

# Nursing (MSN) - BSN-Prepared RN's

## Degree Requirements

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### BSN-MSN Pathway (36-57 Credit Hours)

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#### Master Of Science In Nursing Degree (36-57 Credit Hours)

#### MSN With Clinical Concentration (11-18 Courses, 36-57 Credit Hours)

- A. Support Courses (3 Courses, 9 Credit hours)
- B. Core Courses (4 Courses, 12 Credit hours)
- C. Clinical Concentration (4-11 Courses, 15-36 Credit hours)

#### MSN With Non-clinical Concentrations (12 Courses, 37 Hours)

- A. Core Courses (4 Courses, 12 Credit hours)
- B. Non-clinical Concentration (8 Courses, 25 Credit hours)

### Course Requirements

#### Support Courses (3 Courses, 9 Credit Hours)

- A. 9 Credit hours: NU 518, NU 545, NU 578

#### MSN/DNP Core Courses (4 Courses, 12 Credit Hours)

- A. 12 Credit hours: NU 607, NU 608, NU 610, NU 613

#### Clinical Concentrations (4-11 Courses, 15-36 Credit Hours)

- A. 24 Credit hours: Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner: AHN 568, AHN 571, AHN 572, AHN 573, AHN 574, AHN 575, AHN 576, AHN 577
- B. 24 Credit hours: Adult-Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner: AHN 581, AHN 588, AHN 591, AHN 592, AHN 593, AHN 594, AHN 595, AHN 596, HSC 601, HSC 602, HSC 603
- C. 17 Credit hours: Adult-Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist: NU 515, U 516, NU 517, AHN 516, AHN 517, AHN 518, Elective NU 519
- D. 15 Credit hours: Clinical Nurse Leader: NU 535, NU 536, NU 537, NU 538
- E. 36 Credit hours: (Family NP/Adult-Gerontological Acute Care: AHN 538, AHN 548, AHN 549, AHN 550, AHN 551, AHN 552, AHN 553, AHN 554, AHN 555
- F. 36 Credit hours: Dual Role (Family NP/Emergency NP): NU 580, NU 581, NU 582, NU 583, NU 584, NU 585, NU 586, NU 587, NU 588
- G. 24 Credit hours: Family Nurse Practitioner: CMN 568, CMN 571, CMN 572, CMN 573, CMN 574, CMN 575, CMN 576, CMN 577
- H. 24 Credit hours: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner: MCN 568, MCN 571, MCN 572, MCN 573, MCN 574, MCN 575, MCN 576, MCN 577
- I. 24 Credit hours: Pediatric Acute Nurse Practitioner: MCN 558, MCN 562, MCN 563, MCN 564, MCN 565, MCN 566, MCN 567, MCN 571
- J. 24 Credit hours: Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner: MCN 548, MCN 551, MCN 552, MCN 553, MCN 554, MCN 555, MCN 556, MCN 557
- K. 24 Credit hours: Psychiatric (Family) Nurse Practitioner: CMN 548, CMN 551, CMN 552, CMN 553, CMN 554, CMM 555, CMN 556, CMN 557
- L. 24 Credit hours: Women's Health Nurse Practitioner: MCN 538, MCN 541, MCN 542, MCN 543, MCN 545, MCN 546, MCN 547

### Non-Clinical Concentrations (8 Courses, 25 Credit Hours)

- A. 25 Credit hours: Executive Nursing Administration: HSC 571, NU 539, NU 553, NU 554, NU 561, NU 565, NU 566, NU 567, NU 568
- B. 25 Credit hours: Nursing Informatics: ISC 550, ISC 555, NU 556, NU 557, NU 558, NU 559, NU 553, NU 554, NU 565

### Subspecialties (8-11 Credit Hours)

Subspecialties are elective courses students may add to the degree program.

- A. 11 Credit hours: Addictions Nursing: HSC 580, HSC 581, HSC 582, NU 510, NU 511, NU 512 May be added to any concentration.
- B. 9 Credit hours: Advanced Forensic Nursing: NU 500, NU 501, NU 502, NU 503, NU 504, NU 505 May be added to any concentration.
- C. 8 Credit hours: Cardiovascular: AHN 630, AHN 631, AHN 632, AHN 633 May be added to Adult-Geron Acute NP, Dual Role (Family NP/Adult Geron Acute NP/Emergency NP).
- D. 8 Credit hours: Clinical Lipidology: HSC 595, HSC 596, HSC 597, HSC 598 May be added to Adult-Geron Primary Care NP, Adult-Geron Acute NP, Adult-Geron CNS, Family NP, Dual Role (Family NP/Adult-Geron Acute NP), Dual Role (Family NP/Emergency NP), and Women's Health NP.
- E. 15 Credit hours: Emergency Nurse Practitioner: NU 570, NU 571, NU 572, NU 573, NU 574, NU 575, NU 576, NU 577 May be added to Family NP, Dual Role (Family NP/Adult-Geron Acute Care NP), Dual Role (Family NP/Emergency NP), or taken as a Post Graduate Certificate if already certified.
- F. 11 Credit hours: Nurse Educator: NU 620, NU 621, NU 622, NU 623 May be added to any concentration.
- G. 9 Credit hours: Palliative Care: AHN 530, AHN 531, AHN 532, AHN 533 May be added to Adult-Geron Primary Care NP, Adult-Geron Acute NP, Adult-Geron CNS, Family NP, Dual Role (Family NP/Adult-Geron Acute NP), Dual Role (Family NP/Emergency NP), Psychiatric (Family) NP, and Women's Health NP.

### Elective Courses (1-3 Credit Hours)

- A. 1 Credit hour: NU 509
- B. 3 Credit hours: NU 597

## Additional Information

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSN)

Organized within the graduate school at the University, the College of Nursing has several pathways, specialization, and sub-specialization options within the MSN program. In addition to admitting baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses, the college offers an accelerated BSN/MSN track for non-nurses (see Bachelor of Science in Nursing section), a pathway for associate degree or diploma-prepared nurses who have a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing, a special pathway for highly qualified associate degree and diploma nurses who do not hold a baccalaureate degree, and tracks for MSN-prepared nurses who are interested in certification in a new specialty area.

### Master Of Science In Nursing Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing Program, graduates should be able to:

1. Integrate advanced knowledge, evidence, and theories from nursing and related disciplines into a specialized area of advanced nursing practice through the use of scholarly writing.
2. Demonstrate competence in advanced nursing roles to meet current and emerging health needs of a global changing society.
3. Use scientific inquiry to identify problems and individualize patient care designed to improve care outcomes.
4. Apply advanced knowledge of leadership and management to influence health policy to transform care delivery systems.
5. Contribute to the focus and direction of the nursing profession.

### Areas Of Specialization

Several concentration areas are offered to meet the career goals of students. Students may prepare as a clinical nurse leader or for advanced nursing practice in one of the nurse practitioner roles or the clinical nurse specialist role. Available NP include Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nursing, Adult-Gerontological Primary Care Nursing, Dual Role (Family Nursing/Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nursing), Dual Role (Family Nursing/Emergency Nursing), Family Nursing, Neonatal Nursing, Pediatric Acute Care Nursing, Pediatric Primary Care Nursing, Psychiatric Family Nursing, Women's Health Nursing. Clinical Nurse Specialist is

available in Adult-Gerontological Nursing. Concentrations are also available for students pursuing careers in Clinical Nurse Leader, Executive Nursing Administration and Nursing Informatics. Sub-specializations are available in Addictions Nursing, Advanced Forensic Nursing Care, Cardiovascular, Clinical Lipidology, Nursing Education, and Palliative Care. Emergency Nurse Practitioner is offered only as a post graduate certificate. See the MSN section for additional course listings.

### Graduate Assistantships

A limited number of graduate assistantships are available to students in full-time status. Additional information and an application can be obtained by contacting the College of Nursing graduate office.

### BSN-Prepared RN'S

#### Regular Admission Criteria

1. Graduate of an approved regionally accredited bachelors program with a major in nursing.
2. Current registered nurse licensure with no restrictions. Nurses with any restrictions on their license, including participation in a voluntary, disciplinary, alternative program, cannot be admitted.
3. A minimal grade-point average of 3.0 on all BSN work (A=4.00).
4. Submission of a résumé which documents clinical experience. Prior to enrolling in nurse practitioner clinical course, students are required to have at least 2 years of experience in an area appropriate to the specialty track.
5. Submission of Health Data Forms and evidence of health insurance required upon admission.
6. Admission will be contingent on a negative drug screen and results of an acceptable background check.

#### Provisional Admission Criteria

1. Graduate of an approved regionally accredited bachelors program with a major in nursing.
2. Current registered nurse licensure with no restrictions. Nurses with any restrictions on their license, including participation in a voluntary, disciplinary, alternative program, cannot be admitted.
3. A minimal grade-point average of 2.75 on all BSN work (A=4.00).
4. Submission of a résumé which documents clinical experience. Prior to enrolling in a nurse practitioner clinical course, students are required to have at least 2 years of experience in an area appropriate to the specialty.
5. Submission of Health Data Forms and evidence of health insurance required upon admission.
6. Admission will be contingent on a negative drug screen and results of an acceptable background check.

#### Non-Degree Admission Criteria

1. Hold a bachelor's degree from an approved regionally accredited institution.
2. Current registered nurse licensure with no restrictions. Nurses with any restrictions on their license, including participation in a voluntary disciplinary alternative program, cannot be admitted.
3. A minimal grade-point average of 2.75 on all BSN work (A=4.00).

Enrollment in selective courses may not be available to non-degree students due to class size or required prerequisite.

### Application Procedures

Admission to the program is limited and selective. Application forms and other information may be obtained from the College of Nursing's website at <https://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/msn/msnadmiss.html> or by contacting the college directly at College of Nursing, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama 36688; [congradapp@southalabama.edu](mailto:congradapp@southalabama.edu); Telephone: (251) 445-9400.

To be considered for admission to the MSN program, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States of America.
2. Current registered nurse licensure with no restrictions. Nurses with any restrictions on their license, including participation in a voluntary disciplinary alternative program, cannot be admitted.
3. Completion of Primary and Supplemental Applications:
  - a. Primary Application submitted through Nursing Centralized Application System (NursingCAS) at [www.NursingCAS.org](http://www.NursingCAS.org). from the home institution to the NursingCAS. These documents become the property of the NursingCAS and will not be returned to the applicant. Applicants are responsible for any fees required by NursingCAS for their services.
  - b. Supplemental Application submitted directly to USA Admissions Office. This application requires a non-refundable processing fee of \$100.00, a Personal Goal Statement, and a résumé/CV documenting clinical experience. Prior to

enrolling in nurse practitioner clinical courses, students are required to have at least 2 years of experience in an area appropriate to their specialty.

4. Students are admitted to a specialty track and may not change their track without permission.
5. Students must be in good standing with all academic institutions/nursing programs that they have attended in order to be admitted to the MSN program.
6. BSN degree must be from a regionally accredited institution.

### Application Deadlines

Applications are accepted year round, and must adhere to the following application deadlines:

- Fall Semester Deadline is February 15
- Spring Semester Deadline is July 15
- Summer Semester Deadline is November 15

### Academic Progression Policy

A maximum of two (2) courses with a grade "C" can be counted towards a degree; however, only one (1) "C" is permitted in support or specialization courses. If a second "C" or lower is earned in a support or specialization course, the course in which the second "C" or lower is obtained, must be repeated. If a second "C" or lower is earned in a support or specialization course, the course in which the second "C" or lower is obtained must be repeated before a student may move forward with a specialty course. All corresponding specialty clinical and didactic courses must be taken in sequence. Any combination of three (3) courses with grades of "C" or less (C, U, F), including "C" grades which have been repeated, will result in academic dismissal from the graduate program. Two courses with a grade "F" will result in academic dismissal from the graduate program. Failure to comply with legal, moral, and legislative standards required for licensure to practice as a registered nurse merits immediate dismissal from the program. If a student's progression is interrupted for any reason, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Because of limited spaces in the advanced clinical courses, any alteration in progression may lengthen the student's program.

### Graduation Requirements For BSN-prepared RN'S

The MSN program must be completed within 5 years of matriculation. MSN students who will complete all degree requirements are required to apply for graduation by the application deadline established by the Registrar's Office. Deadlines for each semester application are located on the Registrar's website at <https://www.southalabama.edu/departments/registrar/commencement/index.html>

## Department Information

College of Nursing Administrative Staff		(251) 445-9400
Dean	Heather Hall	
Associate Dean for Research Faculty Development, and Evaluation	Sharon Fruh	
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs	Katherine Bydalek	
Assistant Dean Academic Affairs	Leigh Minchew	
Director of the DNP Program	Casey Elkins	
Director of Special Projects & Evaluation	Rebecca Graves	
Professors	L. Chilton, C.. Dolan, S. Fruh, J. Gunn, H. Hall, J. Harris, E. VandeWaa, J. Varner	

Associate Professors	K. Bydalek, C. Elkins, K. Hamilton, T. Harlan, T. Huey, P. Johnson, S. Lawrence, A. Marass, K. McCoy, T. McMullan, L. Minchew, C. Myers, M. Nadler, J. Pittman, B. Riley, D. Swanzy, T. Wright
Assistant Professors	A. Adams, J. Anderson, M. Baker, C. Baughn, E. Bentley, M. Bolton, A. Bowan, H. Breazeale, C. Butler, A. A. Campbell, A. Calvert Campbell, C. Cheese, K. Cheshire, N. Clark, D. Copeland, N. Curtis, L. Dailey, A. Davis, W. Davis, A. Gilligan, R. Graves, M. Guy, L. Hammonds, S. Harlan, S. Harris, H. Horton, T. Huey, P. Huffman, C. Jackson, P. Johnson, L. Jones, K. Jordan, M. Korn, B. Lang, A. Lewis, C. Lewis, J. Lollar, C. Lynch, J. Miller, T. McMurtrey, T. Meyer, K. Miller, S. Montgomery, E. Moore, J. A. Otts, K. Pancione, T. Platt, W. Powell, D. Reed, S. Scott, J. Sellers, T. Sikes-Doggett, K. Stauter, W. Stuart, T. Sturm, R. Thomas, C. Thompson-Ferrell, M. Thread, A. Townsend, N. Turnham, N. Walls, S. G. Williams, A. Younce
Research Assistant Professors	Candice Selwyn
Senior Instructors	S. Bertolla, C. Herf, M. Meyer
Instructors	B. Baker, T. Brown, J. Cockrell, K. Cooper, L. Emley, A. Holley, D. Hutto, S. James, R. Johnson, s. McMicken, B. Mosley, K. Norris, C. Pierce, L. Speirs, E. Rimmer, C. Taylor, S. Waweru, B. Woodmansee
Department Chair, Adult Health Nursing	Theresa Wright
Department Chair, Community/Mental Health Nursing	Todd Harlan
Department Chair, Maternal/Child Health Nursing	Leigh Minchew
Director, Academic Advising	Mary Phillips
Academic Advisors	Jennifer Bouvier, Katelyn Foster, Leigh Holland, Camry McCants, Brenda Mosley, Kristyn Seawell, Suzan Williams
Academic Records Specialists	Lisa Brock, Kristen Dykes
Clinical Placement Advising and Assessment Coordinator	Kimberly McLean-Mundy
Clinical Affiliation Coordinators	Elizabeth Collier, Shari Lord, Yolanda Mack

### College of Nursing website

<http://www.southalabama.edu/colleges/con/>

The College of Nursing is dedicated to the education of professional nurses who provide the highest quality health care to the communities they serve. The practice of nursing is both an art and a science; the focus of nursing is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems.

The College of Nursing has two locations, one is on the USA main campus, and the other is on the USA Baldwin County campus in downtown Fairhope. The resources of the University, the USA Hospitals and clinics, and the numerous clinical agencies provide excellent opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge and skills essential for professional nursing.

## Mission

The mission of the College of Nursing is to provide quality innovative educational programs to a diverse student body, to participate in research and scholarly activities, and to provide service to the University, the profession, and the public. The College accomplishes this by providing a caring, engaging environment for the empowerment of student learning potential, the professional development of faculty, and the promotion of the nursing profession.

## Goals

1. Cultivate a caring, innovative, and engaging environment to facilitate teaching, learning, scholarship, and service.
2. Deliver innovative quality nursing programs that meet the needs of a diverse student body and other communities of interest.

3. Promote the discovery, communication, and preservation of knowledge through scholarly activities and leadership.
4. Provide service to the University, the profession, and the public.
5. Develop community partnerships to promote nursing and the enhancement of the health care delivery system using interprofessional approaches.

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## Accreditation

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The baccalaureate program is approved by the Alabama Board of Nursing and the baccalaureate, master's program in nursing, Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program and post-graduate APRN certificate programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education:

655 K Street, NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC  
20001

P: (202) 887-6791  
F: (202) 887-8476

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## Student Responsibility

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While the University of South Alabama will endeavor to provide timely and accurate advisement, it is the responsibility of the student to know and satisfy the degree requirements of the academic program, to be aware of the University calendar, <http://www.southalabama.edu/academiccalendar/index.html> and to understand and comply with University academic policies and procedures.

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## Degrees Offered

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The College of Nursing offers the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.

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## Certificates Offered

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Post-Graduate Certificates are awarded to students completing planned programs of study in a nursing specialty area and subspecialty areas.