

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The School of Nursing provides master's level educational opportunities for registered nurses and individuals with a bachelor's degree in other fields who wish to enter the profession or pursue an advanced practice nursing degree.

**Registered nurses with bachelor's degrees** in nursing can enter the master's program by demonstrating they have met nursing content comparable to that in the SF State baccalaureate program.

**Individuals who are not nurses but have a bachelor's degree** may apply to Entry-Level M.S.N. program. Students in this program complete the pre-licensure curriculum along with graduate-level coursework to earn their M.S.N. in six semesters. Upon completion of pre-licensure courses, the students take a national licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) to become a registered nurse. A two-year accelerated is also available. Accelerated students enroll through the SF State College of Extended Learning. All students must have successfully completed all prelicensure courses and take the national licensing exam (NCLEX-RN) in California prior to enrolling in NURS 802.

**Registered nurses who already hold nursing master's degrees** may apply to the post master's family nurse practitioner (FNP) certificate program (graduate level coursework).

The master's level curriculum includes both core courses and specialty courses. The core courses, the portion of the program for all students, include nursing theory, advanced practice nursing roles, pathophysiology, research, leadership, health policy and ethics for advanced practice nurses. Units taken in addition to the core program are selected with graduate nursing faculty advisement. Upon completion, students are eligible to sit for national nurse practitioner certification board exams and FNP certification in California.

Please note that students taking post master's FNP certificate courses will enroll for courses through the College of Extended Learning.

## Admission/Application Information and Requirements for the Master's Degree

### For all applicants:

- Visit the School of Nursing website for specific application dates.
- Meet general requirements for admission to graduate study at SF State and submit a separate application to the Division of Graduate Studies.
- Complete the School of Nursing supplemental application process.
- Include a written goal statement.
- Students whose primary language is not English must earn a minimum score of 550 on the paper Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or 80 overall on the internet-based (iBT) TOEFL.
- All graduate students are required to establish written English proficiency (see information below) by submitting results of the analytical writing section of the GRE at the time of application. A score of 4.0 or above is required.
- Three references from work colleagues, supervisors, or educators.
- Provide a resume or curriculum vitae.

### For RN applicants:

- Courses in inferential statistics and an undergraduate nursing research course are recommended.
- RNs who enter the M.S.N. program without a nursing bachelor's degree must complete undergraduate nursing research and a community/public health courses prior to enrollment or concurrent with semester one M.S.N. coursework.
- Some of the prerequisite courses may be challenged or waived for students who have extensive professional experience and have participated in mandatory continuing education programs for RN licensure.
- Family Nurse Practitioner applicants must have a minimum of one year or 2,000 clinical hours of RN experience.

### For non-RN applicants:

- Entry Level master's applicants must have completed all prerequisites at the time of application to the program.
- One of the three required references must provide evidence of health-related work or volunteer experience

## Written English Proficiency Requirement

The University has a requirement for graduate written English proficiency that is to be assessed at two different points (Levels) in the student's program.

### Level One (prior to admission)

A score of 4.0 or above on the analytical writing section of the GRE.

### Level Two

Demonstration of English proficiency on the final paper for NURS 794.

## Entry-Level Nursing Master of Science Degree

Qualified applicants are accepted into the Entry Level or Accelerated Entry Level MSN program conditionally.

## Prerequisites – 27–28 units

The courses listed below or those which are comparable as listed on [www.assist.org](http://www.assist.org) (<http://www.assist.org>) are required for acceptance into the program.

Code	Title	Units
BIOL 210 & BIOL 211	General Microbiology and Public Health and General Microbiology and Public Health Laboratory	4
BIOL 220 or BIOL 328	Principles of Human Anatomy <sup>1</sup> Human Anatomy	4
BIOL 212 & BIOL 213	Principles of Human Physiology and Principles of Human Physiology Laboratory	4
CHEM 101 & CHEM 102	Survey of Chemistry and Survey of Chemistry Laboratory <sup>2</sup>	4
COMM 150	Fundamentals of Oral Communication	3
ENG 114	First Year Composition (Written Communication I)	3
MATH 124	Elementary Statistics (Quantitative Reasoning)	3
PHIL 110	Introduction to Critical Thinking I	3

<sup>1</sup> Either anatomy course must include a laboratory component if taken elsewhere

<sup>2</sup> This is an integrated course in which students are introduced to topics in general, organic, and biochemistry. Stand alone general, inorganic, or organic chemistry courses will also fulfill the chemistry requirement.

### Courses Required for RN Licensure in California

Prior to applying for RN licensure, the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) requires students to have completed a minimum of 16 units comprising natural sciences, behavioral, and social sciences. To complement the anatomy, physiology, and microbiology prerequisites, it is highly recommended that students complete a general psychology course prior to taking NURS 328 and any additional behavioral or social science course as needed to fulfill the BRN's requirement. Anthropology or Sociology is strongly suggested.

### Entry Level Masters Nursing Courses – 97 units

#### First Year

First Semester		Units
NURS 311	Human Development and Health Assessment Theory and Lab	5
NURS 314	Health Promotion in Nursing	3
NURS 315	Health Promotions in Nursing - Practicum	2
NURS 706	Health Care Policy and Nursing Leadership	3
NURS 720	Epidemiology and Biostatistics in Advanced Practice Nursing	3
Units		16

#### Second Semester

NURS 326	Reproductive Health Theory	3
NURS 327	Reproductive Health Practicum	3
NURS 328	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Theory	3
NURS 329	Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum	3
NURS 350	Nursing Interventions Practicum I	2
NURS 703	Education, Informatics, and eTechnology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
Units		17

#### Second Year

##### First Semester

NURS 410	Nursing Care of Children Theory	3
NURS 411	Nursing Care of Children Practicum	3
NURS 420	Nursing Care of Adults Theory	3

NURS 421	Nursing Care of Adults Practicum	3
NURS 450	Nursing Interventions Lab II	2
NURS 721	Program Planning and Financial Management in Nursing Practice	3
Units		17

#### Second Semester

##### Pre-licensure Courses

NURS 520	Advanced Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nursing	3
NURS 521 or NURS 523	Advanced Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nursing Capstone Practicum	3
	or Advanced Medical Surgical and Critical Care Nursing Capstone Practicum	
NURS 522	Chronic Care and End of Life Care Theory	3
NURS 530	Community Health and Global Perspectives Theory	3
NURS 531	Community Health and Global Perspectives Practicum	3
NURS 794	Research and Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing	3
Units		18

#### Third Year

##### First Semester

##### Graduate Core Courses

NURS 702	Health Systems Management	3
NURS 711	Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Life Span	3
NURS 715	Pharmacological Principles Across the Life Span	3
NURS 801	Graduate Nursing Practicum I	4
NURS 716	Advanced Pathophysiology and Diagnostic Reasoning I	3
Units		16

##### Second Semester

NURS 732	Ethics in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 802	Graduate Nursing Practicum II	4

NURS 895 or NURS 898	Applied Research in Nursing or Master's Thesis	3
NURS 717	Advanced Pathophysiology and Diagnostic Reasoning II	3
Units		13
Total Units		97

Students completing the Entry-Level Master's program will achieve the School of Nursing's MSN Expected Student Learning Outcomes as outlined below:

- Applies and integrates broad organizational, client-centered, and culturally appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population care and services.
- Demonstrates nursing and inter-professional collaboration that facilitates open communication, mutual respect, and shared decision-making to achieve quality patient care.
- Creates collaborative programs and educational approaches that address health promotion and disease prevention needs of culturally-ethnically diverse individuals and populations.
- Demonstrates a professional leadership role to promote quality and safe clinical patient care that incorporates ethical and critical decision-making approaches, fiscal accountability, effective working relationships, and systems perspectives.
- Assimilates nursing knowledge and expertise through research utilization, informatics literacy, and generates educational, leadership, or clinical approaches to advance professional nursing practice.
- Utilizes information technology to communicate effectively, manage knowledge, mitigate error, and to support decision-making.
- Designs evaluation strategies for nursing care outcomes to assess, manage, and determine resource allocation for evaluation of nursing care outcomes.
- Evaluate methods, tools, performance measures, and standards related to quality improvement within a healthcare organization.
- Applies research outcomes within the practice setting to resolve identified practice problems.
- Organizes interventions at the health care system level utilizing policy development processes, economic principles, and employing advocacy strategies to influence health and health care services for individuals, families, aggregates/identified diverse populations and communities.

## Master of Science in Nursing for Registered Nurses

### Nursing for Registered Nurses (M.S.) – 44–52 units

#### Required Core Courses (44 units)

Code	Title	Units
NURS 702	Health Systems Management	3
NURS 703	Education, Informatics, and eTechnology in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 706	Health Care Policy and Nursing Leadership	3

NURS 711	Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Life Span	3
NURS 715	Pharmacological Principles Across the Life Span	3
NURS 716	Advanced Pathophysiology and Diagnostic Reasoning I	3
NURS 717	Advanced Pathophysiology and Diagnostic Reasoning II	3
NURS 720	Epidemiology and Biostatistics in Advanced Practice Nursing	3
NURS 721	Program Planning and Financial Management in Nursing Practice	3
NURS 732	Ethics in Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NURS 794	Research and Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing	3
NURS 801	Graduate Nursing Practicum I	4
NURS 802	Graduate Nursing Practicum II	4
NURS 895 or NURS 898	Applied Research in Nursing Master's Thesis	3

### Emphasis or Electives (8–12 units)

Units on advisement

#### Emphases

##### Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

This emphasis offers the graduate student the opportunity to take additional courses for certification by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) and to take a national certification exam through the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC). The CNS is an advanced practice nurse holding a master's degree in a specific area of clinical nursing specialization such as *adult and critical care, women's health, and pediatrics*. The role of the CNS is defined by the needs of a select client population and clinical expertise of the nurse. Specialized role content is included in NURS 801 and NURS 802.

##### Community Public Health

Students completing this emphasis are prepared to assume nursing roles in a variety of care settings including public health, home health, and schools and may be eligible for CNS certification by the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN). Specialized role content is included in NURS 801 and NURS 802.

##### Nursing Administration

This emphasis enables students to combine the nursing perspective and principles of business to become effective and successful managers and administrators. Courses may also be taken in the College of Business with the advice and approval of the advisor.

Students in this emphasis are not required to take NURS 711, NURS 715, NURS 716 or NURS 717 in the nursing core.