

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM**

**Department Chairperson:** TBA

**Graduate Program Faculty:** Jochebed Ade-Oshifogun, Rosemary Ricks-Saulsby, Juanita Holliman, Monique Germain, Patricia Prendergast, Shakirudeen Amuwo, Yashika Watkins, Patrick Williams, William Ebomoyi, Victor Ilegbodun, Thomas Lyons, Leslie Roundtree, Rachelle Stewart.

The philosophy of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program is the belief that clinical practice is constantly changing as are health needs and health delivery systems. Integral to the nursing profession is the need to work effectively and cooperatively with other disciplines to promote health. The focal point of the MSN curriculum is the understanding of the nursing process, with a strong emphasis on the medical knowledge of diseases complemented by behavioral science concepts. The courses developed are interdependent and have been structured to provide in-depth knowledge in the area of concentration of the student's choice. Acquisition of research skills and the application of nursing theory to practice are major emphases of the curriculum. The graduates of the MSN program will have the knowledge and skill to function in their chosen specialty areas. The goals of the MSN program at CSU are to:

1. Educate nurses who will contribute significantly to the health, education, business, political, and social structure of the nation and the world.
2. Enhanced the knowledge of the learner to develop analytical skills, broad-based view points and the ability to link theory to practice.

The MSN program at CSU is designed to prepare nurses for the challenges facing the profession in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by focusing on community health nursing, nursing administration and nursing education. The MSN degree requires 45 credit hours of graduate coursework and a practicum with a capstone project or thesis option. The program incorporates value-added curricula that focus on minority health and nursing informatics. The curricula are aligned with the NLN recommendation to improve the diversity of the nursing workforce, continuity of patient care and to reduce medical errors.

### **Admission Requirements**

Prospective students seeking admission to the MSN program must meet requisite standards of academic ability and work experience. The Admission Committee will place emphasis on qualifications and credentials considered to be indicators for student success in graduate education: critical thinking and writing skills. Applications to the MSN program must be made through the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, including submission of original transcripts of candidate's undergraduate coursework, and payment of the application fee. Application materials must be received by March 15 each year for the fall semester enrollment. Early application is encouraged. Applicants may apply to the program up to 12 months prior to the desired start date.

Students seeking admission into the MSN degree must meet the following admission requirements:

1. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency for nursing;
2. Have attained a GPA 3.0 or better (on a 4.0) scale);
3. Proof of license as a registered nurse in the State of Illinois;
4. Official transcripts from all previously attended postsecondary institutions;
5. Statement of Goals – maximum of two pages describing goals and rationale for pursuing a master's degree in nursing. Include nursing experiences that have prepared the applicant to pursue a new role following completion of the program;
6. Three letters of professional recommendation from individuals familiar with the applicant's competence in the practice of nursing and potential for successful graduate education;
7. An interview with the Department of Nursing Admission Committee;
8. International students must have their academic transcripts evaluated by the University recognized agencies and must score 600 (paper-based) or 250 (computer-based) or higher on the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL).

Courses taken prior to admission to the MSN program must be approved at the time of admission if they are to be counted toward the degree. A maximum of 9 credits can be accepted as transfer credits. These courses must be completed with a grade of B or better. Approval must be granted by both the department and the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. To gain approval, an original transcript must accompany the application and be submitted to the School of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Upon admission into the program, a faculty advisor will be assigned to each student based on his/her area of concentration specialty. The faculty advisor will monitor the student's performance each semester.

### **Progression and Probation Policy**

The following academic progress and probation policy will be enforced in the MSN program:

1. Students must maintain a minimum of 3.0 cumulative grade point average to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress and good academic standing. A student is placed on probation if his/her cumulative grade point average falls below 3.0 for any term. After being placed on probation, a student must attain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 within the next two terms or be dismissed from the graduate program.
2. No more than two grades of C can be earned in any of the MSN courses. A course in which a D is obtained must be repeated to obtain a grade of C or better. When a student has a grade of D or F, he/she will be put on probation and must repeat the course and obtain a C grade or better.
3. Where a student has two or more grades of "I" outstanding, the student will be reviewed for probationary status.

### **Curriculum Pattern (Semester by Semester Course Offering)**

The curriculum patterns for the three nursing specialties are presented below:

**Criteria for Selecting the Practicum Option Project**

Community Health Specialty	Nursing Administration Specialty	Nursing Education Specialty
<b>FIRST YEAR</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
NURS 5000 Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	NURS 5000 Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice	NURS 5000 Philosophical and Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice
NURS 5117 Research Methods	NURS 5117 Research Methods	NURS 5117 Research Methods
NURS 5145 Ethics, Policy, Organization, and Financing of Health Care	NURS 5145 Ethics, Policy, Organization, and Financing of Health Care	NURS 5145 Ethics, Policy, Organization, and Financing of Health Care
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
NURS 5111 Biostatistics	NURS 5111 Biostatistics	NURS 5111 Biostatistics
NURS 5115 Health Disparities	NURS 5115 Health Disparities	NURS 5115 Health Disparities
NURS 5135 Nursing Informatics	NURS 5135 Nursing Informatics	NURS 5135 Nursing Informatics
<b>Summer Semester</b>		
NURS 5146 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	NURS 5146 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	NURS 5146 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
NURS 5144 Advances Physical Assessment	NURS 5127 Executive Leadership and Administration in Health Care	NURS 5144 Advanced Physical Assessment
NURS 5142 Advanced Pathophysiology	NURS 5139 Health Economics and Financial Management	NURS 5142 Advanced Pathophysiology
<b>SECOND YEAR</b>		
<b>Fall Semester</b>		
NURS 5143 Pharmacotherapeutics	NURS 5129 Entrepreneurship in Health Care Delivery	NURS 5143 Pharmacotherapeutics
NURS 5113 Epidemiology	NURS 5140 Health Care Information System	ELCF 5010 Curriculum Development & Learning Theories
NURS 5112 Environmental Health and Safety	NURS 5128 Program Design, Planning and Evaluation	ELCF 5930 Higher Education Administration and Evaluation
<b>Spring Semester</b>		
NURS 5122/5125 Practicum I or Thesis Options	NURS 5122/5125 Practicum I or Thesis Options	NURS 5122/5125 Practicum I or Thesis Options
Elective	Elective	Elective
<b>Summer Semester</b>		
NURS 5122/5125 Practicum II or Thesis Research & Defense	NURS 5122/5125 Practicum II or Thesis Research & Defense	NURS 5122/5125 Practicum II or Thesis Research & Defense

The practicum will provide the students with “real world” experience in a community health, management or educational setting and students will have the opportunity to apply the skills and knowledge acquired during the practicum to formulate a capstone project. The practicum spans over two semesters, requiring a minimum of 500 hours during the NURS 5122/5123 I and II courses. Students must be in good academic standing and have completed all MSN course requirements prior to registering for NURS 5123: Field Practicum in Nursing and Capstone Project. The goal of the practicum is to enable students to acquire relevant skills in their area of specialty. At the end of the practicum experience, the students will be able to:

1. Integrate public nursing theory, knowledge, and skills in a practice setting;
2. Experience the “real world” of nursing practice – organization, structure, and function, local and organizational politics, program planning, administration, and evaluation, community needs assessment, and community relationships and participation;
3. Develop skills and knowledge in an area of nursing interest not covered in-depth elsewhere in the students’ educational plan;
4. Demonstrate competence in a nursing practice area;
5. Demonstrate leadership, teamwork, communication skills and creativity in the development of a nursing practice;
6. Complete and submit a paper summarizing the practicum experience in an area of nursing practice.

#### Project Supervision Process and Evaluation

The Practicum Coordinator will hold a meeting once every semester to provide students with more information on how to plan for or create a field practicum opportunity, steps toward a successful field experience and journaling techniques. Planning for the field practicum will begin at least three months before its projected start date. The students will work with the faculty advisor to develop practicum objectives. The area of research or service interest will be discussed with the faculty advisor, who will approve and forward the recommendation to the Practicum Coordinator who in turn maintains a listing of agencies and organizations with which the university has placement agreements.

A month prior to registering for NURS 5123: Field Practicum in Nursing and Capstone Project, the students will be required to complete and obtain approval for the following forms:

- i. The MSN Practicum Registration Form (Appendix 1).
- ii. The Practicum Learning Agreement Form (Appendix 2).

Students will not be allowed to register for NURS 5123: Field Practicum in Nursing and Capstone Project unless these forms have been submitted and approved by the faculty advisor. Both forms will be completed and returned to the Practicum Coordinator at least three months prior to beginning the field placement.

#### ***The Criteria for Selecting the Thesis Option***

For the Thesis Option, the student will use quantitative or qualitative research methods to collect empirical data to answer a research question. The decision to select a thesis option (NURS 5124- Thesis Proposal and NURS 5125- Thesis Research and Defense) is entirely that of

the student. The student will be required to discuss this decision with an assigned faculty advisor. The process for registering for the course is the same as with the Non-Thesis or Practicum Option. A month prior to registering for NURS 5124- Thesis Proposal, the students will be required to complete the following forms:

- i. The MSN Thesis Proposal Registration Form (Appendix 3).
- ii. The Thesis Proposal Agreement Form (Appendix 4).

Students will not be allowed to register for NURS 5124- Thesis Proposal unless these forms have been submitted and approved by the department chair and faculty advisor. Both forms will be completed and returned to the department chair at least one month prior to beginning the research proposal.

After selecting a research topic, the student must obtain the approval of a faculty advisor. The topic can be identified by the student or it can be based on an ongoing project that a faculty advisor approves. The student must show evidence of approval of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) Protection of Human Subjects in Research training at the time of registering for NURS 5125- Thesis. Students will work closely with their faculty advisor and the two Thesis Committee members.

#### ***Composition of the Thesis Committee***

After approval of the research topic, the student will be assigned a thesis chair by the department chairperson. The thesis chair will supervise the research project in conjunction with other faculty advisors. The topic of the research will determine the thesis chair and faculty advisors to be assigned. The research interest and expertise of the faculty will drive the decision (Refer to criteria 15-17).

The department chair, in consultation with the thesis chair, will recommend two other cognate graduate faculty members within or outside the department to form the Thesis Committee. The appointment of the thesis chair and the composition of the thesis committee must be approved by the dean of the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. Subsequently, the student will be approved to register for NURS 5124- Thesis Proposal. A copy of the NIH certificate must be submitted with the research proposal.

#### ***Final Thesis Defense***

Following the submission of the thesis, the student will be required to present the research findings at a public forum arranged by the department. The Thesis Committee will determine the grade to be assigned for both NURS 5124- Thesis Proposal and NURS 5125-Thesis Research and Defense. A grade of S (satisfactory) or NS (Not satisfactory) will be assigned. Students with a NS grade will be provided an opportunity to address the concerns of the Thesis Committee members.

### **Course Offerings for Nursing (NURS)**

#### **5000: PHILOSOPHICAL AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF NURSING PRACTICE (3)**

Prerequisite: Admission to the Master's of Nursing Program

This course analyzes the history and philosophy of science as a basis for knowledge and academic critique of nursing theory, research, and practice through differing philosophical and ethical perspectives.

### **5124 THESIS PROPOSAL AND RESEARCH AND DEFENSE (3)**

Prerequisites: Completion of all course work and Consent of Program Coordinator and Instructor.

Students will participate in an independent research project under the supervision of a research mentor. The project will focus on individual and community health interest and problems through literature search, defining of the problem, use of theoretical and conceptual framework, methodology for data collection, analysis, findings, discussion implications and conclusion.

### **5127 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION IN HEALTH CARE (3)**

Prerequisites: NURS 5000, 5111, 5115, 5117, 5135, 5145

This course covers the theories and principles of leadership/management, analysis and synthesis of the relationship of leadership/management the health care delivery system, evidence-based practice, future trends, and professional education

### **5135 NURSING INFORMATICS (3)**

Prerequisite: NURS 5000, 5111, 5117 or consent of the Program Coordinator and Instructor.

This course is designed to expand theory into practice, the nature of nursing, information and communication technology. It provides the nurse the tools and skills to collect, process, manage, and communicate patient care data with a collaborative care delivery framework utilizing integrated networks. The goal is to communicate critical information to achieve health promotion, health restoration and maintenance as well as wellness of patient, family, and community.

### **5140 HEALTH CARE INFORMATION SYSTEMS (3)**

Prerequisites: NURS 5110, 5111, and 5114

This course provides information on the fundamentals of the health care information system and how data are transformed into information and then again transformed into knowledge through integrated computer systems. The goal of this course is to prepare the students to be effective collaborators with the members of the health care team who do have the specialized healthcare skills but are lacking the technical insights.

### **5141 APPLICATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN HEALTH (3)**

Prerequisites: NURS 5000, 5111, 5112, and NURS 5117

This course provides information on how to integrate geographic information system design principles into the many applications areas found in the health care system. The goal of this course is to help students develop the skills needed to identify problems and develop solutions using mapping software to present findings graphically.

### **5142 ADVANCED PATHOPHYSIOLOGY (3)**

This course will examine the principles of physiologic function at all levels of organization from cell to organ systems as they affect human function. The course will use homeostasis as a model to account for regulatory and compensatory functions in health. Students will develop the necessary theoretical and empirical foundation for subsequent understanding of the diagnosis and management of human responses to disease and non disease-based etiologies.

### **5143 PHARMACOTHERAPEUTICS (3)**

Prerequisites: NURS 5000, 5111, 5113, 5115, 5117, 5135, 5142, 5145, 5146

This course covers both pharmacotherapeutics and pharmacokinetics of broad categories of pharmacologic agents. It covers principles of pharmacodynamics, pharmacokinetics, adverse drug reactions, and special population's considerations, in addition to the regulations relevant to prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses. Consideration of current health status, ethnic/racial backgrounds, socioeconomic status, cultural/spiritual implications, gender, and changes which occur across the lifespan are addressed.

### **5144 ADVANCED PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT (3)**

Prerequisites: NURS 5000, 5142, 5143, or consent of Program Coordinator and Instructor.

The purpose of this course is to establish differential diagnoses based on logical diagnostic reasoning for health maintenance, disease prevention, and early detection. Content builds on previously acquired knowledge and skills of advanced physiology and pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, and the domains and competencies common to the advanced practice roles. Additional Course Fee.

### **5145 ETHICS, POLICY, ORGANIZATION, AND FINANCING OF HEALTH CARE (3)**

Prerequisites: NURS 5000, 5111, 5117, or consent of the department.

This course will cover ethical and legal issues in research and health care, quality cost effective care, design and implementation of care in a variety of health care systems, and the executive leadership role of a nurse in managing human fiscal, and physical health care resources. The course will also present how health policy is formulated, how to affect this process, and how it impacts clinical practice and health care delivery.

### **NURS 5146: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention**

**Comment [KA1]:** No curriculum paperwork available for these courses.

This course emphasizes the promotion of health, prevention of illness and identification of environmental factors that impact health status, promotion of healthy lifestyle, self care, and holism, risk reduction, maximizing quality of life and maintenance of function across the health-illness continuum with clients: the individual, family, or community.

**†NURS 5147: Executive Leadership and Administration in Health Care**

This course covers the theories and principles of leadership/management; analysis and synthesis of the relationship of leadership/management to the health care delivery system, evidence-based practice, future trends and professional education.

**†NURS 5122 & 5123: Field Practicum in Community Health Nursing I and II**

The practicum course provides an integral part of professional education that complements and supports the learning process in the classroom. The experience provides the student with opportunities to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to a variety of fieldwork situations and to test new approaches and techniques in solving problems. The practicum is a meaningful learning experience that contributes positively to the student's professional development and nursing practice. A faculty member will coordinate the fieldwork experience in collaboration with the site preceptors. A minimum of 500 hours is required.

**†NURS 5124 & 5125: Thesis Proposal and Research and Defense**

This course allows the students to participate in an independent research project under the supervision of a research mentor. The project will focus on individual and community health interests and problems through application of literature search, definition of the problem, use of theoretical and conceptual framework, methodology for data collection, analysis, findings, discussion implications and conclusion.

**NURS/PUBH 5110: Fundamentals of Public Health Practice**

This course provides an overview of the historical perspectives, content, scope, processes and progress of public health practice in the United States over the past 150 years in relation to current and future health needs. The core functions of public health, intervention programs and services, unique features of public health, levels of prevention and the roles of governments (local, state, federal) in public health practice are explored.

**NURS/PUBH 5111: Biostatistics and Computer Applications**

This course covers both parametric and non-parametric statistics; t-test for independent means and t-test for non-independent means, the use of Chi-Square statistics tests, regression statistics, the analysis of variance (ANOVA), and the use of the arithmetic and geometric prediction involving population data. Epi-info and SPSS software will be used to analyze relatively large population data.

**NURS/PUBH 5112: Environmental Health and Safety**

This course covers the relationship between environmental exposures and diseases. Air pollution control, water pollution control, occupational health and safety, food safety, hazardous and solid

waste management issues are discussed. The role of regulatory agencies, individuals and community groups in the management of environmental hazards and toxins is explored.

**NURS/PUBH 5113: Epidemiology**

This course focuses on the principles and methods of epidemiology. Students are exposed to techniques for interpreting epidemiological data and the approaches used for infectious and non-infectious diseases. Attention is given to the applications of quantitative analysis of genomic epidemiological data, clinical data and the prediction of demographic data and methods for the evaluation of health services.

**NURS/PUBH 5114: Principles of Health and Policy Management**

The course examines marketing as a management tool by the application of marketing concepts to health care: the marketing process, marketing resources and strategies for accomplishing marketing objectives, health care personnel policies and programs, human resources requirements, recruitment, development, performance appraisal, salary and wage administration, and management/labor relations in the health industry.

**NURS/PUBH 5115: Behavioral, Social and Cultural Aspects of Health Disparities**

This course examines the behavioral, cultural and social contexts of health disparities, their consequences, and implications for the health of minority populations. It discusses the history of health disparities, inequity in health care; and the role of cultural competence and government efforts at reducing health disparities.

**NURS/PUBH 5116: Community Health Risk Assessment**

This course is an advanced study which will explore the principles and practice of conducting community-based assessment of risk factors for poor health and health outcomes. It includes the discussion of individual, group, and contextual factors that contribute to poor health and outcomes and how to measure them. Collaboration among local and state public health departments, voluntary health agencies, and other community organizations is emphasized.

**NURS/PUBH 5117: Research Methods**

This course covers the principles and strategies of scientific research in the health professions; fundamentals of defining a research problem, designing a study, measuring variables, selecting a sample, and analyzing data. Emphasis is placed on developing skills needed for analyzing research and assessment of health behaviors, and the selection of health problems and the design of research proposals for individual student research projects.

**NURS/PUBH 5118: Health Education and Community Advocacy**

This interdisciplinary course introduces the students to the ways behavioral change theories can be applied and translated into specific community health education advocacy and policy-level interventions. Readings and discussions center on the development of theory-based strategies with emphasis on issues of control, participation, efficacy and empowerment. Principles of citizen participation, empowerment, coalition and partnership effectiveness as well as social marketing strategies are emphasized.

**NURS/PUBH 5119: Health Issues in Minority Populations**

This course examines the patho-physiological differences among racial and ethnic minority populations in the United States with an emphasis on the diseases and illnesses in which racial and ethnic minorities have the highest morbidity and mortality burden. It discusses individual and community practices that contribute to the higher burden of disease, and community-based approaches to reduce the burden.

**NURS/PUBH 5120: Principles, Theories and Practice in Behavioral Change**

This course provides the fundamental concepts in social science theories and perspectives that comprise the foundation of health education theory and behavior change. It provides competencies for developing a conceptual framework for understanding, predicting, and facilitating behavior change. Students will develop a proposal to implement, and evaluate a behavior intervention.

**NURS/PUBH 5121: Health Services and Programming in Minority Populations**

This course examines the research on the unique needs and challenges in developing health promotion and education programs for minority populations. Students will analyze the effectiveness of services and programs as a means to design culturally and linguistically appropriate programming.

**NURS/PUBH 5127: Management of Health Care Organization**

This course explores organizational structures, roles and service delivery of healthcare organizations such as for-profits, non-profits (community based organizations), hospitals, long term facilities, nursing homes, home health agencies and the public sector (public insurance, government public health sectors). Students will also learn enhanced leadership skills and problem solving techniques needed for successful management of diverse healthcare settings and organizations.

**NURS/PUBH 5128: Program Design, Planning, and Evaluation**

This course provides the theoretical foundations of program planning and evaluation (including needs assessment, program monitoring, and outcome evaluation), and their applications in public health. Students will design a program plan comprising goals, objectives, implementation, and evaluation.

**NURS/PUBH 5129: Entrepreneurship in Healthcare Delivery**

This course evaluates opportunities and threats to entrepreneurial endeavors in the health care industry. It explores strategies and designs for health care business development, marketing and financing.

**NURS/PUBH 5131: Health Economics and Financial Management**

This course presents economic analysis and the use of managerial economics to study the health care system: demand for medical services; role of health insurance; productivity and cost measurement; labor markets and competition; principles, models and practical methods for the economic evaluation of health care services, the finance of health care and recent developments in financial management of health care organizations; applications of financial management techniques to specific problems facing health care managers, budgeting, cost behavior and

forecasting, revenue and expense analysis; and strategic planning in health care agencies will be discussed.

**NURS/PUBH 5132: HIV/AIDS in People of Color: Evidence-based Interventions**

This course examines the racial and ethnic disparities in rates of transmission, incidence, prevalence and mortality related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic at the local, national and global levels. Emphasis is placed on the unique and complex dynamics of the epidemic among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States and evidence-based interventions including diffusion of effective behavioral interventions to address HIV risk behaviors. It also discusses biomedical and environmental determinants of HIV infection, and public policy challenges and barriers to HIV prevention among communities of color.

**NURS/PUBH 5133: Public Health Aspect of Aging**

This course examines the social, psychological, and physiological changes that occur with increasing age. Using a multidisciplinary approach, it discusses public health approaches to meeting the needs of older people and the public and private policies that affect older people and their families.

**NURS/PUBH 5134: Global Health**

This course will explore the historical evolution of global health. Health and economic implications of globalization will be explored from epidemiological perspectives. Emphasis is placed upon understanding of the problems of planning and managing WHO primary health care programs, particularly among people in developing nations where there are relatively high rates of infant mortality, protein energy malnutrition, financial constraints and weak public health infrastructures.