

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

Course Descriptions

NB: The following courses are part of the Master of Science in Nursing Graduate Program. For further information about courses see the School of Graduate Studies section or contact the MSN Graduate Program Director.

CORE COURSES

NURS 510 FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING KNOWLEDGE (3)

An exploration of the historical and current trends in nursing theory and philosophy. Students explore the role of models, meta-paradigms, concept analyses and middle range theories in relation to traditional and emerging views of science. Issues and controversies within nursing philosophy are introduced with emphasis on understanding the relevance of these debates for both the healthcare system and the discipline of nursing.

Prerequisite(s): undergraduate nursing research course (or equivalent). Summer.

NURS 520 KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS (3)

This course addresses the principles of knowledge synthesis as the basis for informing nursing theory and practice. Students broaden their understanding of different kinds of evidence while learning the skills of locating, coding, synthesizing, and applying evidence from research studies. Students learn to draw on Christian values and principles to critically reflect on the implications of evidence-based knowledge for theory and practice.

Prerequisite(s): NURS 510; undergraduate nursing research course (or equivalent). Summer.

NURS 530 NURSING INQUIRY I (3)

An entry level course in understanding the philosophical foundations, of nursing inquiry and evidence with a focus on qualitative methods. Students explore the inquiry process in the context of the following methods: phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, critical inquiry, narrative analysis, historical and philosophic inquiry. The processes of data collection, analysis, and interpretation are examined. Attention is given to Christian values and principles in relation to research ethics and the applicability of research findings to the various contexts of nursing practice. Online.

Prerequisite(s): NURS 510, 520; undergraduate nursing research course (or equivalent). (3-0, 0-0)

NURS 540 NURSING INQUIRY II (3)

A graduate course that addresses the philosophical foundations of nursing inquiry and evidence with a focus on quantitative methods. Students broaden their understanding of quantitative research designs and learn to interpret statistical results for answering

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research questions that are of relevance to nursing theory and practice. Attention is given to Christian values and principles in relation to research ethics and the applicability of research findings to the various contexts of nursing practice. Online.

Prerequisite(s): undergraduate nursing research course (or equivalent); introductory course on statistics; first year MSN courses as designated on curricular plan. (0-0, 3-0)

NURS 633 HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND DECISION MAKING (3)

This course provides students with a solid framework for addressing ethical issues and ethical decision making. Through a contextualized approach that draws on a variety of ethical theories, learners in this course critically analyze a range of issues facing leaders in health care settings, including micro or individual level decisions (e.g., treatment withdrawal) to meso or organizational level questions (e.g., resource allocation pertaining to organ donation or restructuring decisions), to macro or social level issues (e.g., public health policy that focuses on prevention rather than treatment, or the challenge of conflicting worldviews in a pluralistic society). Exploration of moral leadership and the processes of ethical decision-making includes Christian principles, personal values and professional obligations. Resources such as the profession's code of ethics and moral policy-making statements are utilized in addition to ethical theories. Online.

Prerequisite(s): NURS 510. (Cross-list with MAL LDRS 633). (0-0, 3-0)

NURS 550 HEALTH CARE POLICY (3)

A broad overview of the policy process and its application to health care. Reflecting on Canadian priorities, concerns, and obligations, health care issues are analyzed with a specific focus on policy, politics and influence. The roles of nursing and nurse leaders in health policy development, implementation, and advocacy for the health and social needs of the public are critically evaluated. A required on-site residency at the Laurentian Leadership Centre in Ottawa exposes students to the key people and process of health care policy at federal and international levels. International policy, through WHO and other agencies, is examined for its relationship to federal policy and for global perspectives on health and nursing. Online with 1 week LLC residency.

Prerequisite(s): first-year MSN courses as per curricular plan. (0-0, 3-0)

ELECTIVES

NURS 611 PERSPECTIVES ON NURSING EDUCATION (3)

An overview of the history, theory, research, ethics, and issues affecting nursing education. Reflecting on Christian values and theological precepts, students will explore the history of Canadian nursing education and the sociopolitical context in which it operates, analyze current and future issues affecting nursing education, and apply the faculty role to that context. The process of baccalaureate nursing education curricular design and evaluation will be explored and applied. Online.

Prerequisite(s): first-year MSN courses as per curricular plan. (3-0, 0-0)

NURS 612 LEARNING/TEACHING IN NURSING EDUCATION (3)

A practical focus on the competencies required to facilitate learning in nursing education. Students explore pedagogical concepts and techniques in classroom and clinical contexts including constructing syllabi, lesson plans, clinical learning experiences and evaluative measures, with attention to Christian perspectives. Online.

Prerequisite(s): First-year MSN courses as per curricular plan; NURS 611. (0-0, 3-0)

NURS 621 PERSPECTIVES ON NURSING LEADERSHIP (3)

An overview to the theory, research, and issues shaping nursing leadership in Canada and international health communities. Students will explore the history of leadership in health care, and the sociopolitical context in which it operates; analyze current and future issues affecting health care leadership, and apply the role of nursing leadership to that context. Nurses bringing disciplinary nursing knowledge—about health promotion, patient responses to illness, interpersonal and interprofessional communication, population health and the social contexts of health and illness—together with emerging knowledge regarding health care organizations and leadership theory are in a unique position to provide highly effective leadership to today's changing, complex health care environments. Online.

Prerequisite(s): first-year MSN courses as per curricular plan. (3-0, 0-0)

NURS 622 THE SKILLS OF NURSING LEADERSHIP (3)

A practical focus on the competencies required for nursing leadership. Students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills necessary for today's complex health care environments that take into account Christian values and principles. Building on their existing practice expertise, students explore ways to innovatively incorporate emerging research, theory and practice concepts into a particular field of health care leadership practice, including (but not limited to) health care administration and operational management. Emphasis is placed on concepts such as values clarification, engagement and relationship building, patient advocacy, interprofessional communication and team-building, quality improvement, and the ethics of leadership. Online.

Prerequisite(s): first-year MSN courses as per curricular plan; NURS 621. (0-0, 3-0)

NURS 631 PERSPECTIVES ON ADVANCED PRACTICE ON GERONTOLOGICAL POPULATIONS (3)

An overview to the history, research, ethics, and issues affecting advanced nursing practice in Canada and internationally. Attention is paid to Christian values and principles as students explore the history of advanced nursing practice and the interprofessional and sociopolitical contexts in which it operates. The interrelated domains of advanced nursing practice—practice, consultation, education, research, and leadership—are explored in the context of older adult care, as well as ANP practice roles such as clinical nurse specialist, clinician, and professional practice leader. Attention is

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given to the moral issues surrounding aging, including end-of-life issues. Online.
Prerequisite(s): first-year MSN courses as per curricular plan. (3-0, 0-0)

NURS 632 THEMES IN CARE (ADVANCED PRACTICE ON GERONTOLOGICAL POPULATIONS) (3)

An advanced practice course with a specialty focus on older adults nursing care across the spectrum of health and illness. Students develop expertise about role of nurses in the contexts of primary care, home care, parish nursing, long-term care, and palliative-hospice care. Utilizing faith-based perspectives, fundamental concepts pertaining to primary health care, chronic disease management, and the supportive needs of older adults and their families are emphasized. Online.
Prerequisite(s): first-year MSN courses as per curricular plan; NURS 631. (0-0, 3-0)

CAPSTONE PROJECT

NURS 690/691 THESIS (3/3)

The thesis provides an opportunity for the student to conduct nursing research in an area of interest, with the guidance of a supervisory committee. The process of research—from identification of problem for investigation, research design, data collection and analysis, to written report of findings—is the focus.
Prerequisite: All previous MSN courses as per curricular plan.

NURS 692/693 CONSOLIDATION SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT (3/3)

A synthesis of research, theory, and practice within the students' substantive area of focus. Students work alongside a mentor in practice (e.g., education or administration, or advanced practice with the older adult) to design, implement and evaluate a project that will be of service to the healthcare community (either practice or education). Although service is an important part of the experience, the main focus is the integration of research, theoretical and practice perspective to a particular practice focus or problem.
Prerequisite(s): All first year MSN courses as per curricular plan.