

**SCHOOL OF NURSING  
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN)**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program at Our Lady of the Lake College is to provide the opportunity for the registered nurse, prepared at the baccalaureate level (Bachelor of Science in Nursing, BSN), to complete a 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. The MSN 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 Accreditation Commission's *Standards and Criteria for Master's Degree Programs*.

**Education Track** – The education 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.

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 Track** – The administration option prepares the graduate to apply leadership and management skills within health care organizations. Students 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, as well as expertise 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 within five years.

## Objectives

The graduate of the MSN Program 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.
4. Utilize systematic inquiry and refined analytical skills in the provision of health care services in the educational or administrative arena.
5. Communicate orally and in writing in a scholarly manner.
6. 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 employs the Board of Trustees' policy in making admission decisions. Applicants should meet the following criteria to be considered for admission:

1. A BSN degree from an 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
2. A minimum of one year of clinical nursing experience as a registered nurse
3. Current licensure to practice as a registered nurse in Louisiana
4. The formula score determined by using a sliding scale between Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and GPA scores must meet minimum entrance requirements; The GRE must have been taken within the five years prior to applying to the program. An official copy must be submitted to the Office of Admissions.
5. International students must follow OLOL College's requirement for English as a second language.
6. Three professional references attesting to the applicant's ability to pursue graduate study
7. Three credit hours of basic statistics with a grade of "C" or better
8. Completion of an undergraduate research course, with a grade of "C" or better
9. Submission of a professional goal statement (limited to two typewritten, double-spaced pages)
10. Completion of the interview process

## Graduation Requirements

1. 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
2. Completion of all required coursework in the curriculum
3. Successful completion of the scholarly project
4. Clearance of all indebtedness to OLOL College

## Transfer Credit

Students will be allowed to transfer in up to six 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 regulations in effect at the time of their readmission.

### ***Curriculum Plan for the Master of Science Nurse Educator Track (42 Credit Hours)***

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#### **Fall Semester – Semester I**

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- [NURS 5310 - Advanced Nursing Theory](#)
- [NURS 5315 - Advanced Statistics in Nursing](#)
- [NURS 5320 - Advanced Assessment](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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#### **Spring Semester – Semester II**

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- [NURS 5325 - Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Practice Nursing](#)
- [NURS 5340 - Advanced Nursing Research](#)
- [NURS 5345 - Pathophysiology in Advanced Nursing Practice](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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#### **Summer Semester – Semester III**

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- [NURS 5330 - Contemporary Issues in Health Policy](#)
- [NURS 5350 - Curriculum Development and Evaluation](#)

**Total (6 Credit Hours)**

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#### **Fall Semester – Semester IV**

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- [NURS 5335 - Nursing Care of the Adult in a Multicultural Environment](#)
- [NURS 5355 - Testing and Measurement for the Nurse Educator](#)
- [NURS 5360 - Effective Teaching Strategies: Theory and Practice](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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### Spring Semester – Semester V

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- [NURS 5410 - Scholarly Project](#)
- [NURS 5710 - Teaching Practicum](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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### *Curriculum Plan for the Master of Science Nurse Administrator Track (45 Credit Hours)*

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### Fall Semester – Semester I

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- [NURS 5310 - Advanced Nursing Theory](#)
- [NURS 5315 - Advanced Statistics in Nursing](#)
- [NURS 5365 - Financial Management for Nurse Executives](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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### Spring Semester – Semester II

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- [NURS 5325 - Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Practice Nursing](#)
- [NURS 5340 - Advanced Nursing Research](#)
- [NURS 5345 - Pathophysiology in Advanced Nursing Practice](#)
- [NURS 5370 - Organizational Behavior for Nurse Executives](#)

**Total (12 Credit Hours)**

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### Summer Semester – Semester III

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- [NURS 5330 - Contemporary Issues in Health Policy](#)
- [NURS 5375 - Management Processes for Nurse Executives](#)

**Total (6 Credit Hours)**

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### Fall Semester – Semester IV

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- [NURS 5320 - Advanced Assessment](#)
- [NURS 5335 - Nursing Care of the Adult in a Multicultural Environment](#)
- [NURS 5715 - Organizational Leadership Practicum I](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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**Spring Semester – Semester V**

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- [NURS 5410 - Scholarly Project](#)
- [NURS 5720 - Organizational Leadership Practicum II](#)

**Total (9 Credit Hours)**

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**Note:**

Students have up to 5 years to complete the Master of Science degree in either the education or administration track.

Prepared 1/27/09 EC