Master of Science in Nursing Program Information

The curriculum of the MSN is designed to prepare professional registered nurses for APN roles as culturally competent educators and leaders. All students enrolled in the program will be required to take seven graduate core courses consisting of 20 semester credit hours. Additionally, students are required to select a concentration of either nursing education or nursing leadership. Each of these concentrations will consist of 16-18 credit hours. Included in these hours is a variable credit (3-5 hours) thesis or project.

The nursing education concentration will focus on preparing nurses to facilitate learning in various environments through the application of knowledge in instructional design, curriculum development, technology utilization, and evaluation of learning. The leadership concentration will focus on developing nursing leaders who are able to influence, design, manage, transform, and evaluate the evolution of nursing services and care delivery.

The degree offers graduates the opportunities to:

1. Implement advanced practice roles as leaders and educators within the nursing profession and the health care system utilizing human caring as the foundation for nursing practice.
2. Develop and nurture collaborative and interdependent relationships by communicating with other health care professionals.
3. Analyze personal and organizational decision making utilizing an understanding of how ethics and values influence health care delivery.
4. Utilize nursing research for the promotion of high quality nursing education, health care, and evidence based practice.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking in the application of nursing and multidisciplinary theoretical frameworks to foster optimal client health outcomes.
6. Demonstrate cultural competence that reflects sensitivity to human diversity in a dynamic academic and health care environment.
7. Develop comprehensive, holistic plans of care that address health promotion and disease prevention needs of diverse populations.
8. Demonstrate competence in leadership roles and a commitment to ongoing professional development for the provision of quality, cost-effective health care, and the advancement of nursing practice.
Career Opportunities

Prepares professional nurses to assume entry-level teaching positions. Roles within Nurse Educator practice include:

- Educator in collegiate or post secondary setting
- Health educator
- Program planner
- Staff educator

Requirements for Graduation

The MSN degree is awarded on completion of course work with a 3.0 grade point average (GPA), fulfillment of candidacy requirements and successful completion of required course and program requirements.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition for the program is $385/credit hour. Fees are Technology ($50.00) and BOR Institutional fee ($242.00)

Financial Assistance

- GSW Financial Aid  http://gsw.edu/Financial-Aid/Index
- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for Employees of University of Georgia System  http://text.usg.edu:8080/tt/www.usg.edu/hr/bemefots/tuition_assistance_program_tap

For more information contact::
Dr. Bonnie Simmons
Phone: 229-931-2281
SON Office: 229-931-2275
Email: bonnie.simmons@gsu.edu
Frequently Asked Questions

Who are MSN students?

The Georgia Southwestern State University MSN program will appeal primarily to registered nurses who hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and have a desire to continue their career interests in either nursing education or nursing leadership/management. Work experience as a registered nurse is preferred but not required.

Why choose the Georgia Southwestern MSN program?

The MSN program at Georgia Southwestern allows you to focus on either Nursing Education or Leadership/Management in Nursing. For the Nursing Educator you can specialize in community education, staff development or the academic setting in both clinical and classroom. The Nursing Leadership track is for those interested in management at the institutional, clinical or corporate level.

The program at Georgia Southwestern allows for the flexibility of an online program, but the real-time contact with faculty and fellow students. You can study at home, but not alone.

Can I complete the entire MSN program online?

All courses are 100% online. Each class will have at least one to multiple synchronous class meetings online via WIMBA. All the students enrolled in the class and the faculty member will be online at the same time for discussions and presentations. They will be able to see each other utilizing web cams and speak to each other via headsets. The number of synchronous sessions is determined by the faculty of each course. Faculty members can be contacted via SKYPE, email or office phone.

How long does the MSN program take to complete?

The MSN program can be completed in two academic years or four semesters of full-time study of 9 credit hours per term. While part-time and full-time progressions are available, students are expected to graduate within five years and must take a minimum of four classes per academic year.

Will I receive help designing my program?

You will work closely with faculty advisors within your area of concentration when designing your program progression. Required courses for each concentration are identified on the course progression.

What are the admissions requirements “really” like?

All admissions requirements are presented in the applications link on our MSN website. All applicants are required to take the GRE which includes an analytical writing assessment. Changes to the GRE exam require the applicant to have taken the exam within the past five years. Enrollment in the MSN program is limited.

If I do not meet the GPA and/or GRE minimal requirements, can I still be admitted?

Students who do not meet GPA and/or GRE minimal admission requirements may be admitted on a provisional basis. They must maintain a 3.0 GPA in their course work once admitted into the program.

Is financial aid available for this graduate program?

Monies may be available from a variety of local, state and federal sources. Federal nurse traineeships are available through the U.S. Division of Nursing. Contact the Department of Nursing for more specific information about traineeships and other financial aid.

Please feel free to contact Dr. Bonnie Simmons at bonnie.simmons@gsw.edu with any additional questions.