

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

AT HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY



Designed for graduates of accredited BSN programs and experienced nurses seeking additional education, the MSN program at Holy Family University is a 39-credit course of study that fosters advanced skills in leadership, program planning, and research. The program approaches patient care issues from a spiritual, ethical, and moral perspective.

Program Goals

- Provide a graduate nursing curriculum that is tailored to address current and future global health-care needs and issues in a variety of health-care settings.
- Offer students the opportunity to develop expertise and prepare for certification — where it is available — in select specialty areas of nursing: community health, nursing education, and nursing administration.
- Provide a foundation for doctoral study.

Academic Program

The MSN program at Holy Family introduces students to an interdisciplinary curriculum grounded by professional nursing standards, ethical and moral precepts, and scientific principles. As a student in the program, you will choose to study one of three areas of concentration: community health nursing, nursing administration, or nursing education. Each concentration requires 39 credit hours distributed as follows:

- The core curriculum, which provides a strong foundation of knowledge in nursing theory, research, health policy, ethics, and health promotion (18 credits).
- Concentration requirements, which enhance knowledge in areas related to the chosen specialty (9 credits).
- Nursing role specialty requirements, which allow students to focus on developing advanced knowledge, skills, and practical experience in roles related to selected areas of nursing practice (12 credits).

Community Health Nursing Concentration

With a focus on promoting and protecting the health of populations, the community health nursing concentration prepares nurses to assume roles as advanced-practice nurses in a variety of settings. The curriculum develops key skills in leadership, epidemiology, program planning, and evaluation, along with skills in community organization, grant writing, and program management.

Nursing Administration Concentration

The nursing administration concentration prepares nurses to assume roles as leaders and managers in a variety of settings within a dynamic health-care delivery system.

Nursing Education Concentration

The nursing education concentration prepares nurses to assume roles as educators in a variety of educational and health-care settings. The concentration also provides graduates who desire to teach in baccalaureate programs with a foundation for doctoral education. Advanced clinical practice provides the basis for the educator role.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must possess the following qualifications for admission to the MSN program.

- A BSN from an NLNAC- or CCNE-accredited nursing program at a regionally accredited institution
- **or**
- An RN from an NLNAC-accredited program with a BS or BA in a related area may be admitted, but must meet BSN equivalent competencies* in nursing leadership, research, and community health as prerequisites to certain courses. These competencies may be met through a professional portfolio, CEUs, or collegiate course work after admission.
- Completion of an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of C or better (must be completed prior to enrolling in graduate research courses).
- An undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a GPA below 3.0 may be admitted on a probationary basis. Students admitted on probation will be considered for full admission after satisfactory completion of six credits of graduate coursework with a grade of B in each course.
- Two professional references (former faculty member, an employer or supervisor, or a professional colleague).
- Licensure as a registered nurse in the US.
- Application with fee.
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended.
- A 250- to 500-word personal statement concerning the student's interest and reason for applying.
- Professional resume.

* BSN Equivalent Competencies

Students admitted without BSN degrees must complete the BSN equivalent competencies as prerequisites to specific courses:

- Research prior to enrolling in NURS 508
- Leadership prior to enrolling in NURS 505
- Community health prior to enrolling in NURS 507

Accreditation

Holy Family's graduate nursing programs are fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (www.nlnac.org) and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

School Nurse Certification Program

In collaboration with Eastern University, Holy Family University offers coursework for School Nurse certification. At the completion of the program, students are eligible to apply for Pennsylvania School Nurse Certification. This program may be completed as part of the Master of Science in Nursing program, requiring a minimum of 12 additional credits over the 39 required credits, or separately as a certificate program only.

Specific Admission Requirements

In addition to the MSN admission requirements, applicants must meet the following conditions:

- BSN degree
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale
- Two undergraduate Mathematics courses and two English courses (English Composition and American/English Literature)

Program Course Requirements

- Foundations of American Education (EDUC 501) – Holy Family University
- Psychology of Learning and Instruction (EDUC 503) – Holy Family University
- The School Nurse and The Exceptional Child – Eastern University online
- Legal and Mandated Responsibilities of School Nurses – Eastern University online
- Practicum and Field Experience (100 hours) – Holy Family University