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# Master of Science

# NURSING

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## The School Of Nursing at East Carolina University

In 1977, the ECU School of Nursing was authorized to offer a Master of Science degree in nursing. It is the only master's program in nursing in the eastern region of the state and is accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing program is to prepare graduates for advanced practice in community health or adult health nursing; as family nurse practitioners, neonatal nurse practitioners, nurse midwives or nurse anesthetists who provide comprehensive nursing care to diverse populations particularly in or from rural communities. The program also prepares nurses for leadership roles in the administration of clinical services in a variety of community-based or acute care provider agencies and as nurse educators in academic or clinical settings. Certificate programs are available for postmaster's study in selected areas.

### **Nurse Midwifery:**

The purpose of the Nurse-Midwifery concentration is to prepare professional nurses as safe and competent practitioners of nurse midwifery who are eligible for certification by the American College of Nurse Midwives. A special intent is for graduates to assume care provider roles in rural areas so as to better meet the needs of underserved women and infants. Additionally, graduates are prepared to incorporate appropriate theory bases and research findings into the delivery of care and to use the scientific methods to solve problems in their area of practice, nurse midwifery.

### **Curriculum:**

A minimum of 47 s.h. is required for graduation in the Nurse-Midwifery concentration. The Nurse-Midwifery Concentration offers two methods for completing your graduation requirement. The first is a full time curriculum plan which spans two years. The second is a part time plan which will take three years to complete. These curriculum plans are only a suggested course sequence and you may be able to modify your schedule by meeting with your graduate adviser.

### **Nursing Education:**

The purpose of the Nursing Education concentration is to prepare graduates for the role of nurse educator in an academic or clinical setting. Students will be prepared to function in complex educational environments to teach traditional as well as non-traditional learners using a variety of emerging technologies and interdisciplinary skills.

### **Curriculum:**

A minimum of 36 s.h. is required for graduation in the Nursing Education concentration. This concentration offers two methods for completing your graduation requirements. The first is a full time curriculum plan which spans two years. The second is a part time plan which will take 3 ½ years to complete. These curriculum plans are only a suggested course sequence and you may be able to modify your schedule by meeting with your graduate adviser.

### **Family Nurse Practitioner:**

The purpose of the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration is to prepare professional nurses to practice advanced primary health care in rural settings. Education for such advanced nursing practice is grounded in theoretical and practical knowledge. Therefore, didactic and clinical experience are integrated throughout the FNP curriculum.

### **Curriculum:**

A minimum of 56 s.h. is required for graduation in the Family Nurse Practitioner concentration. The Family Nurse Practitioner concentration offers two methods for completing your graduation requirements. The first is a full time curriculum plan which spans three years. The second is a part time plan which will take five years to complete. These curriculum plans are only a suggested course sequence and you may be able to modify your schedule by meeting with your graduate adviser.

### **Neonatal Nurse Practitioner:**

The purpose of the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner concentration is to prepare professional nurses to meet the needs of high-risk infants and their families in tertiary care centers. This concentration includes core courses, clinical core courses, concentration courses, and electives.

### **Curriculum:**

A minimum of 43 s.h. is required for graduation in the Neonatal Nurse Practitioner concentration. Full time and part time curriculum plans are available for this concentration. The full time plan requires two years of study, while the part time plan is arranged to span three years. These curriculum plans are only a suggested course sequence and you may be able to modify your schedule by meeting with your graduate adviser.

**Admission:**

Admission to the Master of Science of Nursing program requires the student to meet the minimum admission requirements for graduate study as established by the University and the following requirements established by the School of Nursing.

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from an NLN accredited program.
- A minimum GPA of 2.50 in undergraduate studies and a minimum GPA of 3.00 in nursing major. Acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) within the past five years.
- Current nonrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN) in North Carolina or an NCSBN-compact state. Individual advisement will be necessary for licensure regulations for online out-of-state students.
- A two page statement describing the applicant's interest in graduate study, career goals, and the MSN degree's relationship to those goals.
- Three professional references with one reference from an individual who is knowledgeable about the candidate's nursing practice.
- A personal interview with a member of the graduate faculty.

An applicant for the nurse-midwifery concentration, in addition to the usual admission criteria, must have one year RN experience (labor & delivery experience preferred) and demonstrate commitment to practice with underserved populations. Preference will be given to candidates who have already negotiated midwifery practices in a rural area.

An applicant for the family practitioner concentration, in addition to the usual admission criteria, must have one year RN experience in primary care.

An applicant for the neonatal nurse practitioner concentration, in addition to the usual admission criteria, must have two years RN experience in a critical-care environment for high-risk neonatal care.

For more information: [www.options.ecu.edu](http://www.options.ecu.edu) or 1-800-398-9275  
East Carolina University- Division of Continuing Studies