MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Description and Outcomes
The Master of Science in Nursing program is designed to build on previous nursing education and clinical experience, prepare you to pursue advanced practice in a variety of health care settings, and lay a foundation to pursue doctoral education. The overall purpose of the master’s degree program is to provide graduate education for advanced nursing roles that respond to the needs of individuals, families, and communities.

The program of study includes completion of the core curriculum, concentration or population focus area courses, and an evidence-based project proposal. The core courses focus on the acquisition of a theoretical base in nursing, evidence-based decision making, health policy, financing and organization of the health care delivery system, advanced practice issues, ethics, health promotion and disease prevention, and biostatistics.

Concentrations and Population Focus Areas
You will choose from five concentrations and population focus areas designed to provide further knowledge in your chosen specialty and your specific advanced role: nurse educator, executive leader, informatics, family nurse practitioner, primary care, or adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner. Refer to the Certification, State Board, and National Board Exams (p. 4) section for important program disclosure information.

The nurse educator concentration prepares nurses to address health care problems in a variety of settings. Learn to effectively teach patients and their families, provide staff development programs, evaluate the effectiveness of educational programs, and instruct undergraduate nursing students through the application of advanced nursing knowledge, learning theories, and curricular development and instructional design techniques. The nurse educator concentration contributes to the preparation for the National League for Nursing’s Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) examination and/or the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Nursing Professional Development board certification examination.

The executive leader concentration is designed to prepare you to pursue managerial positions and leadership roles in hospitals, community health, long-term care facilities, and other health care systems. Upon graduation, you may be prepared to sit for the Nurse Executive or the Nurse Executive, Advanced certification examinations (depending on the level of leadership with your organization) provided by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The informatics concentration is designed to prepare you to meet the clinical, educational, research, and administrative challenges associated with working in a technology-rich environment. This concentration focuses on content and the representation of data and information, and incorporates computer, information literacy, and management competencies. Upon graduation, you may be prepared to use technology and information systems to advance evidence-based research and to pursue informatics leadership roles in health care, industry, and education settings. In addition, you may be eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Informatics Nursing certification examination. Effective June 7, 2017, the informatics concentration is not accepting enrollments.

The family and adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner population focus areas are designed to educate you on the topics of how to best provide primary care as a member of an interprofessional team and improve the availability of evidence-based, culturally relevant health care in diverse communities. The curriculum helps you develop the skills to evaluate the health and wellness of individuals, families, and their communities. The nurse practitioner is expected to possess skills in diagnosing, treating, and managing acute and chronic health conditions, to deliver primary and preventive care, and to participate in the development of appropriate policy and evidence-based practice.

Note: the Master of Science in Nursing program’s adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner and family nurse practitioner, primary care population focus areas are not available in all states. Refer to the State Approvals (https://catalog.kaplanuniversity.edu/policy-information/university-information/accreditation-approvals-memberships) section for details.

Practicum and Clinical Practice Experiences
If you choose the executive leader, nurse educator, or informatics concentration, you will complete a clinical or practicum experience designed to provide the opportunity for application of theoretical knowledge while working with a mentor. The practicum experience occurs in a facility you select in consultation with the Clinical Placement Team.

If you choose the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner or family nurse practitioner, primary care population focus area, you will complete a series of clinical practice sessions designed to provide the opportunity for application of theoretical knowledge while working with a designated, qualified preceptor. The clinical practice experience occurs in a facility or clinical site you select in consultation with the faculty and the Clinical Placement Team.

Refer to the Progression Requirements (p. 3) section for further details.

Program Length
The Master of Science in Nursing program consists of a minimum of 60 or 90 quarter credit hours, depending on your pathway. Upon successful completion of the program, you will be awarded a master of science degree.

Program Outcomes
1. Background for Practice from Sciences and Humanities: Integrate scientific findings from nursing, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, quality improvement, and organizational sciences for the continual improvement of nursing care across diverse settings.
2. Organizational and Systems Leadership: Demonstrate ethical and critical decision-making leadership skills that result in effective working relationships and a systems perspective.
4. Translating and Integrating Scholarship into Practice: Apply research outcomes within the practice setting, resolve practice problems, work as a change agent, and disseminate results.
5. Informatics and Health Care Technologies: Utilize patient-care and communication technologies to deliver and coordinate quality care.
6. Health Policy and Advocacy: Employ policy that supports advocacy strategies to influence health and care.
7. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes: Collaborate with interprofessional teams to improve patient and population health outcomes.
8. Clinical Prevention and Population Health for Improving Health: Support broad, organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population care and services to individuals, families, and aggregates/identified populations.
9. Master’s-Level Nursing Practice: Integrate advanced levels of understanding of nursing and relevant sciences to influence health care outcomes for individuals, populations, or systems.

**Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Outcomes**
1. Demonstrate, through synthesis of theoretical and scientific knowledge, the safe, effective practice of primary care through management of both health and illness states.
2. Collaborate with the individual and community as well as other health care professionals for the purpose of ensuring high-quality, holistic primary care services.
3. Demonstrate the role of a nurse practitioner as a health educator and coach to individuals, families, and communities using a wide range of skills.
4. Demonstrate commitment to the implementation, preservation, and evolution of the adult-gerontology nurse practitioner role.
5. Incorporate critical thinking, collaboration, and interdisciplinary relationships into client care to achieve optimal outcomes.
6. Serve as an advocate for the client as he or she interfaces with the health care system.
7. Demonstrate a commitment to ensuring quality of care through consultation, collaboration, continuing education, certification, and self-reflection.
8. Provide culturally sensitive care in a holistic manner that is responsive to the client’s cultural and spiritual beliefs.

**Executive Leader Outcomes**
2. Collaborative Practice: Develop collaborative relationships and partnerships that are interdisciplinary and aggregate-focused to improve the health care of populations.
3. Creating and Managing Nursing Care Systems: Provide leadership in conceptualization, design, implementation, and evaluation of health care delivery systems across the health care continuum.

**Family Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care Outcomes**
1. Demonstrate, through synthesis of theoretical and scientific knowledge, the safe, effective practice of primary care through management of both health and illness states.
2. Collaborate with the individual, family, and community as well as other health care professionals for the purpose of ensuring high-quality, holistic primary care services.
3. Demonstrate the role of the nurse practitioner as a health educator and coach to individuals, families, and communities using a wide range of skills.
4. Demonstrate commitment to the implementation, preservation, and evolution of the family nurse practitioner role.
5. Incorporate critical thinking, collaboration, and interdisciplinary relationships into client care to achieve optimal outcomes.
6. Serve as an advocate for the client as he or she interfaces with the health care system.
7. Demonstrate a commitment to ensuring quality of care through consultation, collaboration, continuing education, certification, and self-reflection.
8. Provide culturally sensitive care in a holistic manner that is responsive to the client’s cultural and spiritual beliefs.

**Informatics Outcomes**
2. Education: Appraise emerging and converging technologies to enhance nursing and patient education.
3. Research: Evaluate information systems in support of evidence-based practice and clinical applications.
4. Administrative: Critique leadership roles and competencies in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of information systems and patient care technologies.

**Nurse Educator Outcomes**
1. Clinical Expertise: Integrate advanced nursing practice knowledge with educational content, design, and delivery.
2. Instructional Method Design: Design educational programs that facilitate learning for patients, health care professionals, or nursing students.
4. Clinical Expertise: Apply advanced nursing practice knowledge to impact health care outcomes for individuals, populations, or systems.

**Professional Competencies**
In addition to the discipline-specific outcomes, professional competencies are integrated throughout your academic program. You can review the professional competencies associated with your academic program in the graduate School of General Education (https://catalog.kaplanuniversity.edu/graduate/general-education) section of this Catalog.

**Program Availability**

**Policies**
Policy information specific to the Master of Science in Nursing program is noted below.
Admissions Requirements
You must meet the below admissions requirements in addition to Kaplan University's general requirements (https://catalog.kaplanuniversity.edu/policy-information/admissions/requirements).

At this time, you may not enroll in the Master of Science in Nursing if you are a resident of Tennessee.

If applying for admission, you must submit the following:

1. An unofficial transcript, submitted prior to enrollment, indicating receipt of a bachelor's degree with an upper-level major in nursing from an accredited institution. By the end of the first term, you must provide Kaplan University with an official copy of the transcript. Refer to the First-Term Responsibilities (https://catalog.kaplanuniversity.edu/policy-information/admissions/first-term-responsibilities) section for additional information.

2. A transcript indicating completion of a statistics course and a nursing research course with a grade of "C" or better. If you have not completed these courses as part of your bachelor's degree in nursing, they may be taken concurrently with MNS01 Advanced Nursing Roles. However, the courses must be completed before enrollment in MNS02 Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Practice Nursing. If you choose to take the required statistics course at the University, you will have all course-level prerequisites waived.

3. An approved criminal background check from the Kaplan University-approved vendor on file prior to the first day of your first term. Please refer to the Additional Requirements for Graduate Programs section under Admissions Requirements (https://catalog.kaplanuniversity.edu/policy-information/admissions/requirements) for detailed information.

Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care Population Focus Areas
If you are an international applicant, you are not eligible to enroll in these focus areas due to clinical requirements.

If applying for admission, you must submit a current, professional resume or curriculum vitae that verifies you have worked a minimum of 1,000 clinical hours as a registered nurse within the last 3 years and in a patient care setting that the School of Nursing has determined address the clinical skills and experience needed to serve as a basis for an entering nurse practitioner. Acceptance into the program is determined by the School of Nursing's review of your professional resume or curriculum vitae.

Graduates of Kaplan University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN
As a graduate of the University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing RN-to-BSN program who enters the Master of Science in Nursing program, you may have already satisfied specific core requirements and will complete a condensed program of graduate study.

Progression Requirements
1. You can enroll in no more than two courses per term, unless approved by the Dean of the School of Nursing.

2. You may not use transfer credit to replace MNS01 Advanced Nursing Roles, unless you are a graduate of Kaplan University’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing—RN-to-BSN program. In addition, you may not use transfer credit to replace any courses in the informatics, executive leader, or nurse educator concentrations unless you have approval from the Dean of the School of Nursing. If none of these exceptions apply, these courses must be completed at the University. If you are enrolled in the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner or family nurse practitioner, primary care population focus area, you may apply transfer credit toward the following focus area courses only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN551</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology Across the Life Span</td>
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<td>MN552</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment and Diagnostic Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN553</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology and Pharmaconutapeutics</td>
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Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner and Family Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care Population Focus Areas

1. You will complete a clinical or practicum course and either MN600 Evidence-Based Practice Project or MN603 Evaluating and Disseminating Principles of Advanced Nursing Practice - Clinical as part of the requirements for the concentration. You are responsible for locating an appropriate site for the clinical or practicum experience. You must achieve a minimum grade of "S" (satisfactory) for the clinical or practicum components of courses. Failure to successfully complete this portion of a course will result in failure of the entire course. Required hours for the experience vary across concentrations.

2. You are responsible for meeting all requirements for advanced practice certification and/or licensure in your state. To find your requirements, contact your state’s board of nursing. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing has 60 member boards and contact information for each state can be found at www.ncsbn.org/contactbon.htm (http://www.ncsbn.org/contactbon.htm). While the Kaplan University curriculum meets national certification requirements, some states may have additional licensure standards including, but not limited to, additional clinical or residency hours.

3. You must complete your clinical experience in a setting that has been approved by the Clinical Placement Team. You are responsible for participating in locating, selecting, and obtaining an agreement with an appropriate site that best fits your location preferences and meets program requirements. You are required to speak with the program’s staff to determine your exact responsibilities and process for site selection. You are responsible for arranging and paying for your own transportation, housing, and availability to attend the clinical practice experiences.

4. Prior to registering for the first clinical course, you must submit the following:

a. Documentation of a health assessment/physical examination completed within the 6 months prior to beginning the first clinical course, including applicable immunization records and drug screening results.

b. Proof of professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of at least $1 million per incident/$3 million per aggregate.

c. A criminal background check, as required by applicable federal and/or state regulatory agencies. The background check must be able to qualify you for practice as a nursing student under the requirements of the state of your clinical placements. If you are applying to the family nurse practitioner, primary care or adult-gerontology nurse practitioner, primary care population focus area, the background check must not contain information that would prohibit you from being licensed as an advanced practice
registered nurse and/or being granted prescriptive authority under your state’s Nurse Practice Act.

Some facilities may require additional documentation, as necessary, to comply with specific federal and/or state requirements for nursing student candidates. Failure to submit appropriate documentation to participate in clinical experiences by the required date will result in you being unable to register for the clinical course.

d. In addition, prior to beginning the first clinical practice experience, you will be required to provide documentation of compliance with all federal, state, and/or local regulatory requirements related to the activities that are required elements of the population focus area. These will include, but are not limited to, immunization status, drug screening, physical history, and examination records, and evidence of an unencumbered registered nurse license.

5. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner and maintain a safe environment. If a faculty member and/or agency consider you to be in violation of either one of these requirements, you may be removed from the clinical setting and may receive a failing grade for the course if the course outcomes are not met. Unprofessional and/or unsafe practices will be reviewed by the administrative staff as needed.

The School of Nursing provides guidelines, policies, and documents that are necessary to plan for and support you in meeting the expectations to secure a practicum or clinical experience.

Executive Leader, Nurse Educator, and Informatics Concentrations

You will complete a clinical or practicum course and either MN600 Evidence-Based Practice Project or MN603 Evaluating and Disseminating Principles of Advanced Nursing Practice - Clinical as part of the requirements for the concentration. You are responsible for locating an appropriate site for the clinical or practicum experience. You must achieve a minimum grade of "S" (satisfactory) for the clinical or practicum components of courses. Failure to successfully complete this portion of a course will result in failure of the entire course. Required hours for the experience vary across concentrations.

Certification, State Board, and National Board Exams

It is your responsibility to obtain and understand the requirements of certification, state board, or national board licensing exams specific to your location and the certification or licensure you seek to function in your professional role. Such requirements may change during the course of the academic program. Upon completion of the academic program, you receive verification of completing an education program specific to your area. The education programs are designed to prepare you to take various certification and licensing exams; however, Kaplan University cannot guarantee you will be eligible to take these exams or become certified. Your eligibility may depend on your work experience, completion of education and/or degree requirements, not having a criminal record, meeting other licensure or certification requirements, or the program or the University itself having appropriate accreditation or licensure.

Upon completion of the executive leader concentration, you may be eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Executive Leader certification examination.

Upon completion of the family nurse practitioner, primary care population focus area, you may be eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Family Nurse Practitioner certification or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners’ Family Nurse Practitioner certification. These are primary care certifications.

Please note that most states require nurses to be nationally certified in order to obtain licensure as a nurse practitioner. It is your responsibility to determine whether you will be eligible for state Board of Nursing approval and certification as a nurse practitioner or advanced practice nurse in your state. You can obtain additional information from your state’s Board of Nursing, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

**Degree Plan**

**Program Requirements**

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<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>MN501</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Roles</td>
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<td>MN502</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Practice Nursing</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN504</td>
<td>Scientific and Analytic Approaches to Advanced Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN505</td>
<td>Epidemiology and Health Promotion</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN506</td>
<td>Health Policy, Ethical, and Legal Perspectives of the Health Care System</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN507</td>
<td>Promoting Optimal Models and Systems for Health Care Delivery</td>
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Total Core Requirements: 30

Open Elective Requirements: 30-60

TOTAL CREDITS: 60-90

**Specialized Pathway Requirements**

Population focus area and concentration courses are completed within the open electives requirement of the degree plan.

**Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Population Focus Area**

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Upon completion of the nurse educator concentration, you may be prepared to sit for the National League for Nursing’s Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) examination.
## Master of Science in Nursing

### Family Nurse Practitioner, Primary Care Population Focus Area

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<tr>
<td>MN553</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN556</td>
<td>NP I - Introduction to Primary Care for the Nurse Practitioner</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN558</td>
<td>FNP I - Primary Care Across the Life Span</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN559</td>
<td>FNP I Clinical - Life Span Health Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN561</td>
<td>NP I - Primary Care of Women's Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN574</td>
<td>AGNP I Clinical - Adolescent and Adult Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN605</td>
<td>Transition to Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN610</td>
<td>NP III Clinical - Primary Care Focus</td>
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**TOTAL CREDITS** 60

### Executive Leader Concentration

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MN512</td>
<td>Leadership, Organizational Theory, and Behavior</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN513</td>
<td>Health Care Finance, Strategic Planning, and Budgeting</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN514</td>
<td>Human Resources Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN515</td>
<td>Innovation in Health Care Information Technology - Administrative and Advanced Practice Priorities</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN520</td>
<td>Executive Leader Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN600</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Practice Project</td>
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**TOTAL CREDITS** 30

### Informatics Concentration

(Not Available for Enrollment Effective 6/7/2017)