

# Nursing M.S.N.

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School of Nursing Administration Office  
478-445-1076

The Master of Science in Nursing program accepts degree-seeking students once per year and begins each year with summer semester. Students are admitted as a cohort and progress through the program together.

## [Admission Requirements](#)

### **MSN Application Information:**

- Application deadlines: Second Tuesday in January for priority consideration of application; however, applications are accepted until March 1st each year. Enrichment students are admitted each semester.
- All required application documents must be received by Graduate Admissions by close of business on application deadline.
- To allow for any possible delay in transcript or other application materials, applicants are encouraged to begin the application process 6 to 8 weeks prior to the deadline.
- Applicants must submit THREE letters of recommendation.
- Interviews will be held once applications are complete.

Apply online or mail your completed Application for Admission to the MSN program to the Graduate Admissions Office, GC, CBX 107, Milledgeville, GA 31061. For information regarding the admissions process or to check on your admission status, e-mail [Grad-Admit@gcsu.edu](mailto:Grad-Admit@gcsu.edu).

## **Program Description**

Georgia College offers the Master of Science in Nursing degree with an option of the family nurse practitioner role, the nurse educator role, the **nurse midwifery role**, the psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner role, or the women's health nurse practitioner role,. Students may elect to complete the program with either a part-time (9 semesters) or a full-time (6 semesters) program of study.

A Post-MSN option is available for those who hold an MSN and are seeking specialization as either a family nurse practitioner, nurse educator, **nurse midwifery**, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, or women's health nurse practitioner. Admission requirements include completing an application and sending all undergraduate and graduate transcripts (no testing is required). An individualized program of study will be developed on the basis of previous coursework completed. For information, contact the School of Nursing Administration Office at 478-445-1076.

### **Admission Requirements for Regular Admission**

Admission is limited to the most qualified applicants.

Agencies where clinical and practical experiences take place require students to undergo a criminal background check, urine drug screen, and to meet the CDC and OSHA standards for healthcare professionals. Students desiring to enter the MSN program should consider these requirements. Agencies may refuse any student based on failure to meet these guidelines or other agency guidelines. Refusal of an agency to accept a student may delay or prevent a student from completing the program. Professional licensing and accrediting bodies may refuse to license/certify individuals who have committed certain criminal acts or other acts or moral turpitude.

### **Degree Specific Application Requirements**

Applicants shall:

- Hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing from an Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited program.
- Provide evidence of current unencumbered licensure as a registered nurse in Georgia. At least one year of clinical practice is required for consideration, additional clinical experience is preferred.
- Have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale for the last 60 undergraduate hours required in the nursing major.
- Have successfully completed an undergraduate level statistics course
- Participate in an interview.

An application is complete when all of the following have been submitted:

- Complete application form and non-refundable application fee: \$35 online, \$40 paper
- Three letters of reference from professionals who can speak to the applicant's experience and potential for success in master's studies using the SON form letter located on the web site.
- Official transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended
- Current résumé or curriculum vitae
- Statement of Professional Goals
- Onsite writing exercise to be completed at time of interview.

- Copy of an unencumbered Georgia RN license

### **Other Nursing Program Requirements**

- Have computer access. All MSN majors are expected to be able to use Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access) when submitting assignments. Graduate students should have proficiency with Microsoft Office, Internet, and e-mail. In addition, graduate students are expected to have updated and enabled virus protection software on their computers. Students may be required to purchase additional software as listed in individual course syllabi.
- Complete all required courses for the MSN degree within a period of 7 years from the date the student begins graduate courses at Georgia College. Any course work completed more than 7 years prior to completion of requirements for the MSN degree will be considered outdated and will not be applied toward the MSN degree program. This includes courses that may be transferred in from other institutions.

### **Clinical Courses**

Prior to participation in any clinical learning rotation, students must submit evidence of health status, immunizations, TB screening, professional liability insurance, RN license, current CPR certification, criminal background checks, urine drug screens and other laboratory tests as specified by clinical agencies, ability to meet technical standards or ask for accommodations, and complete required documents as described in the Nursing Graduate Student Handbook, which is found at <http://www.gcsu.edu/nursing>.

All documents must be updated annually. Students are required to earn a grade of B or higher in clinical courses in order to progress to the next semester.

### **Transfer Credits**

No more than 9 semester hours of graduate course work in nursing may be accepted from other institutions. All requests for transfer credit must be approved by the Assistant Director of Graduate Programs.

### **Synthesis Requirement**

All students who expect to complete requirements for the MSN degree must demonstrate synthesis of knowledge/skill for their respective areas of specialization prior to graduation. Synthesis will be demonstrated by successful completion of an electronic portfolio. Details are available in the MSN Student Handbook.

In addition, students enrolled in the Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner track will take and pass a written comprehensive practice exam in their last semester of coursework. Details are available in the MSN Student Handbook.

## **Facilities**

The large number of health care agencies in the region makes it possible for the College of Health Sciences to offer a variety of clinical learning opportunities; however, students can anticipate driving up to 100 miles for clinical learning on occasion. Students considering application to the MSN program should be aware that criminal background checks, drug screens, and other laboratory tests can be required by clinical sites.

## **Career Information**

Students completing the MSN degree have opportunities encompassing management, administration, teaching, and advanced clinical positions throughout Georgia and the nation. Career information is available from faculty in the School of Nursing.

## **National Accreditation**

The BSN, MSN, and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC, 202-463-6930).

The Nurse Midwifery Program is currently seeking accreditation from the [Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education \(ACME\)](#), *Suite 1550, 8403 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Heather L. Maurer, MA, Executive Director [acme@acnm.org](mailto:acme@acnm.org) (240) 485-1803*

## **Completing the Master of Science in Nursing Program**

- Consult faculty academic advisor for development of a Program of Study.
- Complete course requirements, maintaining 3.0 GPA.
- While enrolled in clinical courses, assure that current clinical documents have been submitted for the student file in the Graduate Nursing office.
- Complete synthesis requirement.
- Complete a written application for graduation by the date specified in the official University calendar.

## **Progression**

In order to stay in good academic standing with the University and the MSN degree program, students must demonstrate high academic performance. Policies regarding academic performance are found in the [Graduate Catalog](#).

In addition to these policies, the MSN degree program has the following requirements: Prior to participation in any clinical learning rotation, students must submit evidence of health history and physical exam, TB screening, professional liability insurance (for FNP students, nurse

practitioner student liability insurance must be purchased), RN license, current CPR certification, and any additional requirements specified by healthcare agencies. These documents must be updated annually. Criminal background checks and urine drug screens are required upon admission to the program. The student and clinical agency will make arrangement for any additional requirements per the clinical agency protocols.

Students are expected to earn a grade of no less than a B in all of the MSN clinical courses, no less than a C in all non-clinical courses, and must maintain an overall B average (3.0) in the MSN program. A grade of C or lower in any clinical course requires the student to retake the course to progress. Students who earn a rating of “clinically unsatisfactory” in a clinical course will have a grade of F assigned for that course, regardless of the class average for the semester. Students who earn a rating of "clinically unsatisfactory" in a clinical course will have a grade of "F" assigned for that course regardless of the class average for the semester. Students who earn a clinically unsatisfactory rating due to the question of competence may not progress in the MSN program.

The clinical courses for the Family Nurse Practitioner role are: [NRS 5480](#) (Advanced Nursing Assessment), [NRS 7000](#) (Primary Care of Adults I), [NRS 7010](#) (Primary Care of Adults II), [NRS 7030](#) (Primary Care of Women), [NRS 7050](#) (Primary Care of Children & Adolescents), and [NRS 7410](#) (Primary Care Practicum).

The clinical courses for the Nurse Educator role are: [NRS 5480](#) (Advanced Nursing Assessment), [NRS 6120](#) (Implementing Educational Programs in Nursing), [NRS 6121](#) (Integrating Technology in the Healthcare Educator Role), and [NRS 6551](#) (Graduate Nursing Practicum).

The clinical courses for the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner role are: [NRS 5480](#) (Advanced Nursing Assessment), [NRS 7100](#) (Foundations for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing), [NRS 7110](#) (Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing I), [NRS 7120](#) (Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum), and [NRS 7200](#) (Practicum in Psychiatric Mental Health).

The clinical courses for the Nurse Midwifery role are [NRS 5480](#) (Advanced Nursing Assessment), [NRS 7300](#) (Women's Health I Midwifery Section), [NRS 7310](#) (Women's Health II – Midwifery Section), [NRS 7330](#) (Midwifery Postpartum / Primary Care ), [NRS 7340](#) (Midwifery Intrapartum /Newborn Care ) and [NRS 7500](#) (Nurse Midwifery Practicum).

The clinical courses for the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner role are [NRS 5480](#) (Advanced Nursing Assessment), [NRS 7300](#) (Women's Health I), [NRS 7310](#) (Women's Health II), [NRS 7330](#) (Women's Health III), and [NRS 7500](#) (Women's Health Practicum).

A graduate student whose cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below 3.0 at the end of a semester will receive a warning from the University. The student and Assistant Director of Graduate Programs will meet to determine whether a return to a 3.0 GPA is feasible based on the remaining coursework. If a 3.0 GPA is not feasible, the student will be withdrawn from the program.

A student may repeat only one nursing course in the MSN program. If a student fails two nursing courses or the same course twice, they will be denied continued enrollment in the MSN program.

A student who fails a course and has no previous failure may petition the Graduate Committee of the School of Nursing to return to the program and request to retake the course the next time it is offered **based on space availability**. The student will be required to submit to the School of Nursing Graduate Committee the Graduate Student Petition with accompanying documentation addressing the student's plans for succeeding in the course. Students who re-enter the MSN program after a failure will do so under the current catalog and current SON requirements.

All candidates for readmission to the MSN program will have their admission status determined by the Graduate Committee of the School of Nursing. Acceptance of previously earned course credits will be at the discretion of the faculty.

Students who have not been enrolled for over a year must complete a new application and submit it to Graduate Admissions. All required courses for the MSN degree must be completed within a period of seven (7) years from the date the student begins graduate courses at Georgia College. Any course work, including transient courses, completed more than seven (7) years prior to completion of requirements for the MSN degree will be considered outdated and will not apply toward the MSN degree program.

### **Grievances, Appeals, and Petitions**

The School of Nursing follows the policies and procedures outlined in the University graduate catalog regarding academic and non-academic grievances and appeals. The GC graduate catalog provides guidance to students and faculty regarding the definition of and process for grievances and appeals. The University distinguishes between a petition and an academic grievance. Students, in consultation with faculty, use petitions to remedy undue hardship and specific inequities that may adversely affect the student's ability to fulfill the academic requirements of the University. Examples of petitions within the School of Nursing are student requests to change their programs of study. These requests are handled within the School of Nursing.

By contrast, an academic grievance or appeal is an allegation by a student of substantial and/or unjustified deviation, to the student's detriment, from policies, procedures and/or requirements regarding admission, grading policies, special agreements, instructor's requirements, and academic requirements of the University. In the majority of situations, the matter is resolved at the instructor level. The process allows for successive review of the grievance or appeal at higher positions within the academic administration chain of command. Records are kept of grievances that reach the level of the Director of the School of Nursing. Readmission to Graduate Studies Students who have not been enrolled for one (1) semester (excluding summer) must contact the Office of Graduate Admissions and update their status before they can enroll for the next semester: Graduate Admissions Georgia College Campus Box 107 Milledgeville, GA 31061 Fax: 478-445-1336