



## 2.1 Program Descriptions and Costs

### Doctor of Nursing Practice

The School of Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is designed to prepare graduates for advanced nursing practice. Our community-based DNP program will graduate nursing leaders who have the knowledge and skills to address the health disparities of vulnerable populations, including rural. The program will prepare graduates to function in a variety of community and acute care health settings as primary care providers, leaders, managers, educators, and consultants.

A list of program options, descriptions and costs can be found online at <https://www.missouristate.edu/Nursing/Doctor/default.htm>

### Master of Science in Nursing

The School of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program with an option in either nurse educator, population health leadership, or family nurse practitioner. The Master's-prepared nurse assumes pivotal roles to improve the healthcare quality of vulnerable populations and reduce healthcare disparities.

The Nurse Educator (NE) option prepares nurses at an advanced level to teach in a variety of academic and healthcare settings to diverse learners. The nursing education curriculum is delivered via online asynchronous format.

The Population Health Leadership (PHL) option prepares nurses at an advanced level to design, plan, implement, and evaluate patient-centered healthcare programs to meet population health needs. The population health leadership curriculum is delivered via online asynchronous format.

The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) option prepares nurses at an advanced level to assess, diagnose, treat, educate, and manage patients throughout the lifespan as a health care provider. The FNP curriculum is delivered in a hybrid format, seated classes are on campus, a minimum of one day per week.

Program descriptions and costs can be found online at <https://www.missouristate.edu/Nursing/Graduate/default.htm>

### Accreditation

The Doctor of Nursing Practice and MSN programs at Missouri State University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education: [www.ccnaccreditation.org](http://www.ccnaccreditation.org).



## 2.2 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice**

Full program requirements including clinical and on campus requirements can be founds online at <https://www.missouristate.edu/Nursing/Doctor/ProgramReqs.htm>

### **Master of Science in Nursing**

Full program requirements including retention, technical, clinical and degree requirements can be found online at <https://www.missouristate.edu/Nursing/Graduate/ProgramReqs.htm>



## 2.3 TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR NURSING STUDENTS

Graduate Students must demonstrate all essential abilities and characteristics to be able to successfully complete their program and participate in all aspects of nursing education. Patient safety and well-being are major factors in establishing requirements involving the competencies required for admission, progression, and graduation. Such abilities and characteristics include, but are not limited to, the following competencies:

<b><u>COMPETENCIES</u></b>	<b><u>EXAMPLES</u></b>
<b>MENTAL/EMOTIONAL:</b>	
Possesses the mental and emotional stability to adapt to the environment, function in everyday activities, and cope with stressors.	Demonstrates behaviors appropriate to the situation, uses appropriate coping strategies.
<b>SENSORY:</b>	
Possesses the ability to assess and/or evaluate patient responses and to perform nursing interventions safely and accurately. Subject to reasonable disability-related accommodations, students must have the following particular capabilities:	
A. Visual <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Has normal or corrected vision within the range of 20/20-20/80</li><li>2. Distinguishes color shades and/or when changes.</li></ol>	Observes patient responses, the appearance of wounds; recognizes changes in skin color or color of body fluids, medications, etc.; distinguishes gradation on syringes when drawing up medications; etc.
B. Auditory <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Has normal or corrected hearing ability within the 0-45 decibel range.</li></ol>	Hears alarms, emergency signals, cries for help, auscultatory sounds.
C. Tactile <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Possesses, in at least one hand, the ability to perceive temperature changes and pulsations and to distinguish different textures.</li></ol>	Performs functions of physical assessment and/or functions related to therapeutic interventions (e.g., insertion of catheters or IVs).
<b>MOTOR:</b>	
Possesses the capacity to perform the physical manipulations and diagnostic procedures that are part of a complete nursing practice and diverse clinical experience. Subject to reasonable disability-related	Moves among patient rooms and treatment areas moves physical patients, performs CPR, calibrates and uses equipment, dons personal protective equipment (PPE).



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accommodations, students must have the following particular capabilities:	
A. Possesses four (4) functional limbs (normal or artificial) that allow the student to perform sufficiently to move from room to room and maneuver in small spaces, and possesses gross and fine motor abilities sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care.	
B. Possesses the ability to exert 20-50 lbs. of force occasionally, 10-25 lbs. of force frequently, and negligible to 10 lbs. of force constantly to move objects.	Positions and moves patients and equipment.
<b>INTERPERSONAL/COMMUNICATION:</b>	
A. Possesses communication abilities sufficient for appropriate and effective interactions with others in both oral and written form.	Explains treatment procedures and/or initiates health teachings, documents nursing actions and patient responses.
B. Possesses interpersonal abilities sufficient to interact appropriately and effectively with individuals, families, and groups from a diverse background.	Establishes rapport with patients and colleagues.
<b>CRITICAL THINKING:</b>	
A. Possesses critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment.	Identifies cause and effect relationships, develops and evaluates the plan of care, and appropriately evaluates situations and promotes patient safety.
B. Applies principals of logical or scientific thinking to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Interprets and implements a variety of technical instructions. Deals with several abstract and concrete variables	Performs practical application of fractions, percentages, ratio and proportion measurements, and other relevant scientific principles, mathematical calculations.



## 2.4 ADDITIONAL PROGRAM-RELATED POLICIES

### **Course Withdrawal**

Failure to properly drop or withdraw from classes will result in the assignment of an “F” grade for those classes. The student does not need to obtain any signatures to drop a course. It is the student’s responsibility to understand the university’s procedure for dropping a class. If attendance is unapparent and proper procedure for dropping the class is not followed, the student will receive a failing grade and be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the University, contact the Office of the Registrar at 417- 836-5520. See the appropriate online MSU academic calendar.

### **Leave of Absence**

In the event the student needs to take a leave of absence, a formal letter including the reason for the leave, expected duration of the leave, and a plan of re-entry into the program must be submitted to the Program Director. Re-entry into the program is on a space available basis. A formal request to end the leave of absence must be submitted to the Program Director. A decision will then be made by the Program Director and the Graduate APG Committee as to whether or not space permits re-entry into the program at that time. Leave of absence may not exceed one calendar year.

### **Readmission Policy**

Continued enrollment in MSU must be maintained to be considered a student in the graduate program. Students who interrupt their education for three 3 consecutive semesters (one calendar year) or more must follow University readmission policies and reapply to the University’s Graduate College. Readmission to the University does not guarantee readmission to the nursing graduate program. The student must complete the required School of Nursing admission application and documentation of all items on the application checklist.

### **Attendance-related Grade Changes**

Please refer to the Attendance Policy in the current MSU Graduate Catalog and course syllabi. At the doctoral level, participation in class activities is expected and required. The learning milieu includes learning from faculty, as well as interaction with other students.

### **Transfer of Credit Policy**

The MSU Graduate College and the graduate nursing programs limit the amount of courses that can be transferred to nine hours. The Graduate program Director, and/or School of Nursing’s Graduate APG Committee will review graduate courses for equivalency on an individual basis. It is the University’s policy to award credit for courses taken through institutions accredited by a regional accrediting agency. It is the School of Nursing’s policy to only accept transfer courses as equivalent to courses in the program if they are graduate level, are the same or more credit hours, and are



judged have similar content and expectations as our required course. A course-by-course evaluation of transfer credit is sent to students once they have been admitted. Please refer to the University Graduate Catalog for further details.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

Incomplete “I” grades will be given only in circumstances in which the student has been unable to complete a small portion of a course, such as a term paper or a final examination. In each instance where an “I” grade is assigned, the instructor shall, at the end of the semester, indicate on the Assignment of Incomplete Grade Form the student’s responsibilities for completing the course and how the completed work would be calculated into the final grade. The original document is filed in the student’s School of Nursing file, with one copy retained by the student and one by the instructor.

If a student needs to complete a significant portion of a course, an “N” or “F” grade should be assigned according to regulations governing such grades. An “N” grade can only be assigned if the student has officially dropped the course within the semester deadlines.

An “I” grade must be removed within one calendar year or less after it is received, otherwise, the “I” automatically becomes an “F” grade. An extension of the time limit or other necessary arrangements to remove an “I” grade will be made only if a written request for such extension is approved by the Graduate APG Committee. An approved request for extension of time to remove an “I” grade should be placed on file in the Office of the Registrar.

The student should make arrangements with the instructor or the Program Director, for completion of the work. When the work is completed, the instructor will complete the grade change online. After submission to the Office of the Registrar, the student will be able to access their academic record indicating the adjusted grade point average.

Graduating students must remove “I” grades before the beginning of the final semester of enrollment, unless an extension has been granted. An “I” grade assigned in the semester immediately preceding graduation must be removed by May 1 for spring graduation, by July 15 for summer graduation, and by December 1 for fall graduation. “I” grades assigned during the semester of graduation must be removed prior to mid-semester of the following semester. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in graduation being delayed to a later semester.

### **Encumbrances**

An encumbrance may be placed on a student’s record for a variety of reasons such as an unpaid bill or fine, failure to return books or equipment, failure to be admitted to a degree program within the deadline, or failure to complete a financial aid exit interview during the semester of graduation. All encumbrances will prevent a student from registering for upcoming semesters, and most encumbrances will prevent the release of



a student's transcript and diploma. Contact the Office of the Registrar for further information regarding encumbrances.

## **Requirements for the Degree**

Upon admission to a School of Nursing graduate program, a plan of study will be developed which outlines the planned program of study. It is essential that students consult with the Graduate Program Director in planning their degree program. Any changes in the Plan of Study will require submission of a revised Plan of Study, which is signed by the Graduate Program Director and student's advisor.