Columbus State University Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Student Handbook
2022-2023

This handbook has been prepared for use by students in the Columbus State University Master of Science in Nursing program (CSU MSN). It is intended to serve as a supplement to the information provided in the Columbus State University (CSU) catalogs and University handbooks. In circumstances where there is conflicting information, the student is encouraged to seek clarification from the Director of the School of Nursing (SON)/Assistant Director of the Graduate Program.

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HANDBOOK DISCLAIMER

Although the provisions of the CSU MSN Handbook are accurate, and as complete as possible, the MSN program reserves the right to change any provision herein with student notification of change, if circumstances so warrant. Additionally, the handbook coincides/supports University policies reflected in: Columbus State University Student Handbook and Residence Life Community Guide .

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Mission/Vision Statements

Mission Statement:

The mission of the School of Nursing at Columbus State University is to prepare caring, professional nurses who provide safe, evidence-based, patient-centered care, for diverse populations in a variety of settings.

Vision Statement:

The School of Nursing will be a model of nursing education, preparing graduates for a transformational career which encompasses life-long learning and leadership in professional practice and service to others.

Programs

CSU MSN program 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

Columbus State University
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Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Program Overview

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

While the MSN/FNP program was established as part of the Georgia Intercollegiate Consortium for Graduate Nursing Education (GICGNE), CSU School of Nursing was approved to launch its own MSN/FNP program in the spring of 2020. The master's degree program in nursing at Columbus State University under GICGNE is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The master's degree program in nursing at Columbus State University as a single institution is also accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Admission / Progression Requirements Admission

The completed application packet, including all supporting documentation, must be received by the School of Nursing by the deadline established. 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.
- Current Resume
- Certificate of immunization (before enrollment)
- Documentation of Lawful Presence (before enrollment, if applying for in-state tuition)

Additional admission criteria are required for all MSN students prior to clinical site rotations, if applicable.

- Successful criminal background check and drug test (using CastleBranch Background Screening)
- 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
- Physical exam by health care provider

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**.**
The 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 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

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 made with other colleges that ensure easy transition from these nearby colleges into Columbus State University: Transfer Articulation Agreements

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 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. The fee will be applied to the 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.

Student Services Coordinator

The role of the Student Services Coordinator is to direct the student in the development of her/his plan of study and to provide academic counseling when needed. The Student Services Coordinator 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 a 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 Honesty

CSU MSN Program recognizes honesty and integrity as central virtues of academic life and as fully necessary to its very existence. CSU MSN 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 (by photograph or live sharing) 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 CSU MSN.
- 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 CSU MSN.

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 known as GoVIEW. A separate sign-on is required for GoVIEW from that of the email system used by the home institution.

To log into your online courses at CSU:

Access the system at https://go.view.usg.edu with the following information:

- Your GoVIEW username is the first part of your CSU email address (before @columbusstate.edu), followed by _csu. Example: John Doe's email address is: doe_john5@columbusstate.edu so his GoVIEW username is: doe_john5_csu
- Your password will be the same as your CougarNet password at the time your account was

created. If your password does not work, use the 'Forgot Password' option to have a password reset email sent to your institution email address, then once you've reset your password, you can login to GoVIEW.

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 may be eligible to take the ANCC Informatics Board Certification exam based on clinical hour requirements. A total of 36 credit 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 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	NURS 6407	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 nursing, educational and leadership 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. This course focuses on developing advanced knowledge of physiological and pathophysiological concepts related to human response to illness. The student will apply these concepts across the lifespan to support clinical decision making by the advanced practice nurse.

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 facilitate clinical experiences, which focus on assessment of clients and presentation of findings.

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

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 the Graduate Nursing Program. This course focuses on the theoretical foundations of teaching, learning innovations, and the multifaceted role of an advanced practice nurse educator in multiple settings. Expectations of a leader in nursing education are explored. Ethical and health care policy issues related to nursing education will be emphasized.

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

Prerequisite: NURS 6110. 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: NURS 6110, 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 6440. Curriculum Development (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: NURS 6110. 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 6119. Information Technology in Health Care (3-0-3)

Prerequisite: Admission to the 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 healthcare 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.

NURS 6407. Practicum (0-9-3)
Prerequisite: 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. Classes may be taken concurrently. 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.

NURS 6999. Focused Project in Nursing (0-0-3)
Prerequisite: Approval by Assistant Graduate Program Director. The main focus of this course will be a faculty-guided project 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, or one of concern to nurse informaticists, 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 project 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 implement the project within the semester. Students are expected to submit for publication or presentation of the project at a local, state or national conference.

Nurse Leader Track

Content Course Requirements

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 in Nursing

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

Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate program in the School of Nursing. 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. Students in this course will explore theories and models of leadership as the student assesses their personal leadership style.

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

Prerequisite: Admission to the 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 healthcare 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.

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

Prerequisite: NURS 6100. This course will provide the knowledge needed for the nurse leader/manager to be competent in healthcare human resource management. This course focuses on recruitment, selection, and training issues and 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: NURS 6100. 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 topics will be addressed.

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

*Prerequisite: NURS 6100.*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.

NURS 6407. Practicum (0-9-3)

Prerequisite: 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. Classes may be taken concurrently. 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

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

Prerequisite: Approval by Assistant Graduate Program Director. The main focus of this course will be a faculty-guided project 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, or one of concern to nurse informaticists, 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 project 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 implement the project within the semester. Students are expected to submit for publication or presentation of the project at a local, state or national conference.

Nurse Informatics Track

Content Course Requirements

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 health care 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 healthcare quality leadership requirements, team building and project management; quality management; quality and process improvement initiatives; methodologies for continuous process improvement; and emerging trends in healthcare quality management.

NURS 6740. Health Information Exchange Standards and 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 decision 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: 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. Classes may be taken concurrently. 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.

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

Prerequisite: Approval by Assistant Graduate Program Director. The main focus of this course will be a faculty-guided project 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, or one of concern to nurse informaticists, 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 project 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 implement the project within the semester. Students are expected to submit for publication or presentation of the project at a local, state or national conference.

Post-MSN Educator Certificate Program

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

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

3-0-3	NURS 6107	Advanced Pathophysiology
2-3-3	NURS 6226	Diagnostic & Clinical Reasoning for Advanced Practice Nurses
2-3-3	NURS 6225	Health Assessment for Advanced Practice Nurses
3-9-6	NURS 6229	Health Promotion of Adults
3-0-3	NURS 6128	Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nurses
3-9-6	NURS 6228	Health Promotion of the Elderly
3-0-3	NURS 6105	Research for Evidence Based Practice
3-9-6	NURS 6227	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 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 6107. Advanced Pathophysiology (3-0-3)
Prerequisite: Admission to Graduate Nursing Program or Senior Standing in BSN Program

with a 3.0 GPA. This course focuses on developing advanced knowledge of physiological and pathophysiological concepts related to human response to illness. The student will apply these concepts across the lifespan to support clinical decision making by the advanced practice nurse.

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 advanced practice nursing are examined in relation to healthcare outcomes, resource allocation and cost effectiveness.

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

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. 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 a prerequisite for clinical courses that integrate the knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics into effective nursing practice.

NURS 6225. Health Assessment for Advanced Practice Nurses (4-0-4)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. Co-requisite:NURS 6325. This course expands the nurse's knowledge of cognitive processes and psychomotor skills needed for comprehensive assessment and development of differential diagnoses of clients across the lifespan. Techniques and processes of performing a physical, mental, developmental, and nutritional assessment, obtaining a health history, and performing selected diagnostic procedures will be examined. Interviewing skills that enable the nurse practitioner student to relate to various clients across the lifespan will be refined.

NURS 6325. Health Assessment for Advanced Practice Nurses Clinical (0-6-2)

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. Corequisite: NURS 6225. This clinical course expands a nurse's practice by advancing clinical skills and improving the application of diagnostic reasoning within the clinical setting to develop the role of an expert clinician. Skills cultivated are as follows: develop/complete an advanced examination, demonstrate appropriate use of examination equipment, analyze subjective/objective data to formulate correct differential/ definitive diagnoses, order correct diagnostic testing to assist in diagnoses confirmation, and follow practice guidelines.

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

Prerequisite: Admission to the Graduate Nursing Program. This course advances the student's knowledge and skill in health care delivery systems, economics and health policy. The student will critically examine theories in relation to advanced nursing practice in current and emerging health care delivery systems and the concepts of economics as they apply to the healthcare market

and financing and delivering health care services. Particular attention is paid to the impact healthcare economics has on patients, delivery systems, and providers. The student will analyze the forces involved in the formation and implementation of health care policy. **(0-9-3)** Emphasis is on the characteristics of health care policy and politics and the influence of economics on the practice, design and reform of health care in the United States.

NURS 6227. Health Promotion of Women and Children (3-0-3)
Prerequisite: NURS 6107, NURS 6128, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, NURS 6228, NURS 6328, NURS 6229, and NURS 6329; Corequisite: NURS 6327. 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 child-bearing 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 6228. Health Promotion of the Elderly (3-0-3)
Prerequisite: NURS 6107, NURS 6128, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, NURS 6229 and NURS 6329; Corequisite: NURS 6328. 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 6229. Health Promotion of Adults *(3-0-3)*
Prerequisite: NURS 6107, NURS 6225, and NURS 6226; Corequisite: NURS 6329, NURS 6128. This course is designed to prepare Family Nurse Practitioners to assume responsibility for health promotion, health maintenance, disease prevention, 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 6327. Health Promotion of Women and Children Clinical
Prerequisite: NURS 6107, 6125, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, NURS 6229, NURS 6329, NURS 6228, NURS 6328; Corequisite: NURS 6227. This clinical 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 child-bearing 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 6328. Health Promotion of the Elderly Clinical (0-9-3)
Prerequisite: NURS 6107, NURS 6128, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, NURS 6229 and NURS 6329; Corequisite: NURS 6228. This clinical 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 6329. Health Promotion of Adults Clinical (0-9-3)
Prerequisite: NURS 6107, NURS 6225, and NURS 6226; Corequisite: NURS 6229, NURS 6128. This clinical course is designed to prepare Family Nurse Practitioners to assume responsibility for health promotion, health maintenance, disease prevention, 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 6425. Nurse Practitioner Practicum (0-18-6)
Prerequisite: NURS 6105, NURS 6107, NURS 6108, NURS 6128, NURS 6225, NURS 6226, NURS 6227, NURS 6327, NURS 6228, NURS 6328, NURS 6229, and NURS 6329; Prerequisite or Corequisite: NURS 6129. 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 management of health problems in primary healthcare settings.

Student Resources

Resource	Information

CSU Catalog Home < Columbus State University CSU Nursing Website http://nursing.columbusstate.edu/index.php	· Nursing program offerings · Nursing program outcomes · Nursing accreditation/approval status · CSU academic calendars
	· Admission criteria and procedures Degree completion requirements · Tuition and fees
Academic Center for Tutoring	Academic for Tutoring (ACT) offers free tutoring and writing services. The ACT has tutoring available online and face to face for students with CSU affiliated tutors.
Georgia On My Line GOML Login - Georgia Online Virtual Instruction Enterprise Wide (usg.edu)	Georgia Online Virtual Instruction Enterprise Wide (GoVIEW) is the learning management system for online collaborative programs offered by University System of Georgia (USG) institutions. GoVIEW is used to deliver courses online to students throughout the USG.
CSU website for student appeals http://aa.columbusstate.edu/appeals/	Policy and process for student complaints / appeals

Graduate School Graduate School - Columbus State University	Information related to graduate degree programs and application deadlines
Student Services https://students.columbusstate.edu/staff.php	Information regarding campus living, campus services, student activities, resources, entertainment & other useful links
Academic Success https://ace.columbusstate.edu/	ADVISE serves as CSU's central resource for information regarding academic programs, student support services, and other campus opportunities. ADVISE advisors work closely with advisors in all academic departments to provide specialized advising to transfer students, undeclared students, military students, athletes, Early College and students who are considering changing their major. In addition to serving select majors, ADVISE provides general advising information for all students.
Financial Aid http://finaid.columbusstate.edu/	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/	
Desire2Learn Help Center https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/	Student support services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year with Desire2 Learn.
Email Sign-on Columbus State University - A University System of Georgia Institution	Log in to MyCSU for CougarNet and other student services
Computer Help Desk University Information & Technology Services - Columbus State University	Help with computer issues including logging into the network, computer repairs, and software questions.
International Education Center for Global Engagement - Columbus State University	Columbus State University strives to ensure that all its students have opportunities to become globally competent. Students must have the knowledge, cultural self-awareness, and adaptability to function effectively in an interconnected world. It is through the study of other cultures and by studying, working and living with diverse peoples that CSU students will be prepared for working in business, government or education, and contributing to their communities, all of which are globally connected.

Counseling Center [Counseling Center - Columbus State University](#)	Counseling services at CSU provides counseling services to assist students with various life concerns. Services include personal counseling, career counseling, workshops, & support groups. Our counseling services are designed to assist students

	in becoming successful and productive throughout their college experience and beyond.
Disability Services Center for Accommodation and Access [Center for Accommodation and Access - Columbus State University](#)	The Center for Accommodation and Access coordinates the compliance of Columbus State University with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, P.L. 101-336 (July 26, 1990), as amended by P.L. 110–325 (September 25, 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, not merely to achieve legality, but to foster academic potential through individualized plans tailored to the particular needs of students with disabilities. Students with documented physical, psychological, or cognitive disabilities should contact the Center for Accommodation and Access as early as possible. It takes approximately 5 days to process a new student, which includes not only review of disability documentation, but also attending an intake meeting with the disability services professional. Scheduling the intake appointment with the Center for Accommodation and Access is the

	responsibility of the student.

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.