GICGNE MSN STUDENT HANDBOOK
2021-2022

This handbook has been prepared for use by GSW and CSU students in the Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education (GICGNE) Master of Science in Nursing programs.

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Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Student Handbook 2020-2021

This handbook has been prepared for use by students in the Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education (GICGNE) Master of Science in Nursing programs. It is intended to serve as a supplement to the information provided in the Columbus State University (CSU) and Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) catalogs and the CSU and GSW Student Handbooks. In circumstances where there is conflicting information, the student is encouraged to seek clarification from the Assistant Director of Graduate Programs / Graduate Program Director in the School of Nursing (SON).

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HANDBOOK DISCLAIMER

Although the provisions of the GICGNE Student Handbook is as accurate and complete as possible, the consortium reserves the right to change any provision herein without actual notice if circumstances so warrant. Every effort will be made to keep students advised of such changes. However, the student has the responsibility to know what changes have been made and to meet completely and successfully the requirements of the nursing program by reviewing updates in the Handbook each semester.

Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education

History of GICGNE

The Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education (GICGNE) was created in January 2013 to combine the strengths of Columbus State University (CSU) and Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) in offering a master's of science in nursing program. The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) online degree program originally offered collaboratively by Columbus State University and Clayton State University received approval by the University System of Georgia in 2011 and enrolled its first cohort of students fall semester 2011. Georgia Southwestern State University joined the collaboration in 2012. Subsequently, Clayton State University withdrew from the collaboration. The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia formally recognized the consortium between CSU and GSW in offering the MSN program on June 21, 2013. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two Universities outlining the governance structure was signed by Presidents Mescon and Blanchard in June 2013. The newly formed GICGNE began offering courses in summer 2013 and graduated students from the previous consortium in May, 2014. In Spring 2015, a new Family Nurse Practitioner Track was added.

Mission

The mission of the Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education (GICGNE) is to prepare safe and competent professional nurses, who in collaboration with others, provide or facilitate high quality patient-centered care in a global society and achieve academic excellence in nursing education through learner centered teaching, evidence based practice, creative inquiry and student engagement. Also, the mission is to prepare competent and caring individuals for a life of success and leadership in professional nursing through intellectual, personal and social growth and to contribute to the communities in which they live and work.

Programs

GICGNE currently offers the following degree and certificate programs:

- Master of Science in Nursing
- Nurse Educator Track
- Nurse Leader Track
- Nurse Informatics Track
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Post-MSN Nurse Educator Certificate
- Post-Baccalaureate Informatics Certificate

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Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Program Overview

The MSN program is part of a collaborative effort between Columbus State University (CSU) and Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) and students will have the benefit of learning from the best instructors from these graduate programs. The MSN curriculum is designed to prepare professional registered nurses for advanced practice (APN) roles as they are defined by the *AACN Master's Essentials*. All MSN students, regardless of their declared specialty track, are required to take the advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and advanced pharmacology courses to be consistent with the AACN guidelines.

Accreditation

The Master of Science in Nursing at Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

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Admission / Progression Requirements

The completed application packet, including all supporting documentation, must be received by the School of Nursing at each university by the deadline established at each. Completed applications that are received by the preferred deadline will be given priority review. Those applications received after the final deadline for a specific admission term will be recorded for the next available term.

Regular Admission

To be admitted without condition a student must meet the following criteria:

- Completed application for admission and a $25.00-$50.00 processing fee.
- One official copy of transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work previously taken.
- A baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) from a regionally accredited college or university and a nationally accredited nursing program (NLNAC or CCNE) with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Three (3) professional letters of recommendation that comment on the applicant's potential for success in a graduate academic program.

- Current unencumbered RN license in the state where clinical course requirements will be met.
- Certificate of immunization.
- Documentation of Lawful Presence (before enrollment, if applying for in-state tuition) Additional admission criteria are required for all MSN students.
- Successful criminal background check and drug test (using required Background Screening vendor).
- Pre-clinical immunizations/certifications required by the agency where clinical course requirements will be met.
- Proof of current coverage by malpractice and comprehensive general liability insurance.

Regular with Conditions (Provisional Admission)

A student failing to meet one or more of the standards required for admission without condition may be eligible for admission with condition (Provisional admission) for up to one semester under conditions specified at the time of admission, if space in the program is available. Students who fail to make progress under provisional admission will be withdrawn from the program. Provisional period is the first semester of enrollment for Educator, Informatics and Leadership candidates. A 3.0 grade point average during the provisional semester is required to avoid program dismissal. The provisional period for the Family Nurse Practitioner Program is one academic year; no grade below B can be earned during this probationary period.

Progression and Academic Regulations

The MSN program can be completed in two academic years, or four semesters of full-time study (9 credit hours per semester). In the case of the FNP program, students would complete five semesters. Part-time students are expected to complete their program of study within a seven (7) year period, but are encouraged to complete all courses in their selected track as quickly as their schedule allows. All requirements, including coursework at Georgia Southwestern State University and Columbus State University, transfer credit and transient credit course work, must be completed within seven (7) calendar years from the date of initial enrollment in coursework, without regard to the initial admission status and without regard to credit hours earned.

Students pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing must adhere to the following standards:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Only two courses with grades of C can be applied to the degree.
- No course with a grade below a C will be applied toward a degree.

Transfer Credits
Transient Credit at GSW

With approval, a student may take courses as a transient student at another accredited institution and receive credit towards the degree for these courses. Approval is not guaranteed. The "Transient Permission" form found at http://gsw.edu/Academics/Academic-Resources/Student-Forms must be completed with the appropriate signatures and turned in to the GSW Registrar's Office prior to course enrollment for credit to be awarded. Grades earned in courses taken at another institution will not be counted in the student's grade point average at GSW.

A maximum of 9 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited institution under the following conditions:

- No grade less than a B (3.0) may be transferred.
- Work must have been completed within the seven year period allowed for the completion of degree requirements.

Transfer Credits at CSU

The university makes every effort to transfer credit for academic work completed at other institutions. In general, courses completed at a regionally accredited college or university will transfer. Requests for evaluation of transfer credit will only be considered after an admissions application has been submitted, application fee paid and official transcripts from all other institutions have been received. Columbus State University has a list of Transfer Articulation Agreements we've made with other colleges that ensure easy transition from these nearby colleges into Columbus State University:

https://catalog.columbusstate.edu/admissions/graduate-admission/transfer-credit/

A maximum of 9 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited institution for the Family Nurse Practitioner under the following conditions:

- No grade less than a B (3.0) may be transferred.
- A graduate transfer credit evaluation form must be completed by your advisor and sent to the director for approval.
- Work must have been completed within the seven year period allowed for the completion of degree requirements.

Regardless of the total number of semester credit hours allowed in transfer, a minimum of 30 semester hours must be taken in residence at Columbus State University.

Degree Requirements

Graduation Requirements

Application for Graduation at GSW:

Each student admitted to the MSN program must make application for graduation one semester prior to completing degree requirements. Application deadlines are as follows and application forms are available in the Registrar's Office as well as under Student Forms on RAIN and the GSW Homepage. Students should contact their graduate advisors to initiate the application process.

Graduation Term: Apply no later than the date below of the prior semester:

Fall - March 1
Spring - October 15
Summer – January 1

Application for Graduation at CSU:

Applications for graduation should be submitted in CougarNet through the Enrollment Services Tab, one semester prior to the anticipated semester of completion; the last day of classes of the prior term is the final deadline for submission. A non-refundable graduation fee of $60 is required whether or not participating in the ceremony. Fee will be applied to student's account during the first month of their intended graduation term and must be paid by midterm. Students participating in the graduation ceremony are required to have the appropriate graduation regalia - i.e. cap, gown and hood. Candidacy requirements must be completed no later than the official graduation candidacy deadline of the intended term of graduation.

Candidacy requirements are:

- Enrollment in all courses required for degree completion. Students enrolled in other institutions during the final term must submit proof of enrollment.
- Removal of all "Incomplete" grades applying towards degree requirements from their record.
- Verification of approved substitutions.
- $60.00 graduation fee

Students who satisfy the above requirements will be considered candidates for graduation and will be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. Students who do not satisfy degree requirements must delete their application in CougarNet and submit a new graduation application for a future term.

Academic Advisor

The role of the advisor is to direct the student in the development of her/his plan of study and to provide academic counseling when needed. The academic advisor will assist the student in registering for courses each semester.

MSN Degree Time Limit

All graduate work toward a master's degree must be completed within a period of seven calendar years.

Student Conduct

All students in the graduate program are expected to comply with legislative standards in accordance with the State Laws regulating the Practice of Registered and Practical Nursing. Failure to comply with state standards and laws while in the MSN program constitutes grounds for dismissal from the program.

Patient Confidentiality

Patient confidentiality at clinical facilities is expected for the successful completion of any nursing course. Students have read and signed the confidentiality agreement and they will be held accountable. Any breach of a patient's confidentiality by a student will result in disciplinary action against the student and may result in their dismissal from the graduate program.

Academic Dishonesty

GICGNE recognizes honesty and integrity as central virtues of academic life and as fully necessary to its very existence. GICGNE also recognizes and accepts that cooperation, discussion, and group studying outside of the classroom are essential elements of the academic experience, and those students may seek assistance in their studies, such as tutoring or peer review.

However, while such practices are acceptable and even encouraged, students must understand the parameters of accountability in their academic performance and need to respect the academic freedom of the faculty. The following regulations protect the equity and the validity of the student's grades and degrees, and assist in developing standards and attitudes appropriate to academic life:

- During examinations no student shall use materials not authorized by the instructor.
- No student or other person shall obtain and furnish to any other student materials which can be shown to contain the questions or answers to any examination scheduled to be given at any date in any course offered by GICGNE.

- No student shall knowingly receive and use materials, which can be shown to contain the questions, or answers to any examination scheduled to be given at any date in any course offered by GICGNE.

Communication / Course Policies

Course Delivery System

All courses in the MSN program are offered fully online through the *Georgia On My Line* (GOML) learning management system. A separate sign-on is required for GOML from that of the email system used by the home institution.

To log into CSU online courses:

Access the system at https://go.view.usg.edu Log into the system using:
Username: CougarNet login name with _csu appended on: lastname_firstname_csu (Some login names are followed by digits - If you are not sure you can look yours up: https://isis.columbusstate.edu/csuid/) Your CougarNet login name is the first part of your CSU email. Please be aware that your username for GOML is NOT your CSU email address.

To log into GSW online courses:

Your GoVIEW username is the part of your GSW email address before the '@' symbol plus an "**_gsw**" extension: For example, if your GeorgiaVIEW username is jdoe3, your **GoVIEW username will change to jdoe3_gsw**

You have to set up your GoVIEW password:

- When you log in for the first time, **BEFORE** entering anything in the username and password fields, click the *Forgot Password?* link on the login page.
- On the next page, enter your GoVIEW username (with "_gsw") and click the Submit button.
- An email with the password reset link will be sent to **your GSW Radar email account** (for faculty: GSW email account) from donotreply@donotreply.view.usg.edu.
- You have to reset your password within 72 hours.
- The password is case sensitive and must contain no less than 8 characters.

Program Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Implement the selected advanced nurse role: leader, educator, informaticist, or nurse practitioner within health care.

- Develop and nurture interprofessional collaborations by communicating and consulting with other appropriate healthcare professionals and community leaders.
- Evaluate the influence of ethical principles on personal and organizational decision-making.
- Utilize nursing research for the promotion of quality nursing education, safe client-centered health care, and evidence based practice.
- Employ critical thinking in the application of nursing and multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to foster optimal client health outcomes.
- Exemplify cultural competence and sensitivity to diversity in dynamic academic and healthcare environments.
- Demonstrate competence in leadership roles and a commitment to ongoing professional development for the provision of quality, cost-effective client-centered health care and the advancement of nursing practice.
- Utilize informatics to improve client outcomes and to promote the health and safety of individuals, groups and communities.

Curriculum Overview

The MSN program consists of a total of 36 semester credit hours. Fifteen of the 36 hours are required core courses taken by all students in the program. The required courses include content related to nursing theory, research, advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment, and pharmacology. An additional core course, Information Technology in Health Care, will be taken by students in the education and leadership tracks. Two of the tracks (Education and Leadership) consist of 18 credit hours and the Informatics track consists of 21 credit hours. The Nurse Educator track prepares nurses to facilitate learning in various environments through the application of knowledge. Course content in this track includes the principles of education, teaching strategies, evaluation of learning, and curriculum development. The Nurse Leadership track focuses on preparing nurses to function as leaders in order to provide safe evidence based care within various healthcare organizations, analyze different healthcare delivery systems, and develop skills in human resource and healthcare financial management. The Nurse Informatics track prepares students to become competent users of health information technology in order to improve the efficiency, safety, and quality of health care delivery combined with the unique role of nursing.

After completing the MSN program in the Nurse Educator track graduates will be prepared to take the NLN certification exam to become a Certified Nurse Educator (CNE). Students completing the Nurse Leadership track are eligible to take the ANCC national certification exam for Advanced Nurse Executive distinction. Graduates from the Informatics track will be eligible to take the ANCC Informatics Board Certification exam. A total of 36 hours is required for program completion.

Table 1: Curriculum Overview

Core		
Credit	**Course Number**	**Course Title**
3-0-3	NURS 6104	Theory for Graduate Nursing Practice
3-0-3	NURS 6105	Research for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice
3-0-3	NURS 6106	Advanced Pharmacology
3-0-3	NURS 6107	Advanced Pathophysiology
2-3-3	NURS 6108	Advanced Health Assessment
Leadership		
3-0-3	NURS 6100	Principles of Leadership & Management within Healthcare Organizations
3-0-3	NURS 6119	Information Technology in Health Care
3-0-3	NURS 6210	Management of Human Resources in Health Care
3-0-3	NURS 6230	Health Care Delivery Systems
3-0-3	NURS 6240	Health Care Finance
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project/Thesis in Nursing

Education		
3-0-3	NURS 6110	Principles of Education in Nursing
3-0-3	NURS 6220	Effective Teaching/Learning Strategies
3-0-3	NURS 6330	Evaluation of Learning
3-0-3	NURS 6440	Curriculum Development
3-0-3	NURS 6119	Information Technology in Health Care
0-9-3	NURS6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing
Informatics		
3-0-3	NURS 6720	Applied Statistics and Data Mining
3-0-3	NURS 6730	Process Improvement for Health Care
3-0-3	NURS 6740	Health Information and Exchange Standards & Models
3-0-3	NURS 6750	Health Systems Project Management
3-0-3	NURS 6760	Clinical Decision Support Systems
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing

Core Course Requirements (Content course requirements will be provided in the sections on each specific track.)

NURS 6104 – Theory for Graduate Nursing Practice (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. This course prepares nurses to transition into new roles and advanced nursing practice by exploring a wide range of theories from nursing and other sciences. Students will understand the role of knowledge development in advancing a discipline. Students will critique, analyze, and evaluate selected theories and incorporate these theories into their advanced nursing practice roles.

NURS 6105 – Research for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. This course builds upon undergraduate statistics and research courses and will focus on the relationship between nursing theory, research, and practice for evidence-based practice. This course will focus on issues such as the identification of practice and system problems, evaluation or research studies and systematic reviews, development and implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines, use of evidence-based practice to improve outcomes for individuals and groups of patients as well as health care systems, and differentiation of evidence-based and value-based approaches to practice. Students are expected to integrate an evidence-based approach into their practice.

NURS 6106 – Advanced Pharmacology (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. This course includes principles of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, drug metabolism and transport, assessment of drug effects, drug therapy in special populations, and contemporary drug development as a foundation for the use of medications in the clinical management of diseases. Major classes of drugs will be discussed in terms of actions; therapeutic and other effects; adverse, allergic and idiosyncratic reactions; indications and contraindications. Emphasis is placed on nursing responsibility, accountability, and application of the nursing process regarding drug therapy in a variety of settings with individuals across the lifespan.

NURS 6107 – Advanced Pathophysiology (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. The course focuses on developing an advanced knowledge base of pathophysiology of the human body and the impact of this knowledge base on evidence-based practice. It will prepare advanced practice nurses to understand the mechanism underlying the disease process, its clinical manifestations, and rational therapies. Appropriate screening and diagnostic testing methods will also be included. Emphasis will be placed on important pathophysiological concepts needed to support the goals of Healthy People 2010 to improve clients.

NURS 6108 – Advanced Health Assessment (2-3-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. This course will build upon health assessment skills developed in the professional nurse's basic educational program. The theoretical and clinical basis for assessment in advanced nursing practice will be developed. The process whereby the advanced practitioner utilizes comprehensive physical, psychosocial, and cultural assessment across the lifespan to gather specific data relevant to common health problems is demonstrated. Faculty and preceptors facilitate laboratory and clinical experiences, which focus on assessment of clients and presentation of findings in a variety of settings. Emphasis will be placed on important assessment concepts needed to support the goals of Healthy People 2010 to improve clients.

NURS 6119 – Information Technology in Health Care (3-0-3)

Not required for students in the Nurse Informatics Track.

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course examines the implications of the use of health care technology in the workplace as it impacts the areas of advanced clinical practice, nursing administration, and nursing education. Consideration is also given to ethical principles guiding the use of health care technology, and to the organizational and financial issues associated with legislation and public organizational policies. This course provides hands- on experience with a certified EHR that accentuates the opportunity for students to assess the potential of such systems to provide decision support and to improve patient outcomes.

Nurse Educator Track
Content Course Requirements

Credit	Course Number	Course Title
3-0-3	NURS 6110	Principles of Education in Nursing
3-0-3	NURS 6220	Effective Teaching/Learning Strategies
3-0-3	NURS 6330	Evaluation of Learning
3-0-3	NURS 6440	Curriculum Development
3-0-3	NURS 6119	Information Technology in Health Care
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing

NURS 6110 – Principles of Education in Nursing (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course focuses on the theoretical foundations of teaching, learning innovations, and the multifaceted role of a nurse educator in multiple settings. Expectations of a leader in nursing education are explored.

NURS 6220 – Effective Teaching / Learning Strategies (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course is an overview of a variety of learning and instructional strategies to assist in the implementation of teaching plans for the nurse educator. General principles and methodologies related to learning and instruction are integrated into face-to-face and technology enhanced techniques.

NURS 6330 – Evaluation of Learning (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course will provide methods of assessing learning outcomes for individuals and groups in nursing academic and clinical settings. Emphasis is placed on theoretical reflections and empirical methods used to evaluate educational programs, institutions, personnel, and students.

NURS 6407 - Practicum (0-9-3)

Prerequisite or Corequisite: For students in Leadership track: NURS 6100, NURS 6210, NURS 6230, and NURS 6240; for students in Education track: NURS 6110, NURS 6220, NURS 6330, and NURS 6440; for students in Informatics track: NURS 6720, NURS 6730, NURS 6740, NURS 6750, and NURS 6760. This clinically based course operationalizes the theoretical principles and norms studied in previous graduate nursing courses. Students will have the opportunity to assume the role of nursing educator, leader, or informaticist and apply concepts within the selected program track (135 clinical hours are required).

NURS 6440 – Curriculum Development (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course examines the principles, philosophies, and theories used in curriculum development in nursing. Graduate students will define, design, and analyze a selected curriculum model.

NURS 6999 – Focused Project in Nursing (0-0-3)

Prerequisite: Approval by the Nursing Graduate Program Director. The main focus of this course will be a faculty-guided project/thesis that addresses a significant problem or issue within the nursing profession. Students will choose a problem that is of concern to nurse educators or one of concern to nurse leaders, appropriate for their declared track. The project is a research-based project that synthesizes knowledge and information from previous courses to develop, implement and evaluate the project. The thesis is a result of the research process utilizing primary or secondary data analysis and supports the synthesis of knowledge and information from previous courses. Students will be expected to provide an oral defense of the project/thesis. Students choosing to complete course requirements through a paper presentation will also be expected to complete a comprehensive exam.

Nurse Leader Track
Content Course Requirements

Credit	Course Number	Course Title
3-0-3	NURS 6100	Principles of Leadership & Management within Healthcare Organizations
3-0-3	NURS 6210	Management of Human Resources in Health Care
3-0-3	NURS 6230	Health Care Delivery Systems
3-0-3	NURS 6240	Health Care Finance
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing

NURS 6100 – Principles of Leadership & Management within Healthcare Organizations (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. Transitioning from novice to expert in the role of a nursing leader is explored in this course. Content includes theoretical foundations of effective leadership which will enable the student to function effectively in a leadership role in various settings. The management of human, fiscal, and physical health care resources will be emphasized.

NURS 6210 – Management of Human Resources in Health Care (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course will provide the knowledge needed for the nurse leader/manager to be competent in healthcare human resource management. This course will focus on recruitment, selection, and training issues and also on how human resource management needs to be integrated into the strategic planning of the organization. Legal, ethical, and labor issues will be discussed, as well as health and safety issues, and the regional, national and global influences on human resource planning and management.

NURS 6230 – Health Care Delivery Systems (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course is designed for the nurse leader/manager to develop an understanding of the complex regulatory environment in health care delivery systems and the interrelatedness of performance and quality improvement. Also, the framework for understanding the role and contributions of nurse leaders/managers within healthcare systems will be explored; issues such as public reporting, pay for performance, measurements of patient satisfaction, and other emerging and timely topics will be addressed

NURS 6240 – Health Care Finance (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program. This course will examine the economic and financial issues that are unique to organizations in health care delivery. It will include an understanding of accounting principles, financial analysis and decision-making tools needed for nurse leaders. Also included are the principles of economics and the role of accounting and finance on the financial decision-making of healthcare managers and executives. In addition, reimbursement issues will be discussed, as will the current and future considerations of paying for health care.

NURS 6407 - Practicum (0-9-3)

Prerequisite or Corequisite: For students in Leadership track: NURS 6100, NURS 6210, NURS 6230, and NURS 6240; for students in Education track: NURS 6110, NURS 6220, NURS 6330, and NURS 6440; for students in Informatics track: NURS 6720, NURS 6730, NURS 6740, NURS 6750, and NURS 6760. This clinically based course operationalizes the theoretical principles and norms studied in previous graduate nursing courses. Students will have the opportunity to assume the role of nursing educator, leader, or informaticist and apply concepts within the selected program track (135 clinical hours are required).

NURS 6999 – Focused Project in Nursing (0-0-3)

Prerequisite: Approval by the Nursing Graduate Program Director. The main focus of this course will be a faculty-guided project/thesis that addresses a significant problem or issue within the nursing profession. Students will choose a problem that is of concern to nurse educators or one of concern to nurse leaders, appropriate for their declared track. The project is a research-based project that synthesizes knowledge and information from previous courses to develop, implement and evaluate the project. The thesis is a result of the research process utilizing primary or secondary data analysis and supports the synthesis of knowledge and information from previous courses. Students will be expected to provide an oral defense of the project/thesis. Students choosing to complete course requirements through a paper presentation will also be expected to complete a comprehensive exam.

Nurse Informatics Track
Content Course Requirements

Credit	Course Number	Course Title
3-0-3	NURS 6720	Applied Statistics and Data Mining
3-0-3	NURS 6730	Process Improvement for Health Care
3-0-3	NURS 6740	Health Information Exchange Standards & Models
3-0-3	NURS 6750	Health Systems Project Management
3-0-3	NURS 6760	Clinical Decision Support Systems
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing

NURS 6720 – Applied Statistics and Data Mining (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. Emphasizes the application of statistical and analytical procedures used in healthcare and nursing research. This project-based course provides a review of fundamentals of inferential statistics and also offers an introductory study of data modeling, data retrieval and data mining. Emphasis is placed on the use of PC-based tools for conducting analyses of clinical data.

NURS 6730 – Process Improvement for Health Care (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This "hands-on", project-based course provides a discussion of recent developments in the management of quality and process improvement in the healthcare industry. Topics include: an overview of health care quality leadership requirements, team building and project management; quality management; quality and process improvement initiatives; methodologies for continuous process improvement; and emerging trends in health care quality management.

NURS 6740 – Health Information Exchange Standards & Models (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course provides students with a general introduction to the data standards necessary to achieve interoperability within and among complex healthcare organizations. Emphasis is placed on the nature, role and services provided by Health Information Organizations (HIOs) including Regional HIOs. Additional study of the strengths and weaknesses of the Centralized, Federated, and Hybrid models used for HIE.

NURS 6750 – Health Systems Project Management (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This project-based course is designed to help students develop skills in facilitating strategic planning and management of complex projects in health care organizations. Learning activities will focus on managing the successful implementation of EHRs, including action planning, strategy implementation, evaluation of the planning process, budgeting, change management, assessment of organizational culture and behavior, scope creep, managing expectations, balancing competing priorities, and compliance reporting. Fundamental principles of project management such as planning, scheduling, resource allocation, and tracking are applied to a healthcare information system project.

NURS 6760 – Clinical Decision Support Systems (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course provides an overview of clinical decision support systems and provides the student with a "hands-on" experience in three approaches: diagnostic support tools, alerts and reminders, and decision trees. In addition, methods for critiquing decision support tools for validity and utility for nursing practice are examined.

NURS 6407 - Practicum (0-9-3)

Prerequisite or Corequisite: For students in Leadership track: NURS 6100, NURS 6210, NURS 6230, and NURS 6240; for students in Education track: NURS 6110, NURS 6220, NURS 6330, and NURS 6440; for students in Informatics track: NURS 6720, NURS 6730, NURS 6740, NURS 6750, and NURS 6760. This clinically based course operationalizes the theoretical principles and norms studied in previous graduate nursing courses. Students will have the opportunity to assume the role of nursing educator, leader, or informaticist and apply concepts within the selected program track (135 clinical hours are required).

NURS 6999 – Focused Project in Nursing (0-0-3)

Prerequisite: Approval by the Nursing Graduate Program Director. The main focus of this course will be a faculty-guided project/thesis that addresses a significant problem or issue within the nursing profession. Students will choose a problem that is of concern to nurse educators or one of concern to nurse leaders, appropriate for their declared track. The project is a research-based project that synthesizes knowledge and information from previous courses to develop, implement and evaluate the project. The thesis is a result of the research process utilizing primary or secondary data analysis and supports the synthesis of knowledge and information from previous courses. Students will be expected to provide an oral defense of the project/thesis. Students choosing to complete course requirements through a paper presentation will also be expected to complete a comprehensive exam.

Post-MSN Educator Certificate Program

Credit	Course Number	Course Title
3-0-3	NURS 6110	Principles of Education in Nursing
3-0-3	NURS 6220	Effective Teaching/Learning Strategies
3-0-3	NURS 6330	Evaluation of Learning
3-0-3	NURS 6440	Curriculum Development
3-0-3	NURS 6119	Information Technology in Health Care
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing

Post-baccalaureate Informatics Certificate Program

Credit	Course Number	Course Title
3-0-3	NURS 6720	Applied Statistics and Data Mining
3-0-3	NURS 6730	Process Improvement for Health Care
3-0-3	NURS 6740	Health Information Exchange Standards & Models
3-0-3	NURS 6750	Health Systems Project Management
3-0-3	NURS 6760	Clinical Decision Support Systems
0-9-3	NURS 6407	Practicum
0-0-3	NURS 6999	Focused Project in Nursing

Family Nurse Practitioner Program
Content Course Requirements

Credit	Course Number	Course Title
3-0-3	NURS 6107	Advanced Pathophysiology
2-3-3	NURS 6226* (combined course at CSU with NURS 6225)	Diagnostic & Clinical Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nurses

2-3-3 *credit hours at CSU are 4-0-4 *0-6-2 credit hours at CSU for NURS 6325	NURS 6225 *clinical course is separate at CSU (NURS 6325)	Health Assessment for Advanced Practice Nurses
3-9-6 *3-0-3 at CSU *0-9-3 at CSU for NURS 6329	NURS 6229 *clinical course is separate at CSU (NURS 6329)	Health Promotion of Adults
3-0-3	NURS 6128	Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nurses
3-9-6 *3-0-3 at CSU *0-9-3 at CSU for NURS 6328	NURS 6228 *clinical course is separate at CSU (NURS 6328)	Health Promotion of the Elderly
3-0-3	NURS 6105	Research for Evidence Based Practice
3-9-6	NURS 6227 *clinical course is separate at CSU (NURS 6327)	Health Promotion of Women and Children
2-0-2	NURS 6129	Healthcare Delivery models, Economics, and Policy
3-0-3	NURS 6127	Scientific Underpinnings of the APN Role
0-18-6	NURS 6425	Nurse Practitioner Practicum

NURS 6107 – Advanced Pathophysiology (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. The course focuses on developing an advanced knowledge base of pathophysiology of the human body and the impact of this knowledge base on evidence-based practice. It will prepare advanced practice nurses to understand the mechanism underlying the disease process, its clinical manifestations, and rational therapies. Appropriate screening and diagnostic testing methods will also be included. Emphasis will be placed on important pathophysiological concepts needed to support the goals of Healthy People 2010 to improve clients.

NURS 6226. Diagnostic and Clinical Reasoning for the Advanced Practice Nurse (2-3-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course focuses on diagnostic reasoning as a framework to synthesize knowledge for comprehensive assessment of primary care patients throughout the life span. Advance health assessment techniques are emphasized and refined. Diverse types of approaches are used in expanding proficiency in conducting histories and physical examinations in laboratory and clinical settings including communication techniques unique to the specialty population. Systematic and organized health assessments that are sensitive to cultural and developmental needs are explored.

NURS 6225. Health Assessment for Advanced Practice Nurses (2-3-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course in health assessment expands the nurse's knowledge of cognitive processes and psychomotor skills needed for comprehensive assessment of clients across the lifespan. Techniques and processes of performing a physical, mental, developmental, and nutritional assessment, obtaining a health history, performing selected diagnostic procedures, and recording findings will be conducted. Interviewing skills that enable the nurse to relate to various clients across the life span will be refined.

NURS 6229. Health Promotion of Adults (3-9-6)

Prerequisite: NURS 6125, NURS 6225, and NURS 6226 with a grade of "B" or better. This course is designed to prepare Family Nurse Practitioners to assume responsibility for health promotion, health maintenance, disease preventions, and the management of common acute and chronic health problems of adults in primary healthcare settings. Emphasis is on the family as the basic unit of nursing care. Discussion will include non-pharmacologic and pharmacologic management of common health problems. Criteria for consultation and indications for referral along with exploration of available community resources will also be considered.

NURS 6128. Pharmacology for the Advanced Practice Nurse (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course focuses on examination of the major categories of pharmacological agents and application of pharmacological concepts in the clinical practice setting. Emphasis is placed on understanding the physiological action of the drugs, expected patient responses and major effects. This course is prerequisite for clinical courses that integrate the knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics into effective nursing practice.

NURS 6228. Health Promotion of the Elderly (3-9-6)

Prerequisite: NURS 6125, NURS 6128, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, and NURS 6229 with a grade of "B" or better. This course prepares family nurse practitioners to assume responsibility for health promotion, disease prevention, early detection and management of common acute and chronic health problems of the elderly client and his/her family. The nurse practitioner's role in promoting successful aging, maintaining function and promoting self-care, using community, personal and family resources is explored. The course emphasizes common geriatric syndromes and problems including chronic illnesses and their management. Ethical dilemmas that impact healthcare of older adults are integrated throughout course.

NURS 6105. Research for Evidence-Based Nursing Practice (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program with a 3.00 GPA. This course builds upon undergraduate statistics and research courses and will focus on the relationship between nursing theory, research, and practice for evidence-based practice. This course will focus on issues such as the identification of practice and system problems, evaluation of research studies and systematic reviews, development and implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines, use of evidence-based practice to improve outcomes for individuals and groups of patients as well as health care systems, and differentiation of evidence-based and value-based approaches to practice. Students are expected to integrate an evidence-based approach into their practice.

NURS 6227. Health Promotion of Women and Children (3-9-6)

Prerequisite: NURS 6125, NURS 6128, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, NURS 6228, and NURS 6229 with a grade of "B" or better. This course is designed to prepare Family Nurse Practitioners to assume responsibility for health promotion, maintenance, and management of common acute and chronic health problems of women of childbearing age, infants, children, and adolescents in health care settings. Emphasis is on the description of the condition or disease, etiology and incidence, clinical findings, differential diagnosis, management, complications, and preventive and patient education measures. Consideration is given to cultural and ethical issues that affect health care delivery and client adherence to the management plan. Established protocols for practice are used to indicate the need for consultation, referral, and community resources.

NURS 6129. Health Care Delivery Models, Economics and Policy (2-0-2)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course is designed for the nurse leader/manager to develop an understanding of the complex regulatory environment in health care delivery systems and the interrelatedness of performance and quality improvement. Also, the framework for understanding the role and contributions of nurse leaders/managers within the healthcare system will be explored. Issues such as public reporting, pay for performance, measurements of patient satisfaction, and other emerging and timely topics will be addressed.

NURS 6127. Scientific Underpinnings of the Advanced Practice Role (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing program. Students explore components and variations of the advanced practice role and how social policy and healthcare delivery influence are influenced by the role. Legal definitions and professional interpretations of advance practice nursing are examined in relation to health care outcomes, resource allocation and cost effectiveness.

NURS 6425. Nurse Practitioner Practicum (0-0-6)

Prerequisite: NURS 6105, NURS 6125, NURS 6127, NURS 6128, NURS 6129, and NURS 6225 with a grade of "B" or better. The nurse practitioner practicum experience provides the student an opportunity to assume responsibility for the primary healthcare services of individuals and families under the supervision of an established nurse practitioner and/or physician preceptor. Students will be expected to practice as a Nurse Practitioner, assuming increasing responsibility for planning and implements therapeutic processes and for documenting and evaluating outcomes of care. This intensive practice experience allows the student to apply theories through the investigation and managements of health problems in primary healthcare settings.

Student Resources

Resource	Information
CSU Catalog https://academics.columbusstate.edu/catalogs/ CSU Nursing Website http://nursing.columbusstate.edu/index.php GSW Nursing Website https://www.gsw.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/college-of-nursing-and-health-sciences/school-of-nursing/nursing-programs/graduate GSW Catalog/bulletin https://gsw.edu/academics/registrars-office/gsw-catalogbulletin	• Nursing program offerings • Nursing program outcomes • Nursing accreditation/approval status • CSU and GSW academic calendars • Admission criteria and procedures • Degree completion requirements • Tuition and fees
Georgia On My Line GOML https://go.view.usg.edu/d2l/login	Georgia Online Virtual • Instruction Enterprise Wide (GoVIEW) is learning management system for online collaborative programs offered by University System of Georgia (USG) institutions. GoVIEW is used to deliver online course to students throughout the USG.

CSU website for student appeals http://aa.columbusstate.edu/appeals/ GSW website for student appeals http://gsw.edu/Campus-LIfe/ResourcesInformation/studentProblemResolution/index	Policy and process for student complaints / appeals
Graduate School http://gradschool.columbusstate.edu https://gsw.edu/academics/schools-and-departments/school-of-nursing/graduate	Information related to graduate degree programs and application deadlines
Student Services https://students.columbusstate.edu/staff.php http://gsw.edu/Campus-Life/index	Information regarding campus living, campus services, student activities, resources, entertainment & other useful links
Academic Success http://gsw.edu/Campus-Life/index https://www.gsw.edu/academic-resources/ https://www.gsw.edu/academic-resources/writing-center/	Provides and maintains diverse learning opportunities for all GSW students in an environment that promotes academic excellence and success. The staff of the ARC is committed to assisting students with evaluating their academic performance and choosing the appropriate services to master course materials.

Financial Aid http://finaid.columbusstate.edu/ https://www.gsw.edu/financial-aid/	Provide resources to assist in funding your education to obtain your degree in the form of grants, state, institutional scholarships, employment, and student loans.
Library http://library.columbusstate.edu/ https://www.gsw.edu/library/	
Desire2Learn Help Center https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/s/	Student support services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with Desire2 Learn.
Email Sign-on http://cougarnet.columbusstate.edu/cp/home/loginf https://www.gsw.edu/campus-technology/canesnet	Log in for CougarNet for Integrated Student Information System Instructions for how to verify e-mail address and set up passwords for CanesNet
Computer Help Desk https://uits.columbusstate.edu/tech-support/helpdesk/	Procedures & policies for faculty & staff related to campus technology.
International Education http://cie.columbusstate.edu/	The Center's campus internationalization strategy is to provide students with international education learning experiences.

https://www.gsw.edu/admissions/graduate/international	Windows to the World can be described as providing a conduit, or Window, between GSW and the world. This "Window" is a two-way conduit: Taking GSW to the World & Bringing the World to GSW.
Counseling Center http://counsel.columbusstate.edu/ https://www.gsw.edu/health-counseling/health-counseling-services	Counseling services at CSU provides counseling services to assist students with various life concerns. Services include personal counseling, career counseling, workshops, & support groups. GSW's Counseling Services offers confidential personal counseling, social counseling, etc.to students, faculty, and staff. Our counseling services are designed to assist students in becoming successful and productive throughout their college experience and beyond.

Disability Services CSU Office of Disability Services (http://disability.columbusstate.edu/) GSW Office of Accommodations and Access https://www.gsw.edu/accommodations/	The Office of Disability Services coordinates the compliance of the University with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 not only to achieve legality, but to promote academic potential through individualized plans tailored to the particular needs of students with disabilities.
Academic Center for Tutoring : https://act.columbusstate.edu/ GSW Writing Center https://www.gsw.edu/academic-resources/writing-center/ Online hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 PM to 11 PM and Sunday from 5 PM to 9 PM.	Resource for students through all stages of the writing process from generating ideas to drafting a final copy. Writing consultants are available for face-to-face or online consultations.

Student Governance and Organizations

Student Governance

Students will be notified of opportunities to be a part of standing committees and graduate student activities via GOML. Students may be asked by their respective Graduate Director or by the graduate faculty to participate in various activities. Refusal to participate will not impact any course grades or any standing in the MSN program.

Sigma Theta Tau (Mu Pi Chapter @ GSW)

Sigma Theta Tau International, is committed to fostering excellence, scholarship, and leadership in nursing to improve healthcare worldwide. The Society promotes the use of nursing research in health care delivery and makes its resources available to all people and institutions interested

in the latest knowledge in nursing care. Membership is by invitation only.

* Membership Criteria for MSN students:

- Enrolled in graduate programs at accredited institutions of higher education.
- Completed at least ¼ of the nursing curriculum.
- Achieved academic excellence (at schools where a 4.0 grade point average system is used, this equates to at least a 3.5).

MSN Student Handbook Verification Form

This document requires the signature of the Columbus State University student. Once signed please email this form to MSNFNP@columbusstate.edu if an MSN student- for FNP students, please upload into Typhon document storage.

I _____, a student in the Columbus State University, Master of Science in Nursing program, do hereby acknowledge reading the MSN Student Handbook.

I agree to understanding the content within the documents and acknowledge that compliance with the information in the handbook is mandatory for successful completion of the MSN curriculum.

Student Signature: _____**Date**: _____

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Student Signature: _____ **Date**: _____