SCHOOL OF NURSING

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Introduction

The Graduate Program in Nursing has national accreditation through the [Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)](#), the agency that accredits the majority of baccalaureate and higher nursing degree programs. Students completing the Graduate Program in Nursing earn a degree leading to the [Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)](#) or the [Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)](#) as a nurse [executive](#), a nurse [educator](#), or a [nurse practitioner](#). In addition, the SON offers post-baccalaureate certificates in [nursing education](#) and [healthcare leadership and management](#); and a [post-master's certificate for nurse practitioners](#).

The vision of the School of Nursing (SON) is to be the leader in nursing practice, education and research in the global health care environment. The mission of the School of Nursing is to
- Prepare professional nurses to meet complex human needs in a competitive global market
- Inspire lifelong learning and the utilization of advanced technologies
- Improve the health, healthcare, and quality of life in our diverse local communities along the US-Mexico border
- Prepare graduates to make significant contributions to nursing, their communities, and the world
- Provide a climate where nurses, scholars, and students investigate and meet global health care needs

Through excellence, innovation, and diversity, the SON graduate program curriculum prepares professional nurses as leaders in a variety of advanced practice roles with increased autonomy and independence. Graduates are eligible to apply for national certification as nurse educators, executives, or practitioners. All majors are offered online with minimum time spent on campus.

Prior to admission, applications and official transcripts are submitted online to the [Graduate School](#) for evaluation. To meet SON deadlines, prospective students are encouraged to initiate the Graduate School application process a minimum of two to four weeks prior to SON deadlines to ensure adequate time to process application and evaluate transcripts. Final decisions regarding admission are made by the Dean of the Graduate School upon the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee within the School of Nursing. Applicants for specific majors are evaluated based on academic history, experience, statement of purpose, resume, and interview (if required). Contact gradnursing@utep.edu for specific information regarding deadlines and requirements.

Application Deadlines

Applications are **due** in the School of Nursing
- May 30th for fall admission to the DNP program
- September 1st for spring or February 1st for summer/fall admission to the MSN nurse practitioner major
- October 1st for spring or March 1st for summer/fall admission to the MSN nursing education or nursing systems management majors

ADA Statement for Nursing Profession

Nursing is a physically and mentally challenging profession. Nurses are required to think critically and quickly in order to respond to patient care needs. Providing direct patient care in the clinical rotation can also be physically demanding and may involve assisting patients in transfer, ambulation and activities of daily living. Students with disabilities may contact the UTEP Office of Disabled Student Services (DSSO) to request reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines at www.utep.edu/dsso.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

The Doctor of Nursing (DNP) is the terminal academic preparation for clinical nursing practice. The DNP builds on the competencies of the master's degree in nursing and adds a highly advanced skill base in informatics and technology, evidence-based practice, continuous quality improvement, and organizational systems and leadership. The University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing's DNP program prepares graduates to

1. Synthesize current and emerging science, including genetics/genomics, in the application of advanced practice nursing to the care of individuals, groups, communities, and systems;
2. Utilize evidence-based practice, standards of care, ethical decision-making, and clinical judgment to support health promotion/restoration and cost-effective, culturally competent quality healthcare;
3. Model full accountability for professional advancement and lifelong learning;
4. Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to achieve national quality healthcare goals and reduce health disparities;
5. Assume advanced leadership roles in addressing complex health problems of the border region involving health disparities, ethics, policy, access, quality, and financing;
6. Establish collegial and collaborative relationships with health professionals to provide comprehensive healthcare management in a variety of settings for individuals, families, and communities experiencing chronic illness;
7. Promote highest level of professional accountability for nursing and the larger healthcare delivery system through dissemination of evidence-based findings and the use of translational research to improve healthcare outcomes for target populations.

Admission Standards

The DNP program builds on the specialty certification of nurse practitioners; thus, application is at the post-master's level. The DNP council, as the SON admissions committee, considers the following prior to recommending an applicant for admission.

1. Intellectual capacity, based on overall collegiate GPA; goal statement; standardized test scores (GRE, TOEFL); academic awards/honors, scholarly accomplishments; and personal interview
2. Written and oral communication skills and the ability to articulate personal goals
3. Community service, such as extracurricular activities, membership and leadership in organizations, volunteer and humanitarian services
4. Awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements and how they may impact healthcare

5. Potential for service to the state of Texas, such as family members currently teaching in a a Texas nursing program or NPs committed to service marginalized and underserved populations along the US-Mexico border
6. Motivation, success in overcoming adverse economic or educational conditions; employment history; participation in activities requiring time management skills; veteran status; and letters of reference

Admission Requirements

1. Eligibility for admission to UTEP Graduate School (including completion of the TOEFL with a score of 550 or higher and all requirements for the Commission on Foreign Graduate Nursing Schools (CFGNS) for international students)
2. Completion of a master's degree in nursing from a program accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or its equivalent in the case of foreign prepared nurse practitioners
3. GPA of 3.0 or higher from master's degree coursework
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
5. Current, unencumbered registered nurse license
6. Approval by the Board of Nursing, or its equivalent, to practice as a nurse practitioner in the state or country in which clinical practice will occur
7. Current national or board certification by a nationally recognized credentialing organization as a nurse practitioner
8. Letter of intent (LOI) to apply identifying experience with underserved populations including community service and awareness and direct knowledge of cultural elements that impact healthcare along the US-Mexico border
9. Current resume or curriculum vita
10. A personal goal statement that is congruent with the program goals
11. Three letters of reference attesting to applicant's academic ability and potential to complete DNP Program; one of the three letters must be from a professional colleague

Transfer Students

Transfer students may be admitted to the program if they meet admission criteria. Each applicant will undergo a comprehensive review by the DNP Council to determine eligibility and to review coursework competed at another institution. Placement of transfer students approved for admission is based on space availability, existing rules for maximum number of transfer credits and other requirements set for by the university and governing bodies.

Conditional Admission

The DNP Council may consider students for conditional admission pending completion of the GRE. The student with conditional admission must meet all requirements by the end of the first semester of doctoral education or the student faces dismissal from the program.

Probationary Status

A student whose GPA falls below 3.0 is at risk of dismissal from the program. In this case, the advisor reviews the student's academic record and makes a recommendation to the GSC to retain the student on probationary status or to dismiss. The GSC votes on the recommendation.

Special Consideration

The SON strongly encourages NPs who teach or plan to teach nursing or who reside/work or plan to reside/work in rural or MUAs to apply for admission.

Compliance Requirements

DNP students must meet all administrative and [clinical clearance requirements expected of MSN Students](#). There requirements are located under the MSN Compliance **must** remain current throughout the semester in which the student enrolls or the student risks being dropped from courses.

DNP Degree Requirements

The DNP program is a 2-year, 45-semester credit hour (SCH) doctoral program. See [Plan of Progression](#) (POP). Requirements for earning the DNP degree include:

1. Completion of an approved program of study including 540 clinical hours, the majority of which (360) are completed in the last semester of the program as part of the capstone practicum
2. Initiation, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of a evidence-based clinical project (DNP project)
3. Development of a Clinical Scholarship Portfolio that demonstrates competency in evidence-based practice, clinical scholarship, and leadership skills including systems knowledge, information technology, policy expertise, and collaboration

Approved Program of Study

Foundation Core – The foundation core consists of five courses (17 SCH) that provide the groundwork for clinical practice at the doctoral level. Topics include project planning and development, theoretical and scientific underpinnings of doctoral level nursing practice, organizational and systems leadership, information systems/technology and advocacy in healthcare for qualify improvement transformation of health policy as needed for evolving clinical practice

- NURS 6200 Project Planning & Development (2 SCH)
- NURS 6310 Scholarly Foundation for DNP (3 SCH)
- NURS 6338 Advanced Health Policy and Bioethics (3 SCH)
- NURS 6320 Health Information Systems/ Technology (3 SCH)
- NURS 6330 Organization and Systems Leadership (3 SCH)
- Bio or Applied Statistics Course (3 SCH; course may be taken in other departments approved by DNP Director)

Doctoral Practice Core – The doctoral practice core consists of four courses (12 SCH) that enable the DNP graduate to analyze the role of genomics/genetics along with epidemiological, bio-statistical, occupational, and environmental data and utilize evidence-based practice in the development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical prevention (health promotion and risk reduction/illness prevention for individuals and families) and population health programs

- NURS 6340 Advanced Seminar in Clinical Genetics (3 SCH)
- NURS 6370 Epidemiology for Border Populations (3 SCH)
- NURS 6360 Translating Research to Practice (3 SCH)
- NURS 6380 Advanced Diagnostics (3 SCH)

DNP Clinical Core – The clinical core includes one course (4 SCH) that prepares the DNP graduate to generate evidence through practice that will guide improvement and outcomes of

care in the management of chronic illnesses commonly seen in the US/Mexico border populations.

- NURS 6470 Chronic Illness & the Border (4 SCH, includes 90 hours of practicum experience)

Capstone Project and Practicum – The capstone course project consists of four courses (12 SCH). This capstone experience allows the DNP student to demonstrate integration of theoretical and clinical knowledge of health needs of border populations.

- NURS 6190 Capstone Project I (1 SCH)
- NURS 6191 Capstone Project II (1 SCH)
- NURS 6292 Capstone Project III (2 SCH, includes 90 hours practicum experience)
- NURS 6893 Capstone Practicum (8 SCH, 360 hours of practicum experience

Plan of Progression (POP)

Fall Semester	SCH	Spring Semester	SCH	Summer Semester	SCH
Year 01					
NURS 6190 Capstone Project	1	NURS 6191 Capstone Project II	1	NURS 6360 Translating Research to Practice	3
NURS 6200 Project Planning & Development	2	NURS 6320 Health Information Systems/Tech	3	NURS 6370 Epidemiology Border Populations	3
NURS 6310 Scholarly Foundation for DNP	3	NURS 6338 Adv. Health Policy & Bioethics	3	NURS 6380 Advanced Diagnostics	3
NURS 6330 Org & Systems Leadership	3	Bio or Applied Statistics	3		
Total Semester SCH	**9**		**10**		**9**
Year 02					
NURS 6292 Capstone Project III (90 practicum hours)	2	NURS 6893 Capstone Practicum (360 hours)	8		
NURS 6340 Adv. Seminar Clinical Genetics	3				
NURS 6470 Chronic Illness & the Border	4				
Total Semester SCH	**9**		**8**		
				Total Program SCH	**45**

DNP Project

Learning culminates with the completion of an evidence-based synthesis project. The student must initiate the DNP project with advisor approval no later than the fourth semester of study while enrolled in NURS 6292 Capstone Project III. Students complete the DNP project during NURS 6893 Capstone Practicum experience. With input and guidance from the advisor/chair and other committee members, students disseminate results through scholarly poster and podium presentations. Graduation requirements include submission of at least one manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal. The completed project and all deliverables become part of the portfolio.

Clinical Scholarship Portfolio

Starting with their first doctoral level course and culminating in the completion of the evidence-based capstone project, students prepare and refine the portfolio through their educational preparation. The portfolio demonstrates mastery of the DNP competencies (AACN, 2006) in all domains. During the last semester of study, the student's DNP Capstone Project Committee will review the quality of the portfolio for scholarship and evidence of master of competencies. Upon approval by the committee, the student submits the portfolio to the graduate school as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the DNP degree. The portfolio is designed to

- Document and measure qualitative and quantitative characteristics of practicum encounters and other practicum learning experiences
- Evaluate competency in all domains if doctoral level practice (See *The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice*, AACN 2006*)
- Demonstrate leadership in evidence-based practice and the ability to generate evidence through practice that will guide improvements in practice and outcomes of care in the management of chronic illnesses commonly seen in the US-Mexico border populations
- Demonstrate clinical scholarship through dissemination of capstone project outcomes

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The Master of Science degree in Nursing (MSN) prepares professional nurses for post-graduate roles in a variety of advanced practice and specialty areas. Graduates have increased autonomy and independence in their practice and are eligible to apply for national certification. The degree of Master of Science in Nursing provides the graduate the opportunity to complete the following program outcomes[1]:

1. Synthesize theory and concepts from nursing and other disciplines for applications in the care of clients;
2. Provide advanced nursing care based upon in-depth client assessment in an area of specialization;
3. Evaluate ethical, moral, and legal precepts in client care;
4. Design culturally competent interventions based on current, valid evidence;
5. Apply research methods to investigate problems that influence advanced nursing care;
6. Analyze public policy and issues that affect advanced nursing practice and health care delivery systems;
7. Collaborate with other disciplines to provide care in a variety of settings;
8. Integrate peer review and/or peer guidance in advanced practice;
9. Participate in leadership and development of the profession; and
10. Enhance the basis for life-long learning and/or doctoral study.

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[1] The MSN Program Outcomes are based on the The Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing (AACN, 1996). As part of continuous quality improvement, graduate faculty are evaluating and revising MSN program outcomes and curriculum based on the 2011 AACN Essentials document.

MSN applicants have the choice of three majors: a) Nursing Education; b) Nurse Practitioner with concentrations in adult/gerontology acute care, family primary care, and pediatric primary care; and c) Nursing Systems Management. Total required semester hours vary from 33 to 49.

Interested nurses apply online through the Graduate School website and send official transcripts directly to the Graduate School. Applications are considered on an individual basis and are reviewed by the Graduate Studies Committee of the School of Nursing. After individual evaluation, the Dean of the Graduate School upon recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee makes the final decision regarding admission to specific SON majors.

Admission Requirements
1. Current registered nurse license in good standing in state or country where clinical or practicum coursework is completed
2. Completed application for graduate school at UTEP
3. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the United States or equivalent education at a foreign institution -**OR**-
   Alternative admission: Associate's degree in nursing from an accredited nursing program. These applicants **must** first complete undergraduate application and the following undergraduate courses: a) State of Texas core courses, b) pre-professional nursing courses, and c) the five RN-BSN courses with a grade of "B" or better. Once undergraduate courses are completed, students apply to graduate school and request acceptance into a nursing graduate major (Bachelor of Science in nursing degree **not** awarded).
4. Satisfactory score on TOEFL as defined by the graduate school for international applicants whose first language is not English or who have not completed a university degree in the U.S.
5. Demonstration of academic achievement and potential as indicated by
   a. Undergraduate or graduate coursework
   b. Statement of Purpose that includes
      i. Name and 800# if known
      ii. A personal goal statement demonstrating fit with specific major and concentration for which you are applying
      iii. Skills, talents, unique abilities, or community service essential to preferred advanced nursing role and concentration, including experience with diverse populations
      iv. Following format
         1. Word document with 500 words or less, 1 inch margins, 1.5 or double spaced, and 11 point Arial font.
         2. Strong flow and organization
         3. Proper sentence structure, syntax, punctuation, capitalization, etc.
      v. Current resume identifying appropriate objective related to graduate education

Online Learning Requirements
Because the MSN degree is online, most textbook and learning resources are online. To be successful, students **must** purchase or have accessible

- Computer with reliable internet access, Microsoft Office 2007 and other software essential for online learning (see Instructional Support Services for computer configuration assessment and readiness)
- Web camera and headset with microphone
- Point of service technology such as iTouch, smart phone, or an iPad/ tablet

Compliance Requirements
Compliance **must** remain current throughout the semester in which the student enrolls or the student risks being dropped from courses. Once admitted, students provide compliance documentation directly to the Compliance Officer. See compliance website for more information.

Travel Requirements
Graduate orientation, usually held in just prior to the start of the fall or the spring semester, is **mandatory** for all students. **Nursing Education or Nursing Systems Management** students may be required to travel to campus one or two additional times during the program. **Nurse practitioner** students are required to travel UTEP's campus a maximum of three times per semester during clinical coursework. This time is used for self and faculty evaluation of clinical competencies. Due to the limited number of appropriate clinical placements, nurse practitioner students may be required to travel 200 miles or more to fulfill clinical requirements. Students in the **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner** (ACNP) concentration are required to travel to Houston or another location for two weeks to precept at approved ACNP clinical sites.

Student Employment
Student employment is a personal decision; however, it is the student's responsibility to arrange work obligations to support the required educational commitments for classes and clinical experiences. We strongly encourage NP students in the last three semesters of study to immerse themselves into the role and to limit outside employment. The final capstone experience for the NSM major requires large blocks of time that will require employment arrangements to meet the course requirements. Classes are offered in a variety of time periods throughout the year to assist the students in minimizing conflicts.

MSN Degree Requirements
The School of Nursing attempts to accommodate flexibility in course offerings with respect to weekend, evening, and summer classes and online delivery. Courses with enrollment of less than seven individuals are subject to cancellation.

Graduate students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 ("B" average) in order to remain in good academic standing. Additionally, any graduate nursing student achieving less than a B in any of the Graduate Core or Advanced Practice Core courses must repeat the course and earn a grade of B or better. *Students earning two "C" grades in any graduate nursing course will be dismissed from the Graduate Nursing Program. Students earning a grade of "D" or "F" in any graduate nursing course will be dismissed from the Graduate Nursing Program.* All degree requirements for the MSN must be completed within six years.

End of Program Requirement (Culminating Experience)
The culminating experience demonstrates mastery of competencies expected of master's prepared nurses. The culminating experience is a non-thesis option required to complete the MSN degree. Preparation for the culminating experience occurs throughout the program. Defense and approval of culminating experience occurs during the last semester and evidence

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of successful completion is submitted to the Graduate School as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MSN degree.

- For students admitted **prior** to fall 2010, mastery is determined by successful completion of an oral comprehensive examination that reflects mastery of current MSN program outcomes and specialty knowledge and expertise related to their major. The policy for the qualifying oral examination is located in Appendix A.
- Students admitted **fall 2010 or later** must complete an electronic portfolio that demonstrates mastery of the The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (AACN, 2011). Specialty knowledge and expertise is incorporated into these essentials.

Majors with Semester Credit Hours (SCH) -- Once students are admitted to a graduate major or a certificate program, they must meet with their advisor and develop a plan of progression (POP). Deviation from POP requires advisor approval; and, in the case of the NP major may lead to dismissal from the program if the student is unable to complete prerequisite coursework for specialty or clinical courses.

Nursing Education Major (33 SCH 100% online)

This major prepares professional nurses to teach in academic and clinical settings. Student learning includes preparation across all nine masters' essential areas as described by AACN (2011), including graduate-level clinical practice content and experience. Additional preparation is offered in curriculum design and development, teaching methods, educational needs assessment, and learner-centered theories and methods.

Graduate Core (9 SCH)
- NURS 5310 Nursing Theories and Processes
- NURS 5370 Research Appraisal & Application
- NURS 5338 Health Law, Policy and Ethics

Advanced Practice Core (9 SCH)
- NURS 5303 Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 5319 Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 5362 Pharmacotherapeutics

Specialty Courses (15 SCH)
- NURS 5345 Curriculum Development
- NURS 5347 Effective Teaching Strategies
- NURS 5348 Evaluation of Learning
- NURS 5365 Managing Healthcare Outcomes
- NURS 5320 Health Informatics and Technology

Nurse Practitioner Major (49 SCH 100% online requires some travel)

All nurse practitioner concentrations are 49 semester credit hours. Available concentrations include a) adult/gerontology with an acute care focus (ACNP), b) family with primary care focus (FNP), and c) pediatrics with a primary care focus (PNP-PC). Clinical practicum time varies from

a minimum of 610-720 hours based on concentration and acquisition of competencies essential to practice. All nurse practitioner majors **must** complete the three core and three advanced practice core courses prior to starting clinical courses. Due to the competiveness of the major and limited clinical slots, students who deviate from their Plan of Progression (POP) for any reason will be dropped from the clinical cohort and **must** reapply to the NP major.

Post-Master's Nurse Practitioner Certificate (online requires some travel)

The SON offers a post-master's certificate that ranges from 29-31 semester hours for all concentrations (see table below). Degree plans are individualized for licensed APRNs who desire another specialty and require a minimum of 540 clinical hours. See Requirements and Process for Admission for graduate certificates.

Curriculum for nurse practitioner majors and post-master's certificates[2]. Curriculum is individualized for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) applying for post-master's certificate.				
Course #	Courses	ACNP	FNP	PNP-PC
Graduate Core: 9 credits				
Nurs 5310	Nursing Theories and Process	X	X	X
Nurs 5370	Research Appraisal & Application	X	X	X
Nurs 5338	Health Law, Policy and Ethics	X	X	X
Advanced Practice Core: 9 credits				
Nurs 5303	Advanced Health Assessment	X*	X*	X*
Nurs 5319	Advanced Pathophysiology	X*	X*	X*
Nurs5362	Pharmacotherapeutics	X*	X*	X*
Specialty Courses: 31 hours				
Nurs 5254	Advanced Practice Nursing Role	X**	X**	X**
Nurs 5260	Advanced Skills	X**		X**
Nurs 5367	Advanced Diagnostics	X**	**elective option**	X**
Nurs 5412	Childbearing / Childrearing Health		X**	X**
Nurs 5312	Childbearing / Childrearing Health Practicum		X**	X**
Nurs 5602	Adult and Geriatric Health	X**	X**	
Nurs 5302	Adult and Geriatric Health Practicum	X**	X**	
Nurs 5328	Alternative Healing Methods		**elective option**	
Nurs 5658	Pediatric Chronic Health Care			X**
Nurs 5358	Pediatric Chronic Health Practicum			X**
Nurs 5461	Acute & Critical Illness in Adults	X**		
Nurs 5361	Acute & Critical Illness Adult Practicum	X**		
Nurs 5472	Advanced Practice Clinical (180 hours)	X**	X**	X**
Nurs 5472	Advanced Practice Clinical (180 hours)	X**		X**
Nurs 5572	Advanced Practice Clinical (225 hours)	**APRN students seeking new specialty; check with advisor**		
Nurs 5672	Advanced Practice Clinical (270 hours)		X**	
	Elective 3 credits (must be approved)		X	

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* prerequisites for post-master's certificate **required courses for post-master's certificate

Nursing Systems Management (33 SCH 100% online)

This major prepares professional nurses to assume leadership and management roles in multiple nursing and healthcare settings from middle to upper management. The student will have practical experiences related to finance and budgeting, outcomes management, organizational design and culture, and in the management and administration of human and non-human resources advance in management and executive nursing leadership roles in various healthcare settings.

Graduate Core (9 SCH)
- NURS 5310 Nursing Theories and Processes
- NURS 5370 Research Appraisal & Application
- NURS 5338 Health Law, Policy and Ethics

Specialty Courses (18 SCH)
- NURS 5300 Organization Theory and Culture
- NURS 5335 Management Roles and Operations
- NURS 5337 Health Care Financial Management
- NURS 5365 Managing Healthcare Outcomes
- NURS 5366 Managing Diverse Work Teams
- NURS 5339 Nursing Management Residency (incl. 90 practicum hours)
- Electives (6 SCH approved by faculty director/advisor)

Graduate Certificates with Semester Credit Hour

In addition to the post-master's certificate for the NP concentrations, the SON offers two post-baccalaureate graduate certificates in nursing education and health care leadership and management. Each certificate is 9 semester credit hours and consists of three graduate courses.

Requirements and Process for Admission
1. Admission to the graduate school as a certificate student and approval of the Assistant Dean for Graduate Education in the School of Nursing.
2. During the application process, students will be asked to enter a code identifying major or certificate they wish to complete. The code for each of the certificates is listed after the title below.
3. The code for the post-mater's certificate as a nurse practitioner is PMSN; in addition, NP applicants will be asked to choose a concentration. See NP major above.

Grade Requirement: Students must earn a "B" or better in each of the 3 courses in order to earn the Graduate Certificate. Single courses may be taken for elective credit; however, the certificate will be granted only on completion of the 9 hour sequence.

Health Care Leadership and Management Certificate (HCLM) (9 SCH 100% online)

This post-baccalaureate certificate series is designed for nurses or others in healthcare administration or those planning to move into an administrative role. Focus is on the development or enhancement of leadership and management skills, especially those related to finance, such as development and managing a budget or identifying critical benchmarks and measuring outcomes. Nurses completing this certificate program will be eligible to apply for the **Nursing Systems Management** Concentration leading to a Master of Science degree in nursing.

Required Courses
- NURS 5335 Management Roles and Operations
- NURS 5337 Health Care Financial Management
- NURS 5365 Managing Healthcare Outcomes

Nursing Education Certificate (NEDU) (9 SCH 100% online)

This certificate program consists of 3 on-line graduate nursing courses and is designed to address the shortage of nursing faculty in nursing programs and to enhance the skills of practicing nurses as preceptors and facilitators of staff development or providers of patient education. Nurses completing this certificate program will be eligible to apply for the Nursing Education (NE) Concentration leading to a Master of Science degree in nursing.

Required Courses
- NURS 5345 Curriculum Development
- NURS 5347 Effective Teaching Strategies
- NURS 5348 Evaluation of Learning

Nursing (NURS) Courses

During fall and spring semesters concentrated courses are taught in 8 week blocks. Parts-of-term during the summer semester differ from the university calendar and may vary from 8 to 13 weeks dependent on the course. See Goldmine for start and end dates of all courses.

Numbers in parentheses following course titles are based on full 15 week semester and are to be interpreted as follows:

> First digit = number of didactic **contact** hours average per week
> Second digit = number of in-school laboratory **contact** hours average per week
> Third digit = number of off-campus practicum **contact** hours average per week

All numbers are based on a 15-week semester. Courses taught in compressed or alternate schedule must meet the same number of **total** hours as if offered on the standard 15-week semester schedule. Actual time per week may vary accordingly.

Independent Study (variable credit) -- A course designed by the student to meet an individual learning need that may be used for didactic or clinical learning in any major. *Prerequisites*: Instructor approval and consent of Graduate Faculty Advisor

5194 Independent Study (1-0-0) didactic or **(0-0-3)** practicum
5294 Independent Study (2-0-0) didactic or **(0-0-6)** practicum
5394 Independent Study (2-0-0) didactic or **(0-0-9)** practicum

5254   Advanced Practice Nursing Role (2-0-0)
Competence in the domain of the professional role of advanced practice nursing is the focus of this course. Students will develop expertise in articulating the emerging roles of the professional nurse in advanced practice in a variety of clinical settings and examine the legal and ethical implications of advanced practice. *Prerequisite*: Admission into NP concentration and approval by graduate advisor. *Usually offered during January mini-mester.*

5260 Advanced Skills (2-0-0)
Focus in on the development of skills essential to advanced practice nursing. Based on best-practice models, participants determine when and how to implement skills and evaluate outcome. *Prerequisite:* Admission to ACNP or PNP major or practicing NP with departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year in the summer; may require lab time.*

5300 Organizational Theory and Culture (3-0-0)
Examination of organizational and management theories and research that guide effective management practice in integrated care delivery systems and managed care settings. Management/organizational theories include adaptation-innovation theory, interpersonal relationship theories, situational leadership, power, change, and conflict. The management process is detailed. Research and theory on diversity, particularly cultural diversity, is integrated into management theory and practice. Organizational culture is viewed as a primary influencer of organizational behavior, dynamics, and management behavior. Departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year in spring.*

5302 Adult & Geriatric Health Practicum (0-0-9)
Application of didactic content from N5602 in community-based and institutional settings. Co-requisite: N5602. (Requires 135 clinical hours or more as needed to demonstrate competency). *Usually offered every semester; in summer offered over 13-weeks; may require up to three visits to campus*

5303 Advanced Health Assessment (3-0-0)
Didactic and clinical experiences that provide students with the knowledge and skills for performing a comprehensive assessment. Obtained data will be used to make a diagnosis of health status leading to the formulation of a clinical management plan. *Prerequisite*: Core courses and departmental approval. Equipment Maintenance fee required. *Usually offered every semester; in summer offered over 13-weeks.*

5310 Nursing Theories and Processes (3-0-0)
Focuses on the emergence of nursing as a scholarly discipline, patterns of knowing in nursing, and the synthesis of theory and concepts from nursing and other disciplines for use in evidence-based practice *Prerequisite*: Admission. *Usually offered every semester in 8 week concentrated format* (first half of the fall and spring semester)

5312 Child-bearing/Childrearing Health Practicum (0-0-9)

Application of didactic content from N5412 in community-based and institutional settings. *Prerequisite*: Admission into the NP major; completion of all core and advanced practice core courses. *Co-requisite:* N5412 (135 clinical hours (135 hours clinical time or more as needed to demonstrate competency) *Usually offered fall or spring semester;* may require up to three visits to campus.

5319 Advanced Pathophysiology (3-0-0)

Examines the processes involved in and manifestations of altered physiological functioning across the lifespan. Builds on knowledge of basic physiologic and pathophysiologic processes and is foundational to advanced practice nursing roles. *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered every semester; in summer offered over 13 weeks.*

5320 Health Informatics and Technology (3-0-0)

This course will focus on current and emerging information and communication technologies that support safe practice environments, cost-effective care, and optimum health outcomes. *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Offered once a year in the fall.*

5328 Alternative Healing Methods (3-0-0)

This course focuses on alternative healing methods for personal or professional use. Participants will explore similarities among different modalities and identify ways to incorporate methods into professional practice based on the values and beliefs of individual patients/clients. *Usually offered mini-mesters in hybrid format.* This course is cross-listed at the undergraduate, master, and doctoral level to enhance diversity in learning. It may be used as an elective to satisfy requirement in FNP concentration and is open to the university community.

5335 Management Roles and Operations (3-0-0)

This course focuses on theories and principles of leadership, administration, and management for mid-level managers in supervision and administration. Social changes and trends are discussed in relationship to quality care needs in acute, rehabilitative, and primary care health care agencies in both urban and rural settings. Students formulate a philosophy for administrative practice consistent with standards in nursing practice, education, and research. Prerequisite: Departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year during summer semester over 8 weeks.*

5337 Health Care Financial Management (3-0-0)

An introduction to basic financial and accounting concepts relating to health care management. Programming, budgeting, and controlling processes in health care organizations will be discussed within the nurse manager's role. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year in the fall.*

5338 Health Law, Policy, and Ethics (3-0-0)

Health care policy creates a framework that impacts the delivery of health care services and the ability of the provider to engage in practice to address health care needs. Emphasis is on legal concepts and bioethical principles that shape practice, prevent liability, and assist in public policy development related to the delivery of nursing and health care in various settings. *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered all semesters; may be offered in concentrated 8 week format during fall, spring, and summer*.

5339 Nursing Management Residency (1-0-6)
Students develop competencies as a nurse manager under the guidance of a preceptor. Focus is on analysis and evaluation of management policies, issues, and challenges to include providing culturally competent care though managing a culturally diverse work force. Synthesizing knowledge from previous courses, students complete a comprehensive assessment of an aspect of the health care organization, design and, where possible, implement change strategies. (90 clinical hours) *Prerequisites*: SON core courses; NURS 5300, NURS 5335, NURS 5337, NURS 5365, and NURS 5366 each with a grade of "B" or better. *Usually offered twice a year.*

5345 Curriculum Development (3-0-0)
Focuses on the principles, processes and issues of evidence-based curricular design for nursing education *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered twice a year as 8 week concentrated format in summer and fall semesters.*

5347 Effective Teaching Strategies (3-0-0)
Focuses on evidence-based course design with emphasis on effective teaching strategies using diverse delivery methods in various settings *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered twice a year as 8 week concentrated format in fall and spring semesters.*

5348 Evaluation of Learning (3-0-0)
Focuses on evidence-based course design with emphasis on formative and summative assessment strategies in the classroom and clinical settings *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered twice a year as 8 week concentrated format in summer and spring semesters.*

5358 Pediatric Chronic Health Practicum (0-0-9)
Practicum associated with NURS 5658. (135 clinical hours or more as needed to demonstrate competency) *Prerequisite:* NURS 5312/5412; *Co-requisite*: Enrollment in NURS 5658. *Usually offered once a year in the spring;* may require up to three visits to campus.

5361 Acute and Critical Illness Adult Practicum (0-0-9)
Practicum associated with NURS 5461. (135 clinical hours or more as needed to demonstrate competency) *Prerequisite:* NURS 5302/5602; *Co-requisite*: Enrollment in NURS 5461. *Usually offered once a year in the spring;* may require up to three visits to campus.

5362 Pharmacotherapeutics (3-0-0)
Analysis of pharmacologic fundamentals relating to selection, screening, and use of prescriptive and non-prescriptive drugs throughout the life cycle. *Prerequisites*: NURS 5319 with a grade of "B" or better or equivalent and departmental approval. *Usually offered every semester; in summer offered over 13-weeks.*

5365 Managing Health Care Outcomes (3-0-0)
Performance and outcome standards used by industry, regulatory and accreditation bodies are applied to improvement of clinical and administrative outcomes in health care programs and organizations. Measurement and management of individuals and populations of culturally diverse backgrounds are stressed. Evidence-based practice and the relationship of quality/performance to cost are core themes. Students focus on measurement and management

of outcomes through development of a performance improvement project in a clinical setting. *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year in the spring.*

5366 Managing Diverse Work Teams (3-0-0)

Human resources management in health care systems. Emphasis is on managing diversity in recruiting, interviewing, evaluating, and promoting staff. Laws and regulations related to equal employment opportunity are integrated. Students analyze models and research that foster work team transformations that result in enhanced individual, team and organizational productivity. Departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year in fall.*

5367 Advanced Diagnostics (3-0-0)

Focus is on managing complex healthcare problems along the border through the development of evidence-based diagnostic and clinical decision-making skills. Participants evaluate use of advanced diagnostic techniques in terms of best evidence, client values/beliefs, available resources, and clinical expertise. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval. *Usually offered once a year in the summer; may require lab time.*

5370 Research Appraisal & Application I (3-0-0)

This course provides the foundation for research appraisal and application to practice. *Prerequisite*: Departmental approval. *Usually offered every semester in 8 week concentrated format* (second half of the fall and spring semester)

5380 Special Topics in Nursing (3-0-0)

May be repeated as topic varies.

5412 Childbearing/Rearing Health (4-0-0)

Focuses on the recognition, management, and evaluation of common health conditions from birth through young adulthood. The impact of culture and child development, parenting styles, and family health care practices as well as strategies for health promotion and disease prevention are covered. *Prerequisite:* All core and advanced practice core courses; *Co-requisite*: NURS 5312. *Usually offered fall or spring semester;* may require up to three visits to campus.

5461 Acute and Critical Illness in Adults (4-0-0)

The course focuses on stabilization of adults with acute or traumatic health conditions and exacerbations of complex, chronic illness. Participants formulate a plan of care and implement interventions to support the patient with a rapid deterioration in physiologic conditions, including the application of basic and advanced life support and other invasive or procedures to regain physiologic stability. In addition, participants manage patient and family response to life support strategies to optimize outcomes. *Prerequisite:* Admission into ACNP major; NURS 5302/5602; *Co-requisite*: Enrollment in NURS 5361. *Usually offered once a year in the summer over 13 weeks;* may require up to three visits to campus.

5472 Advanced Practice Clinical (0-0-12)

Application of synthesis of learning for advanced practice role across settings with diverse populations. Students are placed in clinical settings essential to meeting competencies specific to NP concentration. (180 clinical hours or more as needed to demonstrate competency). *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval; ACNP and PNP-PC students will enroll in two separate sections to ensure adequate practicum hours**.** *Co-requisite for FNP students: N5672. Usually*

offered every semester; in summer offered over 13 weeks; may require up to three visits to campus.

5511 GNP Certification Review
Course Description: This on-line course meets the required 75 contact hours of didactic content for *Alternative Eligibility for Gerontological Nurse Practitioner (GNP) Certification* established by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Family, Adult, and Acute Care NPs who take this course and meet the practice requirements listed by the ANCC (see www.nursecredentialing.org/) will be allowed to take the ANCC certification examination for GNP. Course content follows the specific guidelines for this alternative GNP certification process determined by the ANCC. *Pre-requisites:* For Post Master's Students: Graduation from a Master's program and valid ANCC certification as an ACNP, ANP, or FNP and Departmental Approval. For currently registered MSN students: Satisfactory completion of N5502/5302 Adult and Geriatric Health with a grade of a B or higher and Departmental Approval. *Usually offered once a year; semester varies.*

N5572 Advanced Practice Clinical (0-0-15)
Application of synthesis of learning for advanced practice role across settings with diverse populations. Students are placed in clinical settings essential to meeting competencies specific to NP concentration. (225 clinical hours or more as needed to demonstrate competency). *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval**.** *Offered as needed for post-master's APRN students*; may require up to three visits to campus.

5602 Adult Geriatric Health (6-0-0)
Course description: Utilize chronic illness management model to optimize health of adults and older adults. Emphasis is on the management of common acute and chronic conditions in this age group, as well as issues related to end of life care. Prerequisite: admission into NP major. Co-requisite: N5302. *Usually offered every semester*; in summer offered over 13 weeks; may require up to three visits to campus.

5658 Pediatric Chronic Health Care (6-0-0)
Course Description: The focus is the assessment and management of chronic health conditions or problems of children and adolescents within the context of the family and community with an emphasis on stabilization, minimization of physical and psychological complications and maximization of the patient's health potential. *Prerequisite:* Admission into NP major; *Co-requisite*: Enrollment in NURS 5358. *Usually offered once a year in the spring;* may require up to three visits to campus.

5672 Advanced Practice Clinical (0-0-18)
Application of synthesis of learning for advanced practice role across settings with diverse populations. Students are placed in clinical settings essential to meeting competencies specific to NP concentration. (270 clinical hours or more as needed to demonstrate competency). *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval. *Co-requisite for FNP students: N5672. Usually offered every semester*; in summer offered over 13 weeks; may require up to three visits to campus.

6328 Alternative Healing Methods (3-0-0)
This course focuses on alternative healing methods for personal or professional use. Participants will explore similarities among different modalities and identify ways to incorporate methods into professional practice based on the values and beliefs of individual patients/clients.

Usually offered mini-mesters in hybrid format. This course is cross-listed at the undergraduate, master, and doctoral level to enhance diversity in learning. It may be used as an elective to satisfy requirement in FNP concentration and is open to the university community.

6190 Capstone Project I (1-0-0)
This course focuses on the overall components of the individual student's completed capstone project development. It includes writing for publication and preliminary development of the pan and methodology. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6191 Capstone Project II (1-0-0)
This course continues to focus focuses on the development of the individual student's capstone, including refinement of the plan and methodology. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6200 Project Planning and Development (2-0-0)
This course will address all aspects of project planning and development as a preliminary step to the students' selection of a topic or phenomenon of interest for the doctoral synthesis project that will incorporate well-built questions, search strategies and outcomes, identification of resources needed, plan for evaluation and dissemination. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6292 Capstone Project III (0-0-6)
This course continues to focus focuses on the development and implementation of the components of the capstone project. Course includes 90 clock hours of practicum experience. *Prerequisites:* Departmental approval and NURS 6190, 6191, 6360, 6370, 6380.

6310 Scholarly Foundations for DNP (3-0-0)
This foundational course focuses on analyzing DNP competencies, roles & scholarship within the clinical practice doctorate. The theoretical basis for practice, including nursing and related theories, is explored and the major concepts of evidence-based practice (EBP) for individuals and populations, leadership, inquiry, innovation/change, interprofessional collaboration/teams, and evaluation are critically analyzed as fundamental components of DNP practice. Health informatics as an integral component of EBP is discussed. Practice inquiry is analyzed as a means to guide science-based practice. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6320 Health Information Systems/Technology (3-0-0)
This course covers informatics in health care delivery and is designed to be multi-disciplinary in nature and will provide a broad overview of the clinical aspects of information technology, focusing on hardware, software, and conceptual models of information. Exploration and evaluation of different data types and models, both discipline specific and interdisciplinary in nature, will be covered. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6330 Organizational & Systems Leadership (3-0-0)
This course focuses on the dynamic and complex health care system and imperatives to deliver quality health care through clinical initiatives based on evidence-based practice, industry standards, key outcome indications, and cost-quality directives. Organizational change, innovations, system leadership, organizational culture, business and finance, communications, marketing, models of performance improvement, and evaluation are addressed. The role of interprofessional practice and collaboration within teams is examined to analyze contributions to quality outcomes. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6338 Advanced Health Policy & Bioethics (3-0-0)

This course focuses on the ethical analysis of complex patient care dilemmas and use of an ethical framework in the analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation of policies related to healthcare, financing, practice regulation, assessment, patient safety, quality, and efficacy. The policy process, both ideal and practical, will be examined. Examination of how health policy legislation is developed and evolves, including analysis of intended and unintended consequences, and discussions of current health care paradigm, health care reforms, and current events and issues will be covered. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6340 Advanced Seminar in Clinical Genetics (3-0-0)

The focus of this course will be on human genetic and gene abnormalities and the incorporation of sequence-based health care within evidence-based practice. The course will incorporate new information for the Human Genome Project (HGP), as well as the history and evolution of genetic counseling and the ethical and legal issues that arise daily in these rapidly changing fields. *Prerequisites:* Departmental approval and NURS 6310, 6320, 6338.

6360 Translating Research to Practice (3-0-0)

This course provides the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skill in evidence-based practice (EBP) that will assist in moving clinical practice to an evidence-based foundation and provides the essential principles, skills, and tools of evidence-based nursing practice. Special emphasis will focus on formulating a question, searching/ appraising the literature/evidence and use of the best evidence. Methods of assessing results relative to interventions, harm, diagnosis, prognosis, and risk and differentiation between EBP, quality improvement, and research utilization will be presented. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6370 Epidemiology Border Populations (3-0-0)

This course uses the current concepts of public health, evidence-based recommendations for health promotion and disease prevention, cultural and socioeconomic determinants of health, and cultural diversity and sensitivity to guide DNP practice. Participants will analyze epidemiological, bio-statistical, occupational and environmental data to develop, implement, and evaluate clinical prevention and population health along the US-Mexico border. *Prerequisites:* Departmental approval, bio or applied statistics course, and NURS 6310, 6320, 6330, 6338.

6380 Advanced Diagnostics (3-0-0)

The course focus is on managing complex healthcare problems along the border through the development of evidence-based diagnostic and clinical decision-making skills. Participants evaluate use of advanced diagnostic techniques in terms of best evidence, client values/beliefs, available resources, and clinical expertise. *Prerequisite:* Departmental approval.

6470 Chronic Illness & the Border (2-0-6)

Students with guidance/ mentoring by DNP faculty & community mentors will synthesize, integrate, and translate knowledge/skills into evidence-based management of health disparities common to US-Mexico border populations. Focus will be on aging populations along the border or complex, chronic health needs of individuals of any age with mental illness, chronic pain, diabetes, hypertension, pulmonary conditions, or infectious disease and the coordination of care across settings. Seminars will guide the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating therapeutic, cost-effective interventions for a culturally diverse population. Includes 90 clock hours of practicum experience. *Prerequisites:* Departmental approval and NURS 6360.

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6893 Capstone Practicum (0-0-24)
This is the culminating clinical practicum course designated to provide participants with the opportunity synthesize and integrate the knowledge they have acquired in advanced practice settings. In consultation with faculty and community mentors, students will select an area of clinical practice and implement advanced clinical decision-making in the provision of culturally appropriate, patient-centers, evidence-based care. Students will develop case presentations from their experiences. Course includes 360 clock hours of practicum experience. *Prerequisites:* Departmental approval and NURS 6296, 6240, 6470.

Appendix A

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA
MASTER'S COMPLETION COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OPTION
SCHOOL OF NURSING THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Students enrolled in a major in the Graduate Nursing Program, School of Nursing, The University of Texas at El Paso, are required to successfully complete a thesis[3] or a comprehensive examination in order to graduate. Students complete their comprehensive examination during the last semester of their formal academic program. Academic Advisors in each major are responsible for informing the Graduate Nursing Office of eligible students at the start of each semester. The Graduate Nursing Office will confirm eligibility by reviewing student records to assure that: (a) all incompletes have been removed; (b) all coursework for the master's degree in nursing is completed or final courses are in progress; and (c) the student has a 3.0 GPA or above. The guidelines and criteria for the non-thesis option is described below.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION
Description
This option requires master's candidates to pass a comprehensive examination (commonly referred to as "orals") covering all coursework required for the degree in their field of study. The examination is primarily an oral examination and it allows students to demonstrate a synthesis of coursework in their major. Emphasis is placed on demonstration of the relevance of coursework for practice. Students and faculty are encouraged to arrange multiple experiences in synthesis and application to practice throughout the program.

Examination Committee
The members of the committee must have temporary or permanent graduate faculty status. Two members of the committee must be from the School of Nursing, including at least one member from the student's major. One of these members will also serve as chair. The third member should be from outside the School and have temporary or permanent graduate faculty status within the University. Students and faculty are strongly advised to formalize committee membership by their second to last semester.

Examination Process
At the beginning of the semester in which the examination will be offered, the designated chair will provide the student with the following information regarding the process and scheduling of the examination (this can be done in person and/or via official email):

1. Approximately four weeks prior to the oral examination date, students will be directed by the chair to review the examination questions (see questions below). The chair will instruct students in the intent or spirit of the examination.
2. The student will write and submit to the chair of the comprehensive examination committee abstracts of their responses two weeks prior to the date of the oral examination. The abstracts will consist of a maximum of 500 words for each question (approximately one to two, double-spaced, computer-generated pages per question). A reference list must follow the response to each question. With the approval of the

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[3] Addendum: MSN students are offered a non-thesis option as the culminating experience. Thesis coursework was eliminated per university policy after lack of enrollment in any of the thesis courses for over five years. kr

Academic Advisor, the student may submit a synthesis project/paper in place of the abstracts.
3. The examination will be held at the scheduled date and time. The chair will bring the required examination form to the meeting and conduct the examination session. After the examination is completed, the chair will excuse the student from the room so that an evaluation of student performance can be made among committee members. The student will be notified of the results after the chair invites them back into the examination room.
4. If the student passes the examination, the chair certifies the student has successfully passed by ensuring completion and submission of the required form.
5. If the student fails the examination, the chair notifies the student and graduate school of the failure.

Passing and Failing
A student passes the oral comprehensive examination with approval by at least two of the three members of the committee. Grading on the examination will be on a pass/fail basis. In accord with university policy, a master's candidate may be dropped from the graduate nursing program after a first or second failure of the oral comprehensive examination, upon the recommendation of the examination committee. Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to take the examination more than three times. The committee will be responsible for formulating a remediation plan if a student is allowed to retake the examination.

Questions
The following questions are to be used across all majors. The committee can modify them in form.
1. Citing relevant theory, research and clinical literature, describe your practice area to a person unfamiliar with master's level practice in nursing. For example, how would you describe your scope of practice? With what health needs or problems do nurses in this area concern themselves? Discuss therapeutic interventions that define your practice area. What distinctive contributions do nurses make in this practice area?
2. What theoretical framework have you found to be most useful in your practice? Describe this framework and how it guides you in practice.
3. Identify a problem in your area of practice. How can the process of evidence-based practice be used to address this problem and to advance nursing practice in this area?

Criteria
Criteria (equally weighted) used to determine student performance on the examination include:
1. Demonstrates integration and synthesis of literature relevant to the student's master's level practice role.
2. Accurately represents theoretical concepts, models and frameworks that are used in an appropriate context, e. g., to accurately portray problems and therapeutic interventions in the student's master's level practice area.
3. Clearly and coherently communicates the student's point of view to committee members.
4. Specifically answers questions asked during the oral examination.

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Appendix B
GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA
MASTER'S COMPLETION ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO CULMINATING EXPERIENCE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO SCHOOL OF NURSING

What is an electronic portfolio?
An electronic portfolio is a compilation of assignments or projects that reflect an individual's progress throughout the graduate program. These assignments are exemplars of advanced nursing practice. Assignments or projects will be uploaded into a secure database known as E*Value. This electronic file acts as a permanent archive for clinical logs and didactic work completed in the core and specialty courses.

Why do we need an electronic Portfolio?
Portfolios are a way to measure and document achievement of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program learning outcomes, as well as specialty competencies essential for national certification. In nursing, these outcomes reflect The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (AACN, 2011) and will be used to meet evaluation criteria for ongoing accreditation. See End of Program Requirement.

What will be included in the electronic portfolio?
The portfolio will include exemplars of your work that best reflect each of the first eight Master's Level Essentials. A synthesis statement will reflect your understanding of the Essential based on your didactic and clinical development throughout the Master's program.
Successful defense of portfolio is evidence for MSN essential #9. Work with your director regarding the portfolio defense, as it may vary depending on major or concentration.

Exemplars
- An exemplar is an individual assignment or a group project that has received a grade of 80% or higher in any of the core or specialty courses.
- The exemplar that you choose should reflect your overall understanding of the specific Master Level Essential that you are considering uploading.

Synthesis Statement
- Brief and concise body of text that reflects an in depth understanding of each Master's Essential based on your clinical and didactic knowledge acquired within the Master's of Nursing Program.
- You will be required to complete a synthesis statement for each of the first 8 Essentials.

How will the Portfolio be evaluated?
- The student is responsible for uploading exemplars that have earned 80% (B) or higher grade.
- A grading rubric will be utilized by Faculty to determine your depth and understanding of each of the *"Essentials".* If your synthesis statement does not meet the minimal standards you will be asked to resubmit your synthesis statement.
- In your last semester your faculty advisor will review all documents submitted into E*Value to ensure that each student has met the guidelines and expectations identified for the electronic portfolio.

- Additional requirements such as an oral defense of the electronic portfolio may be required and will be determined by the Director of your program.

How do I get started?
1. You will first need to download a pdf file or purchase hard copy of **The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (AACN, 2011)**.
2. You will then need to access E*Value with a valid ID and password. If you do not have access contact your advisor/director for assistance.
3. Each semester we recommend that you archive your course assignments and/or projects on your computer. You may choose to develop a system that files these exemplars of work according to the "*Essential*" that _you believe_ it best reflects. It will be your responsibility to identify a _maximum of 2 assignments and/or projects for each "Essential" for your final electronic portfolio submission_.
4. You can upload an assignment or project that you believe best reflects one of the eight Master's Essentials anytime during the graduate program.
5. Also, you can also remove an exemplar at any time during the program if you believe another exemplar better represents that specific Master's Essential.
6. Synthesis statements are best completed after you have entered your final two semesters. It is at this time that you will have the tools and the knowledge to best reflect on your education as you apply it to the Master Level Essentials.

Additional Criteria / Instructions
- Remember you are limited to uploading _2 assignments and/or projects per "Essential"._
- Each exemplar of work must have received a grade of _80% (B) or greater_ in the course that it was completed within.
- All exemplars must be uploaded in _PDF format only or untamperable media file_
- Synthesis statements are required for each of the first eight Master's Essentials.
- Synthesis statements must be in PDF format only and follow APA current edition formatting. A _maximum of two pages_ will be strictly enforced.
- Webinars will also be made available for additional information / instructions regarding the electronic portfolio.

Finally, the director or your major/concentration or a designated faculty member will identify a deadline for completion of the electronic portfolio, usually in the final semester of the program. Adequate time must be allowed for final review of the electronic portfolio (and possible resubmission of work) before final approval can be made.

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	Exemplar (evidence)	Synthesis (how exemplar fuflfills essential)
The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (2011) is the link to the essentials document. Refer to this document as needed when preparing your portfolio.[4]	This column will have placeholder to upload evidence (usually one PDF document and one media file)	This column will be placeholder for synthesis and allow PDF upload
1. Background for Practice from Sciences and Humanities – a master's prepared nurse integrates scientific findings from nursing, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, quality improvements, and organizational sciences for the continual improvement of nursing care across diverse settings.		
2. Organizational and Systems Leadership -- a master's prepared nurse recognizes that organizational and systems leadership are critical to the promotion of high quality and safe patient care. Leadership skills are needed that emphasize ethical and critical decision-making, effective relationships, and systems perspective.		
3. Quality Improvement & Safety -- a master's prepared nurse **must** be able to articulate in the methods, tools, performance measures and standards related to quality, as well as, prepared to apply quality principles within an organization.		
4. Translating & Integrating Scholarship into Practice -- a master's prepared nurse applies research outcomes within the practice setting, resolves practice problems, works as change agents, and disseminates results.		
5. Informatics & Healthcare Technologies -- a master's prepared nurse uses patient care technologies to deliver enhanced care and uses communication technologies to integrate and coordinate care.		
6. Health Policy & Advocacy -- a master's prepared nurse is able to intervene at the system level through policy development process and to employ advocacy		

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[4] This is a sample table for ease of viewing; actual appearance in E*Value may differ.

The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (2011) is the link to the essentials document. Refer to this document as needed when preparing your portfolio.[4]	Exemplar (evidence)	Synthesis (how exemplar fuflfills essential)
strategies to influence health and healthcare.		
7. Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient & Population Outcomes -- a master's prepared nurse as a member and leader of Interprofessional teams communicates, collaborates, and consults with other health professionals to manage and coordinate care.		
8. Clinical Prevention & Population Health for Improving Health -- a master's prepared nurse applies and integrates broad, organizational, client-centered, and culturally-appropriate concepts in the planning, delivery, management, and evaluation of evidence-based clinical prevention and population care and services to individuals, families, and aggregates/identified populations.		
9. Master's Level Nursing Practice recognizes that nursing practice, at the master's level, is broadly defined as any form of nursing intervention that influences health care outcomes for individuals, populations, or systems. Mater's level nursing graduate **must** have an advanced understanding of nursing and sciences, as well as the ability to integrate this knowledge into practice. Nursing practice interventions include both direct and indirect care components.	Evidence will be the portfolio defense **as defined** by the director of the major	Reflection

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