

## **Master of Science FAQs**

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 Advanced Public Health Nurse. 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, administration, or in integrative health.

### **Why WCU?**

- ◆WCU Kiplinger's "Best Buy"
- ◆All nursing courses are taught by faculty.
- ◆Students are taught by clinical experts in their area of specialization.
- ◆Classes are typically offered in the evening, with some alternate format courses offered on weekends
- ◆Students have the option of elective courses in 5 week summer sessions
- ◆Students are accepted on a rolling basis and applications are reviewed when all required information has been received by the Office of Graduate Studies
- ◆Faculty advisors are assigned to students upon admission.

### **How many credits is the program and how long will it take?**

The program is a total of 39 credits and can take from 2 to 4 years on a full time or part time basis.

University policy states that the program must be completed in a maximum of 6 years.

### **When can I start?**

Students may start the program in fall, spring, or summer semesters but due to the sequencing of the initial public health core courses, it is strongly recommended that students start in the fall.

### **Can I take a course prior to being accepted into the program?**

Students who are considering the Master's program or are in the process of applying may take up to 9 credits prior to full matriculation.

In order to take graduate courses prior to official matriculation it is recommend that the interested student speak with the Graduate Program Coordinator Dr. Ann Stowe (610-436-2331) to identify possible courses to schedule. Following this conversation the prospective student should contact the Office of Graduate Studies at 610-436-2043 and ask to be scheduled for the course (s) selected.

### **How do I apply?**

The application is completed online through the Office of Graduate Studies web site. The applicant must also request that all transcripts from previous degrees be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies, along with two letters of recommendation and a copy of the applicants RN license should be provided as well. If the applicant is a WCU graduate or took classes at WCU those transcripts do not need to be provided.

### **What are the admission requirements?**

- A BSN from an accredited nursing program **or**
- RN applicants with bachelor's degrees in another discipline will be evaluated on an individual basis
- Undergraduate C.G.P.A. at least a 2.80
- Undergraduate course in statistics
- Current licensure as an RN in Pennsylvania
- Two letters of recommendation

### **When are classes held?**

Classes are typically held in the evenings and are 2 to 3 hours in length. They are typically offered either 4-7pm or 7-10pm.

### **Is there a clinical component to the graduate program?**

In three of the graduate courses there are required clinical practicum hours. In the public health core courses NSG 502 and NSG 503 the practicum hours are 112 and 156 hours respectively.

Once the student has completed the core courses and associated practicum the student will then select a functional track, (administration, education, and integrative health). Within the functional practicum the student also does a practicum.

Clinical practica experiences are set up through a collaborative process between the course faculty member and the student. Guidelines for the clinical courses are outlined in the Graduate Student Handbook.

### **MSN in Public Health Nursing - Functional Area in Administration**

This functional area provides content and practice related to public health administration focused on leadership and organizational theory and skills. In addition theory related to management, power, decision-making, motivation, and change are emphasized.

Required course:

- NSG 509 Public Health Administration Theory
- NSG 510 Nursing Administration in Public Health Settings
- Elective in Administration

Elective Courses:

- NSG 513 Nursing Informatics
- NSG 518 Care of the Community Spirit
- NSG 520 Health Assessment in Advanced Nursing Practice

### **MSN in Public Health Nursing - Functional Area in Education**

This functional area provides content and practice related to curriculum theory and development, measurement and evaluation in nursing education and principles and methods of the teaching-learning process and skills in professional nursing with emphasis on baccalaureate or in-service education.

Required Courses:

- NSG 511 Measurement and Evaluation in Nursing Education
- NSG 507 Curriculum Development in Nursing Education
- NSG 508 Teaching Competencies in Nursing-Principles and Methods

Electives Courses:

- NSG 513 Nursing Informatics
- NSG 514 Human Lactation, Breastfeeding and Health of the Community
- NSG 516 Cancer Nursing Practice
- NSG 518 Care of the Community Spirit
- NSG 520 Health Assessment in Advanced Nursing Practice
- NSG 521 Palliative Care
- NSG 523 Suggestive Therapies for Health Care Professionals

### **MSN in Public Health Nursing - Functional Area in Integrative Health**

This functional area provides content related to complementary and alternative health modalities.

Required Courses:

- NSG 518 Care of the Community Spirit
- NSG 515 Nursing Practicum in Integrative Health Settings
- Elective in Integrative Health

Elective Courses

- HEA510 Adolescent Medicine
- HEA512 AIDS and Public Health
- HEA545 Mind/Body Medicine
- HEA581 Special Topics - Botanical Medicine
- HEA581 Special Topics - Chinese Medicine
- NSG516 Cancer Nursing Practice
- NSG517 Special Topics - Concepts in Caring

**Sample Course Sequence - Full time - A**

Fall	Spring
NSG 501 (3)	NSG 502 (4)
NSG 505 (3)	NSG 506 (3)
NSG 522 (3)	NSG Elective (3)
	Summer
	Elective (3) or
	NSG 511 (3)
Fall	Spring
NSG 503 (6)	NSG 504 (2)
NSG 507, 509, 518 (3)	NSG 508, 510, 515 (3)
	Elective

**Sample Course Sequence - Full time- B**

Fall	Spring
NSG 501 (3)	NSG 502 (4)
NSG 507, 509, 518 (3)	NSG Elective (3)
NSG 522 (3)	NSG Elective (3)
	Summer
	Elective (3) or
	NSG 511 (3)
Fall	Spring
NSG 503 (6)	NSG 504 (2)
NSG 505 (3)	NSG 506 (3)
	NSG 508, 510, 515 (3)

**Sample Course Sequence-Part time**

Fall	Spring
NSG 501 (3)	NSG 502 (4)
NSG 522 (3)	
	Summer
	Elective (3)
Fall	Spring
NSG 503 (6)	NSG 504 (2)
	Summer
	Elective (3)
Fall	Spring
NSG 505 (3)	NSG 506 (3)
	Summer
	Elective (3)
Fall	Spring
NSG 507, 509, 518 (3)	NSG 508, 510, 515 (3)