

**The University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Department of Nursing**

RN-MSN Pathway

Program Overview

Registered Nurses with an Associate’s Degree or Diploma in Nursing are eligible to apply to the Department of Nursing’s Master of Science in Nursing Program through the RN-MSN Pathway. The RN-MSN Pathway will require a total of 63 semester hours of general education coursework, 25 semester hours of BSN coursework, 30 semester hours of BSN validation credits, and 39 semester hours of MSN coursework for a total of 157 semester credit hours of study. Students interested in the RN-MSN Pathway must successfully complete the required undergraduate general education coursework and be in the last semester of required RN-BSN upper-division coursework before they are eligible to apply for the MSN program.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the RN-MSN Pathway requires that the following University and Department of Nursing criteria be met:

- Earned associate degree or diploma in nursing from an approved nursing program
- Possess an unencumbered RN license to practice as registered nurse in North Carolina
- One year of practice as a registered nurse is recommended.
- Meet minimum requirements as specified in the current undergraduate catalog
- Have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate study
- Complete required 25 semester hours of RN-BSN coursework before or during semester of application to MSN program through The Graduate School.
- Complete required undergraduate prerequisite general education and RN-BSN coursework with a grade of C or higher
- In semester prior to anticipated enrollment in the MSN program, students will submit an application packet to The Graduate School that includes the following:
 - Three letters of recommendation from instructors, supervisors or professional colleagues, two of which must come from individuals with a minimum of a master’s degree in nursing
 - Copy of resume or curriculum vitae
 - Official transcripts of all postsecondary coursework
 - Submit a personal statement which describes: development of interest in graduate education in nursing, reason for applying to chosen specialty area, your professional goals and how this specialization will help you achieve them, your academic strengths and areas needing further development, and any special circumstances that you believe require further clarification.
- Note: For graduates of BSN programs of greater than 5 years, it is recommended that an additional course or continuing education offering be completed prior to enrolling in the following graduate courses: Advanced Health Assessment, Advanced Pathophysiology, and Advanced Pharmacology.
- Admission to the RN-MSN Pathway does not guarantee admission to a specific MSN area of specialization.

Prerequisite Course Requirements

Prior to admission to the RN-MSN Pathway, all but nine (9) of the following pre-requisite courses must be completed. However, prior to submitting application for the MSN program, all of the prerequisite general education coursework must be completed. The pre-requisite coursework may be taken at UNCP or other accredited college or university. Academic credits, from other accredited institutions, may be accepted by UNCP if a grade of C or higher is earned. There is no time limit for acceptance of general education academic credits.

English Composition – ENG 1060	3 credits
Arts/Humanities (Fine Art, Literature, History, Logic)	12 credits
Social Sciences (Economics, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology)	9 credits
Biological Sciences (Anatomy and Physiology I and II, Microbiology)	12 credits
Natural Sciences/Math (CHM 1400, 1410, 1120, 1130 or equivalent and MAT 1070 or higher)	11 credits
Statistics (Math, Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, or Criminal Justice)	3 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
NUR 2020	1 credit
Electives	8 credits

RN-BSN/MSN Course Requirements Prior to Enrolling in MSN Program

RN-MSN students complete 25 semester hours of upper-division nursing coursework* that reflect the baccalaureate nursing program outcomes and prepare students for achieving success in graduate study. RN-MSN students will earn 30 semester hours of validation credit for previous nursing education upon successful completion of the required upper-division courses. MSN courses will be dependent on concentration. The option is similar to the RN-BSN option with the exception that it allows the RN-MSN student to complete 6 graduate credit hours while completing the BSN in lieu of 2 undergraduate courses, thus accelerating the MSN degree. Courses which may be substituted include:

- NUR 5140 (Basic Epidemiology and Global Health) may be taken instead of NUR 3100 (Transcultural Nursing) by students declaring either the Rural Case Manager or Clinical Nurse Leader specialization
- NUR 5300 (Educating Diverse Populations) may be taken instead of NUR 3100 (Transcultural Nursing) by students declaring the Nurse Educator specialization.
- NUR 5160, NUR 5240, or NUR 5360 (Master's Research or Action Project) may be taken instead of NUR 4550 (Capstone) by students depending on declared specialization.

Course Number	Course	Semester Hours
NUR 3000*	Transition to Profession Nursing	3 hrs
NUR 5140 or NUR 5300	Epidemiology and Global Health or Educating Diverse Populations	3 hrs
NUR 3200*	Health Assessment	3 hrs
NUR 3250*	Pathophysiology	3 hrs
NUR 3300*	Gerontological Nursing	3 hrs
NUR 4000*	Nursing Research and Theory	3 hrs
NUR 4120*	Nursing Leadership	5 hrs
NUR 4350*	Community Health	5 hrs
NUR 5160 or 5240 or 5360	Master's Nurse Educator Research or Action Project or Master's Clinical Nurse Leader Research or Action Project or Master's Rural Case Manager Research or Action Project	3 hrs
All RN-MSN students granted 30 credits toward graduation after completion of NUR 3000 and NUR 3200 – Validation of ADN or Diploma Education		30 hrs
TOTAL		61hrs

*Designates 25 semester hours of upper-division coursework required

All requirements for the baccalaureate degree must be met before the BSN is awarded. To meet the minimum professional standards for the baccalaureate degree, a total of 61 semester credit hours of nursing courses are required for the nursing major. Students may opt to “stop-out” of the RN-MSN Pathway after meeting all requirements for the baccalaureate degree in nursing.

Contact Information:

To view a video about the MSN options, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PF0sgXNVb-8>

For information or questions on the Department of Nursing and application materials for the RN-MSN option, please direct communication to:

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