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. The Clinical Nurse Leader program (CNL) prepares nurses to assume leadership roles within health care systems in a variety of settings, to expand knowledge of the discipline of nursing, and to acquire the foundation for graduate 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 MS graduate curriculum includes seven core courses essential for all students that address the theoretical basis of nursing care; professional issues and role development of CNLs, research utilization and evidence-based practice, quality and ethics of health care delivery, health policy and finance, theoretical foundations of nursing, genetics/genomics, biostatistics and epidemiology. Students apply core content to their Clinical Nurse Leader Program. Upon successful completion of program requirements students are eligible to complete a national CNL certification exam.

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 or another field of study
- 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

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

Meet all of the above criteria.

- 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 Graduate Nursing Faculty. The student can expect questions related to:

- Research and relationships to evidence-base practice, research utilization, quality of health care.
- Relationship of nursing theory to nursing research and practice.
- Role dimensions and core characteristics of CNLs.
- Health care policy, genetics, genomics and informatics as related to health care.

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.