

# Master of Science in Nursing Science

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Graduate studies at the master's level place primary emphasis upon advanced professional nursing practice, theory, research and health care delivery systems. Master's level studies provide the student with a basis for further study at the doctoral level. Students may develop a specialized practice focus in nursing leadership (NLDR) with a concentration in nursing education (NLDR-educ) or administration (NLDR-admin). We also have a family nurse practitioner (FNP) or psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (PMH-NP) master's option.

- Graduates of the FNP option are eligible to write the national certification examination for advanced professional practice as a family nurse practitioner offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).
- Graduates of the PMH-NP option are eligible to write the national certification exam for advanced professional practice as a psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (across the lifespan) offered by ANCC.
- Graduates of the NLDR-education option are eligible to take the National League of Nursing (NLN) Certified Nurse Educator Examination.
- Graduates of the NLDR-admin option, with two years of executive nursing experience, are eligible to take the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) exam for certification in Executive Nursing Practice.

## Part-Time/Full-Time Study

The Master's program is designed to be completed in six to eight trimesters of part-time study. Registered nurses with a BSN who are not formally admitted to the program are allowed to register for up to 9 credits of core courses on a space-available basis and with instructor permission. Enrollment in any specialty course requires formal admission to the specialty track. Students interested in full-time study should explore options with the program faculty advisor.

## Scheduling of Courses

The NLDR option can be completed online, with class time being synchronous (entire class participating at the same time) or asynchronous. The FNP and PMH-NP options are hybrid. Core courses and some specialty courses are completely online, with synchronous or asynchronous delivery. The FNP and PMH-NP clinical courses and physical assessment are in a hybrid format with short face-to-face intensives required (usually 1-2 campus visits/trimester). Additional course work is held throughout the semester at scheduled times, with distance students participating live via software programs such as Skype or Collaborate.

Currently, PMH-NP and FNP clinicals must be completed in the state of Alaska. Anchorage students may be required to do their clinical anywhere in the Anchorage Metropolitan Statistical area, which includes the Mat-Su borough to the north and Girdwood to the south.

When possible and at the request of the student, clinical rotations are completed in the students' own community. Decisions for clinical sites are based on there being adequate local experiences and preceptors that allow the student to meet the course and program outcomes. Thus, it is possible for students who reside outside of Anchorage to take advantage of the opportunity to pursue graduate study at UAA. All students are encouraged to take advantage of clinical learning opportunities throughout the state, including both urban and rural settings.

Graduate studies at the master's level place primary emphasis upon advanced professional nursing practice, theory, research and health care delivery systems.

The Master of Science in Nursing Science is accredited through 2025 by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), 3343 Peachtree Road NE, Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326, (404) 975-5000.

Students may develop a specialized practice focus in nursing leadership (NLDR) with a concentration in nursing education (NLDR-educ) or administration (NLDR-admin), as a family nurse practitioner (FNP) or psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner (PMH-NP).

## Admission Requirements

Complete the Admission Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate/>).

## School of Nursing Admission Deadlines

Information on admission deadlines can be found on the **SON website**.

- The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) programs admit once a year and have a specific deadline for applications.
- The Nursing Leadership (NLDR) program has a rolling admission and candidates are reviewed each semester, when an application is complete.
- All applicants may take up to 9 credits of core courses, on a space available basis and with faculty permission, while waiting for their application to be processed.

## School of Nursing Admission Requirements

To be eligible for the Master's program applicants must submit documentation of the following:

- Bachelor or graduate degree in nursing from a program accredited by the Accreditation for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- Minimum undergraduate or graduate GPA of 3.00 (B) on a 4.00 scale. A student who does not have a minimum GPA of 3.00 may substitute their graduate UAA GPA (based on completion of three graduate core courses and earning a 3.00 or higher in each course).
- Minimum grade of 2.00 (C) in an undergraduate or graduate research methods course and a statistics course that covers descriptive and inferential statistics.
- Registered professional nurse license in the state of Alaska. License must remain active and unencumbered while in the School of

Nursing (SON) graduate program. There are different reasons for a license to be encumbered and some may not preclude admission to the program. Students with encumbered licenses should meet with the graduate chair to determine program eligibility.

- Minimum of one year of full-time clinical experience as a registered nurse.

## School of Nursing Admission Process

The UAA School of Nursing application process can be found on the [SON website](#).

## Additional School of Nursing Requirements

Once accepted to the Master's program, students will receive instructions for submission of the following requirements<sup>1</sup>:

- Documentation of continuous current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for adults, infants and children.
- Evidence of satisfactory health status, including immunity to chicken pox, rubella, rubeola, and hepatitis A and B (by titer); documentation of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) immunization within the past 10 years; annual PPD skin test or health examination indicating freedom from active tuberculosis; documentation of an annual HIV test (results not required);
- Results of the SON-sanctioned national-level criminal background check.

*The above requirements may change based on the demands of clinical facilities. Please check with the SON for the most recent list of requirements.*

Students are required to provide their own transportation to clinical sites. They are also responsible for their portion of the cost of audio-conferencing. Students must have access to a personal computer and reasonable Internet connectivity. Prior to entry into the nursing program, students are expected to have graduate level writing and American Psychological Association (APA) referencing skills, as well as basic computer and typing skills, for example:

- Word processing,
- Sending and receiving e-mail with attachments,
- Accessing and navigating the Internet/World Wide Web,
- Basic understanding of hardware, software and operating systems.

## FNP & PMH-NP Clinical Requirements

Alaska clinical site decisions are based on the availability of qualified preceptors and agencies that provide adequate experiences so the student can meet the course and program outcomes. Whenever possible we assign sites in or near a student's home community. Student clinical hours must follow the preceptors' work schedules (usually M-F). All students are encouraged to take advantage of clinical learning opportunities throughout Alaska in both urban and rural settings.

## Academic Requirements

Students enrolled in the master's degree program must make continuous progress toward completion of the degree and remain in good standing with the School of Nursing (SON). A detailed schematic of the SON good standing policy can be found in the SON Graduate Handbook (<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/schoolofnursing/studenthandbooks.cfm>). Noncompliance with the good standing policy and academic expectations will result in probation and possible dismissal from the program. To remain in good standing students must:

- Maintain professional and academic standards at all times.
- Earn a minimum 3.00 (B) in all required coursework.
- Maintain continuous enrollment each fall and spring semester until degree is granted.

## Graduation Requirements

- Complete the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (<http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degerequirements/>).
- Complete the program requirements below for one of the following options: FNP, PMH-NP, or NLDR with a focus on education (NLDR-educ) or administration (NLDR-admin).

## Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Options

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses <sup>1</sup></b>		
NSG A613	Advanced Practice Informatics	2
NSG A618	Role Development in Advanced Nursing	2
NSG A618A	Advanced Nursing Leadership	2
NSG A619	Nursing Health Policy	2
NSG A621	Knowledge Development for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NSG A627	Practice Inquiry I: The Nature of Evidence	3
NSG A633	Statistics for Advanced Practice	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

<sup>1</sup> *Students seeking a second master's degree may petition to have core courses waived based on evaluation of prior graduate degree.*

Complete one of the following options:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Family Nurse Practitioner Option</b>		
NSG A662	Family Nurse Practitioner III	5
NSG A663	Family Nurse Practitioner IV	6
NSG A601	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG A602	Advanced Health Assessment in Primary Care	4
NSG A610	Pharmacology for Primary Care	3
NSG A660	Family Nurse Practitioner I	5

NSG A661	Family Nurse Practitioner II	4
Advisor-approved elective		3
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Option</b>		
NSG A670	Advanced Practice Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing I	5
NSG A671	Advanced Practice Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing II	5
NSG A672	Advanced Practice Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing III	5
NSG A673	Advanced Practice Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing IV	5
NSG A601	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NSG A602	Advanced Health Assessment in Primary Care	4
NSG A610	Pharmacology for Primary Care	3
NSG A611	Psychopharmacology for Advanced Nursing	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>

A total of 50 credits is required for the degree.

### Nursing Leadership Option

All NLDR students complete the core courses and then select one of two options: nursing education or administration.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core Courses <sup>1</sup></b>		
NSG A618A	Advanced Nursing Leadership	2
NSG A619	Nursing Health Policy	2
NSG A621	Knowledge Development for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NSG A627	Practice Inquiry I: The Nature of Evidence	3
NSG A633	Statistics for Advanced Practice	3
NSG A647	Evidence-Based Practicum for Nursing	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>16</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students seeking a second master's degree may petition to have core courses waived based on evaluation of prior graduate degree.

Complete one of the following options:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Leadership in Education</b>		
NSG A640	Teaching and Learning in the Professional Context	3
NSG A641	Developing Curriculum for Nursing and Other Professions	3

NSG A643	Course and Curriculum Evaluation for Professionals	4
NSG A644	Technology for Learning and Collaboration	2
Advisor-approved elective		3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Leadership in Administration</b>		
NSG A613	Advanced Practice Informatics	2
NSG A615	Health Services Organization and Finance	4
Select two courses from the following list		6
HS A615	Health Services Administration	
HS/SWK A628	Program Evaluation	
PADM A601	Introduction to Public Administration and Policy	
PADM A603	Management Analysis	
PADM A610	Public and Non-Profit Organizational Behavior	
PADM A624	Human Resources Administration and Labor Relations	
PADM A688	Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement	
Advisor-approved elective		3
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

A minimum of 31 credits is required for the degree.