INTRODUCTION
The master of science in nursing (MSN) program is designed to prepare students in adult-gerontologic or family health nursing to assume leadership roles in advanced professional nursing. Students are prepared for roles in nursing education or administration/leadership & management. The graduate program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Individuals interested in pursuing the nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist role preparations need to apply to the post-baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice (BSN-to-DNP) degree option, in keeping with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) decision to transition advanced practice nursing preparation to the Doctor of Nursing (DNP) degree level.

GOALS AND PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM
The purposes of the MSN program are to help students achieve expertise in the following areas:
- Integrate leadership and management theories into advanced nursing roles.
- Analyze and synthesize current nursing and health care issues and policies within the context of advanced nursing roles.
- Integrate knowledge and theory of health policy, organizations, and health care financing as a basis for the provision of quality, cost-effective care.
- Assume beginning advanced nursing roles across health care settings demonstrating effective advocacy for diverse populations.
- Engage in lifelong learning and scholarship for the advancement of professional nursing.
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- Engage in lifelong learning and scholarship for the advancement of professional nursing.

CURRICULUM
After admission to the program, the student must complete approximately 40-41 graduate credits to prepare for the educator or administrator role. Completion of the program usually requires four semesters and a summer and winterim session. For full time students, the first year of courses generally are on Mondays and the second year of courses are on Tuesdays, on campus. The summer and winterim courses tend to be online with immersion (on-campus) days. Students choose an adult-gerontologic or family health nursing population focus in addition to the role preparation.

Role preparation requires specific nursing courses that build on a core of nursing knowledge. The course work includes a scholarly project and/or thesis with a public presentation.

Graduate students must earn a grade of C or better in course work and practicum to successfully complete a course.

The second year role preparation courses tend to be offered on an alternate year basis, e.g., 2018-2019, 2020-2021, & 2022-2023 for the educator role; and 2017-2018, 2019-2020, & 2021-2022 for the administrator role.

CORE COURSES/CREDITS

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POPULATION FOCUS
TITLE CREDITS
Human Responses; and Advanced Theory & Practice of Adults/Older Adults 8
OR
Individual/Family and Community Responses; and Advanced Theory & Practice of Family Health 8

FUNCTIONAL ROLE
PREPARATION: Educator
TITLE CREDITS
Nursing Education I and II 13
Advanced Physiological & Pathophysiological Concepts 3
Advanced Clinical Concepts for Nurse Educators 3

FUNCTIONAL ROLE
PREPARATION: Administrator
TITLE CREDITS
Nursing Administration I and II 13
Cognates (electives) 6

CLINICAL REQUIREMENTS
Seven credits of clinical (approximately 525 hours) are completed in the population focus area (adult-gerontologic or family health) and in the educator or administrator role. These clinical experiences are accomplished under the guidance of a faculty member and a preceptor.

ADMISSION APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
To apply to the MSN program, an applicant must contact Dr. Catherine Kenney and submit the following documents by January 4 for consideration for the following summer term:
- A complete application for graduate admission along with the application fees.
- Official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions previously attended.

- An undergraduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited (CCNE, NLN, or ACEN) nursing program, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Evidence of course work in statistics at the undergraduate level.
- Competence in health assessment.
- Three references (using required forms) from individuals who are knowledgeable of the applicant's clinical ability and/or potential for graduate study.
- Resume or vita.
- An essay.
- A complete Demographic Data Form, with population focus indicated.
- Wisconsin Registered Nurse licensure (RN licensure in U.S. required at time of application; WI RN license needed by July 1st following admission).

Practice experience, choice of population and role preparation, and residency in an underserved area also may be considered in admission decisions.

January 4 is the priority application deadline.

Admitted students are required to submit health & immunization/titer requirements, CPR certification at the health care provider level, and background check information. Personal health insurance required.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP)
UW-Eau Claire offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree for individuals pursuing education in advanced practice nursing. The DNP is a clinical doctorate intended for nurses assuming leadership roles in the areas of advanced clinical practice nursing (nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) or nursing administration. The DNP is offered as a post-baccalaureate (BSN-to-DNP) option and as a post-master’s (MSN-to-DNP) option. The BSN-to-DNP full-time program plan is for 3 years, with 4- and 5-year part-time options available. The MSN-to-DNP option typically is a part-time two-year program; a three-year plan also is available.

Please see the Post-Baccalaureate DNP and Post-Master’s DNP fact sheets or University Catalog for more information regarding the DNP program options:
www.uwec.edu/conhs

THE EAU CLAIRE ADVANTAGE
- U.S. News & World Report magazine consistently ranks UW-Eau Claire among the top public regional universities in the Midwest in its annual America’s Best Colleges guidebook.
- UW-Eau Claire is a member institution of The Council of Graduate Schools and is accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
To learn more about the Nursing Graduate Program options available in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at UW-Eau-Claire, contact:
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