

School of Nursing

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Nursing education was first offered in Stephenville in 1976 in the Division of Nursing. Today, the SON has since grown to offer multiple entry points for students to begin or advance their career in nursing at one of three different campuses in Stephenville, Waco, or Fort Worth. Students can earn one of two degrees: the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) or Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). For further information on the BSN program, see the undergraduate section of this catalog.

Tarleton MSN students are challenged to acquire evidence-based, value-driven knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to expand their professional nursing careers. Two concentrations, depending upon the student's career goals and objectives, support the achievement of the MSN: 1) Administration concentration, for those who wish to become advancing leaders in health care, 2) Education concentration, for those who wish to advance in a nursing education role. Both MSN concentrations provide the graduate with academic and professional opportunities necessary to compete in the current health care employment market and to be life-long, ongoing contributors to the nursing profession. The graduate nursing faculty delivers quality online instruction and facilitates experiential learning in a broad variety of settings.

Mission

Tarleton State University's School of Nursing offers student-centered nursing education, conducts equity-based scholarship, employs evidence-based practice, and engages in an approach to nursing service that promotes positive individual, group, and community health outcomes with a global reach.

Vision

Tarleton School of Nursing will be a leader in nursing education with a focus on student success driven by excellence in teaching, scholarship, practice, and service.

Value Statements

Tarleton State University School of Nursing is committed to:

RESPECT - Acting with integrity to foster a community of inclusivity and collaboration among faculty, staff, and students promoting forward thinking while preserving time-honored traditions.

EXCELLENCE - Fostering innovation, embracing transparency, and inspiring individual and professional growth with continuously high standards in everything we do.

PROFESSIONALISM - Embracing change through interprofessional collaboration by empowering faculty & future generations of nurses to demonstrate empathy and accountability to make a positive global impact.

Accreditation

The master's degree program in nursing at Tarleton State University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

MSN Program Outcomes

At the end of the program, the graduate nurse will be able to:

1. Integrate findings and theories from nursing science and related disciplines to lead the continued improvement of nursing care across diverse settings.
2. Provide flexible leadership and inter/intra professional collaboration in a complex and ever changing healthcare delivery system to safely achieve quality patient-centered care.
3. Ethically conduct and/or use research which contributes to the development of nursing science.
4. Analyze current and emerging information and health technologies to communicate, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and support decision making to improve patient care outcomes.
5. Advocate for policies to promote health, shape healthcare delivery, defend social justice, and advance the profession of nursing.
6. Synthesize population health concepts to affect appropriate health interventions, to prevent disease, reduce risks, and promote health and wellness in diverse populations.

Location and Course Delivery Method

Coursework for the MSN program is offered online with practicum experiences.

Practice Experience and Experiential Learning

Two courses in each concentration contain practicum experience hours. Students work with their faculty and practicum experience preceptors to design practicum experiences to meet course objectives.

Admission Requirements and Process

Admission requirements and processes are located at <https://www.tarleton.edu/nursing/degrees/degrees-grad/>.

Note: The GRE is not required for admission into the MSN program.

Advising

Graduate nursing faculty advise students.

Master of Science in Nursing Program Requirements

The MSN curriculum consists of core nursing courses and courses related to the nursing concentration (see below).

Nursing Administration

NURS 5300	Nursing Theory	3
NURS 5301	Organizational Behavior and Human Resources	3
NURS 5303	Advanced Nursing Role Development	3
NURS 5306	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 5310	Leadership Development	3
NURS 5320	Healthcare Finance	3
NURS 5322	Healthcare Change and Communication	3
NURS 5324	Outcomes & Eval Healthcare	3
NURS 5398	Nursing Research	3
NURS 5373	Nursing Administration Capstone	3
Total Hours		30

Nursing Management

Students must enroll in the Nursing Management lab section

NURS 5328	Administrator Role I	3
NURS 5329	Administrator Role II	3
Total Hours		6

Quality Improvement

Students must enroll in the Quality Improvement lab section.

NURS 5328	Administrator Role I	3
NURS 5329	Administrator Role II	3
Total Hours		6

Nursing Education

NURS 5300	Nursing Theory	3
NURS 5303	Advanced Nursing Role Development	3
NURS 5306	Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 5312	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 5314	Advanced Pharmacology and Pathophysiology	3
NURS 5330	Instructional Methods and Strategies for Adult Learners	3
NURS 5332	Curriculum Development	3
NURS 5334	Outcomes and Evaluation Education	3
NURS 5338	Clinical Focus Role	3
NURS 5339	Educator Role	3
NURS 5398	Nursing Research	3
Total Hours		33

Capstone

NURS 5383	Nursing Education Capstone	3
Total Hours		3

Thesis

NURS 5388	Thesis	3
NURS 5388	Thesis	3
Total Hours		6

Leadership

- Dr. Susan M. Rugari
- Dr. Nel Martinez
- Dr. Jere Hammer

Professors

- Dr. Nel Martinez
- Dr. Susan Rugari

Associate professors

- Dr. Samantha Pehl
- Dr. Mary Winton
- Dr. Jennifer Yeager

Assistant professors

- Dr. Renae Authement
- Dr. Jerilyn Bumpas
- Dr. Martha Smith

Professional Assistant Professor

- Dr. Annette Ayers
- Dr. Christie Ramirez

Instructor

- Dr. Sarah Nigliazzo

Courses

NURS 5086. Problems in Nursing. 6 Credit Hours (Lecture: 0-6 Hours, Lab: 0-6 Hours).

Independent study focused on an area in nursing. Together with the faculty, the student formulates learning objectives and a plan for the course. May be repeated for credit as topics vary. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSN program and approval of the Department Head.

NURS 5300. Nursing Theory. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Explores the relationships among theory, knowledge, science, and evidence-based nursing practice. The student will develop an appreciation of the process of theory development in nursing, compare and contrast various theoretical perspectives, and apply nursing theory. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5301. Organizational Behavior and Human Resources. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

This course explores organizational behavior by investigating characteristics of employees, leaders, groups (including teams), and culture. Practical strategies to manage human resources are identified, investigated, and discussed. Opportunities for self-exploration are present. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5303. Advanced Nursing Role Development. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Course introduces development in the areas of healthcare policy, politics, and issues; leadership; team building; and written and oral communication. Self-awareness and communication techniques will be emphasized. Students are expected to incorporate the values of lifelong learning and professional development. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5306. Nursing Informatics. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Explores nursing informatics, its value, impact, and application to nursing practice, research, and education. Advances in information technology, healthcare information systems, and tele-health are expanded. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5310. Leadership Development. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

The course will examine the dimensions of the leadership role; identification of attributes, knowledge and skill required to fulfill the role; and the distinctions between management and leadership. Opportunities for self-awareness are provided in the course. Leadership is explored through the process of developing oneself as a leader. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5312. Advanced Health Assessment. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Focuses on enhancing previously learned nursing skills and techniques used in comprehensive health assessment. Facilitates the development of critical thinking and advanced communication skills using various modalities. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5314. Advanced Pharmacology and Pathophysiology. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Dual focus on the role of the nurse in management of pharmacotherapeutics across the lifespan and the analysis and evaluation of physiologic and pathologic changes. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5320. Healthcare Finance. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Offers an introduction to decision making in healthcare settings using accounting and finance theories, principles, concepts and techniques most important to managers. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5322. Healthcare Change and Communication. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Examines change theory, team building, negotiation, and managing conflict in the healthcare habitat. Also addresses foundational principles of strategic planning. Evidence-based communication processes and orchestrating change in complex healthcare systems will be discussed. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5324. Outcomes & Eval Healthcare. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Focuses on healthcare outcomes management and planning using the biopsychosocial spiritual approach of healthcare delivery. The course will also examine a number of different measuring methodologies and their strengths and weaknesses as they apply to healthcare outcomes management and planning. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5328. Administrator Role I. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 1 Hour, Lab: 4 Hours).

Course is an applied synthesis of concepts, theories, processes, and roles learned in previous and concurrent core and administration courses. Students are actively engaged with faculty and practicum preceptor to plan experiences to meet course objectives. Students will gain firsthand experience with the operational, administrative, and strategic issues of concern to middle management. 60 hour practicum experience with preceptor. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN Program.

NURS 5329. Administrator Role II. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 1 Hour, Lab: 4 Hours).

Continuation course of applied synthesis of concepts, theories, processes, and roles learned in previous and concurrent core and administration courses. Students are actively engaged with faculty and practicum preceptor to plan experiences to meet course objectives. Students will gain firsthand experience with the operational, administrative, and strategic issues of concern to executive management. 60 hour practicum experience with preceptor. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN Program.

NURS 5330. Instructional Methods and Strategies for Adult Learners. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Focus is on teaching and learning theories, characteristics of the learner and instructor, and diverse learning designs and environments. Legal and ethical aspects will be covered. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN Program.

NURS 5332. Curriculum Development. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Focuses on curriculum development in nursing education and practice settings. Includes curriculum leader, faculty, and staff development, assessment of contextual factors, and curriculum design and process. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5334. Outcomes and Evaluation Education. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Course describes assessment, outcomes, and evaluation in nursing education; the process for collecting data and making decisions; and how to construct meaningful evaluation instruments. Social, ethical, and legal responsibilities and implications of decisions are presented. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.

NURS 5338. Clinical Focus Role. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 1 Hour, Lab: 4 Hours).

Course begins with a discussion between the student and faculty and then student and preceptor to design an individualized experience to meet the course objectives. During this supervised practicum experience, the student will integrate advanced nursing knowledge to implement nursing interventions that influence healthcare outcomes for individuals, populations or systems. 60 hour practicum experience with preceptor. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN Program.

NURS 5339. Educator Role. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 1 Hour, Lab: 4 Hours).

Course is an applied synthesis of concepts, theories, processes, and roles learned in prior and concurrent education and core courses. Students are actively engaged with faculty and practicum preceptor to plan experiences to meet course objectives. 60 hour practicum experience with preceptor. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN Program.

NURS 5373. Nursing Administration Capstone. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Students are expected to synthesize the concepts, theories principles, roles, and skills earned in this graduate program. Focus is on development of a scholarly product for dissemination. Course must be completed in one semester. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program, full time students must complete all courses except NURS 5329 may be concurrent. Part time students must complete all courses.

NURS 5383. Nursing Education Capstone. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Students are expected to synthesize the concepts, theories principles, roles, and skills earned in this graduate program. Focus is on development of a scholarly product for dissemination. Course must be completed in one semester. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program, full time students must complete all courses except NURS 5339 may be concurrent. Part time students must complete all courses.

NURS 5388. Thesis. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Scheduled when the student is ready to begin thesis. No credit until thesis is complete. Thesis will be completed following the guidelines from the College of Graduate Studies. Prerequisites: Admission to the MSN program, approval of Thesis Chair or Department Head, and all courses must be completed except practicum courses may be concurrent.

NURS 5398. Nursing Research. 3 Credit Hours (Lecture: 3 Hours, Lab: 0 Hours).

Prepares students to explore, appraise, synthesize, and utilize appropriate research findings to address nursing problems and improve outcomes. Introduces research and knowledge generation in nursing. Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program.