3 credits
NURS 512	Advanced Family Health Nursing I	4 credits
NURS 514	Advanced Family Health Nursing II	5 credits

Major Concentration (18 hours) - Holistic Nursing

NURS 510	Family Health and Nursing Assessment Across the Life Cycle	4 credits
NURS 528	Pharmatherapeutics	3 credits
NURS 517	Holistic Nursing Interventions	3 credits
NURS 518	Advanced Holistic Nursing Practicum I	4 credits
NURS 519	Advanced Holistic Nursing Practicum II	4 credits

Electives (3 hours)

NURS 524	Nursing Special Topics	
	OR	
	Graduate courses in other departments	3 credits

Students may select graduate courses they determine will meet their educational goals and complement the required course offerings. Approval of the nursing advisor is required. A listing of graduate level courses in other departments that MSN students can take, without prerequisites, is developed.

Thesis OR Project (6 hours)

NURS 520	Thesis Writing	6 credits
	OR	
NURS 522	Scholarly Project	6 credits

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Total 43 credits

Course Descriptions

Foundational Courses

NURS 500. Nursing Theory. (3 credits) This 3 credit course provides students with opportunities to examine the historical evolution of nursing science and to critically analyze nursing's metaparadigm and selected philosophies, theories, and conceptual models. Students examine the components intrinsic to theory development. Through oral and written presentations, students demonstrate their ability to compare and contrast relationships between personal philosophy, theory, research, nursing education, and advanced nursing practice. Three lecture/seminar hours each week. No prerequisites.

NURS 502. Research in Nursing Practice. (3 credits) This 3 credit course provides students with knowledge and skills in scientific inquiry in a practice discipline. Opportunities to develop the ability to validate and extend research findings are provided. An in-depth analysis of selected research methods, designs, and data analysis are discussed with an emphasis on their relationship to planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing and health care. Three lecture/seminar hours each week. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 506.

NURS 504. Role Development: Theory and Practice (3 credits) This 3 credit course provides students with an in-depth understanding of the legal, historical, political, social, and ethical aspects of advanced nursing practice. Selected conflict management, decision making, technological, marketing, and entrepreneur theories and principles applicable to advanced clinical nursing practice are analyzed. Three lecture/seminar hours each week. No prerequisites.

NURS 506. Nursing Informatics. (3 credits) This 3 credit course provides students with the foundation for understanding computer based information management systems and their application in complex health care systems to clinical and organizational management and research issues. Three lecture/seminar/laboratory hours each week. No prerequisite.

NURS 508. Holistic Nursing Perspective. (3 credits) This 3 credit course provides students with the foundation for delivering holistic nursing care to families. The principles of holistic care which include psychosocial concepts and their application in diverse social and cultural settings are presented. Current research and its application to advanced nursing practice is explored. Three lecture/seminar hours each week. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 504.

#### Major Concentration

NURS 510. Family Health and Nursing Assessment Across the Life Cycle. (4 credits) This course provides students with the theories and concepts which are foundational to the understanding of the complex health and nursing problems of families. Family theories, development, systems, and stress factors are emphasized. The principles and techniques of data collection for advanced health assessment, from neonate to the mature adult, are presented. The course content includes principles of advanced assessment, health promotion, disease prevention, diagnosis and management of common health problems in families. The opportunity to practice skills in laboratory and clinical settings is included. Two lecture/seminar and ten laboratory/clinical hours each week. Additionally, pharmatherapeutics and prescription writing are learned by completing 3 semester hours of didactic and applied learning activities. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 504, 508.

NURS 512. Advanced Family Health Nursing I. (4 credits) This course explores the application of theory and research to the prevention and treatment of common family health and nursing problems. The course includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, assessment and management of common health problems in children and adolescents. The practicum provides the opportunity to gain skill and confidence in identifying and resolving client problems using a variety of treatment modalities and resources. Case management and community referral skills are developed. The philosophical and ethical basis of nursing practice, which promotes excellence in care, is emphasized. Two lecture/seminar and ten clinical hours each week. Students who plan to seek FNP certification are required to complete an additional ten hours of clinical each week. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 504, 506, 508, 510.

NURS 514. Advanced Family Health Nursing II. (5 credits) This course further implements the role of the advanced practice nurse in providing and managing care for families with common health and nursing problems. The course includes the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, assessment and management of common health problems in adults. The practicum provides the opportunity to gain skill and confidence in identifying and resolving client problems using a variety of treatment modalities and resources. Case management and community referral skills are developed. The philosophical and ethical basis of nursing practice, which promotes excellence in care, is emphasized. Three lecture/seminar and ten clinical hours each week. Students who plan to seek FNP certification are required to complete an additional ten hours of clinical each week. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512.

NURS 517. Holistic Nursing Interventions. (3 credits) This three credit course provides students an introduction to complementary healing health practices used in advanced practice holistic nursing. Scientific and research basis for complementary therapies are explored. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 528, 521.

NURS 518. Advanced Holistic Nursing Practicum I. (4 credits) This four credit course provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate self-integration of holistic nursing concepts into practice and to explore potential opportunities for application of holistic nursing into health care settings. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 528, 517

NURS 519. Advanced Holistic Nursing Practicum II. (4 credits) This four credit course provides students further opportunity to demonstrate intergration of holistic nursing concepts in practice design and theory-based practice and to demonstrate leadership in addressing issues important to holistic nursing. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 528, 517, 518

NURS 521. Pathophysiology. (3 credits) This three credit course explores normal and abnormal physiological processes that serve as a foundation for advanced practice nurses. The course is analysis of complex interrelationships and interdependence of organ systems in health and disease. Selected physiologic and pathophysiologic processes are considered at biochemical, cellular, organ, and systems levels. The emphasis is on interrelationships among physiologic processes throughout the body. Prerequisites: Admission to graduate study or permission of the course coordinator.

NURS 528. Pharmacotherapeutics. (3 credits) This course provides a foundation in the drug therapies used in the treatment of selected medical conditions commonly encountered by advanced nurse practitioners. Emphasis is on the decision-making process used to prescribe and monitor drug therapy appropriate to the client situation. This decision-making process includes necessary variables such as: age, contraindications, warnings, drug interactions, and current research findings in order to make an intelligent drug selection for clients with specific diagnosis. The principles of safe use of the prescribed drugs and dissemination of information to the patient are included. Two lecture/seminar hours each week. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 504, 508, 510.

#### Electives

Graduate courses in other departments  
and/or Nursing Special Topics (NURS 524)                      3 credits

#### Other

NURS 520. Thesis Writing. (6 credits) These courses are designed to provide the student with the opportunity to develop and research an area of special interest under the direct supervision of an approved graduate faculty person. Student is required to complete 6 credits. Perquisites: Nurs 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 528.

NURS 522. Project Writing. (6 credits) These courses provide the student with the opportunity to develop a project related to the area of concentration, under the supervision of a faculty member. Student is required to complete 6 credits. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 528.

NURS 524 or 526. Selected Topics (3 credits) This 3 credit course provides the student with the opportunity to pursue focused studies in areas not covered in the regular course offerings. Prerequisites: Nurs 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 528.

#### Graduate Faculty

Margaret S. Anderson, Assistant Professor

BS Psychology, 1986, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, MS Nursing, 1994, Vanderbilt University, Certified Family Nurse Practitioner by American Nurses Credentialing Center

Marion G. Anema, Professor, Dean

Diploma, 1959, Milwaukee County Hospital School of Nursing; B.S. Nursing, 1967, The University of Iowa; M.A. Nursing, 1972, The University of Iowa; Ph.D. Educational Administration, 1979, The University of Iowa

Barbara E. Brown, Professor, Director MSN Program

B.S.N. Nursing, 1966, D'Youville College, N.Y.; M.S. Nursing, 1968, Wayne State University, Michigan; Ed.D., 1983, Temple University, PA

Lisa Johnson-Flake, Assistant Professor

BS in Pharmacy, 1996, Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy, 1997, Samford University McWhorter of Pharmacy

Michael T. Ivy, Assistant Professor

B.A. Biology, 1978, Southern Illinois University; Ph.D. Physiology & Biophysics, 1986, University of Illinois at Chicago

Gary Linn, Professor

B.A. History, 1968, Long Island University; MA. Ibero-American Studies, 1972, University of Wisconsin-Madison; M.S. Sociology, 1974, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Ph.D. Sociology, 1983, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Deanna Naddy, Assistant Professor

BSN, 1962, University of Kansas, MSN, 1971, Vanderbilt University, DSN, 1994, University of Alabama Birmingham, Certified in Bowen Therapy, 1999, Bowen Therapy Academy of Australia, certified in Clinical Hypnotherapist, 1999, Institute of Integrated Healing Arts

Jane Norman, Professor

A.S. Nursing, 1970, University of Tennessee; B.S. Sociology and English, 1972, University of Tennessee; M.S. Nursing, 1976, Vanderbilt University; Ph.D. Higher Education Administration, 1982, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University

Mary Pleas, Professor

B.S. Biology, 1960, Roosevelt University, IL; M.Ed. Education, 1968, Meharry Medical College; M.S. Nursing, 1985, Meharry Medical College; Ed.D. Human Development Counseling, 1989, George Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

Victoria Slater, Assistant Professor

BSN, 1968, University of Texas, MSN 1971, University of Michigan, Ph.D., 1996, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Certified as Holistic Nurse, 1996, American Holistic Nurses' Association, Certified as Healing Touch Practitioner, 1993, American Holistic Nurses' Association, Certified as Healing Touch Instructor, 1994, American Holistic Nurses' Association

Yvonne Stringfield, Associate Professor

A.A.S., 1972, Thomas Nelson Community College; B.S. Nursing, 1976, Hampton Institute; M.S. Nursing, 1985, Hampton University; Ed.S., 1990, The College of William and Mary; Ed.D., 1993, The College of William and Mary

Edwina Temple, Assistant Professor

BSN, 1995, Tennessee State University, MSN, FNP, 1997, Tennessee State University, Ed.D., candidate, Tennessee State University

Terry Witherington, Assistant Professor

BS N, 1991, University of Tennessee, Memphis, MSN, PNP, 1994, University of Tennessee, Memphis, Certified, As Pediatric Nurse Practitioner 1999-2004, from American Nurses Credentialing Center