Information for MSN Students

I. Overview of the Master of Science in Nursing Program

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is an evolving nursing role developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with leaders from the education and practice arenas. AACN is advancing the CNL as a clinical expert focused upon improving the quality of patient care and helping professional nurses to thrive in the health care system. The CNL role has demonstrated effectiveness in improving outcomes, elevating current evidence-based practice, enhancing quality, and providing continuous leadership in the microsystem. Upon completion of the MSN:CNL, graduates are prepared for eight role functions: clinician, educator, advocate, outcomes manager, information manager, system analyst, member of the profession, and outcomes. The MSN programs have always been under the aegis of the Graduate College which sets minimum regulations and requirements that must be fulfilled by all graduate students. Additional regulations or requirements are set by individual departments, schools, or colleges. Within the College of Nursing, the graduate program is the responsibility of the graduate faculty.

Completion of the MSN includes the final examination which is a defense of the student’s capstone project. Please see below for the project description.

II. Program Outcomes

- Assumes accountability for healthcare outcomes for a specific group of clients within a unit or setting recognizing the influence of the meso- and macrosystems on the microsystem.
- Assimilates and applies research-based information to design, implement, and evaluate client plans of care.
- Uses appropriate teaching/learning principles and strategies, as well as current information, materials, and technologies to facilitate the learning of clients, groups, and other health care professionals.
- Effects change through advocacy for the profession, interdisciplinary health care team, and the client.
- Communicates effectively to achieve quality client outcomes and integration of care for a cohort of clients.
- Synthesizes data, information, and knowledge to evaluate and achieve optimal client and care environment outcomes.
- Uses information systems and technology at the point of care to improve health care outcomes.
- Properly delegates and uses the nursing team resources (human and fiscal) and serves as a leader and partner in the interdisciplinary health care team.
- Identifies clinical and cost outcomes that improve safety, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency, quality, and the degree to which they are client-centered.
- Participates in systems review to critically evaluate and anticipate risks to client safety to improve quality of client care delivery.
- Actively pursues new knowledge and skills as the CNL role, needs of clients, and the health care system evolve.

III. Advising

The faculty advisor for all MSN: CNL students will be the Coordinator for the MSN: CNL program unless otherwise designated. The role of the faculty advisor is to mentor and provide career guidance to
students. Advisors may also serve on the student’s project committee. Additional advising by Student Services will help students enroll in courses, assist students in meeting important deadlines and comply with College requirements such as licensure, HIPAA, or criminal background check.

Plan of Study: Your plan of study is very important to your progression through the program. Every effort is made to facilitate your timely progression. We will work with you if your plan of study needs to be changed due to illness or other major life events, but it may delay your progress through the program. To request a change in your plan of study, contact the College of Nursing’s Graduate Programs Office or your advisor who will contact the Graduate Programs Office. You were sent your individual plan of study upon admission, should you need another copy, contact the Graduate Programs office.

Work Schedule: Please be realistic about the balance of working and taking courses.

IV. MSN: CNL Capstone Project

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<tr>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Perform an in-depth analysis and synthesis of a chosen topic that contributes to advanced nursing practice within a clinical microsystem. The project includes the implementation and evaluation of the project.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Eligibility</td>
<td>All MSN-CNL students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Role of Advisor/Program Coordinator</td>
<td>The role of the advisor/program coordinator is to initiate project discussion and help guide student selection of a project chair. Final accountability for student progression in completing satisfactory work of the project rests with the program coordinator. The advisor/program coordinator in collaboration with the project chair will monitor progress toward satisfactory completion of the project.</td>
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| Project Chair | Selected by Coordinator in consultation with the student before student begins NURS 5666: Leadership in the Microsystem. Must be doctorally-prepared clinical or tenure track CON faculty. The duties of the chair include: 
  - Supervise and direct project progress
  - Assist the student with preparation and submission of the project proposal to the program coordinator for review by the assigned date.
  - Assist the student with preparation and submission of the final project presentation by the assigned date. |
| Evaluation of Final Projects | Evaluation teams consisting of a minimum of three doctorally-prepared clinical or tenure track faculty, two of whom hold primary appointments in the College of Nursing, will jury the posters. |
| Role of Committee | The traditional committee has been replaced by a combination of course and College of Nursing faculty, program coordinator, and faculty evaluation teams to provide guidance and direction to the student throughout the project. |
| Registration for Hours | Upon recommendation of the project chair and commensurate with the objectives determined by the student and project advisor/Coordinator, the student can register for NURS:5696. The student must provide proof of IRB compliance (i.e. memo stating exempt) prior to doing any work on the project. |
| Proposal | Upon approval of project chair, the student will submit a written proposal to the MSN-CNL Program Coordinator for review by the assigned date. The proposal should describe the project purpose, rationale, goals, and plan for completing the work. |
| Product | The student will prepare an executive summary and a professional poster to disseminate the capstone project. |
| Juried Poster Presentation (Final Examination [Defense]) | The student will participate in a juried poster presentation session to provide a review of the student’s capstone project. |
The project will be evaluated by the Evaluation Team as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, with two unsatisfactory votes making the result unsatisfactory. The Chair/Coordinator will complete the Project Defense Evaluation form and will submit the form to the Graduate Programs Office.

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<th>Approval</th>
<th>The project will be evaluated by the Evaluation Team as satisfactory or unsatisfactory, with two unsatisfactory votes making the result unsatisfactory. The Chair/Coordinator will complete the Project Defense Evaluation form and will submit the form to the Graduate Programs Office.</th>
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<td>Project Deposit and Examination Deadlines</td>
<td>Not required: There is no requirement for submission of the project to the College of Nursing Student Services or the Graduate College for archiving.</td>
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V. Graduation Information

Students must be registered during the semester they plan to graduate.

In order to facilitate your graduation we have listed the pertinent paperwork below. If you have any questions, contact the Graduate Programs Office.

All forms must be completed by the deadlines posted each semester. Final responsibility for meeting graduation requirements resides with the student. If you have filed these forms previously, all must be re-filed by the deadline listed except the Graduate College Plan of Study; a Graduate College Plan of Study should be re-filed only if it has changed.

**Graduation Forms**

More information regarding dates, commencement, and other pertinent information can be found at the Registrar and Graduate College websites.

**APPLICATION FOR DEGREE** – completed on-line via MyUI.

**DEGREE AUDIT** – The Graduate Programs Office will review degree audits the semester prior to graduation. Note that the prerequisite Statistics course and any credit over 10 years old cannot be applied toward your degree unless approved by the Graduate College. The petition to accept courses over 10 years old will be prepared and submitted by the Graduate Programs Office.

**REPORT ON FINAL EXAM.** The Chair/Coordinator completes the Clinical Nurse Leader Project Defense Evaluation form and submits it to the Graduate Programs Office.