THANK YOU for your interest in Winona State University’s Graduate Programs in Nursing!

Grounded in an environment of scholarship, the mission of the WSU Department of Nursing is to educate knowledgeable Caring, Ethical, Creative, and Accountable nurse leaders who provide person- and relationship-centered care for individuals, families, groups, communities and populations in a diverse society. This mission is based on the beliefs that:

1. a caring, diverse, and respectful community provides the best environment for students to learn how to care for themselves and others;
2. optimal learning to care for self and others occurs in a caring, diverse and respectful community;
3. faculty and students are accountable for maintaining and modeling professional standards of moral, ethical, and legal conduct;
4. recognizing and valuing human diversity is essential to person- and relationship-centered care;
5. individuals have different ways of knowing and learning about the world;
6. creativity and innovation contribute to continuous quality improvement and sustainability;
7. an enriched learning environment is the responsibility of faculty, staff, and students;
8. effective nurse leaders engage in continuous professional development and lifelong learning

Master’s (MS) and Graduate Certificate (GC) students select from the programs of:
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Educator
- Nursing Leadership: Nursing and Organizational Leadership

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and Post-Master’s DNP students select from the programs of:
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Nursing Leadership: Nursing and Organizational Leadership
- Nursing Leadership: Practice and Leadership Innovations

Courses are offered in a variety of delivery methods, i.e., one day per week on campus, online, or in a hybrid format. Hybrid format involves attendance on campus or in synchronous web-based meetings up to four times per semester with the remainder of the course in a web-based platform. Students in the Nurse Educator and Nursing and Organizational Leadership programs can choose a Distance Option that is a three-year plan with all courses offered in hybrid format. Students in other programs are also able to access their required courses via hybrid format.
Master in Science Degree, Doctor of Nursing Practice, and Graduate Certificate Programs

Program: Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (MS: 54 S.H.; DNP: 74 S.H.; GC: 18 S.H.)

Students choosing the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) program are prepared to provide and manage health care of the acutely ill and the critically or chronically ill adult patient in a wide range of settings. AGACNP practice includes decision-making, both independently and interdependently; and is directly accountable for clinical judgments. In addition to the nursing science core and direct care core courses, content includes differential diagnosis and disease management; diagnostic and therapeutic interventions to manage acute and critical health problems; participation in and use of research; development and implementation of health policy, leadership, education, case management; and consultation with emphasis on interdisciplinary therapeutics. Clinical practicums under the supervision of qualified nurse practitioner and physician preceptors will focus on acute care in a variety of specialty areas. Students who choose the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in this area complete additional coursework in the areas of applied biostatistics, epidemiological approaches to population health, select electives, and a clinical scholarship project conducted within the clinical setting. Graduates with the MS and DNP awards are able to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Acute Care NP exam. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare for certification as an ACNP; GC graduates are also eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Acute Care NP exam.

Program: Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (MS: 50 S.H.; DNP: 73 S.H.; GC: 14 S.H.)

Students who elect the Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (AGPCNP) program are prepared to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary health care. In addition to the nursing science core courses and the direct care core courses, content includes comprehensive assessment of the health status of the adult and gerontology population; management of common acute and chronic health problems; provision of counseling and teaching in areas of health promotion and disease prevention; and collaboration with other health professionals. Clinical practicums under the supervision of qualified nurse practitioner and physician preceptors will focus on primary health care in a variety of settings with emphasis on rural and underserved communities. Students who choose the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in this area complete additional coursework in the areas of applied biostatistics, epidemiological approaches population health, select electives, and a clinical scholarship project conducted within the clinical setting. Graduates with the MS and DNP award are able to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Adult-Gerontology exam. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare for certification as an AGNP; GC graduates are also eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Adult-Gerontology NP exam.

In 2007, WSU was selected for the “Outstanding Faculty Practice Award” from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF).

Students who elect the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program are prepared to perform an expanded role in the delivery of primary health care. In addition to the nursing science core courses and the direct care core courses, content includes comprehensive assessment of the health status of individuals across the lifespan and families; management of common acute and chronic health problems; provision of counseling and teaching in areas of health promotion and disease prevention; and collaboration with other health professionals. Clinical practicums under the supervision of qualified nurse practitioner and physician preceptors will focus on primary health care in a variety of settings with emphasis on rural and underserved communities. Family Nurse Practitioner students also have theory and clinical content related to the care of children. Students who choose the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in this area complete additional coursework in the areas of applied biostatistics, epidemiological approaches population health, select electives, and a clinical scholarship project conducted within the clinical setting. Graduates with the MS and DNP award are able to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s FNP exam. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare for certification as an FNP; GC graduates are also able to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s FNP exam.

In 2007, WSU was selected for the “Outstanding Faculty Practice Award” from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF).


Students who elect the Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AGCNS) program will develop, test, and practice the role of clinical nurse specialist with the adult-gerontology population. Extension of advanced nursing practice roles of expert clinician, leader/manager, teacher, consultant, and researcher will be demonstrated within the framework of clinical nurse specialist practice in adult health/gerontology nursing. Clinical Nurse Specialist students will demonstrate competencies in three spheres of influence: patient/client, nurse/nursing personnel, and systems/organizations. Students who choose the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in this area complete additional coursework in the areas of applied biostatistics, epidemiological approaches population health, select electives, and a clinical scholarship project conducted within the clinical setting. Graduates with the MS and DNP award are eligible to take the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist certification exam. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare for certification as an AGCNS; GC graduates are also eligible to sit for the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist exam. Some of the courses are offered using distance teaching strategies and one course has been developed to acquire the skills and education for prescriptive authority in Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist practice.

Program: **Nurse Educator (MS: 48 S.H.; GC: 12 S.H.)**

Students who elect the Nurse Educator (NE) program are prepared to teach in an academic or health care setting. In addition to the nursing science core and direct care core courses, content is offered in knowledge and skills related to the teaching/learning process in nursing, as well as curriculum and program design, instruction, assessment, and evaluation. Students practice teaching under the guidance of preceptors in academic and health care settings. Graduates with the MS award are eligible to take the National League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) Examination after two years of full-time employment in the academic faculty role. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare for certification as an NE; GC graduates are also eligible to sit for the National League for Nursing certified Nurse Educator exam.
League for Nursing Certified Nurse Educator\textsuperscript{CM} (CNE) Examination after two years of full-time employment in the academic faculty role.

**Nursing Leadership Program: Nursing and Organizational Leadership (MS: 43 S.H.; DNP: 72 S.H.; GC: 24 S.H.)**

Students who elect the Nursing and Organizational Leadership (NOL) program are prepared for administrative and leadership positions in a health care setting. In addition to the core courses, content focuses on elements of a nursing care system; the responsibilities of the Nursing and Organizational Leader in research, education, and clinical practice; human resource management; fiscal accountability; information and project management; the functions of the Nursing and Organizational Leader in the organization and system; and on issues and trends in nursing organizational management. Clinical practicums in advanced nursing for the Nursing and Organizational Leader emphasize management of clients, nurses, other health care personnel and resources. The Nursing Leadership Practicums offer students the opportunity to apply nursing leadership and administrative principles under the guidance of a qualified preceptor. Students who choose the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program in this area complete additional coursework in the areas of applied biostatistics, epidemiological approaches population health, select electives, and a clinical scholarship project conducted within the clinical setting. Graduates with the MS and DNP award are eligible to take the American Organization of Nurse Executives exam to become certified as an Executive in Nursing Practice (CENP) exam after two years of practice as a nurse executive. The Graduate Certificate (GC) is for nurses who have completed a previous graduate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited graduate nursing program and desire to prepare to take the American Organization of Nurse Executives Certified in Executive in Nursing Practice (CENP) exam after two years of practice as a nurse executive.


Students who elect the Practice and Leadership Innovations (PLI) emphasis are prepared to develop innovations in practice and leadership. In addition to core courses, content focuses on leadership in practice, organizational leadership, and the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovations. Students will be allowed to tailor their program with electives that advance their knowledge of practice, innovations, and/or leadership. Students will be prepared to lead innovations, advance practice, and improve healthcare outcomes. Clinical practicums in advanced nursing for the Practice leadership Innovations emphasis enable students to develop and lead a practice and/or leadership innovation project with attention to the impact on the organization and human/financial implications. The Nursing Leadership Practicums offer the students the opportunity to apply nursing practice, leadership, and innovation principles under the guidance of a qualified preceptor.
Post-Master’s DNP Programs

Master's prepared advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and leaders in advanced nursing practice may apply to complete the post-master's DNP. The post-master's DNP program is 30-33 credits and five semesters in length. Students take 3-9 credits per semester. The program is designed for nurses who have role preparation and have completed practicum hours as an APRN or as a nurse leader. Students complete a minimum of 375 hours of clinical scholarship work in the post-master’s program (total of master’s specialty plus post master’s DNP clinical hours totals 1,000 clinical hours).

Nurses with a non-APRN role master’s who desire to expand practice to any of the APRN roles (NP or CNS) may apply to complete Graduate Certificate program to prepare for the desired role and, if admitted, can plan with the advisor for entrance into the DNP program.

The full-time post-baccalaureate DNP plan of study is six semesters plus one to two summer sessions long. A part-time plan of study for all programs is available. Students accumulate at least 1,000 hours of direct care and clinical scholarship experience.

All programs consist of didactic and clinical course work structured around the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials of Doctoral Education and competencies of one of the following, as appropriate for the designated program: the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF); the American Organization of Nurse Executives; or the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. Didactic and clinical course work culminates in the completion of an evidence-based clinical capstone project during the Clinical Scholarship course sequences.

Each cohort will begin in the summer session with Statistics 601 unless that has been taken previously. The post-baccalaureate DNP program includes a total of at least 72 semester credits and at least 1000 clinical hours. The AACN requires 600 clinical hours at the Master’s level and 1000 clinical hours at the Doctoral level to sit for advanced practice national certification.

Degree requirements must be completed within seven years of beginning DNP coursework.

Master’s Step-Out for Nurse Practitioner Students

The post-baccalaureate DNP program offers a step-out at the master’s level for the FNP, AGPCNP, and the AGACNP. The Step-Out Master’s option includes a 2-credit Evidence Based Practice Project/Thesis; the students who move straight through the program to the DNP will not be required to complete the Evidence Based Practice Project/Thesis at the master’s level. Winona State University plans to continue this step-out at the master’s level as long as the master’s degree is accepted as entry to practice for advanced practice nurses. When the DNP becomes the entry to practice requirement in 2015 as recommended by AACN, or later, the plan is for the master’s step out to be eliminated.

Winona State University, Graduate Programs in Nursing website provides detailed program information for nurses who are seeking their Master’s degree, Graduate Certificate, or Doctor of Nursing Practice. For an application to the program, please visit http://www.winona.edu/graduatennursing/forms.asp

Please contact us if we can help you meet your professional goals in graduate nursing education. We wish you well in your planning. Phone: 507.285.7473; e-mail: nursing@winona.edu

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