NURSING M.S.

All students must meet the Requirements for the Master’s Degree

OVERVIEW

The Department of Nursing offers a graduate program leading to a Master of Science degree in nursing that prepares nurses to assume leadership roles within health care systems in a variety of settings, to expand knowledge of the discipline of nursing, to develop expertise in a specialized area of nursing, and to acquire the foundation for doctoral study and continued professional development. The ability to work collaboratively on an interdisciplinary team, provide patient-centered care, employ evidence-based practice, access information technology, and apply quality improvement strategies are basic competencies expected of all graduates of this program.

The graduate curriculum includes five core courses essential for all students that address the theoretical basis of nursing care: professional issues and role development of advanced practice registered nurses; research utilization and evidence-based practice; health policy and financing; theoretical foundations of nursing; and biostatistics and epidemiology. Students apply core content to their chosen area of specialization. Students may select a course of study in: Primary Care Nursing with preparation either as an Adult Gerontology, Family Nurse Practitioner, or Clinical Nurse Leader. After successful completion of program requirements students are eligible to take national exams.

As a CNHS graduate nursing student, you are required to complete the CNHS Mandatories prior to matriculating into your program. Students must keep these requirements current throughout their program: Immunizations, CPR, HIPPA/OSHA Training, annual PPD, and RN License. Some clinical sites require a Criminal Background check as well. It is essential to be compliant with this process to participate in clinical courses/experiences.

Complete details on CNHS Mandatories are available on the college website.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies for the Degree of Master of Science

The following criteria must be met to be considered for admission into the program:

- Bachelor’s Degree in Nursing
- Eligibility for licensure as an RN in Vermont
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- College grade point average of 3.00 or higher
- Undergraduate statistics course
- Previous basic physical assessment course
- Three letters of recommendation
- Practice experience is an advantage

Minimum Degree Requirements

The following criteria must be met to complete your minimum degree requirements:

- Core, track, and elective courses
- Comprehensive examination
- Grade point average of 3.00 or higher
- CNL Project

Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Examination is conducted by the Graduate Program in the Department of Nursing. The examination is designed to allow the student to demonstrate analysis and synthesis of knowledge gained through the program. Students may take the examination any time after the core courses have been successfully completed, but must be completed prior to the final track courses and practicums. Students will be expected to respond orally to specific questions provided to the student two weeks prior to the exam date. Questions will be formulated by the student’s thesis/project committee or Graduate Faculty on the Comprehensive Exam Committee. The student can expect questions related to:

- Research and relationships to evidence-base practice; research utilization.
- Relationship of nursing theory to nursing research and practice.
- Role dimensions and core characteristics of advanced practice nurses.
- Health care policy and role of the APRN/CNL.

The Comprehensive Examination is rated on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Satisfactory performance requires that in response to the questions, the student demonstrates analysis and synthesis of content addressed throughout the program of study. We then further detail grading criteria.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Science

Meet all of the above criteria.