



SACRAMENTO
STATE

Sacramento State MSN Program Introduction *for Prospective Students*

December 2021

Redefine the Possible™

Program Overview

- General master's of science in nursing: advanced clinical/educator
- Provides competencies needed for a variety of roles, including education and leadership
- Not designed for school nurses – if you are a school nurse please click this link to learn more about our SNC+MSN option: <https://www.cce.csus.edu/school-nurse-credential-program-masters-nursing>

MSN program structure

- Oriented to working nurses so **hybrid** structure =
 - Some courses require occasional (once a month) **in-person** classes in evening
 - Most courses have one or more synchronous online classes using Zoom
 - All courses require asynchronous online, independent self-study modules and assignments

MSN Requirements

- Complete the “Graduate Writing Intensive” course (NURS 209) in first semester
- Advancement to Candidacy after completion of 12 units of core courses
- 33 Units of study with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- All courses require grade $\geq 83\%$
- Completion of the Culminating Experience (N500) in final semester

Program technical requirements

- All courses use Canvas learning management system
- Microsoft Office (e.g., Word) available for free for all Sacramento State students
- Students should have their own laptop/tablet/desktop to complete assignments
 - Sac State does have computer labs and IT resources
- Students learn how to write at the graduate level, using 7th edition APA (American Psychological Association) writing guidelines/format
- Many courses employ Zoom webinar app for live/recorded online classes

More course scheduling information

- Most synchronous classes (live, in-person or on Zoom) are 1-2 times month in evening; typically 6pm-9pm
- Clinical course placements (NURS 294 & NURS 293) each require 135 hours
 - We try to place students where they work/have potential preceptor
 - We will find placements for students if they do not have potential preceptor
- **Only** the first semester courses (NURS 209 & NURS 210) meet during the day:
 - Two Tuesdays/month; 9am-3:30pm

Required Courses (each 3 units) – *ONLY offered in spring or fall*

FALL COURSES

- NURS 209: Advanced Role Development in Nursing
- NURS 210: Research: Foundation for Advanced Nursing
- NURS 232: Advanced Physical Assessment
- NURS 215: Community Health Services and Policy
- NURS 213: Seminar in Organizational and Systems Leadership
- **NURS 293: Practicum: Organizational and Systems Leadership**

SPRING COURSES

- NURS 230: Advanced Concepts in Pathophysiology
- NURS 231: Pharmacology for Advanced Practice
- NURS 214: Educational Program Development in Nursing
- **NURS 294: Practicum in Educational Program Development in Nursing**
- **NURS 500: Culminating Experience**

MSN Plan of Study

- Plan defines what/how many courses you will take each semester
- Most students complete program in two years (4 semesters) or three years (6 semesters)
- Students may select the pacing that works best for their schedules

4 Semester Plan of Study = complete in 2 years

Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NURS 209: Advanced Role Development in Nursing• NURS 210: Research as the Foundation for Advanced Nursing• NURS 232: Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Lifespan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NURS 230: Advanced Concepts in Pathophysiology• NURS 231: Pharmacology for Advanced Practice• NURS 214: Educational Program Development in Nursing
Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NURS 215: Community Health Services and Policy• NURS 213: Seminar in Organizational and Systems Leadership• NURS 293: Practicum in Specialized Nursing Process: Organizational and Systems Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NURS 500: Culminating Experience• NURS 294: Practicum in Educational Program Development in Nursing

Sample 6 Semester Plan of Study = complete in 3 years

Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 209: Advanced Role Development in Nursing • NURS 210: Research as the Foundation for Advanced Nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 230: Advanced Concepts in Pathophysiology • NURS 231: Pharmacology for Advanced Practice
Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 215: Community Health Services and Policy • NURS 232: Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Lifespan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 294: Practicum in Educational Program Development in Nursing • NURS 214: Educational Program Development in Nursing
Semester 5 Fall	Semester 6 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 213: Seminar in Organizational and Systems Leadership • NURS 293: Practicum in Specialized Nursing Process: Organizational and Systems leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 500: Culminating Experience

Sample 8 semester plan of study = complete in 4 years

Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 209: Advanced Role Development in Nursing • NURS 210: Research as the Foundation for Advanced Nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 214: Educational Program Development in Nursing
Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 215: Community Health Services and Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 230: Advanced Concepts in Pathophysiology • NURS 231: Pharmacology for Advanced Practice
Semester 5 Fall	Semester 6 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 232: Advanced Physical Assessment Across the Lifespan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 294: Practicum in Educational Program Development in Nursing
Semester 7 Fall	Semester 8 Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 213: Seminar in Organizational and Systems Leadership • NURS 293: Practicum in Specialized Nursing Process: Organizational and Systems Leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NURS 500: Culminating Experience

The Culminating Experience - N500

- Complete all pre-requisite coursework with a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Final semester in program
- Enroll in 3 unit course (N500)
- 3 options:
 - **Comprehensive Exam**
 - Project
 - Thesis

The Comprehensive Examination

- 30 page problem-solving paper completed independently during final semester
- Graded independently by three faculty as Credit/No Credit using criteria defined in Comprehensive Examination Scoring Rubric
- Only two attempts are allowed

Program completion/transfer of units

- All requirements for graduation must be completed within 7 years of starting graduate coursework
- Only 6 units of graduate course credits are transferrable from another graduate program

CNS (Clinical Nurse Specialist) option coming in 2024

- We are planning clinical and coursework for CNS specialty certification.
- We do not yet have a certain timeline for when CNS program will be approved, though likely in 2024.
- Both current MSN students and graduates will be eligible to take CNS theory and clinical courses.

APPLICATION DETAILS

- **Application period is October 1 to March 1**
- We will **not** notify applicants of incomplete applications
- Be sure to submit all transcripts, including courses in progress
- Application requires purpose statement and two letters of recommendation
- Keep copies of everything
- We notify by email regarding admission status and other important communication so check your email for messages from us

Sources of Information

- Sac State Graduate Nursing [website](#)
- Office of Graduate Students website:
<https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/>
- CSUS Catalog: <http://catalog.csus.edu/>

Program Accreditation/Systems

- Nationally accredited by Commission on College Nursing Education (CCNE); awarded 10 year reaccreditation in spring 2020
- Adheres to CA Board of Registered Nursing regulations
- Aligns with Graduate Learning Outcomes for Sacramento State Office of Graduate Studies
- Graduate Curriculum Committee: engages in curriculum development, revision, and reviews student petitions/academic issues
- Faculty: mostly tenure track/tenured, full-time, teach across all nursing programs

Course objectives align with Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (GSLOs) and national standards

- I. Synthesizes evidence from nursing and other academic disciplines to continually improve the delivery of nursing care across diverse settings.
- II. Analyzes organizational and systems leadership skills to promote quality and safe health care.
- III. Designs a quality improvement and safety project within a health care system.
- IV. Integrates translation research concepts and evidence into diverse practice settings to improve health care outcomes.
- V. Integrates meaningful data from nursing, computer, communication and information sciences to coordinate and improve care.

Graduate Student Learning Outcomes (GSLOs) Continued

- VI. Analyzes health care policy and advocates through the development process to improve health and health care.
- VII. Utilizes relationship centered leadership to build and sustain collaborative, inter-professional teams to coordinate care.
- VIII. Integrates clinical prevention and population health concepts in the design and delivery of health care.
- IX. Demonstrates advanced depth and breadth of nursing and related sciences, and integrates this knowledge into practice.
- X. Applies theoretical models or frameworks to formulate nursing interventions and to improve health outcomes at the individual, organizational, or systems level.

Contacts and support

For support with application processes:

- grad_admissions@csus.edu

For questions about the program:

- Graduate Coordinator Sam Blackburn –
samantha.blackburn@csus.edu