MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING: NURSE EDUCATOR SPECIALIZATION

Program Coordinator: Dr. Melissa Duprey
Phone: 508-929-8419
Email: mduprey1@worcester.edu

Admission Requirements
See www.worcester.edu/graduate.

Program Description
Nurse educators are a key resource in preparing a nursing workforce that will provide quality care to meet the health care needs of our population. They practice in academic and clinical settings, and they must be competent clinicians. Although being a good clinician is essential, it is not necessarily sufficient for the educator role.

The Nurse Educator Specialization program is designed to expand the knowledge base of registered professional nurses to prepare them for the role of nurse educator in four areas:
- Higher education
- Vocational education
- Staff education
- Patient education

The program provides theoretical and practical knowledge in the areas of curriculum development, instructional design, advanced teaching methods, and program evaluation.

Worcester State University offers three routes of entry for Registered Nurses seeking a Master of Science in Nursing degree. The pathways to the Master of Science Degree are:
- **Traditional Entry:** For students with a BS degree in Nursing.
- **Bridge Program:** For Registered Nurses with a Non-Nursing BA or BS degree.
- **RN-to-MS Fast Track:** For associate-degree or diploma-prepared Registered Nurses seeking to proceed directly to the Master of Science in Nursing Degree.

The curriculum is based on the practice dimensions of the nurse educator role, recommendations of the National League for Nursing (NLN), and the AACN Essentials of Master’s Education.

Graduate of the Nurse Educator Specialization program are eligible to sit for the National League for Nursing Certified Nurse EducatorCM. Graduates are also eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) certification examination in Nursing Professional Development.

This 36 credit hour program is designed for students who have established an expertise in a clinical area and are now interested in nursing education. The curriculum includes coursework related to experiential teaching methods including high fidelity patient simulation strategies and other emerging technologies to improve education outcomes.

The Nurse Educator Specialization curriculum is designed to meet the learning needs of students who are working full-time. Most courses are taught in a blended-learning format, which combines face-to-face and online learning. The blended-learning format significantly reduces the amount of time students spend on campus, while maximizing interaction with faculty members and fellow students.

A Post-Graduate Certificate Program in Nursing Education is also available to students who have earned the Master of Science in Nursing degree.

**Admission Requirements**

**Traditional Entry**
Baccalaureate degree in Nursing.
Introductory or undergraduate courses in statistics and research.
Unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts.

**Bridge Program - B.A. or B.S. degree in non-nursing discipline.**
Introductory or undergraduate courses in statistics and research.
Unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts.

**RN-to-MS Fast Track**
Associate of Science Degree in Nursing or Diploma in Nursing.
Unencumbered license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts.

This program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036

**MSN Nurse Education Specialty Track -- Traditional Entry**
(For students with a B.S. degree in Nursing)

**Required Courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NU-908</td>
<td>Professional Role Development: Philosophical &amp; Curricular Development In Nursing Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-920</td>
<td>Conceptual Foundations in Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-925</td>
<td>Research for Evidence-Based Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-951</td>
<td>Nursing Leadership &amp; Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-930</td>
<td>Social Policy and the Economics of the Health Care Delivery System</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-946</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-937</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-938</td>
<td>Advance Concepts in Physiology and Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-939</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(Adapted from Worcester State University's program details.)
prepares Bridge students for M.S. level work by assuring that they have
Science in Nursing program at Worcester State University. The program
Nursing, with the opportunity to enter and complete the Master of
(For registered nurses, who hold a B.A. or B.S.in a discipline other than
MSN Nurse Education Specialty Track – Bridge
Complete
2
1
Total Credits
36
1 Courses offered in the blended-learning format.

MSN Nurse Education Specialty Track – Bridge Program
(For registered nurses, who hold a B.A. or B.S.in a discipline other than Nursing, with the opportunity to enter and complete the Master of Science in Nursing program at Worcester State University. The program prepares Bridge students for M.S. level work by assuring that they have achieved the educational outcomes of the B.S.in Nursing Program.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NU-900</td>
<td>Individual Assessment ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-901</td>
<td>Community Health and Health Policy ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-902</td>
<td>Transition to Advanced Nursing ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professional Core</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-908</td>
<td>Professional Role Development: Philosophy &amp; Curricular Development In Nursing Education ²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-920</td>
<td>Conceptual Foundations in Nursing ²</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>NU-925</td>
<td>Research for Evidence-Based Practice ²</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-951</td>
<td>Nursing Leadership &amp; Administration ²</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-930</td>
<td>Social Policy and the Economics of the Health Care Delivery System</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-946</td>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Specialty Courses in Education</td>
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<td>Advanced Concepts in Pharmacology ²</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-942</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning in the Age of Technology ²</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NU-943</td>
<td>Practicum in Teaching &amp; Learning ²</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td>43</td>
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</table>

¹ These courses do not have to be completed before enrolling in Professional Core or Interdisciplinary Courses.
² Courses offered in the blended-learning format.

Bridge students must:
2. Meet with their assigned graduate program advisor to plan a course of study that bridges Bachelor of Science expectations and entry into graduate nursing studies.
3. Compile a portfolio of their professional activities according to the guidelines and submit it to the Graduate Program Coordinator. The portfolio will be evaluated by the Graduate Program Coordinator and an individualized educational plan will developed to support the student in the achievement of all baccalaureate level competencies.

MSN Nurse Education Specialty Track – Fast Track Program
The RN-to-MS Fast Track Program provides an opportunity for associate degree and diploma-prepared nurses to obtain the Master of Science in Nursing Degree. The RN-to-MS Fast Track Program curriculum is characterized by flexibility and recognition of the diversity of the students who enroll.

The RN-to-MS Fast Track Program allows students to work toward their Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing degrees in one integrated program. The Graduate Record Exam, generally required for admission to master’s degree programs, is NOT required for admission in to the RN-to-MS Fast Track Program.

Six (6) graduate credits (500 Level) taken while completing the undergraduate senior year count toward both degrees only when the RN meets the criteria for the Fast Track program, completes an application to the Graduate Nursing Program through the Graduate School, and is accepted into the RN-to-MS Fast Track Program during the first semester as a student in the RN-to-BS Program.

Students can typically complete the RN-to-MS Fast Track Program in nine part-time semesters.

Only course grades of B- or above can be counted toward the Master of Science in Nursing degree.

Fast track students must take courses in the M.S. program the semester after completing the requirements for the B.S. degree. Otherwise 500 Level courses taken in the senior year will count only towards the RN-to-BS degree unless they are in excess of the credits required for the B.S. degree.

Admission Process for RN-to-MS Fast Track Program
The RN student applying to WSU University as a transfer student can receive up to 72 credits transferable from associate degree colleges and a maximum of 90 credits from four year colleges or universities. WSU has articulation agreements with many area colleges for transfer credits (up to 29 credits may be approved for nursing credits).

The RN student who graduated from a nursing diploma program must take the NLN NACE II exams as a prerequisite, which allows the students to obtain up to 29 nursing credits. All RN students must hold a current RN license to practice nursing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Students interested in applying to the RN-to-MS program are advised to contact the Nursing Department at 508-929-8129.

RN-to-MS Foundational Nursing Courses
All nursing courses must be taken in sequence. Students must achieve a minimum grade of 80 in each nursing course. Only one nursing course may be repeated to obtain the minimum grade or required GPA and must be repeated within the 2 years.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>NU-332</td>
<td>Transition to Professional Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-342</td>
<td>Health Assessment</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-432</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Perspectives in Chronic Illness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-530</td>
<td>Social Policy and Economics of the Health Care Delivery System (Satisfies NU-930 Requirement in the RN-to-MS Fast Track Program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator Specialization

Course descriptions for all undergraduate courses may be found in the Worcester State University undergraduate catalog.

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>NU-551</td>
<td>Nursing Leadership and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Satisfies NU-951 Requirement in the RN-to-MS Fast Track Program)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NU-472</td>
<td>Community/Public Health Nursing</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 22

Please note that all requirements for the BS in Nursing degree must be satisfied in the RN-to-MSN Fast Track program.

**Nurse Educator Specialty Courses**

**NU-900 Individual Assessment**

Bridge Program students only. The RN with a B.S. or B.A. degree in a discipline other than nursing identifies individual learning outcomes in their Master’s program of study.

1 Credit

**NU-901 Community Health and Health Policy**

Bridge Program students only. This course analyzes the development of policy and its impact on the health of populations. Students apply epidemiology and public health science to population-based nursing practice.

3 Credits

**NU-902 Transition to Advanced Nursing**

Bridge Program students only. Designed for registered nurses with bachelor’s degrees in areas other than nursing, provides a common knowledge base including the community perspective as a foundation for graduate study in nursing. The realities of modern nursing practice are examined.

3 Credits

**NU-908 Professional Role Development: Philosophical & Curricular Development In Nursing Education**

This course provides the student with an overview of the role of the nurse educator and the philosophical, theoretical, legal, ethical, and professional foundations of nursing education. Content builds on philosophical traditions and influences, nursing theory, pedagogy and andragogy. These foundations provide the basis for an examination of the development of conceptual frameworks, curricula, and the teaching-learning process.

3 Credits

**NU-920 Conceptual Foundations in Nursing**

This course concentrates on the philosophical basis of theory development and application. Students are introduced to the levels of theory building, concept formation and the elements of a model while considering the values and goals of nursing actions.

3 Credits

**NU-925 Research for Evidence-Based Practice**

Prerequisites: NU-946

Students build upon previous learning of research design, methods and process. The critical relationship of research to nursing as a science, as well as its development as a professional discipline is emphasized.

3 Credits

**NU-930 Social Policy and the Economics of the Health Care Delivery System**

This course provides the student with the knowledge necessary to comprehend the political, economic and social elements that affect health and health services. The student develops an understanding of the regulatory environment and its impact on the delivery of nursing care.

3 Credits

**NU-936 Epidemiology**

Evaluation of epidemiological principles and techniques of investigation; measures of incidence and prevalence applied to health risk, morbidity and mortality in specific populations.

3 Credits

**NU-937 Advanced Health Assessment**

This course provides the nurse educator student with the knowledge necessary to comprehend the political, economic and social elements that affect health and health services. The student develops an understanding of the regulatory environment and its impact on the delivery of nursing care.

3 Credits

**NU-938 Advance Concepts in Physiology and Pathophysiology**

This course is designed to present an orientation to disease as disordered physiology. Course focus is on pathological conditions encountered in clinical practice across the life span. Emphasis is placed on regulatory and compensatory mechanisms as they relate to commonly occurring diseases. The influence of environmental and genetic factors on the development of disease will be examined.

3 Credits

1 Indicates that the course is delivered in the blended-learning format.
NU-942 Teaching and Learning in the Age of Technology

**Prerequisites:** NU-908 NU-937 NU-939

Students matriculated in the post-masters certificate are waived from these prerequisites. This course examines driving societal forces for technology integration in nursing education in the emerging knowledge era. The student is provided with the opportunity to synthesize and apply diverse classroom and clinical teaching strategies integrating technology. Using theories of education, students will discuss and evaluate how the use of technology influences teaching, learning, and evaluation strategies as well as quality improvement and patient safety in clinical practice. Students will explore a variety of technologies and their applicability to learning goals, active learning strategies, and different learning environments such as clinical sites and simulation laboratories. Students will evaluate how teacher and learner roles are influenced with the use of technology. This course combines didactic and clinical components. Class includes experiences working with a preceptor in the academic and clinical setting.

4 Credits

NU-943 Practicum in Teaching & Learning

**Prerequisites:** NU-908 NU-937 NU-939 NU-942

This course combines didactic and clinical components to provide students with the opportunity to implement the components of the educator role under the guidance of a preceptor in an educational setting. Opportunities are provided to utilize diverse teaching and learning strategies, educational research findings, and evaluation methods with diverse students. Class includes experiences working with a preceptor in the academic and clinical setting.

5 Credits

NU-946 Biostatistics

This course links statistical methods to epidemiology and ultimately, to practice issues in diverse cultural populations and communities. Students draw upon knowledge acquired from the physical science to interpret and summarize statistical data in meaningful ways.

3 Credits

NU-951 Nursing Leadership & Administration

Provides the student with the necessary skills to integrate appropriate business, economic, financial, leadership and management concepts into effective strategies to effect change in community/public health agencies and healthcare organizations.

3 Credits

NU-999 Clinical Nursing Education

3 Credits