

Nursing

Purpose and Philosophy

The Abilene Intercollegiate School of Nursing (AISN) functions within the structure of an educational consortium consisting of Abilene Christian University, Hardin-Simmons University and McMurry University. It offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree (M.S.N.) with a focus on advanced health care delivery or family nurse practitioner.

The Master of Science in Nursing program is designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles as advanced family nurse practitioners, educators in schools of nursing or managers of patient care services within a variety of institutions or health care agencies.

The program faculty accepts the underlying philosophy and objectives of the consortium universities. It is inherent within the philosophy of the consortium universities that men and women be educationally prepared in a manner that promotes the development of intellectual, cultural, moral and religious values. They believe and accept this statement of purpose: "A person is holistic and has bio-psychosocial, cultural and spiritual needs. In order to reach one's highest potential and achieve an optimal sense of well-being, a person is constantly interacting and adapting to the internal and external environment. Furthermore, the faculty believes that the role of private, church-related universities is to provide a scientific and liberal arts basis, and moral and religious values needed for individuals seeking intellectual, spiritual, cultural and economic self-improvement.

The aim of graduate nursing students should be to develop the ability to incorporate multi-role functions in the delivery of health care. Graduates of the M.S.N. program should strive to participate in formulating creative, viable solutions to problems or issues in health care administration, education, research and/or advanced clinical practice. With these strengths to draw upon, graduates

from these universities will be equipped to assume participating roles in a society that responds to the rapidly changing and increasingly complex needs of people.

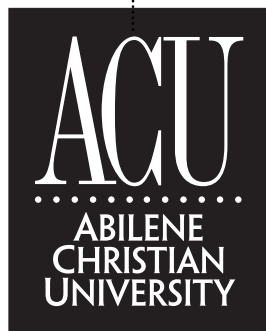
Program Outcomes

1. Demonstrate proficiency in specific practice area.
2. Develop strategies that incorporate theories and models from nursing and related disciplines for advanced practice.
3. Implement scientific inquiry to replicate, validate and test theories relevant to nursing.
4. Analyze cultural, social, ethical, economic and political perspectives that influence the health care delivery system.
5. Integrate the multi-roles of the nurse for interdisciplinary practice and advancement of optimum health care delivery.
6. Integrate critical thinking skills into oral and written communications.

Admission Requirements

Unconditional admission to graduate study in nursing requires meeting two of the three academic standards as listed below and receiving the endorsement of the program director.

Conditional admission to graduate study in nursing requires meeting one of the academic standards listed below and obtaining departmental endorsement. Students granted provisional admission must maintain a 3.00 GPA during their first 12 hours of graduate work to be eligible to receive full admission and to continue graduate study. The applicant is encouraged to submit the application and all supporting documents by March 1 to receive full consideration for admission to the graduate nursing program.



Academic Standards

1. Grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all upper-level classes (junior and senior level courses) *or* overall undergraduate GPA of 2.70.
2. GPA of 3.00 in all undergraduate classes in nursing (a minimum of 18 hours in upper-division courses).
3. Entrance test score: either Graduate Record Exam (GRE) *or* Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score within the upper 50th percentile.

Prerequisites/Leveling Work

1. Licensure to practice as a RN in Texas and in good standing with the Board of Nurse Examiners.
2. Minimum of one year of clinical nursing practice; FNP option requires two years of practice.
3. Three letters of recommendation. Recommendations should be obtained from supervisors who have knowledge of your clinical skills, work ethic and style, and/or professors who can attest to your academic achievements and potential success in a graduate nursing program.
4. Successful completion of an upper-level undergraduate statistics course. If no statistics class has been taken, successful completion of statistics course must be taken no later than one year **prior** to enrolling in Nursing Research, NURS 620.
5. An official academic transcript (in English or translated into English) indicating an earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a regionally accredited school or university whose nursing program is NLN or CCNE accredited.
6. A completed application for admission to the ACU Graduate School and the application fee.
7. For students whose first language is not English, an officially reported Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 550.
8. Proof of current immunization status.
9. All undergraduate prerequisites and/or transfer work must be approved by the director of the program and the Dean of Graduate School.
10. Recent physical assessment course or continuing education.
11. Completion of AISN Graduate Student Form.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Financial assistance is available to students through grants, loans and part-time employment. For further information on financial aid, contact:

Student Financial Services
100 Zellner Hall
ACU Box 29007
Abilene, Texas 79699-9007
800-888-0228 or 325-674-2643

Master of Science in Nursing

The Master of Science in nursing program is designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in advanced family nurse practitioner positions, educators in schools of nursing, or managers of patient care services within a variety of institutions or health care agencies. In addition, students are guided to incorporate theory and the research process in a variety of roles and practical settings.

Degree Requirements

- **Core courses (12 hours)**
NURS 610 Nursing Theories for Advanced Health
NURS 620 Nursing Research
NURS 630 Role Development for Advanced Practice
NURS 650 Policies and Strategies for Health Care Delivery
- **Nursing specialty focus (12 hours)**
NURS 660 Advanced Health Care Delivery I
NURS 661 Advanced Health Care Delivery II
NURS 662 Advanced Health Care Delivery III
- **Professional paper/thesis**
NURS 698 Professional Paper (3 hours)
NURS 699 Thesis (6 hours)
- **Electives (12 hours)**

Family Nurse Practitioner

The Master of Science in nursing program is designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles in advanced family nurse practitioner positions, educators in schools of nursing, or managers of patient care services within a variety of institutions or health care agencies. In addition, students are guided to incorporate theory and the research process in a variety of roles and practical settings.

Degree Requirements

- **Core courses (12 hours)**
 - NURS 610 Nursing Theories for Advanced Health Care Delivery
 - NURS 620 Nursing Research
 - NURS 630 Role Development for Advance Practice
 - NURS 650 Policies and Strategies for Health Care Delivery
- **Nursing specialty focus (29 hours)**
 - NURS 530 Pathophysiology I
 - NURS 570 Pathophysiology II
 - NURS 632 Pharmacotherapeutics for Nurses in Advanced Practice
 - NURS 643 Epidemiology in Nursing Practice
 - NURS 640 Special Topic: Advanced Practice Nursing Skills
 - NURS 642 Advanced Physical Assessment
 - NURS 651 Family Nurse Practitioner I
 - NURS 652 Family Nurse Practitioner II
 - NURS 653 Family Nurse Practitioner III
- **Professional paper/thesis**
 - NURS 698 Professional Paper (3 hours)
 - NURS 699 Thesis (6 hours)
- **Electives (3 hours)**

Post-Master APN Certification

The School of Nursing offers a post-master certification as an Advance Practice Nurse with a Family Nurse Practitioner focus. The applicant must make an appointment with the program director and then the Dean of the School of Nursing to determine leveling work, if any is needed. Applicants must have a Master of Science in Nursing degree from an accredited program.

Faculty

- Mary Louise Grose**, 2002, *instructor of nursing*; B.S., Lamar University, 1977; M.S., Texas Woman's University, 1979, Ph.D., University of Houston, 1986.
- John Little**, 1999, *senior faculty*; B.S., ACU, 1959; M.S., ACU, 1964; Ph.D., The University of Texas Medical Branch, 1971.
- Janet Noles**, 1993, *assistant professor of nursing*; B.S.N., University of Texas, 1975; M.S.N., Texas Woman's University, 1984; F.N.P., Texas Tech University, 1994; Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, 2001.
- Sharon Woodrum**, 2002, *instructor of nursing*; B.S., College of Charleston, 1986; B.S., Medical University of South Carolina, 1990; Pharm.D., Medical University of South Carolina, 1992.

Courses of Instruction

- NURS 530 Pathophysiology I.** Scientific concepts of pathophysiology essential to diagnostic reasoning and clinical management of diseases states. Emphasis placed on concepts of genetic, cellular and biochemical pathophysiology.
- NURS 570 Pathophysiology II.** Scientific concepts of pathophysiology for diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision-making in advanced nursing practice, with emphasis on common disease processes affecting major systems.

NURS 610 Nursing Theories for Advanced Health Care Delivery.

Seminar to evaluate selected theories from nursing and other disciplines for application to health care delivery and advanced nursing practice.

NURS 620 Nursing Research. The study of the research process and application to knowledge development, nursing practice and human responses to the health-illness continuum. Emphasis on focus of study for thesis, professional paper and/or project.

NURS 630 Role Development for Advance Practice. Contemporary issues, concerns and trends influencing leadership roles in nursing. Theoretical bases for exercising leadership roles and the relationship to role theory and development are explained. The roles of advanced practice are explored in depth: the practitioner role, clinical specialty roles, and advanced roles in education and administration.

NURS 632 Pharmacotherapeutics for Nurses in Advanced Practice (2-0-2), fall and spring. Focuses on the pharmacologic and pharmaco kinetic principles applicable to frequently prescribed drugs in advanced nursing practice. The emphasis of study is on pharmacologic agents, prevention, and management of common acute or recurrent health problems.

NURS 642 Advanced Physical Assessment. Develop and refine technical skills, critical thinking and diagnostic reasoning in performing accurate comprehensive health assessments. Students perform health histories, physical examinations and selected laboratory and radiographic tests. Emphasis is on distinguishing normal variants from pathological changes. 60 clinical hours.

NURS 643 Epidemiology in Nursing Practice. (3-0-3), fall.

The scientific concepts related to the epidemiological process presented are: statistics, screening and investigatory processes, with the individual patient replaced by the community as the primary focus of concern. An assessment of a community health issue will be conducted by the class. The student will be proficient in the language of epidemiology, how diseases are transmitted, with an understanding of the concepts and mechanisms underlying the transmission and acquisition of disease. Prerequisites: NURS 610, 620, 650. Corequisite: NURS 651.

NURS 650 Policies and Strategies for Health Care Delivery.

Health policy and the role of health professionals in the development, implementation and influence on advanced health care delivery. Factors influencing health policy to be addressed include: ethics, demographics, delivery, social, political, scientific and fiscal. Health policy is analyzed in relation to cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit ratio. The effects of theories and research on health policy, health care programs, priorities of health care, source and numbers of providers, health care research, and funding sources will be addressed.

NURS 651 Family Nurse Practitioner I. Study of the major concepts and therapies necessary to implement the FNP role in primary health care. Emphasis is on analysis and application of research, theories, health policy and clinical skills essential to health promotion, disease prevention, and early detection and management of health problems across the life span. Clinical experiences in selected primary care sites. 60 clinical hours.

NURS 652 Family Nurse Practitioner II. Continuation of NURS 651. Progressive analysis of nursing and health concepts, and refinement of clinical nursing judgement in the assessment and management of acute and chronic health problems in all developmental life stages. Exploration of major issues in the delivery of holistic primary nursing care. Clinical experiences in the nurse practitioner role in a variety of settings. 180 clinical hours.

NURS 653 Family Nurse Practitioner III. Continuation of NURS 652. Clinical practicum in selected primary health practice sites, with the opportunity to explore and apply knowledge and skills in a guided family practice context. Due to the clinical requirements of this course, the student may take an incomplete, but must complete the clinical component within 90 days from the end of the semester. 360 clinical hours.

NURS 660 Advanced Health Care Delivery I. Assess and analyze the application of research, theories, health delivery concepts and advanced skills in the selected clinical practice area. Clinical practice will be based on implementation of specified advanced health care delivery objectives that reflect the integration of theory, research in the focal area, health policy and role theory. 50 clinical hours.

NURS 661 Advanced Health Care Delivery II. This course builds on Advanced Health Care Delivery I, providing the student with the opportunity to observe and practice with a nurse preceptor who functions in an advanced health care delivery role. Emphasis is on interventions with evaluation of role functions and specific health care delivery strategies in the selected setting. 80 clinical hours.

NURS 662 Advanced Health Care Delivery III. This course builds on Advanced Health Care Delivery II, providing the student with the opportunity to implement advanced practice strategies utilizing a multi-role framework. Emphasis is on synthesis of cultural, socio-economic, legal and ethical implications for practice within the identified health care delivery setting. 80 clinical hours.

NURS 698 Professional Paper.

NURS 699 Thesis.

For More Information

Materials for application to the Master of Science programs in nursing may be obtained from:

Jennifer Walker
Graduate Admissions
200 Zellner Hall
ACU Box 29000
Abilene, Texas 79699-9000
800-395-4723 or 325-674-2650
Fax: 325-674-2130
Email: gradinfo@acu.edu
Web: www.acu.edu/grad

Advisor for graduate nursing:

Dr. Janet Noles
2149 Hickory Street
Abilene, Texas 79601
325-672-2441