The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program prepares nurses for roles as family nurse practitioners (FNPs) or nurse educators (NEs) in healthcare or academic settings. MSN graduates formulate clinical, administrative, or policy decisions to promote health among patients, families, or communities along the continuum of wellness and illness. Students complete a capstone project, based on their clinical areas of interest and substantive expertise. Graduates may continue to work as RNs in a variety of health care settings. This program integrates nursing theory, practice, and science with a broad liberal arts education. It has been developed to prepare highly competent nurses who practice in a variety of health care settings. It is accredited by the CCNE and approved by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. The MSN program prepares students to reside in their home communities. However, students travel to complete clinical hours (e.g., rural health). Objective standardized clinical exams (OSCEs), and graduate program student intensive (GPSI) sessions are held in both in-person and online formats. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the program. The MSN program is accredited by the CCNE.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is for nurses who are interested in an advanced practice role as a family nurse practitioner (FNP) and nurse leader in healthcare systems. DNP graduates are prepared as experts in the delivery of direct patient care and in health systems change. The curriculum focuses on primary care across the life span, health policy, epidemiology, and evidence-based practice. Students must complete a DNP scholarly project which requires them to develop a systems-level intervention to address a gap in clinical practice. DNP courses are delivered on-line allowing students to reside in their home communities. However, students travel to complete clinical hours (e.g., rural health). Objective standardized clinical exams (OSCEs), and graduate program student intensive (GPSI) sessions are held in both in-person and online formats. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. The DNP program is accredited by the CCNE.

Special Requirements

Progression requirements: All nursing courses must be completed in sequence. In the traditional BSN program, all required 300-level courses must be completed before 400-level nursing courses may be taken. The graduate nursing programs (MSN and DNP) require a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from a nationally accredited institution.

Students transferring in credit for human anatomy and physiology taken at out-of-state accredited colleges/universities must provide evidence that these courses had separate laboratory components before the course can be accepted to fulfill program requirements.

High school courses in biology, chemistry and algebra are recommended. All non-nursing college courses must be completed before a student can be admitted to the nursing programs with the exception of the RN-BSN program. An admission committee selects students who best meet program requirements. All admission materials must be on file in the Department of Health Sciences prior to deadlines established for each program.

Application deadlines for each program are as follows:

- **PN Program:**
  - March 1 for fall entrance

- **AAS Program**
  - April 15 for fall entrance

- **LPN–BSN Program:**
  - September 15 for spring entrance

- **MSN Program:**
  - Spring and Fall applications: refer to application and checklist for deadline dates

- **RN-BSN:**
  - Five start dates, please see dates online

- **MSN Program:**
  - April 1 for fall entrance

- **DNP Program:**
  - April 1 for fall entrance

Undergraduate students must have a 2.0 (“C”) on a 4.0 scale or higher grade for all courses required for completion of the undergraduate
nursing programs (PN, AAS, BSN, LPN-BSN, RN-BSN). This policy applies regardless of when the course was taken.

Graduate students must have a 3.0 (“B”) on a 4.0 scale or higher grade for all courses required for completion of the graduate nursing programs (MSN, DNP). This policy applies regardless of when the courses were taken. A “C” grade or lower in any required course will not count toward graduation requirements. See Graduate Programs section of this catalog for complete degree requirements.

Students admitted to nursing programs must undergo a background check and drug screening and must maintain CPR certification and professional liability insurance for clinical practice. Students in the RN-BSN program must also maintain a current unencumbered nursing license. Students enrolling in graduate (MSN, DNP) nursing clinical courses are required to hold unencumbered RN licenses in states where clinical rotations are completed. Graduate nursing students must maintain RN licenses, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification, liability insurance, and current vaccinations for the duration of their graduate studies.

Contact Information

Department of Health Sciences
Health Sciences 101
970.248.1398

Programs of Study

Associates

• Nursing (AAS)

Bachelors/Minors

• LPN to BSN, Nursing (BSN)
• Nursing (BSN)
• RN to BSN, Nursing (BSN)

Certificates

• Practical Nursing (Technical Certificate)

Graduate

• Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner (MSN)
• Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP)
• Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing (MSN)
• Nurse Educator, Nursing (MSN)