

# Graduate School of Nursing

## Dean

Joan Ellis, PhD, RNC, CNS

## Program Directors

Edna Hull, PhD, RN – Director, Master of Science in Nursing

Idena Carroll-Perez, CRNA, M.S. – Director, Master of Science Anesthesiology

## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

### Adjunct Faculty

Lucie Agosta, PhD, RNC, NP

Jacqueline Hill, PhD, RN, CRRN

Linda Pendergast, RN, PhD

Marilyn Sullivan, RN, DSN, CLNC

Zelma Randall, RN, MN, FNP

Emily Parker Kosh, PhD

Miroslav Sarac, PhD

### Purpose

The purpose of the MSN Program at Our Lady of the Lake College is to provide the opportunity for the registered nurse, prepared at the Baccalaureate level (BSN), to complete a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. The program is based on the premise that nurses prepared at the master's level build on competencies achieved in their foundational nursing programs. As part of the MSN Program, the registered nurse integrates and synthesizes knowledge from nursing, as well as the Arts and Sciences, to develop holistic healthcare delivery systems for individuals, families, and communities. The Masters in Nursing Program provides a curriculum that appropriately incorporates the Franciscan values, the spirit of Ex Corde Ecclesiae, and the ethical religious directives of Catholic health care services.

The faculty contends that nursing education, at the Master's level, prepares the graduate to develop and utilize nursing knowledge that is theoretically and empirically grounded. The Master's prepared nurse critically reflects on practice issues relevant to nursing education, management, and clinical practice and identifies areas for improvement through research.

### Options

There are two options within the MSN degree program: administration and education. The MSN Program at Our Lady of the Lake College is consistent with the guidelines set forth by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) "*Essentials of Masters Education for Advanced Practice Nursing*", as well as the National League for Nursing *Standards and Criteria for Masters Degree Programs*.

- **Education** – The education degree option prepares the graduate to apply teaching-learning theory, principles of curriculum development, evaluation methodology, and role specialization as

a nurse educator in various settings, including health care organizations, public and private schools, and institutions of higher learning. The graduate will develop expertise as an educator of nursing students, patients, and other individuals and groups. Successful completion of this option provides graduates with the academic preparation necessary to meet the educational eligibility requirements for national certification as a Certified Nurse Educator from the National League for Nursing.

- **Administration** – The administration degree option prepares the graduate to apply leadership and management skills at the unit-based system of patient care, and within the larger health care organization. Students will develop expertise in resource allocation through lessons in continuous quality improvement, cost containment, free market competition, managed care, technology, diversity, and a focus on ethical issues. Students will use skills in assessing and analyzing health care needs in the practice setting. Successful completion of this option qualifies graduates to apply for national certification in Nursing Administration from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)

#### *Length of Program*

The Master of Science Degree in Nursing consists of 42 credit hours for the education track, and 45 credit hours for the administration track. A full-time student can complete the program in five semesters (including one summer semester). Students may choose to attend part-time, but must complete the program in five years.

#### *Accreditation*

Our Lady of the Lake College was awarded membership at Level III to offer the Master of Science Degree in Nursing and Anesthesiology by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC), candidacy status was also obtained from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC), 61 Broadway, New York, NY, 10006, (212) 363-5555 to offer a Master of Science Degree in Nursing.

#### *Objectives*

The graduate of the program of study leading to the Master of Science in Nursing degree will:

1. Incorporate the Franciscan values, the spirit of Ex Corde Ecclesiae, and the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services in professional practice.
2. Synthesize theoretical and empirical knowledge from the humanities and the sciences, including nursing, and evaluate its use in guiding nursing research, education, and practice.
3. Exemplify moral and ethical leadership through concern for others, the management of nursing care, and a commitment to professional excellence in the delivery of health-related services and education and the profession.
4. Exhibit competence and confidence when assuming role responsibilities as a graduate with advanced role preparation.
5. Utilize systematic inquiry and refined analytical skills in the provision of health care services in the educational arena.
6. Participate in policy-making endeavors that influence health care services, nursing, education, and practice.
7. Incorporate professional standards and moral/ethical values into a culturally sensitive practice.
8. Communicate orally and in writing in a scholarly manner.
9. Validate the body of nursing knowledge through scientific inquiry.

### Admission Requirements

The College's commitment to diversity as well as its emphasis on academic success is reflected in its admission decisions. The program will look carefully at a number of factors that have been determined generally to be good indicators of success in the program. Although these factors are not absolute "prerequisites", the Board policy states that "no single factor shall automatically preclude admission", they are considered carefully in making admission decisions, and students are strongly encouraged to plan their academic work and other activities with them in mind.

Admission to the program is via a competitive selection process. Applicants should fulfill the following criteria to be considered for admission:

- A BSN degree from a nationally accredited nursing program, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale during the last 60 hours of undergraduate work.
- A minimum of one year of clinical nursing experience as a Registered Nurse.
- Current licensure to practice as an RN in Louisiana
- The formula score determined by using a sliding scale between GRE and GPA scores must meet minimum entrance requirements.
- International students must follow the college's requirement for English as a second language.
- Three professional references attesting to the applicant's ability to pursue graduate study.
- Three credit hours of basic statistics with a grade of "C" or better.
- Completion of an undergraduate research course, with a grade of "C" or better.
- Submission of a professional goal statement (limited to (2) typewritten, double-spaced pages).
- Completion of the interview process.

### Graduation Requirements

- Graduation requires a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, with no grade lower than a "B" in nursing courses, and no more than two grades of "C" in supporting non-nursing courses.
- Completion of all required coursework in the nursing major.
- Successful completion of the scholarly project.
- Clearance of all indebtedness to the College

**Curriculum Plan for the Master of Science  
Educator Track (42 Credit Hrs)**

Semester 1 (Fall)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
HESC	500	Statistics in Health Care	3
NURS	502	Advanced Assessment	3
NURS	500	Advanced Nursing Theory	3
			<b>9 Hrs</b>

Semester 2 (Spring)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
HESC	510	Research in Health Care	3
HESC	520	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NURS	504	Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice	3
			<b>9 Hrs</b>

Semester 3 (Summer)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
NURS	520	Curriculum Development and Evaluation	3
NURS	506	Contemporary Issues in Health Policy	3
			<b>6 Hrs</b>

Semester 4 (Fall)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
NURS	508	Care of the Adult in a Multicultural Environment	3
NURS	522	Testing and Measurement for the Nurse Educator	3
NURS	524	Effective Teaching Strategies: Theory and Practice	3
			<b>9 Hrs</b>

Semester 5 (Spring)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
NURS	526	Teaching Practicum	5
NURS	550	Scholarly Project	4
			<b>9 Hrs</b>

**Master of Science in Nursing  
Nurse Administrator Track (45 Credit Hours)**

Semester 1 (Fall)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
HESC	500	Statistics in Health Care	3
NURS	530	Financial Management for Nurse Executives	3
NURS	500	Advanced Nursing Theory	3
			<b>9 Hrs</b>

Semester 2 (Spring)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
HESC	510	Research in Health Care	3
NURS	532	Organizational Behavior for Nurse Executives	3
NURS	504	Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Practice Nursing	3
HESC	520	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
			<b>12 Hrs</b>

Semester 3 (Summer)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
NURS	534	Management Processes for Nurse Executives	3
NURS	506	Contemporary Issues in Health Policy	3

**6 Hrs**

Semester 4 (Fall)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
NURS	502	Advanced Assessment	3
NURS	508	Care of the Adult in a Multicultural Environment	3
NURS	536	Organizational Leadership Practicum I	3

**9 Hrs**

Semester 5 (Spring)

Department	Course	Title	Credit Hrs
NURS	538	Organizational Leadership Practicum II	5
NURS	550	Scholarly Project	4

**9 Hrs**

\*\* Part-Time Study is also available. Students have up to 5 years to complete the Master of Science in Administration or Master of Science in Education degree.

Transfer Credit

Students will be allowed to transfer in up to 6 graduate credit hours to be used toward the MSN degree.

Readmission

Students who have had a break in enrollment for more than one academic term (Fall or Spring semester) must apply for readmission. If the lapse period is beyond one semester, readmission involves a review by the academic department. Readmitted students are bound by program and Graduate Council regulations in effect at the time of their readmission.

\*\* Part-Time Study is also available. Students have up to 5 years to complete the degree.