MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is designed for students who already possess a baccalaureate degree in nursing. The MSN degree provides graduates with a foundation for practice as a leader and educator in health care systems or academic settings. The MSN program is online, providing flexibility for students to remain in their current work positions using online course delivery methods. MSN graduates are prepared to advance to higher levels of nursing education including the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) or doctoral programs at other institutions.

The MSN program coursework contains core knowledge essential for practice as a leader, including coursework in nursing theory and research, organizational leadership, health policy and health information systems; and a final capstone or thesis project. There are two cognates to choose from: Nursing Education or Family Nurse Practice. Graduates of master’s degree programs in nursing are prepared with additional knowledge and clinical expertise building on baccalaureate nursing practice. The MSN program at Colorado Mesa University is based on the “Essentials of Masters Education for Advanced Nursing Practice” identified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The nine AACN Essentials include scientific background for practice, organizational and systems leadership, quality improvement and safety, translating and integrating scholarship into practice, informatics and healthcare technology, healthcare policy and advocacy in health care and for inter-professional collaboration for improving patient and population health outcomes, clinical prevention and population health for improving health, and master’s-level nursing practice.

Admission to the MSN Program

See Department specific requirements.

Candidates not meeting all of the above requirements may be admitted under conditional status.

General Policies

Up to nine credit hours may be taken in a “non-degree seeking student” status and later applied to the program requirements. Up to thirty percent of credit hours of applicable courses, with a grade of “B” or higher, may be transferred from a regionally accredited institution into the program. Additional information may be found in the Graduate Policies and Procedures Manual (https://www.coloradomesa.edu/graduate/documents/GraduatePoliciesProcedures.pdf).

Requirements

The Department of Health Sciences (https://www.coloradomesa.edu/health-sciences) offers three Master of Science in Nursing cognate options. See the programs below for complete overviews of all requirements, important information, and suggested course sequencing.

- Advanced Nursing Practice, Nursing (MSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/advanced-nursing-practice-nursing-msn)
- Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing (MSN) (http://catalog.coloradomesa.edu/areas-study/nursing/family-nurse-practitioner-nursing-msn)