

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN) DEGREE PROGRAM

## EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2018



### ABOUT THIS DEGREE PROGRAM

The Chamberlain **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)** degree program prepares the graduate to assume advanced roles in nursing administration, education, informatics, healthcare policy and clinical practice. The graduate applies acquired knowledge of leadership skills in educational, organizational and practice settings.

The graduate attains proficiency in systematic inquiry with the use of evidence-based knowledge, which supports contributions to society and the nursing profession. This degree program provides a foundation for doctoral study, lifelong learning and continued scholarship.

**The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program** is a graduate degree program designed to prepare nurses for expanding roles in healthcare and enhance their opportunities for professional advancement. The minimum credit hours required to graduate and earn a Master of Science in Nursing degree is 36 semester-credit hours. Students may select one of five specialty tracks: Educator, Executive, Family Nurse Practitioner, Healthcare Policy or Informatics. Program, program options and specialty track approval varies by state. A student may expect to complete the program in six to eight semesters of full-time study comprised of one to two courses per semester, three semesters per year, for a total of six to eight semesters, depending on which specialty track is pursued. Students in the Educator, Executive and Healthcare Policy Specialty Tracks are required to complete a 144 hour\* practicum. Students in the Informatics Specialty Track must complete a 216-hour\*\* practicum. Students in the Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty Track must complete 625 hours of practicum and 25 hours of lab at a designated location. Students are responsible for identifying a practicum location and mentor or preceptor that meet the criteria established by Chamberlain University's College of Nursing. Students are assisted in this effort by a practicum coordinator. Students must have an active and unrestricted nursing license in the state where they will complete their practicum.

National certifications are available to graduates in select specialties.

The **RN-BSN to MSN option\*\*\*** allows eligible RN students who are working towards their BSN degree at Chamberlain to apply for admission to the MSN degree program prior to completing the BSN degree program. RN-BSN to MSN students complete the degree requirements for the BSN degree program while enrolled in the MSN degree program by taking selected MSN courses in place of two required BSN courses. The MSN courses offer a more focused, higher level of content than the corresponding BSN courses. Students meet program outcomes for the BSN degree through completion of the BSN curriculum with six alternate credit hours of select MSN coursework.

\* 100-hour practicum is required for students enrolled prior to March 2017.

\*\* 200-hour practicum is required for students enrolled prior to March 2017.

\*\*\* Students opting for this dual enrollment have the option to complete the final two courses in the BSN curriculum and to exit the program with a BSN degree at any time.

### CORE-DEGREE COURSEWORK

**Degree: Master of Science in Nursing**  
**Semesters: 6-8 Full Time (36-45 credit hours)**

#### MSN Core Courses

Courses	Credits
NR-500: Foundational Concepts & Applications	3
NR-501: Theoretical Basis for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NR-504: Leadership & Nursing Practice: Role Development (Executive, Educator, Healthcare Policy and Informatics Specialty Tracks only)	3
NR-505: Advanced Research Methods: Evidence-Based Practice	3
NR-506: Healthcare Policy	3
NR-512: Fundamentals of Nursing Informatics	3

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### AVAILABLE SPECIALIZATIONS

Graduates of **Chamberlain's Master of Science in Nursing degree program with a specialization as a Nurse Educator** may be prepared for careers including, but not limited to\*:

- Community Health Leader
- Coordinator of Education (Clinical Facility)
- Educational Consultant
- Educational Entrepreneur
- Educational Leadership
- Educational Specialist (Drug, Research or Medical Equipment Company)
- Nurse Educator/College Professor
- Patient Educator (Various Venues)
- Staff Development Leader

For more information about national certification in nursing education, visit [nln.org/certification](http://nln.org/certification).

Graduates of **Chamberlain's Master of Science in Nursing degree program with a specialization as a Nurse Executive** may be prepared for careers including, but not limited to\*:

- College Nursing Program Dean
- Director of Nursing
- Educational Leadership
- Healthcare Administrator
- Nurse Coordinator
- Nurse Manager

For more information about national certification as a nurse executive, visit [nursecredentialing.org/certification](http://nursecredentialing.org/certification) or [aone.org](http://aone.org).

**The Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty Track** graduates will be eligible to provide primary care to patients across the lifespan in a variety of outpatient settings. Upon successful completion of the program, students may sit for the national certification examination and may be prepared to enter the workforce in an entry-level position. Examples of outpatient primary care settings include, but are not limited to\*:

- College Health
- Family Practice
- Health Department
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatric Primary Care
- Retail Clinics
- Women's Health

\* Some careers may require several years of experience in addition to educational credentials.

### CAREER FOCUSED COURSEWORK

#### Nurse Educator Specialty Track Courses

Courses	Credits
NR-524: Curriculum Development	3
NR-535: Theoretical Foundations and Instructional Strategies for Nurse Educators	3
NR-536: Advanced Pathophysiology, Health Assessment and Pharmacology for Nurse Educators: Experiential Learning	3
NR-537: Assessment and Evaluation in Education	3
NR-621: Nurse Educator Concluding Graduate Experience I	3
NR-622: Nurse Educator Concluding Graduate Experience II	3

#### Nurse Executive Specialty Track Courses

Courses	Credits
NR-531: Nursing Leadership in Healthcare Organizations	3
NR-532: Healthcare Operational Planning & Management	3
NR-533: Financial Management in Healthcare Organizations	3
NR-534: Healthcare Systems Management	3
NR-631: Nurse Executive Concluding Graduate Experience I	3
NR-632: Nurse Executive Concluding Graduate Experience II	3

#### Family Nurse Practitioner Specialty Track Courses

Courses	Credits
NR-503: Population Health, Epidemiology & Statistical Principles	3
NR-507: Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NR-508: Advanced Pharmacology	3
NR-509: Advanced Physical Assessment (L=25)	3
NR-510: Leadership and Role Development of the Advanced Practice Nurse	3
NR-511: Differential Diagnosis & Primary Care Practicum (C=125)	3
NR-601: Primary Care of the Maturing & Aged Family Practicum (C=125)	3
NR-602: Primary Care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family Practicum (C=125)	3
NR-603: Advanced Clinical Diagnosis & Practice Across the Lifespan Practicum (C=125)	3
NR-661: APN Capstone Practicum (C=125)	3

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### AVAILABLE SPECIALIZATIONS (CONTINUED)

Graduates of Chamberlain's **Master of Science in Nursing degree program with a specialization in Nursing Healthcare Policy** may be prepared for careers including, but not limited to\*:

- Director of Nursing
- Director of Public Health Policy and Practice Advocacy
- Global Health Positions (e.g. World Health Organization)
- Health Communications Coordinator
- Health Services Consultant
- Infection Control Nurse (Entry-Level to Executive)
- Legislative Staff Member/Consultant (Full-Time Positions)
- Policy Writer/Presenter (Organizations, Companies, Government)
- Public Health (Entry-Level to Executive)
- Research Project Coordinator
- Senior Healthcare Quality Researcher

Graduates of Chamberlain's **Master of Science in Nursing degree program with a specialization in Nursing Informatics** may be prepared for careers including, but not limited to\*:

- Application/Systems Analyst
- Clinical Informatics Analyst
- Clinical Informatics Project Coordinator/Manager
- Clinical/Systems Team Manager
- Director of Nursing Informatics/Information Systems
- Global Health Positions (e.g. World Health Organization)
- Health Outcomes Analytics Manager
- Informatics Technology Clinical Nurse
- Nursing Informatics Specialist

For more information about national certification in nursing informatics, visit [nursecredentialing.org/certification](http://nursecredentialing.org/certification).

\* Some careers may require several years of experience in addition to educational credentials.

### CAREER FOCUSED COURSEWORK (CONTINUED)

Healthcare Policy Specialty Track Courses	
Courses	Credits
NR-551: Healthcare Systems, Politics & Policy	3
NR-552: Economics of Healthcare Policy	3
NR-553: Global Health	3
NR-554: The Nurse Leader & Healthcare Policy	3
NR-651: Healthcare Policy Concluding Graduate Experience I	3
NR-652: Healthcare Policy Concluding Graduate Experience II	3

Informatics Specialty Track Courses	
Courses	Credits
NR-541: Practice of Nursing Informatics	3
NR-542: Managing Data & Information	3
NR-543: Information Workflow in Healthcare	3
NR-640: Informatics Nurse Specialist Practicum	3
NR-642: Nursing Informatics Concluding Graduate Experience I	3
NR-643: Nursing Informatics Concluding Graduate Experience II	3

#### Accreditation and State Authorizations & Registrations:

Chamberlain University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission ([www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org)), a regional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. The baccalaureate degree in nursing program, master's degree in nursing program, and Doctor of Nursing Practice program at Chamberlain University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington DC 20001, 202.887.6791. For the most updated accreditation information, visit [www.chamberlain.edu/accreditation](http://www.chamberlain.edu/accreditation).

Chamberlain University is approved to operate by the Virginia Board of Nursing Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300, Henrico, VA 23233-1463, 804.367.4515. Unresolved complaints may be reported to the Illinois Board of Higher Education through the online complaint system <http://complaints.ibhe.org/> or by mail to 1 N. Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, IL 62701-1377. For the most updated approvals by state information, visit [chamberlain.edu/stateapprovals](http://chamberlain.edu/stateapprovals).

Program/program option availability varies by state/location. Chamberlain reserves the right to update information as it becomes available. Information is current at the time of publication.

### KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

The MSN program outcomes are aligned with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing publication, *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing* (2011). Upon completion of the MSN degree program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Provide high quality, safe, patient-centered care grounded in holistic health principles.
2. Create a caring environment for achieving quality health outcomes.
3. Engage in lifelong personal and professional growth through reflective practice and appreciation of cultural diversity.
4. Integrate professional values through scholarship and service in healthcare.
5. Advocate for positive health outcomes through compassionate, evidence-based, collaborative advanced nursing practice.