

Master of Science in NURSING



"Whosoever is spared personal pain must feel called to help in diminishing the pain of others."

~ Albert Schweitzer, M.D. (1875-1965)

MISSION STATEMENT

Through the efforts of a professionally prepared and caring faculty and staff, Point Loma Nazarene University Department of Nursing aspires to prepare MSN graduates who are leaders among their peers in a global community. These graduates think critically, value diversity, and are committed to the highest spiritual and ethical good. These MSN graduates expand educational opportunities that empower individuals to optimal health and effective citizenship; and work to become models of creative Christian leadership who seek to improve the quality of life in their communities.

Graduates are exposed to a broad foundation of knowledge to meet the rapidly changing needs of today's healthcare environment. PLNU combines instruction, research, and public service opportunities that advance the intellectual, spiritual, professional, and economic potential of its MSN graduates for productive nursing practice in settings around the globe.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete the approved graduate program of 40-43 units, including the Thesis or Project.
2. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. A student may earn a maximum of two "C" grades in the program.
3. Pay all tuition and fees in full.
4. Complete and have accepted the application for Masters' Degree at the time indicated by the program.

MSN CURRICULAR OUTCOMES

Each masters level nursing course is designed to include competency development which incorporates the following five curricular outcomes:
Critical Thinking – A learned approach to the practice of nursing which reflects intellectual development in reasoning, analysis, research and decision-making.

Therapeutic Nursing Interventions – A series of theory-based, nurse initiated actions which are

goal-directed and designed to optimize health. These interventions are client-centered, interdisciplinary, research based, and focus on empowering the client.

Communiation – A dynamic, interactive process that transmits thoughts, ideas, and feelings through the use of symbols which are culturally appropriate.

Service – The provision of leadership in clinical practice and the socio/political environment

Spirituality – The dimension of life that provides meaning to existence. Within the context of vital Christianity, ethics arise out of a spiritual framework. The ethical practice of nursing adheres to the ethical and legal standards of the nursing process.

MSN COURSE PROGRESSION

Year One—FALL SEMESTER

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
GNSG 501	Theoretical Foundations and Research	4
GNSG 502	Teaching Faithfully: Communicating With Adult Learners in a Diverse Society	2
Total units		6

SPRING SEMESTER

GNSG 505	Advanced Assessment and Health Promotion Across the Lifespan	2-2
GNSG 506	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
Total units		7

SUMMER SESSIONS

GED 570	Advanced Educational Psychology	3
GED 572	Philosophy of Education	3
GED 580	Educational Measurement and Evaluation	3
Total units		9

Year Two—FALL SEMESTER

GNSG 503	Healthcare Issues, Ethics and Politics	2
GNSG 508	Development of Educational Programs	2
GNSG 509	Nursing Education Role Practicum	2
Total units		6

SPRING SEMESTER

GNSG 504	Thesis	3
GNSG 507	Advanced Pharmacology	3
	Total units	6

SUMMER SESSIONS

GNSG 504	Thesis	3
GNSG 510, 511, 512 or 513	Clinical Elective	3-6*
	Total units	6-9

NURSING TOTAL40-43 UNITS

* 6 units required for those seeking CNS certification

MSN CORE COURSES

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
GNSG 501	Theoretical Foundations and Research in Nursing	4
GNSG 502	Teaching Faithfully: Communicating With Adult Learners in a Diverse Society	2
GNSG 503	Healthcare Issues, Ethics and Politics From a Christian Perspective	2
GNSG 504	Thesis/Project in Nursing (3-3)	6
	Total	14

CLINICAL CORE COURSES

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
GNSG 505	Advanced Assessment and Health Promotion	4
GNSG 506	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
GNSG 507	Advanced Pharmacology	3
	Total	10

EDUCATION CORE COURSES

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
GED 570	Advanced Educational Psychology	3
GED 572	Philosophy of Education	3
GED 580	Educational Measurement and Evaluation	3
GNSG 508	Development of Educational Programs in Nursing	2
GNSG 509	Nursing Education Role Practicum	2
	Total	13

ELECTIVE CLINICAL COURSES (ONE REQUIRED)

COURSE #	TITLE	UNITS
GNSG 510	Mental Health Nursing	3-6*
<i>Select one of the following clinical focus areas:</i>		
GNSG 511	Medical-Surgical Nursing (Adult focus OR Child/Adolescent focus)	3-6*
GNSG 512	Gerontological Nursing	3-6*
GNSG 513	Family Health Nursing	3-6*
	TOTAL UNITS FOR DEGREE	40-43

MSN CORE COURSES

GNSG 501 (4) THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS AND NURSING RESEARCH

This course focuses on the interaction of theory, research and practice in the development of clinical or educational outcomes. Middle range

theories from nursing and other disciplines are examined as a basis for practice and research. Historical events, philosophical views and conceptual frameworks, which have influenced the development of theory and research, are explored. In addition, the course includes both qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

GNSG 502 (2) TEACHING FAITHFULLY: COMMUNICATING WITH ADULT LEARNERS IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY

This course will focus on the development of skills necessary for effective professional communications, both written and oral. Scientific writing and effective oral presentation principles will be discussed. Wesleyan thought as it relates to nursing education is integrated through interdisciplinary teaching. A review of the history of nursing education based on religious teachings is discussed with an emphasis on the role of faith in education and nursing practice.

GNSG 503 (2) HEALTHCARE ISSUES, ETHICS AND POLITICS FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

This course is an introduction to global, federal, state and local issues as they affect health services. Selected health policies are considered in their historical perspective, present status, and future direction within their social, economic and political contexts. All are studied through the lens of a Christian perspective.

GNSG 504 (6) THESIS / PROJECT IN NURSING

To complete requirements for the MSN with an emphasis on Nursing Education, the student must complete and defend a thesis or project that applies to the educational process in a program of nursing, hospital education setting, or patient education program. This project will be conducted over two semesters of instruction with mentorship from a designated faculty member.

Clinical CORE COURSES

GNSG 505 (4) ADVANCED ASSESSMENT AND HEALTH PROMOTION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN (2 THEORY UNITS AND 2 CLINICAL UNITS)

This course provides a focused examination of theories of assessment across the lifespan. A study of human development theories focusing on the concepts of health promotion, disease prevention, and nursing care. (For CNS certification, 2 clinical units equates to 80 clinical hours).

GNSG 506 (3) ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

This course is designed to provide the student with a comprehensive theoretical foundation of the phenomena that produce alterations in human physiologic function across the life span.

GNSG 507 (3) ADVANCED PHARMACOLOGY

This course is designed primarily for graduate students in nursing who require an appreciation of pharmacology in their careers. The one

semester course defines basic principles of drug action, drug disposition and pharmacokinetics. Specific areas of discussion include central nervous system, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal and endocrine pharmacology.

Educational CORE COURSES

GED 570 (3) ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Application of research and theory with major attention devoted to the problems of learning, individual differences, and behavior.

GED 572 (3) PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

Exploration of major classical and modern philosophies as they relate to contemporary educational theories and practices.

GED 580 (3) EDUCATIONAL MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

Study of validity and accuracy of examinations and marking systems; use of statistical procedures to interpret test results; nature, function and use of standardized tests and authentic assessment including portfolio methods for diagnosis and guidance; brief overview of educational research methods.

GNSG 508 (2) DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN NURSING

This course builds upon students previous conceptual knowledge base and practice experiences necessary for clinical and classroom instruction. Students synthesize a conceptual foundation for developing effective learning activities to provide realistic problem solving opportunities. Instructional design principles are applied to clinical and classroom teaching. Traditional and innovative learning environments are analyzed in relationship to the adult learner. Issues and research findings important to teaching are addressed.

GNSG 509 (2) NURSING EDUCATION ROLE PRACTICUM

This course is designed to help prospective teachers of nursing conceptualize and operationalize elements of clinical instruction in a variety of practice settings. Students have the opportunity to enact the role of a Christian nurse-educator through guided, preceptorship experience in an area relevant to the student's practice and education interest. (For CNS certification, 2 clinical units equates to 80 clinical hours).

Elective Clinical COURSES

Select one of the following:

GNSG 510 (3-6) MENTAL HEALTH NURSING*

Exploration of advanced mental health concepts with an emphasis on critical synthesis from nursing and the social sciences as it relates to individuals and groups with a focus on wellness and mental health promotion.

GNSG 511 (3-6) MEDICAL-SURGICAL NURSING (ADULT)*

Exploration of advanced health concepts with an emphasis on critical synthesis from nursing and the social sciences as it relates to individuals with a focus on medical-surgical care of the adult. This course includes advanced theories of human development as it relates to the practice of nursing and education of clients as individuals or in groups.

GNSG 512 (3-6) GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING*

Exploration of advanced health concepts with an emphasis on critical synthesis from nursing and the social sciences as it relates to individuals with a focus on the older adult.

GNSG 513 (3-6) FAMILY HEALTH NURSING

Exploration of advanced health concepts with an emphasis on critical synthesis from nursing and social sciences as it relates to individuals, including children/adolescents and child bearing women, with the context of the family.

** Note: Students desiring CNS certification must complete 6 units which equates to 240 clinical hours*

MSN ASSESSMENT PLAN

The assessment of the MSN program will occur annually and include the following:

1. The program's professional, educational and spiritual emphases are centered around five curricular outcomes: Critical Thinking, Therapeutic Nursing Interventions, Communication, Service, and Spirituality. The evaluation of these outcomes will be demonstrated through an ongoing review of a student-developed portfolio of their coursework as they progress through the master's program. The goal of the portfolio is to produce evidence of meeting the graduate competencies related to the five curricular outcomes.
2. Evaluation of student progress with the cohort will be ongoing and reported annually. A capstone course (thesis project) will provide evidence of a student's ability to present and defend a professional project with the mentorship of a designated nursing faculty member.
3. Faculty evaluation and assessment of teaching will be conducted at the end of each course. Faculty are responsible for maintaining current in their area of clinical expertise and actively engaged in research and writing in their discipline.
4. Program, professional, educational and spiritual competencies will be evaluated annually through review of individual course evaluations, student portfolios, and faculty, graduate and employer surveys.
5. MSN Advisory Council will meet annually and review the annual report of the MSN program director. The Advisory Council will be invited to dialogue concerning the changing healthcare environment and determine if the program is meeting the educational needs in the community and beyond.
6. Director of the MSN program will provide the Graduate Studies Committee at Point Loma Nazarene University with an annual report of all assessment components.