

Educational Excellence in a Caring Environment

MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING AT UWG:

The mission of the Department of Nursing is to offer high quality undergraduate and graduate education that:

- Prepare registered nurses for basic and advanced practice roles in diverse health care settings in Georgia and the surrounding region.
- Integrate a strong liberal arts curriculum.
- Provide regional outreach related to undergraduate and graduate nursing education through external degree and off-campus programs.
- Provide a caring, supportive, personal environment for learning that:
 - ❖ Affirms the holistic nature of individuals
 - ❖ Reflects caring as the essence of nursing
 - ❖ Expects that nurses use critical thinking in decision making
 - ❖ Utilizes disciplinary rigor to support BSN student progress toward clinical competence and MSN student progress toward assuming leadership and education roles.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MSN CURRICULUM

The Department of Nursing at the University of West Georgia offers a Master of Science in Nursing degree with role options in either education or health systems leadership and a post masters certificate program in education and health systems leadership. The nursing education track is a program of study that addresses innovations in curriculum, instructional skills and strategies, the development and use of educational technology, and educational assessment and evaluation. Students will develop expertise in health education and promotion, patient education, professional development, or college/university teaching. The health systems leadership track is a program of study designed to prepare nurse managers/leaders and clinical nurse leaders (CNL's). The CNL is a new role designed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2003) to prepare a leader who is accountable for management of care and the care environment. Courses focus on patient-centered care, evidence-based practice, pharmacology, case management client-care coordination, holistic health assessment, care of diverse populations, health policy, health systems, business and economics, statistics, leadership and management, quality improvement, risk management, and public/community health.

Courses in the curriculum build upon courses in the baccalaureate program in nursing. Students apply research concepts, theories, and skills in the development of the role components of the program. The Master of Science in Nursing Program is designed to meet the need for nurse educators, leaders/managers, and CNL's in a variety of health care settings. Students may complete the course of study in four semesters of full time course work (9 hours/semester), or students may pursue the degree on a part-time basis.

The MSN program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants seeking admission to the MSN program should be committed to engaging in caring nursing practices with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Nursing practice is holistic and recognizes the relationship of the mind, body, and spirit. As critical thinkers, students will be expected to examine personal value systems and the value systems of others. Students seeking admission to this program should consider their personal goals and values in light of those expressed in the philosophy of the program.

The Department of Nursing accepts applications for admission once per year. Proof of the following should be submitted to the **Graduate School Office** by **FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2008** to be considered for admission for **Fall Semester 2008** (classes begin **August 15, 2008**).

- ✓ **Completed application for admission to the UWG Graduate School**
- ✓ **Non-refundable \$30.00 application fee (one time only)**
- ✓ **One official transcript from each college or university attended**
- ✓ **Earned Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited program.**
- ✓ **3.0 GPA (4.0 scale) for all upper division nursing courses**
- ✓ **Evidence of current licensure as a registered nurse (RN) in the United States and licensure in the state of practicum experience.**
- ✓ **An acceptable Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogies Test (MAT) test score. Please see page 3 for more information.**
- ✓ **Completion of a basic undergraduate statistics course with a grade of C or higher prior to enrollment or during the first semester of the program**
- ✓ **Professional resume**
- ✓ **Three letters of recommendation from individuals knowledgeable of your professional and academic abilities (over)**
- ✓ **Satisfactory certificate of immunization (if you are a new student)**
- ✓ **Academic Honor Form**

Please send all of the above documents directly to the Graduate School, the University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA 30118-4160. Inquiries related to your application status or admission test information should be directed to the Graduate School. Phone - 678-839-6419; Fax - 678-839-5949; E-mail – gradsch@westga.edu; Web site – www.westga.edu/~gradsch/.

IMPORTANT: The Department of Nursing offers two tracks in Nursing: 1) Nurse Education and 2) Health Systems Leadership. Please indicate on your application form which track you are interested in pursuing.

Your application status may be viewed at <http://www.westga.edu/~gradsch/>.

Upon receipt of all application materials by the UWG Graduate School and determination by the Department of Nursing that all admission criteria are met, including minimum GRE or MAT scores and grade point average, the Graduate School will notify selected applicants regarding admission status. A separate mailing will be sent by the Department of Nursing providing additional information.

These criteria represent minimal standards and provide no guarantee of acceptance. Admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program is competitive and granted by the Graduate Committee of the Department of Nursing and The University of West Georgia Graduate School.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Department of Nursing	678-839-6552 – www.westga.edu/~nurs/
Financial Aid	678-839-6421
Registrar	678-839-6438

The Department of Nursing also offers post-master's certificate programs in Nursing Education and Health Systems Leadership. The *online* post-master's certificate program in Nursing Education will begin **Summer Semester 2008** (application deadline: **April 1, 2008**). The post-master's certificate programs in Health Systems Leadership – Leader Manager Role or Clinical Nurse Leader will begin **Spring Semester 2009** (application deadline: **October 15, 2008**). Please contact the Department of Nursing for more information or visit online at www.westga.edu/~nurs/.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ADMISSION TEST SCORES

All students applying for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program at the University of West Georgia must submit an official entrance examination score on the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or the New Millers Analogies Test (MAT). Regular admission requires a GRE score of at least 800 (a minimum of 400 on the verbal and 400 on the quantitative sections of the exam). A GRE Analytical Writing test score of at least 3.5 or higher is also required. Regular admission requires a New Miller Analogies Test (MAT) scaled score of 396-401 (percentile rank of 46-54). Test scores for the MAT will only be accepted if taken after October 1, 2004. Please see page 3 for more information.

PROVISIONAL ADMISSION

Students with less than the required GPA and GRE scores may be considered for provisional admission if the undergraduate grade point average multiplied by 100 and added to the student's verbal and quantitative scores on the GRE Aptitude Test equals a minimum of 1000. In no event may the upper division nursing grade point average be less than 2.5 or the score on any portion of the GRE be less than 350. GRE scores on tests taken after October 2002 require verbal, quantitative, and minimum GRE analytical writing score of 3.0. Criteria for meeting provisional admission using MAT scores for tests taken from October 2004 and later have been established by the Graduate School. If your MAT score does not meet regular admission standards, the Graduate School will determine by previously established criteria if it meets the Graduate School minimum for consideration for provisional admission. **Meeting the criteria for provisional admission status is no guarantee of admission. Provisional admission is ultimately subject to departmental approval and the Dean of the Graduate School.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Non-degree and personal enrichment students may be admitted to select nursing courses on a space available basis only. Please be aware that no more than 9 hours taken as a post baccalaureate or non-degree student may subsequently be applied to a degree. In most situations, students will not be allowed to take the full 9 hours; therefore, students attempting to gain admittance to a degree program should make every effort to take the appropriate admissions test as soon as possible.

ADMISSION TEST INFORMATION

Computer-based testing is available throughout the year by calling **1-800-GRE-CALL** or via the Internet at <http://www.gre.org/gentest.html>; for the new MAT access <http://harcourtassessment.com/haiweb/Cultures/en-US/dotCom/millieranalogies.com.htm>. For more information, call the Graduate School at 678-839-6419.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

The three required letters of recommendation must be submitted by the application deadline to the Graduate School in a sealed envelope that is signed across the envelope's seal by the individual making the recommendation. A faculty member knowledgeable of your performance in your BSN program must write one of the letters.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Please be sure to indicate your interest in either the education or leadership area of concentration on the Application for Admission/Readmission to the Graduate School.

Graduate School Policies with Regard to the Acceptance of Miller Analogies Test Scores

The Graduate School of the University of West Georgia will accept scores from the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) pursuant to the following policies (**PLEASE DO NOT CONFUSE THE MAT WITH THE GMAT. MAT SCORES ARE NOT ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION INTO GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTING**):

- Scores from tests taken **prior to** June 1996 **EXCEPT** for out-of-state scores from the MAT taken from October 1990 - August 1991. Scores from tests taken between October 1990 and August 1991 are not acceptable for graduate admission at UWG.
- The Graduate School will accept scores from the MAT taken after October 2004.

Faculty of some departments have not yet decided whether they will accept scores from the new MAT for admission to their programs. However, the MAT is being accepted for admission into the following programs:

<u>GRADUATE PROGRAM</u>	<u>MASTERS</u>	<u>SPECIALIST</u>
Art Education (P-12)	X	NA
Business Education	X	X
Early Childhood Education (P-5)	X	X
Educational Leadership & Prof Studies	NO	NO
French (P-12)	X	NA
Guidance & Counseling	NO	NO
Media	X	X
Middle Grades Education (4-8)	X	X
Physical Education	X	NO
Reading Education	X	NA
Secondary Education - English	X	X
Secondary Education - Mathematics	X	X
Secondary Education - Science	X	X
Secondary Education - Social Science	X	X
Special Ed – Curriculum & Instruction	NA	X
Special Education – General or Adapted Curr.	X	NA
Special Education – Leadership	NA	X
Spanish (P-12)	X	NA
Speech-Language Pathology	NO	NA
Music Education	X	NA
Music Performance	X	NA
Master of Science in Nursing	X	NA

The University/Institution Code for the University of West Georgia for the MAT is 2376.

The Ed.D. Program in School Improvement will not accept the MAT. Only the GRE will be accepted for admission.

GRADUATE SCHOOL MINIMUM SCORES

	<u>Scaled Score</u>	<u>Percentile Rank</u>
Masters Degree	396-401	46-54
Specialist Degrees	400-405	53-60

*Please note that programs may require higher standards than Graduate School minimums. At this time none of the programs have indicated an increase in standards. All have accepted Graduate School minimums.



**DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM**

**DEGREE PLAN
NURSE EDUCATOR ROLE**

Graduate Plan of Study for new students as of Summer 2008

Four Semester Plan (36 Hours)					
Course Number	Course Name	Hours	Course Number	Course Name	Hours
Semester I			Semester II		
N6000	Caring and the Advanced Practice of Nursing	1-0-1	N6400	Scholarly Inquiry in Nursing	3-0-3
N6100	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	3-0-3	N6487	Specialty Nursing Practicum	0-8-2
N6300	Health Care Delivery Systems	3-0-3	N6501	Role of the Nurse as Educator	2-0-2
N6401	Health Promotion and Advanced Health Assessment	2-3-3			
Semester III			Semester IV		
N6502	Assessment and Instruction in Nursing	2-0-2	N6503	Outcomes Evaluation in Nursing Education	2-0-2
N6587	Nurse Educator Role Practicum I	0-8-2	N6787	Nurse Educator Role Practicum II	0-8-2
N6403	Advanced Applied Pharmacology	3-0-3	N6404	Advanced Pathophysiology	3-0-3
N6987	Project	Variable 3	N6500	Data Analysis in Nursing	2-0-2

Six Semester Plan (36 Hours)					
Course Number	Course Name	Hours	Course Number	Course Name	Hours
Semester I			Semester II		
N6000	Caring and the Advanced Practice of Nursing	1-0-1	N6400	Scholarly Inquiry in Nursing	3-0-3
N6100	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	3-0-3	N6487	Specialty Nursing Practicum	0-8-2
N6401	Health Promotion and Advanced Health Assessment	2-3-3			
Semester III			Semester IV		
N6300	Health Care Delivery Systems	3-0-3	N6501	Role of the Nurse as Educator	2-0-2
N6403	Advanced Applied Pharmacology	3-0-3	N6404	Advanced Pathophysiology	3-0-3
Semester V			Semester VI		
N6502	Assessment and Instruction in Nursing	2-0-2	N6503	Outcomes Evaluation in Nursing Education	2-0-2
N6587	Nurse Educator Role Practicum I	0-8-2	N6787	Nurse Educator Role Practicum II	0-8-2
N6987	Project	Variable 1-3	N6500	Data Analysis in Nursing	2-0-2

* N6999 Thesis Optional (3-6 credits) – A description of each of the above courses can be found in the *UWG Graduate Catalog*.

REVISED: 12/12/2007

**DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM**

**DEGREE PLAN
HEALTH SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP: LEADER/MANAGER ROLE**

Graduate Plan of Study for new students as of Summer 2008

Four Semester Plan (36 Hours)					
Course Number	Course Name	Hours	Course Number	Course Name	Hours
Semester I			Semester II		
N6000	Caring and the Advanced Practice of Nursing	1-0-1	N6400	Scholarly Inquiry in Nursing	3-0-3
N6100	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	3-0-3	N6601	Role of the Nurse as Leader/Manager	2-0-2
N6300	Health Care Delivery Systems	3-0-3	N6487	Specialty Nursing Practicum	0-8-2
N6401	Health Promotion and Advanced Health Assessment	2-3-3			
Semester III			Semester IV		
N6602	Problem Solving in Health Systems Leadership	2-0-2	N6603	Outcomes Evaluation in Health Systems Leadership	2-0-2
N6687	Health Systems Leadership Role Practicum I	0-8-2	N6887	Health Systems Leadership Role Practicum II	0-8-2
N6403	Advanced Applied Pharmacology	3-0-3	N6404	Advanced Pathophysiology	3-0-3
N6987	Project	Variable 1-3	N6500	Data Analysis in Nursing	2-0-2

Six Semester Plan (36 Hours)					
Course Number	Course Name	Hours	Course Number	Course Name	Hours
Semester I			Semester II		
N6000	Caring and the Advanced Practice of Nursing	1-0-1	N6400	Scholarly Inquiry in Nursing	3-0-3
N6100	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	3-0-3	N6487	Specialty Nursing Practicum	0-8-2
N6401	Health Promotion and Advanced Health Assessment	2-3-3			
Semester III			Semester IV		
N6300	Health Care Delivery Systems	3-0-3	N6601	Role of the Nurse as Leader/Manager	2-0-2
N6403	Advanced Applied Pharmacology	3-0-3	N6404	Advanced Pathophysiology	3-0-3
Semester V			Semester VI		
N6602	Problem Solving in Health Systems Leadership	2-0-2	N6603	Outcomes Evaluation in Health Systems Leadership	2-0-2
N6687	Health Systems Leadership Role Practicum I	0-8-2	N6887	Health Systems Leadership Role Practicum II	0-8-2
N6987	Project	Variable 1-3	N6500	Data Analysis in Nursing	2-0-2

*N6999 Thesis optional (3-6 credits) – A description of each of the above courses can be found in the *UWG Graduate Catalog*.



**DEPARTMENT OF NURSING
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM**

**DEGREE PLAN
HEALTH SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP
CLINICAL NURSE LEADER**

Graduate Plan of Study for new students as of Summer 2008

Course Number	Course Name	Hours	Course Number	Course Name	Hours
Semester I (10 hours)			Semester II (8 hours)		
N6000	Caring and Advanced Practice of Nursing	1-0-1	N6400	Scholarly Inquiry in Nursing	3-0-3
N6100	Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	3-0-3	N6601	Role of Nurse as Leader	2-0-2
N6300	Health Care Delivery Systems	3-0-3	N6404	Advanced Pathophysiology	3-0-3
N6401	Health Promotion and Advanced Health Assessment	2-3-3			
Semester III (10 hours)			Semester IV (8 hours)		
N6287	CNL Practicum I	0-10-2	N6387	CNL Practicum II	0-20-4
N6602	Problem Solving in Health Systems Leadership	2-0-2	N6603	Outcomes Evaluation in Health Systems Leadership	2-0-2
N6403	Advanced Applied Pharmacology	3-0-3	N6500	Data Analysis in Nursing	2-0-2
N6987	Scholarly Project	Variable 1-3			

A description of each of the above courses can be found in the *UWG Graduate Catalog*.

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