The curriculum for this program is subject to modification as deemed necessary by the nursing faculty to provide students with the most meaningful educational experience and to remain current with professional standards and guidelines.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MSN program are prepared for higher level professional practice and leadership roles in a variety of healthcare settings, as well as advanced study at the doctoral level.

Specifically, graduates will be able to:

1. Incorporate knowledge from the sciences and humanities for improvement of health care across diverse settings.
2. Demonstrate leadership abilities encompassing ethical and critical decision-making that embraces a systems perspective.
3. Apply appropriate measurement and analysis methods related to organizational quality and safety.
4. Apply evidence-based findings to resolve practice problems, and serve as a catalyst for change.
5. Use informatics and healthcare technology to integrate and coordinate care.
6. Participate in policy development and advocacy strategies at the system level to influence health and healthcare.
7. Collaborate effectively on interprofessional teams to improve health outcomes.
8. Integrate principles of clinical and population health into care delivery and management.
9. Deliver direct and/or indirect nursing practice interventions at the master’s level of practice.

Admission Requirements

An applicant to the MSN program must be a registered nurse or NCLEX-eligible nurse and have a bachelor’s degree in nursing or another field. An undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.00 or better is required. Applicants should submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. A completed admissions application including a resume and a personal statement addressing the following:
   a. professional goals and motivations
   b. a nursing experience that has influenced or shaped your practice
   c. rationale for choosing the specific nurse practitioner specialty.
2. Official transcripts from all schools previously attended.
3. Official recent results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for international applicants.
4. Two letters of recommendation from persons with authority to evaluate your professional ability.
5. Proof of current licensure or eligibility for licensure as a registered nurse.

Candidates applying for full-time admission for the fall term must submit a completed application by May 1. Candidates may be on a waitlist for the fall in the event a space becomes available. However, acceptances are not deferred and wait-listed candidates need to reapply for the following fall. Exceptions may be made in rare circumstances by the chair of the graduate nursing program.
All accepted students are required to complete a background check and urine drug screen following acceptance and before the start of classes. Acceptances are conditional until satisfactory completion of both.

Progression Requirements

Students are expected to take courses in the order they are presented on the curriculum pathways. Any student wishing to take a course out of sequence must seek permission from the program director. To preserve quality in our clinical placements, we are not able to accommodate a change in program specialty except on a space-available basis. If a change is desired, students should speak with the graduate program director early in the curriculum to check on any opportunities for change and be placed on a waiting list, if necessary.

According to Quinnipiac University policy, all graduate students are expected to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Full-time graduate students are required to achieve a 3.00 GPA each semester. Part-time graduate students must have an overall GPA of 3.00 upon completion of 9 credits and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 thereafter. The grading scale of the Graduate Nursing Program is consistent with that of the university.

A student who earns less than a B minus grade in any nursing course will not progress into the next semester. The student is allowed to repeat the course once at Quinnipiac University provided that the course and the subsequent curriculum sequence are offered and must achieve a B minus or better. The student must achieve a minimum grade of B minus in all subsequent nursing courses. Failure to meet this requirement will result in dismissal from the program. A student who earns unsatisfactory grades (grade of less than B minus) in two or more nursing courses in any semester is not eligible to repeat the courses and will be required to withdraw from the program.

In clinical practica, students must receive a grade of B minus or better on the final faculty and preceptor clinical evaluations in order to pass the course and progress into the next semester. If a student is not performing satisfactorily in clinical according to the preceptor and/or faculty site visitor, a final faculty visit and evaluation of clinical performance will be made by a full-time faculty member, and this final grade must be B minus or better to pass the course.

A student who receives a grade of Incomplete (I) in any nursing courses or practica must meet all course requirements for conversion to a grade before the start of the subsequent semester.

For post-master’s students, transfer students or students returning from an elective leave of absence during their course of study, selected courses must have been completed within a specified period of time. For Pathophysiology, credit will be recognized if the course was taken during the previous five years. For Advanced Health Assessment, Pharmacology and any program specialty course, credit will be recognized if the course was taken during the previous three years. For any of these courses which do not meet the specified period of time, the course must be re-taken for credit. Students may be asked to audit courses if the interruption to the continuity of their curriculum plan has been significant.

At the end of each semester, the chair of the graduate nursing programs reviews the cumulative GPA and academic record of graduate nursing students. The program director will notify both the associate dean and the student, in writing, of the student’s failure to meet the academic requirements. Students who are performing at an unsatisfactory level will be: a) placed on probation; b) suspended; or c) dismissed. Students placed on academic probation remain in their program but must take specified corrective action to meet program performance standards. Students should meet with their advisers to identify learning strategies to help them accomplish these goals and the student should draft a list or narrative of these strategies, which will serve as a learning contract. A copy of this contract will be placed in the student’s folder and should be reviewed periodically with their adviser. Students must demonstrate a significantly increased GPA at the end of that semester to continue in the program. Students placed on suspension may also need to take specified actions as directed by the academic dean, graduate nursing program chair or academic adviser.

Appeal Process

1. A student wishing to appeal a progression decision must write a letter via email to the chair of the graduate nursing program within one week of receiving notice of their inability to progress.
2. Appeals will be considered by a Progression Appeals Committee and chaired by the associate dean. Results will be communicated in writing to the student via email.
3. A student wishing to appeal a course grade should follow the grade appeal process (http://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/procedure-appeal-final-grade/).

NUR 500. Biostatistics. 1 Credit.
This biostatistics course is an introduction to probability concepts and statistical tests currently used in the biological and health sciences. The course covers the application of statistics to data analysis. An emphasis is placed on inferential statistics, which includes estimation, confidence intervals, means, variances and proportions.
Prerequisites: None
Offered: Every year, Fall and Summer Online

NUR 514. Epidemiology and Population Health. 2 Credits.
This course introduces epidemiologic principles, methods and data used in advanced nursing practice. Data and evidence from research are used to: assess acute and chronic population health problems/topics, provide effective possible interventions; and address and examine outcomes.
Prerequisites: None
Offered: Every year, All Online

NUR 516. Health Policy and Organizational Systems. 2 Credits.
This course provides an introduction to various social and political policy environments impacting advanced nursing practice and health care systems. Students examine issues that inform health care policy, organization and financing. Nursing’s advocacy role in shaping policy in organizational, social and political venues is emphasized.
Prerequisites: None
Offered: Every year, Fall and Summer Online

NUR 520. Advanced Health Assessment. 3 Credits.
This course presents the principles of performing a comprehensive health assessment and reporting the findings in a professional format. Attention is given to assessment and physical examination across the lifespan within diverse communities. The processes underlying diagnostic decision making are introduced. A laboratory component enables the student to master the techniques of performing a holistic health assessment.
Prerequisites: Take NUR 522 and NUR 530.
Co-requisites: Take NUR 520L.
Offered: Every year, Spring Online
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<td>NUR 661</td>
<td>Introduction to Acute Care Clinical Practicum and Seminar.</td>
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<td>NUR 664</td>
<td>Common Problems in Acute Care.</td>
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<td>NUR 665</td>
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Offered: Every year.

Corequisites: Take NUR 520.

Prerequisites: None.

This course is designed for students specializing in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) practice. It provides a theoretical and practical framework for the practice of an AGACNP, focusing on the unique needs of geriatric populations. Students will learn diagnostic reasoning skills and critical thinking, emphasizing evidence-based care. The course includes online and on-ground clinical residency experiences where students demonstrate the ability to provide evidence-based care. Students complete 150 clinical hours in acute care settings and participate in online clinical conferences.
NUR 666. Common Problems in Acute Care II.  3 Credits.
The second of three courses regarding common problems in acute care will focus on the pathophysiology and management of common acute and critical illnesses in individuals. An opportunity to refine differential diagnosis and management of challenging health concerns in diverse populations is provided by the use of case studies. Topics include trauma, shock, endocrine, GI, infectious disease, and musculoskeletal issues. The course is grounded by a holistic approach to care.
Prerequisites: Take NUR 664
Offered: Every year, Spring Online

NUR 667. Acute Care Practicum & Seminar III.  3 Credits.
The final of three clinical courses requires students to use all of the foundational skills learned in previous courses to provide evidence-based care to promote healing in an increasing and varied case load of acute or critically ill patients. Students will build complete plans of care using the theoretical and clinical knowledge from other courses. Weekly clinical conferences serve to provide students opportunities to discuss challenging acute and critical care issues as well as provide opportunities to present data in a team like setting. 150 hours of clinical practice are required.
Prerequisites: Take NUR 665 and NUR 668
Corequisites: Take NUR 668
Offered: Every year, Summer

NUR 668. Common Problems in Acute Care III.  3 Credits.
The third and final of three courses regarding common problems in acute care will focus on more complex illnesses, their pathophysiology and management. Topics include neurology, oncology, integumentary, hepatic, hematology, psychological and cognitive health disorders, and multi-system disorders. Learning is enhanced using case studies. The course is grounded by a holistic approach to care.
Prerequisites: Take NUR 666
Offered: Every year, Summer Online

NUR 669. Advanced Specialty Diagnostics & Assessment II.  2 Credits.
This course provides an overview of advanced diagnostic tools, procedures, and exams in the assessment, diagnosing, and treating of individuals with illness. This course will be delivered in a hybrid format, with students completing online content as well as an on-ground clinical residency where the emphasis will be on competence in more advanced procedures and techniques specific to the acute care nurse practitioner role. The emphasis is not only on learning skills and techniques, but also on the appropriate use of these skills in a healing context.
Prerequisites: Take NUR 660.
Offered: Every year, Spring