MASTER of SCIENCE IN Nursing

Program Overview

The graduate of the Master of Science Program in Nursing will provide leadership in nursing management and nursing education. The program fosters scholarship, critical thinking and creativity. Clinical content in the theory and practice of either adult health or community health nursing is selected based on previous experience and future goals.

The MS in Nursing program prepares nurse leaders who:

• Synthesize specialized and diverse knowledge for application in nursing practice.
• Apply principles of organization and system leadership to promote high quality and safe patient care to individuals, families, groups and populations.
• Apply quality principles within an organization.
• Use evidence to guide nursing practice, address patient problems, and disseminate results.
• Interpret information from a variety of healthcare technologies to integrate and coordinate care.
• Influence health system and health policy to shape care delivery to individuals, families, groups and populations across the lifespan.
• Engage in inter-professional collaboration to promote health, guide clients through the illness experience, and improve the health system.
• Apply the principles of culturally appropriate care to plan, deliver, manage, and evaluate healthcare to individuals, families, groups and populations.
• Influence healthcare outcomes through nursing practice by integrating advanced scientific, clinical, and systems knowledge

Faculty and principal area of expertise

► Deborah Armstrong, Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts Worcester; Spinal cord injury, Pathophysiology

► Marilyn Asselin, Associate Professor; PhD, University of Rhode Island; Reflection in practice, knowledge utilization, leadership, reflective teaching practice, qualitative methodology

► Elizabeth Chin, Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts Worcester; COPD, self-management, symptom management, qualitative methodology, learning differences

► Kathleen Elliot, Lecturer; Advanced Practice Nursing

► Kerry Fater, Director of MS Program, Professor; PhD, CNE, University of Connecticut; Professional competence, professional development, curriculum development, education

► Kathryn Gramling, Associate Professor (ret.); PhD, University of Colorado; Relational ontology, theory, aesthetics

► Susan Hunter Revell, Associate Professor; PhD, University of Rhode Island; Spinal cord injury, technology in the classroom

► Mary McCurry, Associate Professor; PhD, Boston College; Decision making, family care givers, technology in the classroom

► Gail Russell, Professor (ret.), EdD, NEA-BC, Columbia University; Leadership in health systems

► Kristen Sethares, Associate Professor; PhD, CNE, Boston College; Chronic cardiac illness, self-care, symptom management, quantitative methodology

► Caitlin Stover, Assistant Professor, PhD University of Massachusetts-Worcester; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Healthcare, Health Disparities, Community Program Planning and Evaluation

► Barbara Weatherford, Assistant Professor; PhD, University of Massachusetts Worcester; Organizational culture and patient care safety, leadership

Degree and certificate options

The Master of Science in Nursing offers the choice of two clinical content areas - adult health or community health nursing -- and two functional content areas -- nursing management or nursing education:

Adult Health / Nurse Manager
Adult Health / Nurse Educator
Community Health / Nurse Manager
Community Health / Nurse Educator

In addition, the Graduate Admissions Program (GAP) is open to registered nurses who hold a BS or BA degree in another field. GAP students take NUR 503 Transition to Advanced Practice Nursing in which they complete a portfolio that documents how they attained undergraduate nursing program outcome objectives. With an academic advisor, students review this portfolio and select an additional courses that rounds out their undergraduate preparation.

Degree and certificate options, continued

Finally, an RN-BS student with GPA of 3.3 or better and the recommendation of the RN-BS program director may take up to 6 graduate credits (from among the following courses NUR 500, 511, 520, 550 or 605) that count as undergraduate electives. If the student applies and is admitted to graduate study immediately after receiving the BS degree, the courses will also count toward the MS degree.

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Program Requirements

In addition to UMD admission criteria, applicants to the MS program must:

- Have a GPA of 3.0 in undergraduate study.
- Hold a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from a program accredited by the NLNAC or CCNE. Registered Nurses with a bachelor degree in a related field may seek admission through the GAP program.
- Hold a current license to practice professional nursing in MA, or be eligible for licensure; Please submit a copy of your license.
- Have at least one year of clinical experience in acute care nursing
- Submit a sample of professional writing
- Submit three references that document competence and leadership in professional nursing practice. If possible, one reference should be from a supervisor who is a professional nurse that holds an MS in Nursing and one from a nurse educator.
- GRE is NOT required.
- Applications are due March 15 for Fall matriculation.

Degree Requirements

MS students complete 39 academic credits that include over between 200-300 hours of mentored professional practice. In addition, students complete a capstone project that involves the design, implementation and evaluation of an evidence based innovation in nursing practice, nursing education or nursing management.

Program Highlights

The nursing faculty create rich and meaningful student experiences that build on undergraduate education and clinical competencies and address the career aspirations of the student. Classroom, laboratory, and practice-based professional experiences are structured to expand the skills and grow the confidence of the student as nurse leaders. The support and collaboration of community partners - both nurses and health care agencies - are an essential component of this program.

Faculty Research

The faculty of the College of Nursing conduct research in two broad areas – living with chronic illness and innovations in nursing education. Support for this work comes from a variety of sources -- the US Department of Health Education and Welfare, the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, and many professional groups, and community agencies. Faculty have numerous small grants from internal and external sources. Recently, Dr. Kirsten Sethares’ work on congestive heart failure and patient self-care was recognized when she was an invited presenter at the Chancellor’s Colloquium. The faculty of the College of Nursing are recognized experts and are actively involved in service projects in southeastern Massachusetts and beyond. Our faculty serve as consultants for our practice partners and professional groups. Faculty are frequently invited speakers at professional meetings and give peer-reviewed poster and podium presentations throughout the US. Many faculty volunteer for local, regional, national and international health initiatives.

Alumni

The UMD graduate nursing program opened in the late 1980s and has produced over 230 MS graduates who work in southeastern Massachusetts and beyond. In 2007, the PhD in Nursing admitted its first cohort of students and has grown steadily. As of 2011, the new DNP program addresses the new certification requirements for advanced practice nurses. The revised MS program addresses the critical shortage of nurse educators and prepares nurse managers to assume a leading role in health care reform.

Many graduates continue their affiliation with the College of Nursing by serving as preceptors, mentors, clinical instructors and guest lecturers for our students. We are very proud of the many accomplishments of our graduates and their continuing commitment to UMD. Some examples are:

- Dr. Mary McCurry, Associate Professor and DNP Program Coordinator here at UMD, is a graduate of the ANP track of the MS program.
- Janine Fontaine, Director, Maternal and Infant Services, SouthCoast Health System graduated from the Community Nursing track.
- Carol Billington, Vice President, Patient Care Services, St. Anne’s Hospital Steward, graduated from the Adult Health track.

Contact information

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