**NURSING**

**Program Description**

The practical nurse (PN) program is designed for students interested in an entry-level position in the nursing career ladder program. The PN program is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and has full approval by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. Completion of the PN certificate allows students to progress for advanced placement in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The PN program prepares the student to be a direct care giver in hospitals, long-term facilities and ambulatory care-clinic settings. This program has selective admission requirements. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program; a separate admission application to the program is required.

The LPN–BSN program for licensed practical nurses who are seeking to obtain an RN degree opens up greater employment opportunities, increased compensation and more job security within the nursing profession. The LPN–BSN program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and has full approval by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. The LPN–BSN program offers a balance between general college study and nursing education and prepares students to be direct caregivers in a variety of health care settings. This program has selective admission requirements. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program; a separate admission application to the program is required. The LPN-BSN program begins in the spring each year and is completed in three semesters.

The RN-BSN nursing program enrolls Registered Nurses with current RN licenses from associate degree and diploma programs into the baccalaureate BSN program with advanced standing. The Registered Nurse student will be considered in terms of the Colorado Nursing Articulation Model. The RN may complete the professional component of the program by attaining college full time or part time online. The RN to BSN program offers an accelerated model of instruction. Courses will be offered in a 7-week online format. There will be five start dates for the 7-week format and students may take one or two classes per session. The RN-BSN program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). This program is designed for associate and diploma RN’s. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) is designed for high school graduates and students without prior nursing certificates or degrees. The four-year program provides educational experiences which prepare a professional nurse generalist to practice in a variety of health care settings. It is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and approved by the Colorado State Board of Nursing. The program integrates nursing theory, practice and science with a broad liberal arts education. It has been developed to prepare highly competent professionals with the education necessary to meet the increasing needs for quality health care in society and provides students with the foundation for graduate study in nursing. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program; a separate admission application to the program is required.

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is designed for students already possessing a baccalaureate degree in nursing and a Registered Nurse License. The MSN adds the first graduate step on the nursing career ladder. The MSN degree provides graduates with a foundation for practice as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or an educator in health care systems or academic settings. The MSN program is online, providing flexibility for students to remain in their current work positions and home communities. This format provides optional opportunities for personal interaction with faculty and peers in focused intensive sessions at selected points during each semester. MSN graduates will be prepared to advance to higher levels of nursing education including Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) programs. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. The MSN graduate nursing program is accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is designed for those nurses who are interested in assuming an advanced practice nursing role as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) or for those FNP graduates who choose to continue to a leadership role in the profession. DNP graduates are prepared as clinical experts in the delivery of primary care, with a focus on critical thinking, leadership, and policy skills needed to advocate and create changes in healthcare practice at all levels. The program is online, providing flexibility for students to remain in their current work positions and home communities. Opportunities for personal interaction are included with faculty and peers in focused intensive sessions at selected points during each semester. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the program. The DNP graduate nursing program is accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

**Special Requirements**

Admission to Colorado Mesa University does not guarantee admission into the nursing programs. Please contact the Health Sciences Department for additional information.

Progression requirements: All nursing courses must be completed in sequence. All required 200-level courses must be completed before 300-level nursing courses may be taken. All required 300-level courses must be completed before 400-level nursing courses may be taken. Students must complete all 200-level nursing courses or be an (RN) advanced placement student to enroll in the nursing elective courses.

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.

Any RN or LPN who desires to enroll in a nursing course for personal enrichment only must secure permission from the course instructor.

The MSN is the fourth rung of the nursing career ladder at Colorado Mesa University. Admission requires a Bachelor of Nursing degree from a nationally accredited institution. Prior learning experiences will be evaluated on an individual basis.

The DNP program is the final step on the nursing career ladder at Colorado Mesa University. BSN, MSN-FNP or MSN Educator-prepared registered nurses must submit a separate application for the DNP program. Prior learning experiences will be evaluated on an individual basis.

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. An admission committee selects students from applicants who best meet requirements. All admission
Nursing materials must be on file in the Department of Health Sciences office prior to deadlines established for each program:

- LPN Program:
  - March 1 for fall entrance
- LPN–BSN Program:
  - October 1 for spring entrance
- BSN Program:
  - September 15 for spring entrance, or
  - February 15 for fall entrance
- RN-BSN:
  - Five start dates, please see dates online
- MSN Program:
  - November 1 for spring entrance,
  - April 1 for summer/fall entrance
- DNP Program:
  - November 1 for spring entrance,
  - April 1 for summer/fall entrance

Students admitted to nursing programs must undergo a background check and drug screening, and maintain current CPR certification and professional liability insurance.

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, 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.

Contact Information
Department of Health Sciences
Health Sciences 101
970.248.1398

Programs of Study

Associates
- Nursing (AAS) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/nursing-aas)

Bachelors/Minors
- LPN to BSN, Nursing (BSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/lpn-bsn-nursing-bsn)
- Nursing (BSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/nursing-bsn)
- RN to BSN, Nursing (BSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/rn-bsn-nursing-bsn)

Certificates
- Practical Nursing (Technical Certificate) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/practical-nursing-technical-certificate)

Graduate
- Advanced Nursing Practice, Nursing (MSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/advanced-nursing-practice-nursing-msn)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/doctor-nursing-practice-family-nurse-practitioner-dnp-fnp)
- Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing (MSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/family-nurse-practitioner-nursing-msn)
- Nurse Educator, Nursing (MSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/nursing-education-nursing-msn)