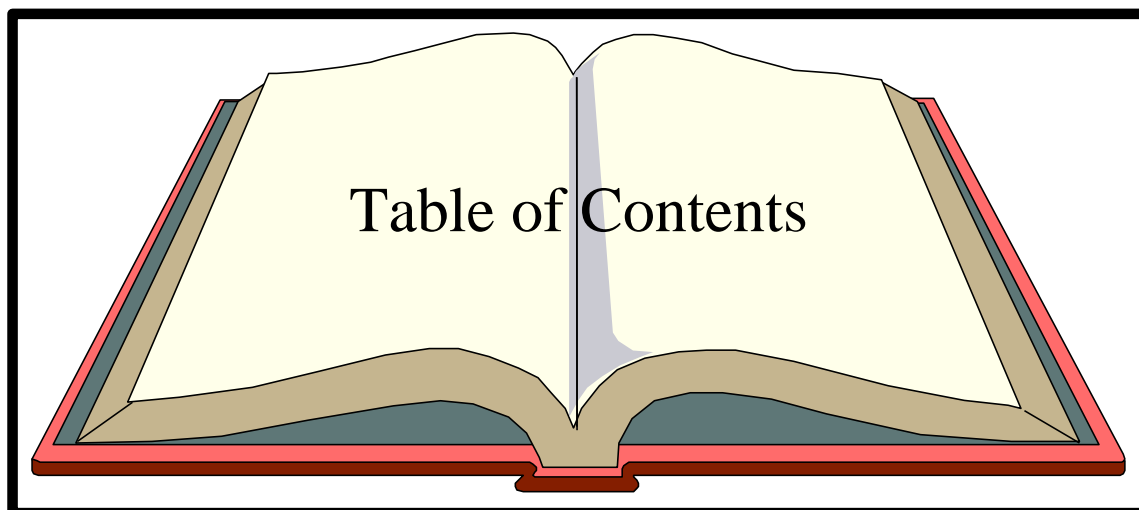


**GRADUATE
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**DEPARTMENT
of
NURSING**

2009-2010

**West Chester University
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19383**



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Introduction

Welcome to West Chester University and the Department of Nursing graduate program. We hope that you will find your experience here to be challenging and rewarding.

This handbook is intended as a supplement to the current West Chester University Graduate catalog and other university publications. The handbook has been prepared to provide you with useful information about the department and the Master of Science degree in Nursing. You are strongly encouraged to keep this handbook throughout your course of study. You will find it helpful in planning and recording your progress in your program and useful at a later date in reconstructing portions of your professional credentials.

Please note that the material in this handbook is subject to change as University and/or department policies are revised. Department advisors will attempt to keep you informed about department and Graduate Studies policies. Ultimately, however, it is still your responsibility to complete all requirements, conform to policies which are in force and meet all deadlines. Periodic checking of the department and university website and consultation with your advisor can help to prevent an untimely delay in your date of graduation or problems with your clinical experiences.

We look forward to a rewarding association with you and hope that you will take advantage of all that our department and the University have to offer.

**Charlotte Mackey, MSN, RN, Ed.D.
Chairperson**

General Information

Department Name: Department of Nursing

Mailing Address: Department of Nursing, Sturzebecker HSC
West Chester Univ. West Chester, PA 19383

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Secretary, Linda Morrow (610) 430-4181

Office of Graduate Studies & Extended Education
www.wcupa.edu/grad

MSN PROGRAM MISSION

West Chester University Graduate Mission

The mission of graduate education at West Chester University is to provide high quality, accessible graduate degree programs responsive to students' need for professional development and educational enrichment. The offerings reflect a wide range of master's programs as well as a selected number of specialist and professional growth opportunities. The quality of programs is enhanced by the faculty's accessibility to, and interaction with, graduate students and by the geographical diversity of the student population. The graduate programs are integrated with the research, outreach, and development functions of the university. The faculty strives to foster excellence in teaching and to create an intellectual environment that actively supports quality graduate education. The goals of graduate study at this university are:

- A. To foster an attitude of intellectual and creative inquiry and to develop research and analytical skills that may be applied in a professional setting.
- B. To increase the professional skills and academic competence of students who show promise of making important contributions to their profession.
- C. To meet the needs of college graduates whose career goals have changed.

Department of Nursing - Mission Statement

The mission of the Department of Nursing at West Chester University is to provide high quality professional degree education in nursing. The baccalaureate program prepares graduates for entry to nursing practice and the master's program prepares graduates for advanced practice in community health nursing. The goal of the department is to prepare nurses for leadership and advocacy in the health promotion, disease prevention and health restoration of individuals, families and communities. Graduates of these nursing programs will be professionals capable of assuming leadership in present and emerging health care roles, citizens who contribute to society, and who are committed to life-long learning and personal development.

Philosophy

The Department of Nursing affirms the WCU Vision, Mission and Values Statements and the College of Health Sciences Mission Statement. It shares the University's commitment to teaching, research, and service to individuals, families and communities. The following statement reflects the Department of Nursing philosophical beliefs.

The Department of Nursing recognizes that individuals, families and communities are entitled to access to health care. Health care is defined as services which promote quality of life throughout the life span. Nursing responds to potential health problems through case finding, decision-making, health promotion, counseling and supportive care. Advanced practice nursing roles include expert clinician, educator, researcher, consultant, and leader. The nursing programs at West Chester University recognize and value the holistic qualities of individuals, families and communities. The programs prepare individuals to practice nursing with the framework of these values through a strong liberal arts and science curriculum.

The faculty of the Department of Nursing provides a caring and supportive environment while respecting the diversity of the student body and communities which it serves. The University community cultivates and supports faculty/student collaboration and mentoring. Students are treated as individuals with unique qualities and learning needs. Through role modeling, the faculty reflects the department's philosophy of caring in their own nursing practice and in their relationships with faculty, students, and the community.

The AACN *Essentials* documents (*The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education* and *The Essentials of Master's Education*) provide structure for the curriculum content of both programs. The faculty designed both programs to facilitate the students' abilities to creatively respond to a continuously changing health system. Innovative educational experiences are cooperatively planned to meet the needs of students and clients and to empower them both. The interpretation, development and implementation of ethical research are stressed throughout the educational process. Ethical decision making, accountability, critical thinking, and effective communication skills are emphasized. This is achieved by the application of nursing theory to professional practice. Each program promotes lifelong learning and the pursuit of advanced professional degrees.

MSN PROGRAM GOALS

At the end of the MSN Program, the graduate will be able to:

1. synthesize philosophy, theory, content, and methods of public health science and nursing science as a basis for community health nursing practice.
2. demonstrate advanced clinical skills in intervening with society including culturally diverse and/or medically underserved individuals or aggregates.
3. assume beginning roles in education, administration, or integrative health.
4. design health care strategies in which nurses contribute to the health promotion and disease prevention of individuals and aggregates.
5. evaluate health care issues, trends, and policies.
6. pursue and evaluate professional development as a continuing professional learner.
7. collaborate with interdisciplinary groups in the community for the purpose of health care planning and programming to achieve the objectives of *Healthy People 2010*.
8. acquire a foundation for doctoral study in nursing.
9. assume the role of advocate in community settings to promote accessibility of health care services and to enhance quality of care.
10. demonstrate a philosophy of nursing that reflects commitment to social justice and the advancement of nursing science.
11. participate in scientific inquiry directed to the health care needs of populations as well as individuals and families.

Requirements for Admission to the MSN Program in Nursing

The prerequisites for admission to the MSN program in Nursing are designed around a set of competencies that the department faculty consider critical for success in the program. You will not be considered for admission to the program until all these prerequisites are met.

In addition to meeting the general requirements for admission to a degree program at West Chester University, the minimum admission standards for the Department of Nursing include:

1. RN (applicants with a bachelors degree in another discipline will be evaluated on an individual basis),
2. an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.8,
3. an undergraduate course in statistics,
4. current licensure as a registered nurse (PA licensure required prior to the clinical practicum),
5. at least two years of recent experience as a nurse providing direct clinical care,
6. and three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic and/or professional qualifications.



Requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing

Academic coursework:

The Master of Science in Nursing at West Chester University is a program in Public Health Nursing. The program has been designed to prepare a nurse as an APN in public health nursing. Students focus on traditional public health roles and broaden their specialty area in community-based settings. In addition, each candidate will have functional preparation in education or administration, or a concentration in integrative health.

A public health nursing core component of 18 credits and a 6-9 credit research component are required for all candidates. In addition, each candidate will complete 12 credits in administration, education, or integrative health courses. Relevant electives will support the academic focus chosen within the functional area or concentration to complete the required 39 semester hours. A thesis option is also available.

Students apply for MSN Candidacy after they complete 15 credits. The form available online on the Graduate Studies Extended Education website is signed by Dr. Stowe. Students must be admitted to degree candidacy prior to completing the comprehensive exam and before registering for thesis credits.

The comprehensive examination measures the MSN Program goals. The exam is taken in the semester that the student intends to graduate. The comprehensive examination is constructed, administered, and evaluated by the faculty of the Department of Nursing. Students should notify their academic advisor the semester prior to planned graduation in order to register for the examination.

The curriculum prepares professional nurses for careers in public health care fields. The graduate will have developed the expertise of an APN, investigative skills of a nurse researcher, and the leadership skills needed to influence health care systems and policy development.

The curriculum may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis. All requirements for the degree must be completed in six years or less.

Requirements for the Master of Science in Nursing

Public Health Nursing Core Component (18 Credits)

NSG 522	(3 credits)	Epidemiology
or		
HEA 520	(3 credits)	Public Health Epidemiology
NSG 501	(3 credits)	Nursing Theories and Issues (Fall)
NSG 502	(4 credits)	Perspectives of Public Health Nursing (Spring)
NSG 503	(6 credits)	Principles and Practice of Public Health Nursing (Fall)
NSG 504	(2 credits)	Advanced Concepts of Public Health Nursing (Spring)

Research Component (6-9 Credits)

NSG 505	(3 credits)	Nursing Research I (Fall –Even Years)
NSG 506	(3 credits)	Nursing Research II (Spring- Odd Years)
NSG 610	(3 credits)	Thesis Option

Functional Component – Select One of the Following: Nursing Administration (9 Credits)

NSG 509	(3 credits)	Public Health Nursing Administration (Fall-Odd Years)
NSG 510	(3 credits)	Nursing Administration in Public Health Settings (Spring-Even Years)
	(3 credits)	Administrative Elective

Nursing Education (9 Credits)

NSG 507	(3 credits)	Curriculum Development (Fall –Odd Years)
NSG 508	(3 credits)	Teaching Competencies in Nursing (Spring - Even Years)
	(3 credits)	Education Elective

Integrative Health (9 credits)

HEA 501 (3 credits) Integrative Health (Fall-Every Year)

OR

NSG 518 (3 credits) Care of the Community Spirit

NSG 515 (3 credits) Nursing Practice in Integrative Health
Settings (Spring –Even Years)

(3 credits) Elective

Total Graduate credits required for the MSN – 39*

* If the student is planning to take the American Nurse Credentialing Center (ANCC), Advanced Public Health Nurse Certification exam (formerly known as Clinical Nurse Specialist in Public/Community Health) following program completion, the student must enroll in an additional course (**NSG 517 – Clinical Practicum**) and complete additional public health clinical practice hours, for a program total of 500 practicum hours. The 500 hours are required by ANCC for eligibility to take the certification examination.

For more information on the credentialing process, eligibility requirements and sample test questions see the ANCC website. (www.nursecredentialing.org)

Course Descriptions

NSG 501 Nursing Theories and Issues (3)

Exploration of a variety of theories and current issues that affect nursing practice, education, and administration.

NSG 502 Perspectives of Public Health Nursing (4)

Introduction to concepts of public health and community health nursing. Includes both classroom presentations and clinical practicum in an agency of interest to the student, focusing primarily on public health care. PREREQ or COREQ: NSG 501.

NSG 503 Principles and Practice of Public Health Nursing (6)

Students will continue to refine the application of principles of public health during a second in the series of courses combining theory with practice. Continued emphasis on the political, governmental, and fiscal management aspects of public health nursing. PREREQ: NSG 502.

NSG 504 Advanced Concepts of Public Health Nursing (2)

Seminar on advanced concepts of public health. No clinical practicum is associated with this course, which will be taken either prior to or together with the functional practicum. PREREQ: NSG 503.

NSG 505 Nursing Research I (3)

Critical analysis of quantitative research designs and outcomes, using existing research studies from the professional literature and existing computerized simulated research to develop skill in research modalities.

NSG 506 Nursing Research II (3)

Critical analysis of qualitative research design and outcomes, using existing research studies from the professional literature and existing computerized simulated research to develop skill in research modalities. PREREQ: NSG 505.

NSG 507 Curriculum Development in Nursing Education (3)

This course is designed to examine the theory and practice of curriculum development as a group process, synthesizing basic principles of curriculum in nursing education.

NSG 508 Teaching Competencies in Nursing -- Principles and Methods (3)

Examination of the teaching-learning process and skills in professional nursing, with emphasis on baccalaureate or in-service education. Includes both classroom and clinical practicum teaching experience, as well as seminars with other students enrolled. Focus is public health nursing throughout. PREREQ: NSG 507.

NSG 509 Public Health Nursing Administration (3)

Principles of administration, leadership, and organization related to the delivery of public health nursing care. Organizational, management, power, decision-making, motivational and change theories will be examined in relationship to the public health nurse administrator.

NSG 510 Nursing Administration in Public Health Nursing Settings (3)

Examination of management skills for nurse-administrators in a service setting in public health. Includes classroom and clinical practicum administration experience, as well as seminars with other students enrolled. Focus is public health throughout. PREREQ: NSG 509.

NSG 511 Measurement & Evaluation in Nursing Education (3)

This course will focus on the application of principles of measurement and evaluation within nursing education. Practical experiences will include the construction and evaluation of classroom tests and clinical assessment instruments, as well as interpretation of standardized tests used within nursing education. Current trends and issues related to evaluation will be discussed.

NSG 515 Nursing Practice in Integrative Health Settings (3)

An advanced practice nursing course in community-based integrative health setting(s). Includes classroom and clinical practice as well as seminars with other students enrolled. Focus is on public health nursing throughout. 1 hour class, 8 hours clinical/week. PREREQ: NSG 518 or HEA 501

Department of Health Courses

HEA 501 Integrative Health (3)

A comprehensive evaluation of alternative and complementary medicine aimed at describing how these modalities are being integrated with allopathic care. Focus will be on Eastern, African, and Native American traditions; homeopathy, naturopathy; botanical medicine; energy work; and mind/body health.

HEA 520 Public Health Epidemiology (3)

An overview of the epidemiological model of disease causation. Various epidemiological study designs and their applications will be presented.

Electives

NSG 512 Legal Mandates of the School Nurse (3)

This course examines the structure of the educational organization and legal issues that specifically affect the certified school nurse and impact the student in the learning environment. Emphasis will be placed on the school nurse's responsibility to enhance the student's ability to learn in relation to promotion, restoration, and maintenance of health.

NSG 513 Nursing Informatics (3)

This course will focus on the current and potential impact of the microcomputer in the nursing areas of practice, education, and administration. Basic concepts of computer literacy will be reviewed with lab exercises to assist those who are not computer literate. The course then will proceed from the history of nursing informatics and culminate with the future of nursing informatics.

NSG 514 Human Lactation, Breastfeeding and Health of the Community (3)

This three-credit course is for students seeking in-depth knowledge about breastfeeding and human lactation. Through various assignments, the research in lactation will be explored and critiqued. Emphasis is on understanding the physiology of human lactation and the health impact on infants and their mothers. The normal process of breastfeeding will be addressed with analysis of the barriers to breastfeeding in today's society. Utilizing national policies and standards as the focal point, the student will analyze what local, national, and international organizations are doing to support breastfeeding. This course is open to students in integrative health as well as community health nursing.

NSG 516 Cancer Nursing Practice (3)

The emphasis of this course is the care of clients with cancer. This course examines the various physiological, psychosocial, and spiritual effects this disease has on clients and their families. A variety of topics will be discussed, including: communication, hope, sexuality, spirituality, loss, pain, and altered body image. The focus of the course is on the role of the professional nurse in prevention, diagnosis, and client management.

NSG 517 Selected Topics in Nursing (3)

An in-depth study of selected, current topics relevant to the development of nursing majors. This course will emphasize the critical analysis of current topics that impact on professional nursing. Each student will develop a commitment to reading and critiquing nursing research in professional journals as part of the teaching-learning process.

NSG 518 Care of the Community Spirit (3)

This course focuses on community building and spirituality. Course content includes introduction to the concept of community spirit, culture, and community; integration of health and spirit within the community.

NSG 520 Health Assessment in Advanced Nursing Practice (3)

This course combines comprehensive theoretical and laboratory experience to enable the nurse in advanced practice to complete a holistic health assessment of the client. Opportunity is provided to enhance the participant's ability to collect relevant data via use of appropriate interviewing methods, developmental and physical assessment techniques, critical thinking, and psychomotor skills (two hours, lecture; three hours, laboratory).

NSG 521 Palliative Care (3)

This course is for graduate students in nursing and related fields who will be working with families, the elderly and/or those with chronic or terminal illnesses in the community, hospitals, or other care facilities that coordinate care for the community. The course presents rationale for addressing end-of-life care for the community and ways to serve as consultant, educator, and leader in bringing about change that will improve care at the end of life and develop and use the basic tenets of palliative care are provided.

Biopsychosocial and spiritual symptom management to ensure quality of life at highest level possible for individuals and families in the community is emphasized. Student assignments focus on integration of palliative care with objectives and practices in existing community groups and organizations and on current and future research on how to bring this about.

NSG 522 Epidemiology (3)

An overview of the epidemiological model of disease causation. Various epidemiological study designs and their applications will be presented.

NSG 610 Thesis Option (3-6 credits)

SELECTED ELECTIVES FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH FUNCTIONAL TRACK

HEA 511 Stress Management Techniques and Program Development (3)

The first half of this course is devoted to examining basic stress concepts, the psychophysiology of stress, common stressors and their effect, and the relationship between stress and disease. The second half consists of a comprehensive review of stress management techniques that deal with cognitive restructuring, relaxation, and relationship building. Considerable emphasis is placed on personal application and group interaction in the class.

HEA 540 Mind/Body Medicine (3)

A comprehensive evaluation of the mind's role in disease prevention and healing. Emphasis will be placed on learning and practicing mind/body techniques and assessing the mind's role in preventing disease and promoting healing. Evaluation of professional literature will be stressed.

HEA 547 Principles of Botanical Medicine (3)

A comprehensive evidence-based assessment of botanical medicines in health promotion, disease prevention, and symptom management.

SCHOOL NURSE CERTIFICATION

The **School Nurse Certification** program is a 13 credit post-baccalaureate program which prepares you for initial Pennsylvania Department of Education certification as an Educational Specialist I – School Nurse.

Program Objectives

1. Demonstrates competency in providing alternatives for planning, implementing, and evaluating health interventions and wellness promotion in a variety of school settings.
2. Analyzes the organization, administration and governance of the educational system.
3. Articulates an understanding of child/adolescent growth and development.
4. Demonstrates competency in planning and implementing learning experiences that meet the needs of students from varying cultural backgrounds.
5. Displays proficiency in selecting, implementing, and evaluating an appropriate health maintenance and wellness program for students and families.
6. Identifies legal aspects of the educational system as they relate to the role of the school nurse.

REQUIRED COURSES

NSG 512 - Legal Mandates of the School Nurse (3) *(usually offered in the summer session)*

This course examines the structure of the educational organization and legal issues that specifically affect the certified school nurse and impact the student in the learning environment. Emphasis will be placed on the school nurse's responsibility to enhance the student's ability to learn in relation to promotion, restoration, and maintenance of health.

NSG 520 - Physical Assessment (3) *(usually offered in the summer session)*

This course combines comprehensive theoretical and laboratory experience to enable the nurse in advanced practice to complete a holistic health assessment of the client. Opportunity is provided to enhance the participant's ability to collect relevant data via use of appropriate interviewing methods, developmental and physical assessment techniques. Emphasis is placed in refinement of communication techniques, critical thinking and psychomotor skills.

NSG 502 – Perspectives of Public Health Nursing (4)

Introduction to concepts of public health and community health nursing. Includes both classroom presentations and clinical practicum (112 hours) in a school health setting.

The hours are to be distributed as follows: 40 hours of elementary education, 40 hours of secondary education, 12 hours of health education and 20 hours of special education.

EDA 541 - Foundations of Special Education (3)

The study of children whose intellectual, physical, social, and/or emotional characteristics are significantly different from those of children whose needs are met through regular educational means.

Admissions Requirements

1. BSN degree from a National League for Nursing (NLN) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited program.
2. Current licensure as a registered nurse in Pennsylvania.
3. A cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on the last 48 nursing credits.
4. An advising interview with Professor Michele Tucker to complete the “Program of Study” form – **before enrolling in the first certification course.**
5. Prior to completion of the coursework, students must have 6 credits of college level Math, 3 credits of college level English & 3 credits of college level Literature.

Special Requirements

Prior to the NSG 502 practicum, you must provide the Department of Nursing with the following documentation:

- CPR Certification (ARC or AHA) (2-person) including resuscitation of infants and children
- Current PA-RN licensure
- Liability insurance coverage in the amounts of \$1,000,000/3,000,000
- Current health assessment (within one year) performed by an MD or CRNP
- Inoculations against diphtheria, tetanus, Rubella, rubeola, mumps, measles, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, and varicella.
- NSG 512 & NSG 520 must be completed prior to taking NSG 502.
- Act 151 and 34 clearances*
- Substance Abuse Policy/Testing**
- TB testing***

*Act 151 and 34 clearances, Substance Testing results and TB testing results are good for 12 calendar months. These 3 requirements must be repeated after 12 months, prior to subsequent courses with a clinical component (NSG 508, 510, 515 & 517).

**** Substance Abuse Policy**

Students are expected to perform unimpaired. Prior to NSG 502 a student must have a negative substance abuse result. This policy is in addition to the West Chester University of PA Student Code of Conduct and the Drug-Free Campus policy. (Section III, Ram's Eye View).

Substance Testing

Students must have a test performed at the designated laboratory during the stated testing period before entering NSG 502 and before subsequent clinical courses if more than 12 months have passed since initial testing. Tests are performed by a qualified agency or laboratory using standard procedures for maintaining chain of custody. Tested substances are: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and phencyclidine. Students are responsible for all costs associated with these tests. Students' results are sent directly to the Department of Nursing from the examining agency. Students with a positive result will be dismissed from the nursing major. Refusal to be tested will result in dismissal from the graduate nursing program.

***** TB Testing**

In order to comply with agency requirements, a two-step PPD will be required for all students prior to NSG 502 and any subsequent clinical practicum if greater than 12 months has transpired. The two-step test requires you to receive an initial PPD, which will need to be read in 48-72 hours and another PPD in two weeks, which will need to be read in 48-72 hours. Our departmental requirements conform to the rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania State Board of Nurse Examiners in regard to provisions for the protection of students' health.

The health form must be completed and returned directly to the Department of Nursing prior to NSG 502 and any subsequent clinical practicum if greater than 12 months has transpired, where it will be reviewed. **The health form must be in the Department of Nursing before a student will be allowed to enter any agency to care for clients.** Once receipt is verified by the Nursing Department, the health form will be forwarded to the WCU Health Service Office. If a health problem is identified, indication of how the problem will be re-mediated must be included in the student's health file.

Drug Testing Form

I, _____ understand that as a requirement for progression in the West Chester University, Department of Nursing, I must submit to a urine drug test at a designated laboratory, which will provide the results of the test to the Chairperson of the Department of Nursing. I understand that if the test result is positive, I will be dismissed from the nursing program.

Student's Signature

Student's Printed Name

Date

West Chester University
Department of Nursing
Guidelines for Nursing 502 & 503 Clinical Courses

CLINICAL PRACTICUM PLANNING

Prior to arranging the clinical practicum, the student must file the following credentials with the Graduate Coordinator:

1. Copy of current RN licensure
2. Copy of face sheet of liability insurance policy documenting coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000/ 3,000,000.
3. Annual physical exam report including documentation of immunity to Rubella, rubeola, measles, mumps, poliomyelitis, tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis B, and varicella.
4. CPR certification – American Red Cross or American Heart Association Life Support (two person) CPR. The CPR course must include resuscitation of infants and children.
5. Act 151 and 34 clearances* (see page 16)
6. Substance Testing** (see page 17)
7. TB Testing*** (see page 17)

CLINICAL HOURS

NSG 502 - 8 hours/week

NSG 503 - 12 hours/week

SELECTION OF THE CLINICAL AGENCY

The student should select a public health agency using the following criteria:

1. Presence and willingness of a MSN prepared nurse to serve as a preceptor.
2. Ability of the agency to provide opportunities for the student to successfully meet course and personal objectives.

THE PROCESS

1. Contact the agency director and make an appointment to visit the agency to discuss your objectives for the practicum.
2. Plan a schedule with your preceptor and provide your faculty advisor with a copy.
3. Provide the Graduate Coordinator with names and addresses relating to your practicum. The Graduate Coordinator will complete a Letter of Agreement between the University and the Agency.

THE JOURNAL

The clinical journal is a log which records your clinical practicum experiences. The narrative should be *clearly correlated* to course and personal objectives. Objective numbers may be put in the margin. The journal is evaluated at midterm and at the end of the experience by the faculty advisor.

**West Chester University
Department of Nursing
Guidelines for Nursing 508, 510, 515 Clinical Courses**

SELECTION OF THE CLINICAL AGENCY

1. The agency is willing to cooperate with the Department of Nursing in providing administrative internships, teaching experiences or integrative health experiences for graduate students.
2. The agency is approved or accredited as is appropriate.
3. The agency is willing to sign the Department of Nursing - Letter of Agreement.

CREDENTIALS OF THE PRECEPTOR

1. The preceptor will hold a minimum of a master's degree in nursing.
2. The preceptor will serve as a role model for the graduate student in the teaching, administrative or advanced practice role.
3. The preceptor will have demonstrated expertise in teaching, administration, or integrative health as appropriate.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRECEPTOR

The preceptor will:

1. Review with the student the course and personal objectives to be met during the experience.
2. Plan experiences with the student which will meet the objectives.
3. Facilitate the student's meeting of the objectives in the setting.
4. Participate in the evaluation of the experience.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT

The graduate student will:

1. Submit to the Graduate Coordinator evidence of a current PA RN license, current malpractice insurance (1/3 million coverage), a current health assessment report, and current CPR certification.
2. Act 151 and 34 clearances* (see page 16)
3. Substance Testing** (see page 17)
4. TB Testing*** (see page 17)
5. Write specific personal objectives for the practicum, a tentative schedule, and how s/he will complement the cooperating institution.
6. Participate in seminar.
7. Write a clinical journal which documents experiences which fulfill the course and personal objectives.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE FACULTY MEMBER

1. The faculty will collaborate with the student and preceptor in planning the experience.
2. The faculty member will monitor student progress and evaluate the student's success in meeting objectives.
3. Make site visits as appropriate.

PRACTICUM PLACEMENT

1. The Graduate Coordinator will initiate contact with agencies and determine the feasibility of the placement of students within any given semester.
2. The faculty member will initiate contacts with the agency preceptor for practicum placement.
3. The Graduate Coordinator will initiate letters of agreement to the agencies.

CLINICAL HOURS

NSG 508 - 8 hours/week

NSG 510 - 8 hours/week

NSG 515 - 8 hours/week

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8/07

**West Chester University
Department of Nursing**

The Master's Thesis Option

NURSING 610 - Thesis (3-6 credits)

Undertaken on completion of Nursing 506. Research, supervised through topic selection, investigation and oral defense.

The student will utilize the Guide for Preparing Master's Thesis prepared by the Office of Graduate Studies and Sponsored Research. The paper will be written according to the APA Style Guide, 4th Ed.

OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, the student will have:

1. Reviewed the pertinent literature.
2. Designed, implemented, and evaluated a research study.
3. Written the paper in appropriate format.
4. Presented the findings to faculty and colleagues.

Texts: See Syllabi for NSG 505-506

Advisement Process for the MSN Graduate Program

The Department of Nursing encourages active participation of the faculty advisor in the area of academic guidance and counseling. Each faculty member is assigned student advisees by the graduate coordinator. The faculty member is available for advisement during posted office hours and by appointment. Office hours may change from semester to semester because of differences in class and clinical assignments.

Each semester students consult with their advisors to plan their course selection for the next semester. Prior to registration, schedules are available on-line and in the Graduate Studies Office. Students discuss course selections with the faculty advisor during office hours or at special times posted by faculty members specifically for pre-scheduling. It is hoped that students will seek out and confer with their advisors at other times during the course of the school year.



**West Chester University
Department of Nursing
MSN Advisement Sheet**

I. Core Component (18 Credits)

NSG 522 (3) _____ Fall or
HEA 520 (3) _____ Fall

NSG 501 (3) _____ Fall
NSG 502 (4) _____ Spring
NSG 503 (6) _____ Fall
NSG 504 (2) _____ Spring

II. Research Component (6-12 Credits) (offered every other year)

NSG 505 (3) _____ Fall
NSG 506 (3) _____ Spring

NSG 610 (3-6) –Thesis Option (Elective 0-3) OR Electives (6) – Non-Thesis Option

III. Functional Component (9 Credits) (offered every other year)

Administration

Education

NSG 509 (3) _____ Fall	NSG 507 (3) _____ Fall
NSG 510 (3) _____ Spring	NSG 508 (3) _____ Spring
Elective * (3) _____	Elective * (3) _____

Integrative Health

NSG 518 OR HEA 501 (3) _____ Fall
NSG 515 (3) _____ Spring
Elective * (3) _____

* Relevant to the functional area per advisor approval

IV. Degree Candidacy-----After 15 credits are completed

V. Comprehensive Examination-----Final Semester

**VI. Intent to Graduate-----Final Semester
(see deadlines on GSEE website)**

NURSING EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The **Nursing Education Certificate** program is a 12 credit post-baccalaureate or post-master's program to specifically prepare individuals with BSN or MSN degrees, of a clinical nature, for the teaching role in nursing education.

Program Objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the theory and practice of curriculum development as a group process, synthesizing basic principles of curriculum in nursing education.
2. Analyze forces and issues that affect curriculum development, relevancy, and change.
3. Articulate issues, trends, and research within the context of nursing education.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the teaching-learning process and skills for professional nursing education.
5. Display proficiency in the teaching-learning process through selecting, planning and implementing a teaching plan in a nursing education setting.
6. Demonstrate competency in the application of principles of measurement and evaluation in nursing education.

REQUIRED COURSES

NSG 507 Curriculum Development in Nursing Education (3)

This course is designed to examine the theory and practice of curriculum development as a group process, synthesizing basic principles of curriculum in nursing education.

NSG 508 Teaching Competencies in Nursing -- Principles and Methods (3)

Examination of the teaching-learning process and skills in professional nursing, with emphasis on baccalaureate or in-service education. Includes both classroom and clinical practicum teaching experience, as well as seminars with other students enrolled. Focus is public health nursing throughout. PREREQ: NSG 507.

NSG 511 Measurement & Evaluation in Nursing Education (3)

This course will focus on the application of principles of measurement and evaluation within nursing education. Practical experiences will include the construction and evaluation of classroom tests and clinical assessment instruments, as well as interpretation of standardized tests used within nursing education. Current trends and issues related to evaluation will be discussed.

And one elective such as:

NSG 513 Nursing Informatics (3)

This course will focus on the current and potential impact of the microcomputer in the nursing areas of practice, education, and administration. Basic concepts of computer literacy will be reviewed with lab exercises to assist those who are not computer literate. The course then will proceed from the history of nursing informatics and culminate with the future of nursing informatics.

Admissions Requirements

1. BSN or MSN degree from a National League for Nursing (NLN) or Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited nursing program.
2. Current licensure as a registered nurse in Pennsylvania.
3. A cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.8.
4. An advising interview with Dr. Stowe to complete the “Program of Study” form – **before enrolling in the first certificate course.**

Special Requirements

Prior to the NSG 508 practicum, you must provide the Department of Nursing with the following documentation:

- CPR Certification (ARC or AHA) (2-person) including resuscitation of infants and children
- Current PA-RN licensure
- Liability insurance coverage in the amounts of \$1,000,000/3,000,000
- Current health assessment (within one year) performed by an MD or CRNP
- Inoculations against diphtheria, tetanus, Rubella, rubeola, mumps, measles, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, and varicella
- Act 151 and 34 clearances* (see page 16)
- Substance Testing** (see page 17)
- TB Testing*** (see page 17)

GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES

West Chester University

Office of Graduate Studies

Grade Change Policy

A grade awarded other than IP/NG is final. Final grades can be changed only when there is a clerical or computational error. If the student thinks there is an error the student must report the alleged error in writing to the professor as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the fifth week of the following semester. If a grade change is warranted, the professor must submit a change of grade request to the office of the registrar not later than the end of the ninth week of the semester. Final grades cannot be changed after the ninth week of the semester following the alleged error.

Graduate Student Course Repeat Policy

Graduate students must repeat courses applied to the degree for which they have received a grade of less than C- and all courses for which the program or department has a higher standard. Courses may be repeated only once. Both grades received for a course will remain on the student's record and both grades will be used to calculate the cumulative and major averages.

*****Continuous Enrollment**

All graduate students who have been admitted into a degree program must maintain continuous registration each semester (except summer sessions), or must apply for a formal leave of absence.

Degree Candidacy

After earning 15 credits, every student must file an application for admission to degree candidacy with the Graduate Studies Office.

*****Application for Graduation**

All of the forms required for graduation are available in a packet from the Office of Graduate Studies and they may be downloaded from the web page (www.edu/_admissions/sch_dgr/default.htm).

Deadline dates for applying to graduate are: May graduation - February 1; August graduation - June 1; December graduation - October 1.

See www.wcupa.edu/grad

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Office of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies is located in McKelvie Hall on Rosedale Avenue. Students may utilize the office for schedules and forms for registration, leave of absence, degree candidacy, and graduation. The telephone number is 610-436-2943 and the hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Graduate Studies home page may be accessed from the WCU home page. Most forms are available via the web.

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

All graduate students are members of the WCU Graduate Student Association. Dues are applied from fees paid with tuition each semester. What does the GSA do?

- GSA hosts graduate orientations in the fall of each year.
- GSA assists graduate students in finding solutions to academically related problems.
- GSA conducts seminars on various topics - Thesis, Computers, Advising, etc.
- GSA hosts December and May graduation receptions for graduate students.
- GSA provides a stipend to graduate students who present research at conferences and seminars.
- GSA represents the graduate student interests at West Chester University.
- GSA produces a newsletter to provide information and tips for graduate students.
- GSA offers opportunities to serve on campus-wide committees and the GSA Executive Board.

The GSA office is located in Sykes Union Building, Room 216, and the telephone number is 610-436-6987.

Francis Harvey Green Library

The FHG Library offers the graduate student an excellent environment for study and research. Among the many services are reference, computerized on-line literature searching, *free* interlibrary loan for graduate students, and photo-duplication. Use of the library is enhanced by:

- WCU's on-line card catalog - PILOT
- a computerized network of indexes and abstracts on CD-ROM
- Internet periodical indexes (Search Bank, etc.)

The library has day, evening and weekend hours of operation. The circulation desk telephone number is 610-436-2946. **A current ID must be presented to check out material and to access indexes from home on-line.**

The Academic Computing Center (ACC)

The ACC is located in Anderson Hall, North Campus on Church Street. The ACC is connected to the WCU - Local Area Network (LAN) which allows access to different types of software and services including:

- Internet - World Wide Web
- word-processing/PowerPoint
- database, spreadsheet, and programming languages
- WCU's on-line card catalog
- Search capabilities utilizing Periodical Indexes and Search Bank
- MS-mail accounts for students (e-mail accounts are available for all students)
- Windows '00 environment

The ACC telephone number is 610-436-2390. You may call for hours of operation.

Orientation to the Frances Harvey Green Library and the Academic Computing Center

A general orientation to the library services is provided in the NSG 501 course. Additional orientations to advanced searching capabilities are provided in various other courses.

Office of Graduate Studies/GSA Orientation for New Graduate Students

An orientation for all new graduate students is held every fall semester. The time and day varies and is announced with registration materials. Usually ID services and parking stickers can be purchased at the orientation. Refreshments are provided

Student ID Cards

In order to borrow books from the library, graduate students must present their WCU ID (identification) card. An ID card can be purchased for a fee at the SSI Office, Sykes Union Building. (For further information on the cost and hours for pictures, contact SSI at 610-436-2955).



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing

The Honor Society of the Department of Nursing, West Chester University, was established in the spring of 1985. The first induction for the society was held on March 24, 1985. On April 17, 1994, the Honor Society was chartered as Xi Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing in a ceremony conducted by Elizabeth Carnegie, DPA, RN, FAAN, member of the Board of Directors of Sigma Theta Tau. The purposes of this society are to recognize superior achievement, recognize the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, encourage creative work, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.

Each fall, Xi Delta Chapter hosts an induction ceremony to honor new members. Membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the nursing program who have demonstrated superior scholastic achievement and potential for community leadership as well as to community nurse leaders. Undergraduate candidates must have achieved a grade average of at least 3.25 and be in the top one-third of their class; graduate students are eligible if they have achieved a grade-point average significantly higher than the minimum requirement for graduation. This should be at least a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale. Community leaders must have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree and have demonstrated marked achievement in nursing education, practice, research or publication.

Mary Kline Lecture Series and Professional Day

An annual campus-wide lecture series has been established by the Department of Nursing to honor Mary L. Kline, a distinguished member of the nursing faculty who retired in 1983 after fourteen years of dedicated teaching and service to the university. These lectures are held annually in the fall semester.

West Chester Nursing View: The BSN and MSN News

The student newsletter is published twice a year for the purpose of informing students and faculty of interesting events and news. All are welcome to contribute to the newsletter.

Student Representation on Department and Campus-Wide Committees

Students are invited to serve as student representatives on department committees, such as the Student Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Curriculum committees. Campus-wide service is possible by serving as a student representative on one of several committees on campus, such as CAPC, Space Allocation and Library, Sykes Union Advisory Committee, etc. Interested students may get information from a faculty member or from the Graduate Student Association.

Graduate Research Day

In the spring semester, the State System of Higher Education universities join together for a graduate student research day in Harrisburg. The GSA provides travel funding to WCU graduate students who present at this event.

Graduation Celebration

In May of every year a graduation celebration is held to honor the graduates. Students plan this event and it is held at a private home or a restaurant.