

MSN Curriculum Sequence

Full-time and part-time options of study are available. Usual full-time progression options require four semesters of study. Your progression plan will be developed in consultation with your advisor who will be assigned when you are officially admitted to the program. Graduate Studies policy allows one semester of classes during which you are classified as a non-degree seeking student. Generally no classes with nursing prefixes can be completed prior to official acceptance in the MSN program. The exceptions are NURS 500 Advanced Pathophysiology and NURS 515 Advanced Pharmacology which may be taken prior to admission but after acceptance to Graduate Studies.

The MSN program has a common core of classes designed to provide essential theory and competencies need by advanced practice nurses, nurse educators, and nurse administrators. Online courses may be scheduled face-to-face or IVS (interactive video transmitted to distant sites) for no more than two classes during the semester. The faculty determines if a class meeting is scheduled.

Core Courses – Required by all Specialties	Credit Hours	Current Delivery Mode
Graduate Statistics (various courses PH 520, EDFN 501 and others)	3	Dependent upon course
NURS 501 Health Policy & Politics	2	online
NURS 504 Advanced Nursing Theory	3	online
NURS 506 Transition to Advanced Nursing Practice	1	online
NURS 508 Advanced Nursing Issues	1	online
Nurs 510 Advanced Nursing Research	3	online
Nurs 512 Research Applications	2	online
Total Credit Hours	15	

Specialty Courses – Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	Credit Hours	Current Delivery Mode
NURS 500 Advanced Pathophysiology	4	Online
NURS 503 Advanced Health Assessment	2	Face-to-Face (limited)
NURS 505 Advanced Hlth Assess. Clinical	1	Clinical
NURS 509 Advanced Practice Management	1	Seminar
NURS 515 Advanced Pharmacology	4	IVS/Web-assisted
NURS 550 Primary Care Child -Adolescent	5	IVS /Clinical
NURS 552 Primary Care - Adults	5	IVS /Clinical
NURS 554 Primary Care Internship	5	Clinical
Total Credit Hours	27	

The Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Program is offered through a special arrangement with the University of Louisville (U of L) School Of Nursing. Dual applications are required. Students are admitted to the WKU MSN program and to U of L as a special student. Students transfer in specialty courses from U of L; however, the MSN degree is conferred by WKU.

Specialty Courses – Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner	Credit Hours	Current Delivery Mode
NURS 500 Advanced Pathophysiology	4	Online
NURS 503 Advanced Health Assessment	2	Face-to-Face
NURS 505 Advanced Hlth Assess. Clinical	1	Clinical
NURS 509 Advanced Practice Management	1	Seminar
NURS 515 Advanced Pharmacology	4	IVS/Web-assisted
HCA 564 Health Systems Informatics	3	Determined by Dept. of Public Health
PH 587 Health Behaviors	3	Determined by Dept. of Public Health
Transferred from University of Louisville		
NURS 638 Clinical Psychopharmacology & Psychopathology (U of L)	5	Online
NURS 641 Advanced Psych/Mental Health Theory I (U of L)	3	TBA
NURS 645 Advanced Clinical Practice I: Psych/Mental Health (U of L)	3	TBS
NURS 641 Advanced Psych/ Mental Health Theory II (U of L)	3	TBA
Total Credit Hours	32	

Specialty Courses – Nurse Educator	Credit Hours	Current Delivery Mode
NURS 500 Advanced Pathophysiology	4	Online
NURS 503 Advanced Health Assessment	2	Face-to-Face - limited meetings
NURS 518 Clinical Teaching in Nursing	3	Online
NURS 520 Teaching in Schools of Nursing	3	Online
NURS 522 Teaching Internship	4	Clinical
CNS 552 Test & Assessment	3	Determined by Counseling Dept. various options
PSY 510 Advanced Educational Psychology or PSY 511 Advanced Psychology of Learning	3	Determined by Counseling Dept. various options
Total Credit Hours	22	

The Nurse Administrator concentration allows the student to work with an advisor to build a program based upon the core courses and the ANA competencies for the Advanced Nurse Administrator. The program includes four broad categories of support courses. Examples of courses available are listed below the course plan.

Specialty Courses – Nurse Administrator	Credit Hours	Current Delivery Mode
NURS 528 Leadership & Management in Advanced Nursing Practice	3	Online
NURS 530 Nursing Admin Internship	3	Clinical
Business Management/Finance	3	
Organizational Theory/Healthcare Systems	3	
Human Resource Management	3	
Health Care Ethics/Law	3	
Unrestricted elective	3	
Total Credit Hours	21	

Support Courses are selected from the following categories with advisor approval. Suggested courses are included but are not all inclusive.

<p>Business Management/Finance – 3 hrs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA 501 Survey of Economics • BA 505 Survey of Accounting • HCA 545 Managerial Finance for Health Services 	<p>Organizational Theory/Healthcare Systems – 3 hrs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA 510 Organizational Theory • HCA 540 Health Care Organ. & Administration • HA 544 Health Care Systems Design & Behavior • HCA 547 Decision Making in Health Services • LEAD 500 Leadership Perspectives
<p>Human Resource Management (HRM) – 3 hrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCA 542 Health Care Human Resources Admin • PS 440G Elements of Public Administration • COMM 525 Interpersonal Support in Workplace • COMM 551 Employee Comm • COMM 564 Crisis Comm • COMM 581 Application Organizational Comm • COMM 461G Org. Comm. • BA 560 Contemporary HRM 	<p>Health Care Ethics / Leadership Management – 3 hrs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCA 551 Health Services Jurisprudence • HCA 543 Health Care Quality & Accountability • COMM 569 Values & Leadership • PH 447G Human Values & Health Sciences • PHIL 525 Ethics and Leadership • LEAD 575 Ethical Business Leadership

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