Master of Science in Nursing

LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, EXPERTISE

MSN
Walsh University's Master's Program in Nursing prepares post-baccalaureate Registered Nurses for an advanced career in three tracks: the Clinical Nurse Leader, Nurse Educator and Family Nurse Practitioner. All tracks are offered using distance learning technology, allowing busy working nurses to select a plan that best accommodates their schedules. The program offers a strong academic and clinical foundation with an emphasis on the core examples and teachings of Jesus Christ.

**Specialty Tracks**

**Clinical Nurse Leader**

The Clinical Nurse Leader or CNL® is a fast emerging nursing role developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in collaboration with leaders from the education and practice arenas. The national movement to advance the CNL is fueled by the critical need to improve the quality of patient care and better prepare nurses to thrive across the health care system. The CNL role was developed following research and discussion with stakeholder groups as a way to engage highly skilled clinicians as leaders in outcomes-based practice.

“...In practice, the CNL oversees the care coordination of a distinct group of patients and actively provides direct patient care in complex situations, evaluating patient outcomes, assessing risks, and making decisions to change care plans when necessary. The CNL is a leader in the health care delivery system...”

— American Association of Colleges of Nursing

**Nurse Educator**

In 2005, an expert panel of nurse educators developed the Scope of Practice for Academic Nurse Educators (NLN Certification Governance Committee, 2005). The Nurse Educator, or NE is charged with preparing the next generation of nurses to function in the health care settings of the 21st century. The primary roles of the NE are teacher, scholar and collaborator. NEs may teach in a variety of settings and with a variety of levels of students. NEs are often involved in interdisciplinary collaboration and leadership functions within institutions. The Nurse Educator track at Walsh is designed to provide foundational information and skills for practice as an NE.

**Family Nurse Practitioner**

Family Nurse Practitioners (FNP) meet the health care needs of the family by providing health assessments, direct care, guidance, teaching, or counseling as appropriate, particularly around family self-care. Walsh University’s FNP program was developed with direct input from current Nurse Practitioners who told us what was most important in their education and what additional content would have been helpful. Clinical hour expectations were designed to meet the needs of working students while continuing to progress in the program. In addition, the faculty looked at changes in health care to make sure our graduates not only can meet current demands, but future demands as well. Thus, an emphasis on caring for clients with multiple chronic conditions and understanding the dynamics within the inter-professional workplace were included within the curriculum. We believe Walsh’s program to be forward thinking and eminently suitable for those interested in the Family Nurse Practitioner role.

Certification: Students will be eligible for certification as a CNL, NE, or FNP through the certification bodies of AACN or NLN.

“Having the opportunity to be a graduate nursing student at Walsh University has been very rewarding. The convenience of the online program has been fabulous, especially since becoming a new mom and working full time! It really allows for you to work on your own time. The small class size gives you the opportunity to really learn from each other and work together. The online coursework is easy to navigate, even for individuals who may not be so tech savvy. Also, the professors are extremely knowledgeable, readily available, and easily reached for any questions or concerns. I am so glad to be a part of the program and the University.”

Bryn Miller  BSN, RN-BC  Akron City Hospital
Master of Science in Nursing Programs

Clinical Nurse Leader
Foundation Courses (11 Credit Hours)
- NURS 600: Theoretical Development of Nursing Science
- NURS 601: Research Methods and Evidenced Based Practice
- NURS 603: Professional Role Development & Ethical Issues
- NURS 606: Health Care Policy, Organization, and Financing
- NURS 610: Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 612: Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 614: Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 618: Health Informatics
- NURS 619: Practicum in Advanced Clinical Specialty

Practice Application Courses (13 Credit Hours)
- NURS 605: Epidemiological Methods for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- NURS 610: Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 612: Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 614: Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 618: Health Informatics

Total Credit Hours: 40
Total Clinical Hours: 700 hours total

Expert Knowledge: (11 Credit Hours)
- NURS 630: Assessment, Measurement & Evaluation in Nursing Education
- NURS 631: Curriculum Design in Nursing Education
- NURS 632: Teaching Strategies in Nursing Education
- NURS 635: Practicum in Nursing Education

Family Nurse Practitioner
Foundation Courses (11 Credit Hours)
- NURS 600: Theoretical Development of Nursing Science
- NURS 601: Research Methods and Evidenced Based Practice
- NURS 603: Professional Role Development & Ethical Issues
- NURS 606: Health Care Policy, Organization, and Financing
- NURS 611: Clinical Leadership I (50 clinical hours)
- NURS 621: Clinical Leadership II (100 clinical hours)
- NURS 625: Clinical Immersion Project (300 clinical hours)

Practice Application Courses (23 Credit Hours)
- NURS 605: Epidemiological Methods for Health Promotion & Disease Prevention
- NURS 610: Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 612: Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 614: Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 618: Health Informatics
- NURS 640: Clinical Assessment & Management
- NURS 642: Clinical Pharmacology
- NURS 644: Dynamics of Family Nursing Practice
- NURS 646: Legal Issues in Adv. Practice Nursing
- NURS 648: Interprofessional Collaboration

Clinical Courses (29 Credit Hours)
- NURS 641: FNP I: Care of the Adult & Gerontological Client
- NURS 643: FNP II: Care of Children and Adolescents
- NURS 645: FNP III: Care of Women
- NURS 647: FNP IV: Care of Adults and Elderly Clients w/Multiple Chronic Conditions
- NURS 649: FNP V: Care of Families in Primary Care

Total Credit Hours: 63
Total Clinical Hours: 700 hours total

Admission Requirements
1. Submission of a completed Walsh application for admission (online) with the $25 application fee.
2. A current unencumbered Registered Nurse license(s). One year of experience as a Registered Nurse is preferred.
3. Official transcripts documenting a baccalaureate degree in Nursing from a program accredited by a national organization responsible for nursing accreditation (National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or their equivalent).
4. Completion of an Undergraduate or graduate Statistics course.
5. Two professional letters of recommendation supporting the applicant’s potential success in the Master’s program from graduate prepared nurses or faculty members who can address the applicant’s potential or ability for functioning in the MSN program.
6. Resume or CV with your application that includes work experience, educational, leadership and professional organization activities, and scholarly activities including publications, presentations, research, honors and awards.
7. A 1,000 word essay that will serve as the basis for the admission interview with faculty and be reviewed for writing style and content. It should address the following areas:
   - Reasons for seeking advanced education in the MSN program at this time in your career
   - Academic and career goals and how the MSN education will help you to realize those goals
   - Personal and professional attributes that will contribute to your success in the program
8. An Interview with the Graduate Program Admissions Committee is required. The interview will be arranged after preliminary review of academic credentials and application materials. The purpose of the interview is to evaluate communication and decision-making skills, educational goals, and current leadership, scholarship, practice roles and activities.

The Walsh Advantage
At Walsh University, we understand that your time is precious. That’s why we strive to make your path to a graduate degree efficient and productive. Walsh’s primarily online, e-learning format allows students to complete the requirements with relative ease and on their own schedule. Faculty and support staff are available to help students through each step of the journey. Each student is challenged to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to meet client needs in a variety of health care settings. We feature small classes and caring professors, administrators, and advisors to make sure you get the appropriate attention that you need and that your Walsh experience is a rich and rewarding one.