Master of Science in Nursing

The MSN Program
The master of science in nursing program prepares graduates for advanced-practice nursing and for leadership roles in a variety of community-based or acute-care-provider agencies. The MSN program offers seven different concentrations:

- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)
- Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (World Wide Web)
- Nurse Anesthesia (Campus Based)
- Nurse-Midwifery (Hybrid Primarily Web)
- Nursing Education (World Wide Web)
- Nursing Leadership (World Wide Web)

Financial Assistance
Financial assistance is available through:
- scholarships awarded by the university
- university graduate assistantships
- federal loans
- private scholarships
- federal nurse traineeships
- Forgivable Education Loans for Service

Information on ECU Office of Student Financial Aid is available at www.ecu.edu/cs-gradschool/financialaid.cfm

Information on College of Nursing scholarships is available at www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/financial_aid.cfm

Information and a schedule of current tuition and fees are available from the ECU Cashier’s Office at www.ecu.edu/cashier/tufee.cfm

There may be additional costs for professional liability insurance, books, criminal background checks, drug screening, supplies and clinical/practicum courses.

Requirements for Clinical Courses
Information regarding clinical requirements can be found in the ECU College of Nursing Student Handbook at: www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/nursing/customc/downloads/handbooks/grad_handbook.pdf

Application packets are obtained online through the ECU Graduate School at www.ecu.edu/gradschool/

Application
An electronic application is made to the ECU Graduate School. A completed application includes an application form, official transcripts of all previous college course work, and scores from either the Miller Analogies Test or the Graduate Record Examination taken within the last five years. Please note that other application requirements and/or exceptions may apply so please review the websites for specific details.

Application packets are obtained online through the ECU Graduate School at www.ecu.edu/gradschool/

Requirements for Admission
Admission to the master of science in nursing program requires that the student meet the following requirements of the College of Nursing:

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited program
- A minimum GPA of 2.7 in undergraduate studies and a minimum nursing GPA of 3.0
- Acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) within the past five years is required for most concentrations.
- *Nurse Anesthesia and Nurse-Midwifery requires the GRE only.
- *NNP applicants can waive the entrance exam requirement if they hold a current and unexpired RNC-NIC certification or active membership in the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing. Must submit ONE proof or ONE score with application.
- *Nursing Education applicants can waive the entrance exam requirement if they have a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in their baccalaureate nursing program, a BSN degree for 7 years or more, or a prior nursing graduate degree.
- *Current non-restricted license to practice as a registered nurse (RN)
- Individual advisement will be necessary for licensure regulations for online out-of-state students
- A personal statement of purpose essay describing the applicant’s interest in graduate study, career goals and the MSN degree’s relationship to those goals
- Three professional references
- A personal interview with a member of the graduate faculty
- Clinical experience varies depending on program option
- A course in statistics with a grade of “C” or higher is a prerequisite for all concentrations
- Basic computer skills with both applications software and the internet are prerequisites for all concentrations
- Other application requirements may apply so please contact concentration directors for specific details

The University
The university is the third largest in the University of North Carolina (UNC), which consists of the state’s sixteen degree-granting public institutions. ECU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degrees and is designated as an academic health center by the Association of American Health Centers. Governed by its own Board of Trustees, which is responsible to the UNC Board of Governors, ECU offers 75 departmental certificates, 102 baccalaureate degree programs, 77 master’s degree programs, two specialist degree programs, four first professional programs, and 16 doctoral programs in our professional colleges, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine and the Brody School of Medicine. It confers more than 5,800 degrees annually and it has approximately 140,000 alumni.

(OVER)
Concentrations in the Master of Science in Nursing Program

Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)
The adult-gerontology clinical nurse specialist concentration prepares nurses for advanced nursing practice roles in complex care settings. Nationally approved clinical nurse specialist competencies in adult and gerontology are the basis of the curriculum. This option provides preparation in the roles of clinician, educator, clinical consultant, researcher, program planner and leader. The 43-semester-hour curriculum includes core courses, clinical core courses, and concentration specialty courses. Graduates are eligible to sit for national certification examinations as a clinical nurse specialist. Students who wish to sit for the Critical Care CNS certification exam must take one additional 3 semester hour course in order to be eligible for that exam.

Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)
The neonatal clinical nurse specialist concentration prepares nurses for advanced nursing practice role from wellness to acute care. Nationally approved clinical nurse specialist competencies are the basis of the curriculum. Emphasis is placed on providing students with advanced theoretical knowledge and practice skills needed to improve patient care, nursing and the organizational systems in the neonatal population. This option provides preparation in the roles of clinician, educator, clinical consultant, researcher, program planner and leader. The 43-semester hour curriculum includes core courses, clinical core courses and concentration courses.

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (World Wide Web)
The neonatal nurse practitioner concentration prepares professional nurses to provide population-focused health care to preterm (<37 weeks) and term neonates, infants, and children up to two years of age. The 42-semester-hour program includes core courses, clinical core courses and concentration courses. Graduates are eligible to sit for the NCC national certification examination for NNPs.

Nurse Anesthesia (Campus Based)
The nurse anesthesia curriculum prepares professional nurses to provide anesthesia for patients of all ages in both the surgery-center and hospital setting. The 69-semester-hour curriculum includes core courses, clinical core courses and concentration courses. Graduates are eligible to sit for NBCRNA National Certification Examination (NCE) to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

Nurse-Midwifery (Hybrid Primarily Web)
The nurse-midwifery concentration prepares professional nurses as practitioners of nurse-midwifery eligible for national certification. The 51-semester-hour curriculum includes core courses, clinical core courses and concentration courses.

Nursing Education (World Wide Web)
The nursing education concentration prepares 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 nontraditional learners using a variety of emerging technologies and interdisciplinary skills. The 37-40 semester-hour curriculum includes core courses, clinical core courses, concentration courses and an elective. Students are admitted for fall and spring semesters. Graduates meet education requirements for the national NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) examination.

Nursing Leadership (World Wide Web)
The nursing leadership concentration is designed to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge and skills necessary for leadership positions within the healthcare delivery system. Students may choose from one of three foci: Leadership in Acute Care Health Systems, Leadership in Community-Based Health Systems, or Leadership in Health Care Educational Systems. The nursing leadership concentration requires a minimum of 42 semester hours and is available through a 100 percent online option. Graduates are eligible to take the ANCC certification exam in Nurse Executive, Advanced

Post-Master’s Certificate options
Post-Master’s Certificates are offered in the following areas:

- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)
- Neonatal Clinical Nurse Specialist (World Wide Web)
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (World Wide Web)
- Nurse Anesthesia (Campus Based)
- Nurse-Midwifery (Hybrid Primarily Web)
- Nursing Education (World Wide Web)
- Nursing Leadership (World Wide Web)

Nurses with a master’s degree in nursing complete the concentration courses and select core and/or clinical core courses based on their past course work and experience.

Applicants for post-master’s certificates complete a degree/certificate application for the Graduate School and are not required to provide GRE or MAT scores, except applicants for Nurse Anesthesia.

Curriculum plans are available for all MSN concentrations and post-master’s options.

Accreditations
- ECU College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036. Phone: 202.887.6791. Fax: 202.887.8476. ECU College of Nursing is approved by the North Carolina Board of Nursing, PO Box 2129, Raleigh, NC 27602-2129. Phone: 919.782.3211. Fax: 919.781.9461.
- The nurse anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. COA, 222 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Phone: 847.692.7050. Website: www.home.coa.us.com/Pages/default.aspx.
- The nurse-midwifery concentration is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME). For further information about the Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education, contact the ACME Associate Director, Education, Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education, 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 1550, Silver Spring, MD 20910-6374. Phone: 240.485.1802. Fax: 240.485.1818. Website: www.midwif.org/acme. Email: jlevin@acnm.org (Julie Levin, Administrative Assistant for ACME).

Additional Information
For more information on Graduate School admission, contact Graduate School, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. Phone: 252.328.6012. Website: www.ecu.edu/gradschool/

For more information on the graduate nursing program, contact the College of Nursing Recruiter, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. Phone: 252.744.6417. Fax: 252.744.6391. Email: gradnurs@ecu.edu

For more information on obtaining an application addendum packet for the Nurse Anesthesia concentration, please call their office at 252.744.6373.

We welcome distance education students and will make every effort to accommodate their clinical placement needs. There may be times, however, when this is not possible.

East Carolina University is committed to equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate against applicants, students, or employees based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or disability. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, which accommodates the needs of individuals with disabilities.

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