

## RN to MSN

The mission of the American Public University System's Nursing Program is to "provide quality, affordable, and accessible higher education for professional registered nurses to foster lifelong learning through a spirit of inquiry in order to prepare students for service and leadership roles in a diverse and global society."

The online RN to MSN degree provides Associate and diploma degree prepared Registered Nurses an accelerated pathway to obtaining a Master of Science in Nursing degree while also obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. The RN to MSN degree is designed to facilitate the immediate and lifelong professional and personal development needs of Registered Nurses in the three areas of Practitioner, Scientist and Leader. Graduates of the RN to MSN program will be prepared to be agents of change in today's rapidly transforming healthcare industry.

The RN to MSN degree program at APUS is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.ccnaccreditation.org>).

**Note:** This RN to MSN program is currently not open for admission to Tennessee residents or Washington State residents.

*At this time, this program is not eligible for military tuition assistance; please speak with your admissions representative on other financial solutions.*

This program has specific admission requirements.

## Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

- Improve performance in the professional nursing role by developing leadership, management, sound clinical judgment, and communication skills to promote the health of individuals, families, and communities.
- Utilize evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and leadership principles to promote a culture of safety and achieve outcomes that are grounded in institutional values and professional ethics.
- Apply informatics and healthcare technologies to access critical information, to collaborate with other professionals, and to facilitate optimal patient-centered care.
- Apply scientific principles and the nursing process to evaluate responses to therapies and changes in patient health status.
- Integrate knowledge of human and organizational behavior to lead teams and to promote cultures of safety.

- Analyze the impact of financial, regulatory, and political decisions on local, national and global health outcomes.
- Synthesize knowledge of ethical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors to decrease health disparities, to advocate for diverse populations and to provide culturally relevant healthcare to individuals, groups and communities.
- Employ a spirit of inquiry to embrace the value of lifelong learning and to participate in professional activities that promote and shape the future of nursing.
- Apply the principles of ethical decision making to the practice of the master's prepared nurse
- Demonstrate leadership skills to support safe nursing practices continually improve patient-centered care.
- Advocate for healthcare policies that improve healthcare outcomes across the lifespan.
- Apply data management principles in the delivery of cost-effective care to improve health outcomes.
- Analyze how healthcare policy and health care economics affect change within the healthcare system.
- Demonstrate effective inter-professional communication and collaboration to support safe and efficient coordination of care.
- Reflect on personal commitment to lifelong learning to gain the competencies needed to lead the provision of care in a complex and changing healthcare environment.

## Programmatic Admission Requirements

To apply to this program, you must hold the following:

- Associate degree or diploma from an accredited or board approved institution in nursing.
- Current, active, unencumbered registered nursing (RN) license
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Signed statement of understanding
- Current resume/CV
- 500-600 word statement of purpose and goals for this master's program

Note: This program is not currently open for admission to residents of Washington or Tennessee.

Please visit our AMU (<https://www.amu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) or APU (<https://www.apu.apus.edu/admissions/graduate-requirements.html>) graduate admission page for more information on institutional admission requirements.

## Need help?

If you have questions regarding a program's admission requirements, please contact an admissions representative at 877-755-2787 or [info@apus.edu](mailto:info@apus.edu).

## Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	General Education Requirements	30
	Registered Nurse License	30
	Major Required	31
	Elective Requirements	26
	Final Program Requirements (BSN)	3
	Select one of the following concentrations:	24
	Nurse Educator Track (p. 3)	
	Nurse Leader Track (p. 4)	
	Final Program Requirements (MSN)	3
	<b>Total Semester Hours</b>	<b>147</b>

## Degree Program Requirements

### General Education Requirements (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
<b>Arts and Humanities (6 semester hours)</b>		
Select 2 courses from the following: <sup>1</sup>		6
ARTH200	Art Appreciation	
ARTH241	Film and Literature	
DSIN141	Image Enhancement using Adobe Photoshop	
LITR201	World Literature through the Renaissance	
LITR202	World Literature since the Renaissance	
LITR210		
LITR211	English Literature: 18th Century to Present	
LITR220	American Literature before The Civil War	
LITR221	American Literature from The Civil War to Present	
ARAB100	Arabic I	
ARAB101	Arabic II	
FREN100	French I	
FREN101	French II	
GERM100	German I	
GERM101	German II	
JAPN100	Introduction to Japanese	

MUSI200	Music Appreciation
PHIL101	Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL110	Critical Thinking
PHIL200	Introduction to Ethics
PHIL202	Philosophy of Science
PORT100	Introduction to Brazilian Portuguese
RELS201	Introduction to World Religions
RUSS100	Russian I
SPAN100	Spanish I
SPAN101	Spanish II

### Civics, Political and Social Sciences (6 semester hours)

Select 2 courses from the following: <sup>1</sup>		6
ANTH100	Introduction to Anthropology	
ANTH202	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	
CHFD220	Human Sexuality	
COMM211	Social Media and Society	
COMM240	Intercultural Communication	
ECON101	Microeconomics	
ECON102	Macroeconomics	
EDUC200	Humane Education: A Global Interdisciplinary Perspective	
GEOG101	Introduction to Geography	
HOSP110	Practical Food Safety and Awareness	
IRLS210	International Relations I	
LITR204	Contemporary World Culture Through Literature	
LITR205	Cultural Diversity in Contemporary American Literature	
POLS210	American Government I	
PSYC101	Introduction to Psychology	
SOCI111	Introduction to Sociology	
SOCI212	Social Problems	
SOCI220	American Popular Culture	

### Communication: Writing, Oral, and Multimedia (9 semester hours)

COMM120	Information and Digital Literacy	3
ENGL110	Making Writing Relevant	3
Select 1 course from the following:		3
COMM200	Public Speaking	
ENGL102	Effectiveness in Writing	
ENGL200	Composition and Literature	
ENGL220	Technical Writing	
ENGL221	Scientific Writing	
ENGL225	Business Writing	
HRMT101	Human Relations Communication	
IRLS200	Information Literacy and Global Citizenship	
ITCC231	Introduction to Information Technology Writing	

MGMT100	Human Relations	
<b>History (3 semester hours)</b>		
Select 1 course From the following:		3
HIST101	American History to 1877	
HIST102	American History since 1877	
HIST111	World Civilization before 1650	
HIST112	World Civilization since 1650	
HIST121	Western Civilization before The Thirty Years War	
HIST122	Western Civilization since The Thirty Years War	
HIST221	African-American History before 1877	
HIST222	African-American History since 1877	
HIST223	History of the American Indian	
HIST270	History of Science	
<b>Mathematics (3 semester hours)</b>		
MATH120	Introduction to Statistics	3
<b>Natural Sciences with Lab (3 semester hours)</b>		
Select 1 course from the following:		3
BIOL180	Introduction to Biology	
BIOL181	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	
CHEM180	Introduction to Chemistry	
ERSC180	Introduction to Meteorology	
EVSP180	Introduction to Environmental Science	
PHYS180	Introduction to Physics	
SPST180	Introduction to Astronomy	
Total Semester Hours		30

<sup>1</sup> All literature courses require successful completion of ENGL101 - Proficiency in Writing or ENGL110 - Making Writing Relevant.

## Registered Nurse License (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	Current active, unencumbered registered nursing license	30
Total Semester Hours		30

## Major Required (31 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS300	Professional Transitions in Nursing	3
NURS310	Assessment, Evaluation and Clinical Decision-Making	3
NURS325	Integrated Pathophysiology and Clinical Pharmacology	4
NURS340	Science of Evidence-Based Practice	3

NURS400	Emerging Scholarship and Trends in Healthcare	3
NURS421	Community Health I	3
NURS422	Community Health II	3
NURS502	Population-Based Healthcare <sup>1</sup>	3
NURS504	Informatics and Technology <sup>1</sup>	3
NURS507	Leadership for the Master's Prepared Nurse <sup>1</sup>	3
Total Semester Hours		31

<sup>1</sup> NURS502, NURS504, NURS507 may not be taken until all courses, except NURS498, have been completed.

## Elective Requirements (26 semester hours)

Select any courses that have not been used to fulfill major requirements. Credits applied toward a minor or certificate in an unrelated field may be used to fulfill elective credit for the major.

## Final Program Requirements (BSN) (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS498	Senior Seminar in Nursing Studies (Must have a 'B' or better and to be taken as the last course before conferral) <sup>1</sup>	3
Total Semester Hours		3

<sup>1</sup> Prerequisite: Senior Standing and completion of all major courses prior to enrollment.

## Total Degree Requirements for BSN Conferral = 120

### Concentration in Nurse Educator Track (24 semester hours)

Looks at curriculum, instruction, and assessment in nursing education with a focus on teaching and evaluations for nurse educators.

#### Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply programmatic objectives to the nurse educator role in clinical or academic settings.

- Create educational and curricular materials for a variety of audiences.
- Evaluate effectiveness of teaching strategies and modalities.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS500	Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS505	Healthcare Systems and Health Policy	3
NURS601	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS604	Advanced Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	3
NURS606	Nursing Curriculum Development, Assessment and Evaluation	3
NURS610	Learner-Centered Teaching Methodologies	3
NURS620	Educational Assessment and Evaluation for Nurse Educators	3
NURS695	Practicum in Nursing Education	3
Total Semester Hours		24

## Concentration in Nurse Leader Track (24 semester hours)

Offers a focus in leadership, human resource management, and operational quality. Healthcare business and finance are also covered.

### Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply programmatic objectives to the role of the nurse leader.
- Advocate for business practices that promote healthcare quality and patient safety.
- Synthesize knowledge of key business and human resources practices to lead healthcare teams.

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS500	Research and Evidence-Based Practice	3
NURS505	Healthcare Systems and Health Policy	3
HCAD605	Human Resource Management in Healthcare	3
HCAD650	The Business of Healthcare	3
HCAD651	Healthcare Finance	3
HCAD652	Operational Quality in Healthcare	3
HCAD520	Legal and Ethical Aspects of Healthcare Administration	3
NURS696	Practicum in Nursing Leadership	3
Total Semester Hours		24

## Final Program Requirements (MSN) (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
NURS699	Evidence-Based Practice Capstone Project <sup>1</sup>	3
Total Semester Hours		3

<sup>1</sup> Taken once all other requirements have been met.

## Total Degree Requirements for MSN Conferral = 27