

SECTION II: INFORMATION SPECIFICALLY FOR MSN STUDENTS

I. Overview of the Master of Science in Nursing Program

With a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from the University of Iowa, graduates will be equipped with valuable knowledge and skills to lead change, promote health, and elevate care in various roles and settings. UI MSN graduates are prepared for critical action within complex, changing systems, including health, educational, and organizational systems. More information about each of our MSN specialties is below in sections V, VI, and VII.

II. Program Outcomes

- Lead change to improve quality outcomes
- Advance a culture of excellence through lifelong learning
- Build and lead collaborative interprofessional care teams
- Navigate and integrate care services across the health care system
- Design innovative nursing practices
- Translate evidence into practice

III. Advising

The faculty advisor for all MSN students will be the Director of the MSN 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. The contact information for the Graduate Programs Office is as follows: jennifer-clougherty@uiowa.edu (319-335-7021) or renee-lepine@uiowa.edu (319-335-7020).

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

IV. Graduation Information

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

Registration for Commencement – completed on line at the Graduate College [Graduation Checklist](#).

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.

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](#).

Nondoctoral Plan of Study Summary Sheet – The Graduate Programs Office will complete this form and will submit to the Graduate College with the grade report by the appropriate deadline. 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.

V. Clinical Nurse Leader (MSN: CNL)

The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) program focuses on 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. If you have a strong preference to retain your clinical identity yet assume a role of a change agent and leader, the CNL will provide you with the required competencies for the microsystem.

It is nationally ranked and primarily online. The only course that requires time on campus is NURS:5031 Health Promotion and Assessment for Advance Clinical Practice. The amount of time on campus for that course is limited and is aggregated so travel to Iowa City is minimized. On-campus time is required at the end of the last semester to defend your capstone project.

Students are able to work while they do the program. We have both a 2-year and 3-year plan of study; the plans of study are at this URL: <https://nursing.uiowa.edu/academics/msn/plans-of-study>. They are set up to meet financial aid guidelines for all semesters.

The only pre-req is an upper-level stats course. Prereq information can be found at this URL: <https://nursing.uiowa.edu/admissions/msn/prerequisites>.

The capstone project is a practice change usually completed in your work area (area of employment). Ninety nine percent of our students work full-time and have been able to complete their projects while working full-time. Since the project is a practice change, you may take time off to initiate the project launch and intermittently to monitor outcomes. Projects are identified based on a microsystem assessment which means an identified need in your work area.

VI. Nursing Systems Administration (MSN: NSA)

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Nursing Systems Administration (NSA) degree builds on the University of Iowa's legacy as a top-ranked program that prepares nurse leaders to serve in a variety of managerial and leadership capacities in all practice environments.

It is a 2.5 year, part-time, on-line program which allows students to work while in the program. It is set up to meet financial aid guidelines for all semesters. The plan of study is at this URL: <https://nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/documents/academic-programs/graduate/msn-cnl/MSN-NSA-POS2.pdf>

The only pre-req is an upper-level stats course. Prereq information can be found here: URL <https://nursing.uiowa.edu/admissions/msn/prerequisites>

VII. MSN Bridge Program (For graduates of the Master of Nursing and Healthcare Practice (MNHP) program)

NOTE: This is a limited time and final opportunity for this streamlined transition to the MSN. The Graduate College has approved the program with the last opportunity to begin study in the fall 2024.

The University of Iowa College of Nursing has created a bridge program for Master of Nursing and Healthcare Practice (MNHP) program graduates to complete a basic Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree.

It is a 1.5 year, part-time, on-line program which allows students to work while in the program. It is set up to meet financial aid guidelines for all semesters. The plan of study is at this URL: <https://nursing.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/documents/academic-programs/graduate/msn-cn/mnhp%20to%20.MSN%20POS.pdf>

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