



## GRADUATE STUDIES FACT SHEET

### NURSING

#### TAKE THE NEXT STEP – ADVANCED PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

The master of science in public health nursing (M.S.N.) program allows the graduate student to focus on the specialty area of his or her choice and apply it to public health nursing. The M.S.N. prepares a nurse for advanced practice in public health nursing. Each candidate also receives functional preparation in education, administration, or in integrative health. The program incorporates individualized clinical experiences into the curriculum, and students are taught by full-time, doctorate-level faculty.

The curriculum prepares professional nurses for careers in specialized public health-care fields. The graduate will have developed the expertise of an advanced public health nurse, the investigative skills of a nurse researcher, and the leadership skills needed to influence health-care systems and policy development. Graduates may choose employment in case management, birthing centers, education, hospice care, home health agencies, or integrative (complementary/alternative) health-care settings.

#### THE CURRICULUM

The M.S.N. program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Students in the M.S.N. program take a total of 39 credits including five public health core courses (18 credits), two research courses (six credits), three functional courses (nine credits), and two electives (six credits).

The public health courses include the following:

NSG 522 Epidemiology (3)

NSG 501 Nursing Theories and Issues (3)

NSG 502 Perspectives of Public Health Nursing (4)

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

NSG 504 Advanced Concepts of Public Health Nursing (2)

The research courses include the following:

NSG 505 Nursing Research I (3)

NSG 506 Nursing Research II (3)

Nursing 502 and 503 have clinical components where students will develop advanced public health skills in public health settings. Students will have a WCU nursing faculty member and a master's prepared clinical preceptor guiding their clinical experiences. Clinical experiences are designed individually, and numerous, diverse settings are available.

Prior to the beginning of each clinical course, students need to provide the graduate program coordinator with evidence of current Pennsylvania RN licensure, current insurance with coverage of \$1-3 million, and a current personal health assessment.

The functional component of the curriculum is composed of nine credits in education, administration, or integrative health. Students will take courses in a required functional area, a functional area elective, and a practicum.

Students may choose electives in nursing (informatics, advanced physical assessment, care of the community spirit) or in other academic departments within the University. All M.S.N. candidates must successfully complete the comprehensive examination in their final semester of graduate study.

Students can complete the M.S.N. curriculum on a full-time or a part-time

basis; however, all requirements for the degree must be completed in six years or less. All of the courses are held in the evening, and the clinical experiences are scheduled by the individual student.

#### GRADUATE NURSING EDUCATION AT WCU

The M.S.N. graduate coordinator will assign students an academic adviser who will assist in planning a program of courses.

Opportunities exist for graduate assistantships and faculty/student research projects in the Department of Nursing. Sturzebecker scholarships are available to College of Health Sciences majors on a competitive basis.

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should submit the following materials to the Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education:

- Completed graduate application, including goals statement (apply online at [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad))
- Official academic transcript(s) from all colleges and universities attended, demonstrating a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or better, with successful completion of the B.S.N. and courses in statistics and physical assessment
- Documentation of current clinical experience and current RN license
- Two letters of recommendation
- Application fee

RN applicants with a bachelor's degree in another discipline will be evaluated on an individual basis.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Office of Graduate Studies and Extended Education

McKelvie Hall  
102 West Rosedale Avenue  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2943

Fax: 610-436-2763

E-mail: [gradstudy@wcupa.edu](mailto:gradstudy@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/grad](http://www.wcupa.edu/grad)

Visit: [www.facebook.com/wcugrad](http://www.facebook.com/wcugrad)

*Or contact the department:*

Write: Dr. Ann Coghlan Stowe, Graduate  
Coordinator  
Department of Nursing  
Sturzebecker Health Sciences  
Center 222G  
West Chester University  
West Chester, PA 19383

Call: 610-436-2331

Fax: 610-436-3083

E-mail: [astowe@wcupa.edu](mailto:astowe@wcupa.edu)

Web: [www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/  
healthsciences/nursing](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/healthsciences/nursing)

The Graduate Catalog is available online  
at [www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official.  
documents/graduate.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/graduate.catalog/).

## ABOUT GRADUATE STUDIES

West Chester University offers high-quality graduate degrees in more than 70 disciplines or areas of study, as well as certificate and certification programs. The graduate studies program has grown remarkably since its introduction in 1960. West Chester University's program is the largest within the 14 institutions in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education enrolling more than 2,100 graduate students.

Programs can be taken on a part-time basis, and most of the graduate classes are scheduled during late afternoons and evenings for the benefit of in-service teachers and other employed persons.

## ABOUT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

A regional, public institution, West Chester University of Pennsylvania offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degrees, as well as certification and certificate programs, in more than 100 subject areas. As the second largest member of the State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the

19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped "Teachers" from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, as well as 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor, West Chester University is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington, Del. The campus is convenient to major cultural institutions, recreational activities, and commercial businesses, many of which provide internship opportunities for WCU's students.

