Winona State University
Graduate Programs in Nursing

Admission Requirements

Admission criteria for the Graduate Certificate Programs in Nursing include:

1. Graduate degree from a nationally accredited graduate program in nursing;
2. Computer literacy with knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet, and data base programs;
3. Transcripts of past education with GPA of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale (1 official transcript from each institution attended);
4. Applicants with GPA less than 3.0 will be considered for provisional admission on an individual basis;
5. Applicants whose first language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS):
6. Minimum of one year clinical nursing experience (recommended);
7. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (AGACNP) applicants need to meet additional requirements:
   a. One year critical care experience strongly preferred (e.g., ICU, ER, ICU/CUU, unit providing high acuity care with fast-paced decision making and complex procedures);
   b. ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) certification;
   c. ECG interpretation course required prior to beginning clinical courses;
8. Evidence of current, unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse. Minnesota licensure typically required for all clinical courses. Other state license may also be required for clinical experiences in those states according to state statute;
9. Applicants submit three (3) references from persons who can comment competently on the applicant’s background and suitability for nursing masters/doctoral study. At least one professional reference from a professional who occupies the student’s chosen advanced practice nursing role (e.g. nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, nurse educator, nurse administrator/leader); one professional reference; and one academic or professional reference;
10. Statement of professional goals;
11. Clinical paperwork including a background check required after admission (clinical requirement, fees assessed);
12. Applicants seeking admission to the Graduate Programs in Nursing may be required to have a personal interview with program faculty;
13. Applicants for Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AGCNS) and Nurse Educator (NE) programs must have evidence of completion of advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment (60 hours faculty supervised and includes diagnostic reasoning), advanced health promotion and advanced pharmacology (within last three years required in some states for credentialing);
14. Any applicant seeking to change or add a different population focus, who has graduated from an accredited MS-NP program and in active practice, will be presumed to have met all post MS certificate prerequisites (advanced assessment and diagnostic reasoning, Health Promotion, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology);
15. Graduate Programs in Nursing tuition rates apply.

*Provisional Admittance - Provisional admittance may be granted to applicants who have an Undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) below 3.0. Students accepted provisionally must maintain a 3.0 graduate GPA for their first 12 semester credits, during which time they must take at least one of the following courses: NURS 600 – Scientific and Ethical Foundations; NURS 606 – Nsg Information Management and Decision Making; or STATS 601 – Statistical Methods