MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Program Contact: Laima Karosas (laima.karosas@qu.edu) 203-582-5366

Students who are registered nurses and have a bachelor’s degree may pursue master’s degree training. Four programs are available: Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/adult-gerontology), Family Nurse Practitioner (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/family-nurse-practitioner), Operational Leadership (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/ol) and RN to MSN (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/rn-to-msn-completion-program).

For nurses who would like to become nurse practitioners, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program is designed for working nurses who want to further their education and expand their credentials without sacrificing hands-on experience through clinical practice. This innovative program accommodates your schedule as well as your specific academic and career goals. Depending on your area of interest, you can choose between two specialized programs: adult-gerontology or family nurse practitioner. Within two years of completing your MSN, you have the option of seamlessly transitioning into the online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, without losing any credits or duplicating any coursework.

The Operational Leadership program prepares nurses for operational leadership roles in health care institutions and settings. The program offers courses in health policy, organizational leadership, adult learning strategies, epidemiology, biostatistics, health care finance, informatics, health care management, the uses of data in evaluating practice, human factor analysis, and informational technology project management. The program also makes use of three courses from the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program, and provides 360 hours of practicum experience. Graduates who wish to continue their education are placed to pursue a clinical doctorate in nursing. The program was designed to provide some of the content required to sit for board certification in Nursing Professional Development or informatics, both offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Graduates of this program are prepared to assume positions of middle management, informatics, both offered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MSN program are prepared for higher level professional practice and leadership roles in a variety of health care 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 health care technology to integrate and coordinate care.
6. Participate in policy development and advocacy strategies at the system level to influence health and health care.
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.

Master of Science in Nursing Programs

1. Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/adult-gerontology)
2. Family Nurse Practitioner (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/family-nurse-practitioner)
3. Operational Leadership (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/ol)
4. RN to MSN (http://catalog.qu.edu/graduate-studies/nursing/nursing-msn/rn-to-msn-completion-program)

Admission Requirements

An applicant to the Master of Science in Nursing 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 3.0 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. a health care problem that interests you
2. Official transcripts from all schools previously attended.
3. Official recent results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or (IELTS) International English Language Testing System 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 in the state of Connecticut.

The preferred application deadline is May 1. Applications will be considered after May 1 on a space-available basis. Candidates may be placed on a wait list for Fall admission should space become available. However, acceptances are not deferred to the following Fall 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. When all application materials are received, an interview with the graduate nursing program director and/or member of the faculty will be arranged for eligible candidates.

All accepted students also 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.
Transfer Credits

Graduate course credit completed with a grade of B or better at another regionally accreditation institution may be considered for transfer credit in place of a similar course. Courses must be at the same level (i.e., an undergraduate course may not be transferred in place of a master’s level course) and taken within the past five years. Transfer credit is granted upon admission to the program only. The course description and/or syllabus and a copy of the transcript with a request for transfer credit must be sent/ emailed to the chair of the graduate nursing programs. The Nurse Anesthetist program may accept transfer credit only for the graduate nursing core courses, NUR 514, NUR 516, NUR 602.