



# School of Nursing

## RN-MSN OPTION

### *Educational Excellence in a Caring Environment*

#### **MISSION:**

The mission of the School 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 RN-MSN CURRICULUM**

The School of Nursing at the University of West Georgia has established the RN-MSN option for Registered Nurses with associate degrees/diplomas who wish to enroll in a graduate nursing program. The Master of Science in Nursing degree offers two tracks: Nurse Educator and Health Systems Leadership (Leader/Manager and CNL). Each track will cross-enroll students in undergraduate and graduate coursework.

- The Nurse Educator 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 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**

**The RN-MSN option will admit in Fall Semester, applications and other required documentation must be submitted by April 1.** Applicants seeking admission to the RN-MSN option 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.

### **Part One – Undergraduate Application Process**

- Application to the University of West Georgia, Undergraduate Admissions (online, \$30) [www.westga.edu/admiss](http://www.westga.edu/admiss); all requirements must be met by appropriate deadlines.
- Acceptance to University of West Georgia at Undergraduate Level
- Hold a current GA RN License
- Overall GPA or Transfer GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale. Applicants with 2.75 may be considered for provisional admission. Students with provisional admission must earn a 3.0 or higher in the first two semesters of nursing coursework in order to be fully admitted to the MSN course sequence.
- Completion of 60 hours of UWG and/or transferable core curriculum required for BSN degree.

### **Part Two – Graduate Application Process**

- Paper application for RN-MSN option must be obtained from the School of Nursing. The completed application must be submitted to the School of Nursing along with the following including items by the appropriate deadlines.
  - \$30 application fee, nonrefundable check/money order made out to University of West Georgia
  - Choice of MSN track must be indicated on RN-MSN Application
  - Current GA RN License
  - Professional Resume
  - Three [letters of recommendation](#), appropriate form is listed with RN-MSN application
  - [Academic Honor Form](#)

Please send all of the Part Two requirements to the UWG School of Nursing, 1601 Maple Street, Carrollton, GA 30118. Upon receipt of all application materials by the UWG School of Nursing and determination that all admission criteria are met, including grade point average, the School of Nursing will notify selected applicants regarding admission status. A separate mailing will be sent by the School of Nursing providing additional information.

### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

School of Nursing	678-839-6552	<a href="http://www.westga.edu/~nurs">www.westga.edu/~nurs</a>
Financial Aid	678-839-6421	<a href="http://www.westga.edu/finaid">www.westga.edu/finaid</a>
Registrar	678-839-6438	<a href="http://www.westga.edu/registrar/">www.westga.edu/registrar/</a>

### **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 and submit required documents as soon as possible.