About This Program . . .

The Master of Science in Nursing degree provides graduates with a foundation for practice as a clinical leader in health care systems or academic settings. Graduates of master's degree programs in nursing are prepared with additional knowledge and clinical expertise building on baccalaureate nursing practice. The MSN program at Colorado Mesa University is based on the "Essentials of Masters Education for Advanced Nursing Practice" identified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The MSN program is designed for students already possessing a baccalaureate degree in nursing and adds the first graduate step on the nursing career ladder at Colorado Mesa University. MSN graduates will be prepared to advance to higher levels of nursing education including Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctoral of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) programs. The program is a hybrid format, providing flexibility for students to remain in their current work positions and home communities in western Colorado using online course delivery methods. Opportunities for personal interaction are included with faculty and peers in focused intensive sessions at selected points during each semester. Clinical immersion experiences will be arranged in health care settings across the region.

All CMU master-level graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking, communication fluency, quantitative fluency, and specialized knowledge/applied learning. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, a Master of Science in Nursing (Advanced Nursing Practice) graduate will be able to:

1. Contribute to scholarly advancement in the chosen field by completing projects individually and collaboratively. (Specialized Knowledge)
2. Employ discipline-specific logical, mathematical, statistical methods, or other analytical processes to address a topic or issue. (Quantitative Fluency)
3. Create oral and written arguments or explanations, well-grounded in discipline-specific theories and methods, for specified audiences. (Communication Fluency)
4. Formulate and evaluate hypotheses as related to research problems, issues, concepts, and various perspectives. (Critical Thinking)
5. Synthesize, evaluate, or refine the information base of various scholarly sources. (Information Literacy)
6. Articulate moral, ethical, legal, or professional challenges within the discipline. (Ethical Reasoning)
7. Contribute to scholarly advancement in the chosen field by completing projects individually and collaboratively. (Applied Learning)

Advising Process and DegreeWorks

This document is intended for informational purposes to help determine what courses and associated requirements are needed to earn a certificate. Some courses are critical to complete in specific semesters while others may be moved around. Meeting with an academic advisor is essential in planning courses and discussing the suggested course sequencing. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and fulfill the requirements for her/his intended degree.

DegreeWorks is an online degree audit tool available in MAVzone. It is the official record used by the Registrar's Office to evaluate progress towards a certificate and determine eligibility for graduation. Students are responsible for reviewing their DegreeWorks audit on a regular basis and should discuss questions or concerns with their advisor or academic department head. Discrepancies in requirements should be reported to the Registrar's Office.

Graduation Process

Students must complete the following in the first two months of the semester prior to completing their certificate requirements (for one semester certificates complete in the first week of class):

- Review their DegreeWorks audit and create a plan that outlines how unmet requirements will be met in the final semester.
- Meet with their advisor and modify their plan as needed. The advisor must approve the final plan.
- Submit the "Intent to Graduate" form to the Registrar's Office to officially declare the intended graduation date and commencement ceremony plans.
- Register for all needed courses and complete all requirements for each degree sought.

Submission deadlines and commencement details can be found at http://www.coloradomesa.edu/registrar/graduation.html.

If your petition for graduation is denied, it will be your responsibility to apply for graduation in a subsequent semester. Your "Intent to Graduate" does not automatically move to a later graduation date.

INSTITUTIONAL GRADUATE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The following institutional requirements apply to all CMU graduate-level degrees. Specific programs may have different requirements that must be met in addition to institutional requirements.

- Graduate certificates consist of a minimum of 5 credit hours. Master's degrees consist of a minimum of 30 credit hours. Doctoral degrees consist of a minimum of 60 credit hours
- All credits in a graduate program must be minimally at the 500-level.
- At least fifty percent of the credit hours must be taken at CMU.
- Students must achieve a 3.00 cumulative GPA or higher in all CMU coursework.
- Students may not apply coursework with a grade lower than a "B" toward graduation requirements.
- A course may only be used to fulfill one requirement for each degree/certificate.
- Capstone exit assessment/projects (e.g., Major Field Achievement Test) requirements are identified under Program-Specific Requirements.
- The Catalog Year determines which program sheet and certificate requirements a student must fulfill in order to graduate. Visit with your advisor or academic department to determine which catalog year and program requirements you should follow.
- See "Requirements for Graduate Degrees and Certificates" in the catalog for a complete list of graduation requirements.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Admission to the program follows the general admissions policies & procedures for graduate programs outlined in the university catalog.
- A bachelor's degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university is required, prior to beginning the program. Applicants must have maintained a GPA of 3.0 or better in baccalaureate nursing coursework.
- 36 semester hours are required for the Master of Science in Nursing degree, Nursing Leadership and Administration Cognate.
- Applicants must hold a current, unrestricted license to practice as a registered nurse in their State of Practice.
- It is recommended that students work closely with a faculty advisor when selecting courses and scheduling classes prior to registration.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING, NURSING LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION COGNATE REQUIREMENTS (36 semester hours, must pass all courses with a grade of "B" or better.)

Required Core Courses (18 semester hours)
- ☐ MANG 510 - Organizational Theory and Behavior (3)
- ☐ NURS 501 - Nursing Research Methods (3)
- ☐ NURS 502 - Health Information Systems (3)
- ☐ NURS 503 - Organizational Leadership (3)
- ☐ NURS 504 - Health Policy (3)
- ☐ NURS 505 - Quality Assessment and Improvement in Health Care Settings (3)

Nursing Leadership and Administration Cognate (15 semester hours)
- ☐ NURS 525 - Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)
- ☐ NURS 526 - Pharmacology for Advanced Nurse Practitioners (3)
- ☐ NURS 527 - Advanced Health Assessment (3)
- ☐ BUGB 500 - Advanced Business Law and Ethics (3)
- ☐ ECON 530 - Managerial Economics (3)

Capstone (3 semester hours)
- ☐ NURS 575 - Capstone Project (3)

Other Requirements
- ☐ Completion of Oral Comprehensive Exam

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCING

Year One, Fall Semester
- ▪ NURS 502 - Health Information Systems (3)
- ▪ BUGB 500 - Advanced Business Law and Ethics (3)

Year One, Spring Semester
- ▪ MANG 510 - Organizational Theory and Behavior (3)
- ▪ NURS 505 - Quality Assessment and Improvement in Health Care Settings (3)

Year One, Summer Semester
- ▪ NURS 527 - Advanced Health Assessment (3)

Year Two, Fall Semester
- ▪ NURS 501 - Nursing Research Methods (3)
- ▪ NURS 525 - Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)

Year Two, Spring Semester
- ▪ NURS 504 - Health Policy (3)
- ▪ NURS 526 - Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Project (3)

Year Three, Fall Semester
- ▪ ECON 530 - Managerial Economics (3)
- ▪ NURS 503 - Organizational Leadership (3)

Year Three, Spring Semester
- ▪ NURS 575 - Capstone Project (3)