Program Coordinator:  R. Morgan

The Master of Science in Nursing degree (MSN) at King is designed to prepare professional nurses for a specialty role in advanced practice nursing.

Specialty concentrations currently available at King are: Master of Science in Nursing Administration or combined MSN/MBA, Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP), and Nurse Educator (NE).

Although there are 15 semester hours (s.h.) of “core” courses required of all MSN students, each MSN specialty concentration has different course requirements, clinical/practicum requirements, and curricular variations. To meet the requirement for the desired concentration, students and their advisors will formulate an individualized plan. All clinical hours require the direct supervision by a clinical preceptor approved by the course instructor.

Admission to the Program
To apply for admission to the Graduate MSN Program, complete the application in its entirety including submission of a 2-3 page research-based essay answering the question, “What is the role of graduate education in preparing nurses to meet the health needs of our society?” The essay should be typed in APA format with use of a minimum of two peer-reviewed journal sources. Applicants must also include a copy of their current curriculum vitae. A template for the curriculum vitae is located in the admission information. Please include volunteer, community, and professional activities in the curriculum vitae. Nurse Practitioner applicants are required to show at least one year of work experience as a practicing RN.

The Application Process
When an application has been fully completed with the receipt of all required items, it is reviewed by the MSN Graduate Admissions Committee. For the nurse practitioner concentrations, following application file review, selected applicants are invited to a campus site for a face-to-face interview with the MSN admission committee and to submit a writing prompt. Final selection of applicants for the nurse practitioner concentration follows the face-to-face interviews. Applicants are notified as early as possible, after the admission process is completed. Applications for the nurse administrator and nurse educator concentrations are reviewed monthly, so that decisions can be communicated promptly to applicants.
Conditional Acceptance

Students who do not meet the minimum GPA requirements, but who appear to be capable of performing well in the program, may be conditionally accepted at the discretion of the MSN Graduate Admissions Committee.

Graduate Transfer Credit

MSN students may transfer up to 6 credits of graduate study from another program to be credited toward requirements at King, but only if the courses are applicable to the requirements, and are approved by the specialty area faculty and the Dean of the School of Nursing.

Courses being transferred must have been assigned a grade of B or higher and must have covered content which is required for a particular core course or specialty program concentration. Students will be required to submit a course syllabus from the course being transferred to allow for comparability of expected outcomes.

MSN Acceptance Criteria

Admission criteria required for the MSN program are consistent with expectations set for graduate students, and they meet specific criteria suggested for accreditation of schools from CCNE. The admission criteria specific to the MSN include:

1. Graduation from an accredited baccalaureate-nursing program with a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
2. Satisfactory completion of the following undergraduate courses: Statistics, Nursing Research, and Health Assessment (as a separate course or integrated concept) with a course grade of C or better. Pathophysiology is highly recommended for the nurse practitioner and nurse educator tracks.
3. Submission of official transcripts from all prior colleges/universities.
5. Current CPR or BLS certification (Adult and Child).
6. Submission of the Graduate Admissions Essay as stated in the application.
7. All students should be computer literate with ability to send and download attachments. Familiarity with Excel is required for the MSN/MBA program including spreadsheet, database management, and presentation graphics.
8. An applicant who lacks one or more of the admission criteria will be reviewed by the MSN Admissions Committee on an individual basis, and may be considered for admission with conditional status.
9. Completion of business principles courses either prior to admission to the MSN/MBA program, or during the course of study but prior to the related BUSA course.
10. Students seeking to become an FNP or NE may strengthen their application by having completed undergraduate courses in Statistics, Nursing Research, and Pathophysiology.
11. The selection process for those applying to the family nurse practitioner (FNP) concentration is a 2-step process. The MSN Admissions committee will select the top applicants from file review of applications. Selected top applicants will be invited for a face-to-face interview with the MSN Admissions Committee and will complete an impromptu writing sample at
the time of the interview. Final selection of family nurse practitioner applicants is based on competiveness of the application file and quality of the face-to-face interview and writing sample.

Fees

Health Assessment Course Materials Fee
An equipment fee of $300 is charged to Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator Students for the Advanced Health Assessment Course 5004.

Background Check
Prior to clinical experience, a criminal background check is required. All fees for criminal background checks and drug screening (if required by clinical facility) are charged to the MSN student. A $65 fee is charged to each student enrolled in the MSN to complete initial fingerprinting and background check.

Liability Insurance for Nursing Students
King University has a professional liability insurance policy that covers all nursing students while enrolled in a King University nursing program. The cost to the student is as follows: Nurse Practitioner Students $65, Nurse Educator and Nurse Administrator Students $40, and is charge upon enrollment into the program. The insurance covers the student only for activities directly related to King University. It does not cover an accidental injury to the student that may occur before, during or after classroom activities. The policy also does not cover the registered nurse or the nursing student while working at their employment setting. Students may carry additional liability insurance at their own expense, but this will not replace the coverage provided through the University.

Grade Requirements
All graduate students are required to maintain a 3.5 average or better. A grade of B- or higher is required in all MSN clinical nursing courses and a grade of C+ or higher is required in all MSN non-clinical nursing courses.

If more than two grades of 2.3 (C+) or lower are earned, despite the student maintaining a 3.5 GPA, the student will be dismissed from the program. A grade of C+ or lower is a failing grade for MSN clinical/practicum courses. Failed courses must be repeated prior to progression; students are only allowed to repeat ONE course during the MSN program.

Program Outcomes
The MSN program at King will:
1. Provide students with an opportunity to enhance ongoing personal and professional growth and development guided by Christian principles.
2. Prepare clinicians, practitioners, and educators capable of leadership in developing and expanding nursing knowledge, skills, and practice competencies.
3. Create a learning environment for students to demonstrate self-direction and effective interactions with other health professionals in promoting and effecting optimum delivery of health care services.

4. Encourage students to commit to participate in the growth of nursing as a profession and to embrace responsibilities incumbent upon the professional person in society.

**Clinical Requirements**

Clinical hours consistent with certification specialty are required for the education and administrative roles. The minimum clinical requirement for the Nurse Practitioner role is 600 hours. These clinical experiences are accomplished under the guidance of a faculty member and a preceptor in field study and practicum courses. All preceptors MUST hold a minimum preparation at the master’s level, and hold national certification in the APN role with one year of practice experience for the PNP/FNP students. Students will be responsible for locating and securing their own preceptors throughout the program. Whereas faculty are available to assist and guide in the process, the student ultimately must make contact with professionals in the specialty area and provide the appropriate documentation to nursing faculty prior to beginning their clinical practicum. The minimum clinical hours for Nurse Educator is 420 and for Nursing Administration is 395.

The graduate nursing curriculum consists of courses in three areas of study:

1. The advanced practice nursing core (required of all students)
2. The advanced practice specialty core
3. The nursing clinical and functional specialization.

**MSN Student Handbook**

MSN students are required to follow polices set forth in the MSN Student Handbook, posted on the Blackboard Resource site after the start of each Fall semester. All MSN students are required to read and follow university policies relative to appeals and grievances listed in the Student Handbook, *Twister*.

**Specializations**

MSN students will specialize in one of four functional areas:

1. Nursing Education .................................................................39 s.h.
2. Nursing Administration .........................................................35 s.h.
3. Nurse Practitioner .................................................................45 s.h.
4. Combined MSN/MBA ...............................................................62 s.h.