Master of Science in Nursing

- Administration Track
- Education Track

**Program Purpose**
The purpose of this program is to prepare nurses at the graduate level as leaders and educators within complex, changing systems. Graduates are equipped with advanced nursing knowledge and higher-level skills to lead change, promote health, and elevate care.

**Program Overview**
The curriculum for the online M.S. in Nursing is based on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s Essentials of Master’s Education for Advanced Practice Nursing. Students come to this program with a strong clinical nursing background, a foundation in liberal arts and prepared for leadership positions. Completion of the master’s program provides the knowledge and skills to improve health care delivery and outcomes of patient care at an advanced practice nursing level. The goal of the program is the preparation of a professional nurse who integrates prior and current learning to possess strong critical thinking and decision-making skills. The ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing is also essential to transmit the outcomes of these processes. During these programs, every student will acquire the ability to analyze, synthesize and utilize current trends and knowledge for the improvement of the health care environment across the lifespan.

The Master of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC, 20001; 202-887-6791.

**Nursing Administration Track**
The Nursing Administration track prepares graduates to pursue new and innovative direct and indirect leadership roles in an evolving and global healthcare system. The AACN Essentials (2011) expect that each graduate will have had additional coursework in areas of practice or functional role.

**Nursing Education Track**
The Nursing Education Track provides graduates with competence in applying teaching/learning principles to patients and/or students across the continuum of care in a variety of settings. Nurse Educator graduates require preparation across all nine essential areas linking graduate-level clinical practice content and experiences. In addition, the program prepares students for nursing education roles in curriculum design and development, teaching methodology, educational needs assessment, and learner-centered theories and methods (AACN, 2011).

**Program Goal**
The M.S. in Nursing aspires to prepare nurses for the complexities of health and nursing care in today’s contemporary care environment to develop a broader understanding of the discipline of nursing to engage in higher-level practice and leadership in a variety of settings and commitment to lifelong learning.

**Certification**
The Administration and Education tracks do not lead to advanced certification. The M.S. in Nursing program provides professional nurses from various practice settings the opportunity for advanced study.

**Program Objectives**
Program objectives parallel The Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing from the AACN (2011).

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

1. Integrate critical thinking and creativity to provide higher levels of leadership and practice in nursing and healthcare systems.
2. Synthesize the impact of relationships between organizational and systems leadership as it relates to the implementation of quality and safe patient care delivery.
3. Apply evidence-based methods, tools, performance measures and standards that relate to the integration of quality principles within complex care settings.
4. Execute the change agent role by translating and disseminating quality evidence to resolve practice issues and improve outcomes.
5. Implement the use of communication and patient care technologies to coordinate the delivery of integrated care across inter-disciplinary healthcare teams.
6. Advocate at the system level for policy transformation to improve health and health systems.
7. Execute effective communication to collaborate and consult with inter-professional teams to manage and coordinates care.
8. Integrate care across the continuum to provide patient-centered, culturally appropriate services to diverse populations through evidence-based planning, delivery, management and evaluation.
9. Develop advanced nursing practice interventions that influence direct and indirect care components to improve healthcare outcomes for individuals, populations and systems.

**Admission Requirements**
- Minimum of 3.0 GPA (4.00 scale) in the BSN
- Satisfy FSU requirements for admission to graduate study
- Hold a current, unrestricted RN license in at least one state

For more information:
Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

Coordinator:
Kara Platt
Department of Nursing
301.687.4791
knplatt@frostburg.edu
- Hold the degree of BSN from a nursing program accredited by CCNE or ACEN
- Have completed 3 credits of undergraduate statistics
- Submit three letters of reference
- Submit an essay describing how the MSN meets student's professional goal

### Graduation Requirements
- Completion of all coursework required for the M.S. in Nursing within 5 years from semester of initial enrollment
- Completion of all coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Completion of all courses with a grade of "C" or better to count toward the MS in Nursing

## Program Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>20 credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tracks (Education or Administration)</td>
<td>12 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicum</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capstone</td>
<td>2 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours Required</td>
<td>37 credits</td>
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### Core Course Requirements (20 credits)

- NURS 504 Nursing Informatics 3 credits
- NURS 507 Healthcare Finance 3 credits
- NURS 601 Advanced Health, Physiology and Pharmacology 4 credits
- NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis 4 credits
- NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing 3 credits
- NURS 605 Healthcare Systems and Population 3 credits

### Education Track Courses (12 credits)

- NURS 613 Curriculum Development and Design 3 credits
- NURS 614 Teaching and Learning Strategies 3 credits
- NURS 615 Evaluation and Assessment of Clinical Education 3 credits
- NURS 692 Current Trends in Nursing Education 3 credits

**OR**

### Administration Track Courses (12 credits)

- NURS 610 Administration of Healthcare Organizations 3 credits
- NURS 611 Organizational Theory 3 credits
- NURS 612 Health Policy 3 credits
- NURS 691 Current Trends in Nursing Administration 3 credits

### Practicum (3 credits)

- NURS 694 Graduate Nursing Practicum 3 credits

### Capstone (2 credits)

- NURS 700 Capstone Project/Thesis 2 credits
Combined B.S. in Nursing/M.S. in Nursing

A 63/151-hour program combined BS in Nursing/MS in Nursing program enables students to complete FSU’s RN-BSN and MS in Nursing degree programs with 151 hours of academic credit. Separate pursuit of these degrees would require a minimum of 157 hours of course work. This program is available to students that have graduated or will be graduating from FSU with a bachelor’s degree in nursing. Current undergraduate students should apply in the final semester of their senior year by March 1 for fall and Oct. 1 for spring admission to the program. Application should be submitted to the Office of Graduate Services.

Eligibility requirements for the combined BS/MS:
- Declared RN-BSN major at FSU or FSU RN-BSN graduate
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) or better in BSN courses completed at FSU at the time of application
- Application for admission to the 63/151 hour program approved by the Nursing Department
- Satisfy FSU requirements for admission to graduate study
- Hold a current, unrestricted U.S. RN license
- Have completed 3 credits of undergraduate statistics
- Submit three letters of reference
- Submit an essay describing how the MSN meets student’s professional goals

Summary of Requirements for Combined B.S.N./M.S.N Option
1. Undergraduate Requirements for RN-BSN degree. See the FSU Undergraduate Catalog.
2. Complete the following additional MS in Nursing courses (31 hours):

   Core Course Requirements (14 credits)
   - NURS 601 Advanced Health, Physiology and Pharmacology 4 credits
   - NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis 4 credits
   - NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing 3 credits
   - NURS 605 Healthcare Systems and Population 3 credits

   Education Track Courses (15 credits)
   - NURS 613 Curriculum Development and Design 3 credits
   - NURS 614 Teaching and Learning Strategies 3 credits
   - NURS 615 Evaluation and Assessment of Clinical Education 3 credits
   - NURS 692 Current Trends in Nursing Education 3 credits

   OR

   Administration Track Courses (15 credits)
   - NURS 610 Administration of Healthcare Organizations 3 credits
   - NURS 611 Organizational Theory 3 credits
   - NURS 612 Health Policy 3 credits
   - NURS 691 Current Trends in Nursing Administration 3 credits

   Practicum (3 credits)
   - NURS 694 Graduate Nursing Practicum 3 credits

   Capstone (2 credits)
   - NURS 700 Capstone Project/Thesis 2 credits
Master of Science in Nursing (Hybrid)

Concentrations:
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Credit Hours Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)</td>
<td>55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Core Credits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Concentration Credits</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)</td>
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Program Purpose
The Master of Science, Nurse Practitioner program at Frostburg State University provides a comprehensive experiential program to prepare experienced RNs to expand their role in the health care paradigm. This program provides the necessary education for a holistic approach using science and evidenced based practices to assume positions with the complexity of primary care or mental health care to meet the needs of the people in communities impacted by the growing health care shortage. The focus of the program is to facilitate academic knowledge and expert clinical skills necessary for health promotion, disease prevention, advanced assessment, accurate diagnosis and evidenced based management of acute and chronic illness. Upon completion of this program, the NP will be prepared to assume a leadership position, manage complex clinical care and take responsibility and accountability for primary health care or mental health care within communities across the nation.

For more information:
Office of Graduate Services
301.687.7053
gradservices@frostburg.edu

PMHNP Coordinator:
Kelly Rock
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Jill Buterbaugh
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301-687-3417
jbuterbaugh@frostburg.edu

Program Overview
The curriculum for the NP program is based on the AAN’s Essentials of Master’s Education for Advanced Practice Nursing and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) 2016 Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (5th ed.).

FSU’s MSN program admits students each fall and offers two concentrations for students who wish to seek Nurse Practitioner licensure – Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). Deadlines for application are as follows:

- Early Decision – February 1
- Regular Decision – March 15

The program is intended to be a cohort model program where students enter and move through the sequence of courses with their peers. Admission to the program is competitive and applications received by the above deadlines provides students the best opportunity for admission consideration. Applications will be accepted and considered after the regular decision deadline if the cohort has not been filled.

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration
The FNP concentration requires 55 credits to include 585 practicum hours to complete the degree. Upon completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for national certification as a family nurse practitioner (FNP). Family nurse practitioners provide a wide range of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services to patients across the lifespan in a wide variety of healthcare settings.

Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration
The PMHNP concentration requires 61 credits to include 630 practicum hours to complete the degree. Upon successful completion, graduates will be eligible to sit for national certification as a psychiatric & mental health nurse practitioner (PMHNP). Psychiatric & mental health nurse practitioners provide a wide range of psychiatric & mental health services to patients across the lifespan in a wide variety of healthcare settings.

Delivery Model (Hybrid)
The program is delivered in a hybrid format with 90-95% of the coursework delivered online and the other 5-10% requiring on campus residency. The residency expectation varies by semester depending on the coursework; however, students can expect an average of 2 times a semester for 2-3 days each per visit.

The program is offered in both a part-time and full-time format. Student attending full-time can complete the program in 2 to 2.5 years, while those attending part-time can complete in 3 to 4.5 years. Time to completion is dependent upon the concentration, credits taken each semester and continuous registration.

Program Goal
The goal of each concentration is to prepare experienced baccalaureate nurses for the complexities of providing primary care or mental health care in today’s contemporary rural care environment (but will not exclude urban populations) with a broad understanding of the discipline of nursing and the expanding role of the NP. The ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing is also essential to transmit the outcomes of these processes (MHEC, 2006).
Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:
1. Identify and integrate evidenced based outcomes from a multi-disciplinary approach into clinical practice to provide continual expert care across the life span;
2. Utilize the relationship between organizational and systems leadership to promote ethical and critical decision making to provide safe and effective care;
3. Continuously adapt current practice standards to reflect evidenced based methods, tools, and performance measures to integrate quality principles for patient care safety;
4. Integrate multi-disciplinary research outcomes within the primary or mental health care setting to resolve practice issues and improve patient care outcomes;
5. Serve as a member, leader and coordinator for inter-disciplinary patient-care teams utilizing communication and patient-care technologies;
6. Take an active role at the system level for development and improvement of policies and practice standards to enhance health and health care delivery;
7. Effectively and appropriately communicates and consults with other inter-professionals as a member of a healthcare team to manage and coordinate patient care;
8. Utilize evidenced based concepts to provide patient focused integrative care across the life-span to diverse populations and cultures through continual planning, delivery, management and evaluation, and
9. Understand, develop and implement advanced nursing practice interventions and relevant sciences to facilitate direct and indirect care improvements at the individual, population and system levels.

Admission Requirements
- Unencumbered Registered Nursing license
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing
  - From an Accredited Nursing Program
  - GPA of 3.0 on the last 60 hours of course work
- Official transcripts for all prior undergraduate study, regardless of whether a degree was earned
- Successfully completed a 3 credit undergraduate statistics course with a minimum grade of “B”.
- Current Curriculum Vitae
- Essay pertaining to personal career objectives, what it means to be a Nurse Practitioner and why they feel that they will succeed as a Nurse Practitioner
- Three professional recommendations
- Personal, face-to-face interview
- Criminal background check
- Child abuse clearance
- Two years minimum of clinical experience
  - Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration
    - Acute care setting preferred but not required
    - Clinical experience evaluated on a case-by-case basis
  - Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration
    - One year in medical-surgical setting
    - One year in a mental health setting

Program Curriculum
Core Course Requirements (29 credits PMHNP, 30 credits FNP)
- NURS 504 Nursing Informatics (3)
- NURS 602 Research and Systematic Analysis (4)
- NURS 603 Roles and Issues in Advanced Practice Nursing (3)
- NURS 605 Health Systems and Populations (3)
- NURS 650 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology Across the Lifespan (4)
- NURS 651 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan – Theory (4)
- NURS 652 Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan – Theory (1-2)
- NURS 653 Advanced Pharmacology: Essential Concepts Across the Lifespan (3)
- NURS 675 Quality Improvement in Advanced Nursing Practice (3)
- NURS 701 Transitional Role Course for the Nurse Practitioner (1)

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Concentration
(25 credits)
- NURS 660 Primary Care Management Across the Lifespan (4)
- NURS 662 Primary Care Management Across the Lifespan Practicum I (2)
- NURS 663 Primary Care Management Across the Lifespan Practicum II (2)
- NURS 664 Primary Care Management Across the Lifespan Practicum III (3)
- NURS 665 Pediatrics in Primary Care (3)
- NURS 666 Pediatrics in Primary Care Practicum I (2)
- NURS 668 Women’s Health in Primary Care Across the Lifespan (3)
- NURS 669 Women’s Health in Primary Care Across the Lifespan Practicum (2)
- NURS 670 Mental Health in Primary Care Across the Lifespan (3)
- NURS 671 Mental Health in Primary Care Across the Lifespan Practicum (1)

Psychiatric & Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Concentration
(32 credits)
- NURS 625 Neurobiology of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan (2)
- NURS 626 Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan (2)
- NURS 627 Psychiatric Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan – Theory (2)
- NURS 628 Psychiatric Diagnostic Reasoning Across the Lifespan – Practicum (3)
- NURS 629 Physical Health Issues Common in Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan (2)
- NURS 630 Therapeutic Management of Adult/Geriatric Psychopathology I – Theory (2)
- NURS 631 Therapeutic Management of Adult/Geriatric Psychopathology I – Theory (3)
- NURS 632 Adult/Geriatric Focused Brief Individual and Group Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Theory (2)
- NURS 633 Adult/Geriatric Focused Brief Individual and Group Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Practicum (1)
- NURS 634 Therapeutic Management of Child/Adolescent Psychopathology II – Theory (2)
- NURS 635 Therapeutic Management of Child/Adolescent Psychopathology II – Practicum (3)
- NURS 636 Child/Adolescent Focused Brief Individual and Family Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Theory (2)
NURS 637 Child/Adolescent Focused Brief Individual and Family Psychotherapy for the Psychiatric NP – Practicum (1)

NURS 638 Therapeutic Management of Vulnerable Populations Psychopathology Across the Lifespan III – Theory (2)

NURS 639 Therapeutic Management of Vulnerable Populations Psychopathology Across the Lifespan III – Practicum (3)

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### Graduation Requirements

- Completion of all coursework with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Completion of all courses with a grade of “B” or better to count towards the M.S. in Nursing
- A total of two different nursing courses may be repeated during the program; a single course can be attempted no more than twice.
- Students receiving an F grade in any course will be dismissed from the program based on the graduate academic dismissal policy. Students may appeal the dismissal for reinstatement. If the appeal is successful, the student will be required to repeat the failed course and it will count toward the above two course repeat limitation.