

Graduate Program Requirements

Research College of Nursing offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program. Three tracks are offered leading to the MSN degree: Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Executive Nurse Practice: Health Care Leadership (ENP), and Nurse Educator (NEd).

Two post master's certificate programs are offered: the Executive Nurse and the Nurse Educator.

Many courses are offered in an online (OL) format and these are identified following the course title in this section.

Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) Track

The Family Nurse Practitioner track prepares nurses for an advanced role as a health provider in a variety of primary care settings. Graduates of the FNP track are qualified to sit for the Family Nurse Practitioner certification examination. The curriculum for this track is based upon the MSN core courses.

Courses in advanced health assessment, pathophysiology and pharmacology provide a core of essential content for the family nurse practitioner specialty courses. These courses will focus on health promotion, health protection and disease prevention and commonly occurring health conditions for populations across the life span. Health management practices associated with such conditions will be emphasized with the integration of environmental factors on health.

The program also includes 660 total clinical practicum clock hours. Clinical practicum clock hours are determined using a 1:4 ratio (one credit hour is equivalent to 4 clock hours). For example, a 3 credit practicum course includes 12 clinical practicum hours/week for 15 weeks = 180 clinical practicum clock hours within the semester.

Family Nurse Practitioner Curriculum

Master of Science in Nursing Core Courses

NU 6020	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing (OL)	3
NU 6060	Role Development in Advanced Nursing (OL)	3
NU 6080	Nursing Research (OL)	3
NU 6040	Contemporary Issues in Nursing (OL)	2
NU 7xxx	Research Option**	2
	Total Credit Hours	13

** Students choose from these Research Options

NU 7480	Research Project	2 - 4
credits		
NU 7490	Research Utilization Project (OL)	2 credits
NU 7500	Research Thesis	5 - 8
credits		

Advanced Practice Nursing Core Courses

NU 7040	Advanced Pathophysiology (OL)	3
NU 7060	Advanced Health Assessment	4
NU 7080	Advanced Pharmacology (OL)	3
	Total Credit Hours	10

Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty Courses

NU 7100	Primary Care I	4
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NU 7110	Primary Care I Practicum*	3
NU 7020	Family and Community Concepts (OL)	3
NU 7140	Primary Care II	4
NU 7150	Primary Care II Practicum*	3
NU 7450	Independent Primary Care Practicum*	5
	Total Credit Hours	22
	Total Program Credit Hours	45

*The program includes 660 total clinical practicum clock hours. Clock hours are calculated using a 1:4 ratio (1 credit hour = 4 clock hours) multiplied by 15 practicum weeks per semester.

Typical Program of Study: FNP Track

Following is a guide for sequencing and grouping courses. Individual programs of study may vary. Students will select courses each semester based on full-time or part-time status.

Full-time status is reflected in the following plan. Students preferring part-time study, take fewer than nine (9) credits each semester, completing the FNP specialty courses (NU 7100, 7110, 7140, 7150, 7450) at the end of the program.

Year One:

Summer		Fall		Spring	
NU 6060	3	NU 6020	3	NU 7100	4
NU 7020	3	NU 7040	3	NU 7110	3
NU 7080	3	NU 7060	4		
		NU 6080	3		
Total credits	9	Total credits	13	Total credits	7

Year Two:

Summer		Fall		Spring	
NU 7140	4	NU 7450	5		
NU 7150	3	NU 6040	2		
NU 7490	2-8				
Total credits	9-15	Total credits	7		

Executive Nurse Practice: Health Care Leadership (ENP) Track

The Executive Nurse Practice: Health Care Leadership track prepares nurses for leadership and management roles in diverse health care delivery systems. The Master of Science in Nursing degree, Executive Nurse Practice: Health Care Leadership track, is granted by Research College of Nursing. The course work for this track is a joint/collaborative effort between Research College of Nursing faculty and the Rockhurst University Health Care Leadership faculty. Selected Rockhurst University Health Care Leadership course offerings contribute to the Research College of Nursing graduate core curriculum and will be transferred to the Research College of Nursing student transcript. The current Research College of Nursing core courses along with the Health Care Leadership courses offer a strong foundation of nursing theory as well as needed concepts from business and organizational management. Graduates of this track are qualified to sit for the certification examination in Nursing Administration.

Executive Nurse Practice: Health Care Leadership Curriculum

Master of Science in Nursing Core Courses

NU 6020	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing (OL)	3
NU 6060	Role Development in Advanced Nursing (OL)	3
NU 6080	Nursing Research (OL)	3
NU 6040	Contemporary Issues in Nursing (OL)	2
NU 7xxx	Research Option**	
	Total Credit Hours	13

** Students choose from these Research Options

NU 7480	Research Project	2 - 4
credits		
NU 7490	Research Utilization Project (OL)	2 credits
NU 7500	Research Thesis	5 - 8
credits		

Rockhurst University: Health Care Leadership Courses

HC 6125	Health Systems I (OL)	3
HC 6325	Policy and Politics of Health Care (OL)	3
MG 6100	Leadership and Organizational Behavior (OL)	3
MG 6200	Human Resource Management (OL)	3
	Total Credit Hours	12

Executive Nurse Practice: Specialty Courses

NU 7200	Executive Nurse Seminar I (OL)	2
NU 7210	Executive Nurse Practicum I*	3
NU 7220	Executive Nurse Seminar II (OL)	2
NU 7230	Executive Nurse Practicum II*	3
	Total Credit Hours	10
	Total Program Credit Hours	35

*Practicum courses equal 180 clock hours per semester for a total of 360. Clock hours are calculated using a 1:4 ratio (1 credit hour = 4 clock hours) multiplied by 15 practicum weeks per semester.

Typical Program of Study for ENP Track

Following is a guide for sequencing and grouping courses for part-time study.

Year One:

Summer		Fall		Spring	
NU 6060	3	NU 6020	3	NU 6080	3
		MG 6100	3	HC 6125	3
Total credits	3	Total credits	6	Total credits	6

Year Two:

Summer		Fall		Spring	
NU 7490	2	NU 6040	2	HC 6325	3
MG 6200	3	NU 7200	2	NU 7220	2
		NU 7210	3	NU 7230	3

Total credits	5	Total credits	7	Total credits	8

Post Master's Executive Nurse Certificate Program

The Executive Nurse certificate program is designed for individuals prepared with a Bachelor of Science in nursing and a Master's degree in nursing or a health related field who wish to gain specialty knowledge in this role.

The certificate consists of executive nurse focused courses and two executive nurse practica. The program totals 15 credit hours and can be completed in 2 consecutive semesters.

Typical Program of Study: Executive Nurse Certificate

Fall

MG 6100	Leadership and Organizational Behavior (OL)	3
NU 7200	Executive Nurse Seminar I (OL)	2
NU 7215	Executive Nurse Certificate Practicum I *	1

Spring*

NU 7220	Executive Nurse Seminar II (OL)	2
NU 7225	Executive Nurse Certificate Practicum II *	1

And choice of 6 credits from the following:

HC 6125	Health Systems I (OL)	3
HC 6325	Policy and Politics of Health Care (OL)	3
MG 6200	Human Resource Management (OL) (only offered in summer)	3

*Practicum courses equal 90 clock hours per semester for a total of 180. Clock hours are calculated using a 1:4 ratio (1 credit hour = 4 clock hours) multiplied by 15 practicum weeks in a semester.

Nurse Educator Track

The Master of Science of Nursing with an education focus is designed to meet the needs of current and potential nurse educators in academic or healthcare settings to develop and refine their practice as teachers of students, clients and/or employees. The program includes the MSN core courses, clinically focused advanced practice nursing core courses, and educationally focused courses. Students will be prepared with a strong clinical foundation as well as theory and practice in the role of the nurse educator in a focused area.

Nurse Educator Curriculum

Master of Science in Nursing Core Courses

NU 6020	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing (OL)	3
NU 6060	Role Development in Advanced Nursing (OL)	3
NU 6080	Nursing Research (OL)	3
NU 6040	Contemporary Issues in Nursing (OL)	2
NU 7xxx	Research Option**	2
	<u>Credit Hours</u>	<u>13</u>

** Students choose from these Research Options

NU 7480	Research Project	2 - 4
credits		
NU 7490	Research Utilization Project (OL)	2 credits
NU 7500	Research Thesis	5 - 8
credits		

Advanced Practice Nursing Core Courses

NU 7040	Advanced Pathophysiology (OL)	3
NU 7060	Advanced Health Assessment	4
NU 7080	Advanced Pharmacology (OL)	3
	Credit Hours	10

Nurse Educator: Specialty Courses

NU 7300	Instructional Strategies (OL)	3
NU 7310	Evaluation Strategies (OL)	3
NU 7320	Program Development (OL)	3
NU 7330	Nursing Focus Practicum *	2
NU 7340	Educational Practicum *	2
	Credits	13
	Total Program Credits	36

* Practicum courses equal 120 clock hours each for a total of 240. Clock hours are calculated using a 1:4 ratio (1 credit hour = 4 clock hours) multiplied by 15 practicum weeks per semester.

Typical Program of Study: Nurse Educator (NEd) Track

Following is a guide for sequencing and grouping courses. Students will select courses each semester based on preference for full-time or part-time status. Students preferring part-time study, take fewer than nine (9) credits per semester.

Year One:

Summer		Fall		Spring	
NU 6060	3	NU 6020	3	NU 6080	3
NU 7080	3	NU 7040	3	NU 7300	3
		NU 7060	4		
Total credits	6	Total credits	10	Total credits	6

Year Two:

Summer		Fall		Spring	
NU 7490	2-8	NU 7330	2	NU 7340	2
NU 7320	3	NU 7310	3		
		NU 6040	2		
Total credits	5-11	Total credits	9	Total credits	2

Post Master's Nurse Educator Certificate Program

The Nurse Educator certificate program is designed for individuals who are prepared with a Bachelor of Science in nursing and a Master's degree in nursing or a health related field who wish to gain specialty knowledge in this role.

The certificate consists of education focused courses and an individualized practicum for a total of eleven (11) credit hours. The program can be completed part-time in four consecutive semesters.

Typical Program of Study: Nurse Educator Certificate

Spring	NU 7300	Instructional Strategies (OL)	3
Summer	NU 7320	Program Development (OL)	3
Fall	NU 7310	Evaluation Strategies (OL)	3
Spring	NU 7340	Educational Practicum*	2
Total Credits			11

*Practicum course equals 120 clock hours. Clock hours are calculated using a 1:4 ratio (1 credit hour = 4 clock hours) multiplied by 15 practicum weeks per semester.