MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program uses as its foundation the baccalaureate in nursing degree. The MSN curriculum is designed to prepare clinical nurse leaders (advanced generalists) or clinical systems administrators (CSA) and, as a secondary goal, to establish a foundation for future doctoral study in nursing. Emphasis is placed on preparing graduates with advanced competencies in nursing practice and advanced role knowledge to meet the demands of the changing health care environment. Students complete requirements for master’s degree core courses, role core and/or support courses, and advanced nursing practice courses.

The number of credit hours for the master’s program range from 36-49 credit hours. The required credit hours for graduation are commensurate with the student’s chosen role option. The full and part-time plans of study are available for all options. Detailed Programs of Study (http://nursing.creighton.edu/academics) are available for review.

The MSN program at Creighton University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) (http://www.ccneaccreditation.org).

MSN Program Objectives

The MSN program is designed to prepare nurses who:

1. Analyze theoretical concepts and knowledge from nursing and other disciplines relevant to advanced nursing practice in the provision and improvement of health care.
2. Assume leadership in designing, managing and implementing quality, cost-effective and innovative services to clients in a variety of health care settings.
3. Incorporate knowledge of population-based care and cultural influences in ensuring appropriate and sensitive health care.
4. Influence health policy formulation and implementation to address socioeconomic and health care issues.
5. Demonstrate proficiency in analyzing and utilizing research from nursing and other relevant disciplines to improve practice.
6. Engage in a systematic process of moral reasoning and values-based dialogue to resolve/address ethical dilemmas/situations.
7. Demonstrate competency in an advanced nursing role.

MSN Admission Requirements

Admission into the MSN Program is based on academic acceptance by the Graduate School. Academic Acceptance by the Graduate School is based on meeting the following requirements:

1. A completed application form with a $50 non-refundable fee.
2. Bachelor of Science degree with a major in nursing from a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) accredited college or university.
3. An official transcript of all previous academic work at the collegiate level. Applicants must assume the responsibility of requesting the registrar of each institution previously attended to mail or e-mail an official transcript directly to Creighton University Enrollment Services Department.
4. A cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4.0 scale. The cumulative GPA is based on all previous academic work at the collegiate level.
5. Three recommendations from persons able to evaluate the applicant’s academic potential as well as current potential competency in nursing. One reference should come from a nursing employer or supervisor. Baccalaureate nursing students applying during their last undergraduate semester will be required to provide a reference from their most recent clinical instructor and/or preceptor.
6. A current unencumbered registered nurse (RN) license to practice in the U.S.
7. A personal essay that includes a narrative response to the following item (500 words allowed):
   - The applicant’s educational and professional goals, both short term and long term, and how earning the MSN degree will aid in reaching those goals.
8. A current resume/curriculum vitae that provides evidence of leadership or service experiences.

Applicants who do not meet the above criteria will be considered on an individual basis.

This University is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant international students. Ability to speak and write correct grammatical English is imperative. All applicants who are not native speakers of English or who have obtained a high school diploma or degree outside of the United States must present a TOEFL iBT score of at least 100. Scores over 2 years old will not be accepted. Students must ask the ETS (the testing agency) to send original TOEFL scores to Creighton University (institutional code 6121). The College of Nursing reserves the right to require students to re-take the exam. It is also at the discretion of the College of Nursing as to whether a TOEFL score is required of applicants who have earned a college degree from a United States university. Eligible students who have not attained the minimum TOEFL iBT score, may be conditionally admitted to Creighton provided that they enroll in Creighton University’s Intensive English Language Institute (IELI) until they obtain the required English proficiency level for admission.

Upon acceptance into the School of Nursing MSN program, students must meet certain conditions of enrollment:

Conditions of Enrollment

1. Completion of required immunizations for all Creighton Health Sciences students.
2. A current, active unencumbered registered nurse (RN) license to practice in the U.S.
3. Completion of a background investigation.
4. Completion of drug screening.
5. Current certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) for health professionals.
6. Verification of physical examination attestation form.
7. Validation of ability to meet the cognitive, affective and psychomotor requirements (Safety and Technical Standards).
8. A minimum of 2000 hours of employment in a direct care setting prior to enrollment in the course NUR 694 Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan and the corresponding health assessment practicums. A minimum of 4000 hours of employment in the care of critically ill newborns/infants prior to enrolling in NUR 615 Advanced Neonatal Assessment/ is required.
9. Successful completion of undergraduate course in statistics prior to enrollment in NUR 683 Statistics and Data Analysis for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice.

10. Successful completion of an undergraduate course or its equivalent in Physical Assessment prior to enrolling in NUR 694 Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan and its corresponding health assessment practicums or NUR 615 Advanced Neonatal Assessment.

**MSN Degree Requirements**

All graduate students’ programs of study include a sequence of courses in three (3) major areas: core courses, role core and/or support courses, and specialty role courses. Core courses include learning experiences in statistics, data analysis, research process and utilization, evidence-based practice, ethics, policy, and care management. Role core and/or support courses provide students selecting the clinical nurse leader (CNL) role option with a foundation in advanced health assessment and diagnostics, advanced pharmacology, advanced pathophysiology as well as advanced concepts in finance and health care.

Students selecting the clinical nurse leader or clinical systems administrator (CSA) role options will enroll in role courses related to finance and negotiation and conflict resolution.

Specialty and role courses provide students both classroom and practicum opportunities in the student’s specialized role option. Please note that the number of credit hours in each area is commensurate with the role option.

- Clinical Nurse Leader (http://catalog.creighton.edu/graduate/graduate-programs-courses/nursing/nursing-msn/msn-clinical-nurse-leader)
- Clinical Systems Administration (http://catalog.creighton.edu/graduate/graduate-programs-courses/nursing/nursing-msn/msn-clinical-systems-administration)

**Dual Degree Programs**

(MSN/MS) - Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Science in Negotiation and Conflict Resolution dual degree program (http://catalog.creighton.edu/graduate/graduate-programs-courses/nursing/nursing-msn/msn-msncr-dual-degree).