MSN Course Descriptions by Track

Effective 2/21/2023

Core Courses

NURS 6003: Theory and Research in Nursing (3 hours): Examines the historical and philosophical foundation of knowledge development and its influence on nursing science. Explores conceptual models and theories, those from nursing as well as multidisciplinary perspectives, that support advanced nursing science related to nursing education, healthcare administration, quality management, and advanced nursing practice. Examines research principles related to scientific paradigms, ethics, research design, and research methodologies.

NURS 6013: Research and Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing (3 hours): Emphasizes the necessity of research as the basis of scholarly nursing inquiry, foundational to evidence-based practice. Evaluates research design, scientific merit, findings, and evidence-based practice guidelines. Identifies strategies for the translation of research into practice through data access, synthesis, and translating research into practice. Provides students a framework to guide advanced clinical inquiry.

NURS 6023: Emerging Trends in Healthcare Delivery: Systems, Ethics, Policy and Politics (3 hours): Prepares graduates with the knowledge necessary to assume leadership roles in the management of human, fiscal, and physical health care resources. The organization of health care delivery systems and the resulting impacts are evaluated from historical, political, ethical, and economic viewpoints. Healthcare reimbursement and potential changes in payment structures are explored. The procedures and processes for policy development at the national through facility level are analyzed. The students are challenged to explore their personal value systems and to analyze how these values shape their professional practices.

NURS 6033: Health Promotion for a Global Society (3 hours): Identifies and explores the influence of biologic, environmental and societal factors on health and wellness of individuals, families and communities. Emphasizes the study of personal and community-based interventions and strategies to influence the goal of health promotion and disease prevention. Considers the use of theory, research, resources, social policies and regulatory requirements as avenues to promote health from a personal, community and global perspective. Included in this course is the role of spirituality as a component of health promotion and holistic nursing practice. Students are introduced to practical applications and tools for spiritual formation, while exploring the idea of professional nursing as ministry through vocation. The student is encouraged to appreciate a multi-faceted workforce in health care organization and delivery to stimulate positive societal and global outcomes. Related issues associated with the rapidly expanding aging population, human diversity, cultural sensitivity and global awareness are also included.

Healthcare Administration

NURS 6103: Theoretical Foundations of Leadership (3 hours): Presents leadership concepts and theories, as well as an orientation to organizational structures and dynamics in health care delivery systems. Students examine theories and analyze environmental and societal determinants that influence an organization's capacity for change and quality improvement. The complementary qualities of leadership and management are examined and their impact on organizational effectiveness and corporate success is analyzed. Interventions that advance and strengthen the organizational mission and vision are explored.

NURS 6113: Human Resources and Workforce Development (3 hours): Explores leadership within the context of strategic human resource management, including the ethical and legal oversight of personnel and resources in healthcare delivery organizations and systems. Evaluates a variety of topics, such as: recruitment, hiring, discipline, and termination; strategic workforce planning and development; compensation practices and challenges; training and development of human capital; performance management; organized labor; and the alignment of quality improvement with human resources practices. Appropriate guidelines, best practices, and legal statutes governing these topics are examined. Conceptual aspects related to effective communication, conflict resolution, and employee engagement are applied to a variety of situational contexts. Principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion are reviewed as necessary considerations for successful organizations and systems.

NURS 6123: Strategic Planning and Financial Management (3 hours): Introduces the concept of a strategic plan and the importance of linking this with an organization's mission and ethos. Basic principles associated with program, project, and service line fiscal management, price-setting, budget preparation, return on investment, cost-benefit analysis, managed care contracting, and value-based purchasing are discussed and applied. Emphasis is placed on acquiring a financial vocabulary to communicate with various stakeholders. Financial reports such as balance sheets, budget forms, and expense reports are studied and formulated.

NURS 6133: Quality and Regulation Management (3 hours) (for DCPs prior to 3/1/2023): Integrates the concepts of outcomes management and research as the basis to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care organizations. Program evaluation, performance improvement, and other methods of measuring outcomes are examined for their utility within the health care setting. Systematic approaches for analyzing and evaluating processes of care delivery and their impact on client populations, organizational processes, and communities are considered. National quality data bases and national benchmarking is explored. Accreditation and/or regulatory requirements will be presented. Through readings, projects, and various interactions students develop an informed basis for leading quality improvement efforts in various healthcare settings.

NURS 6143: Healthcare Law (3 hours): Examines laws associated with healthcare facility operations in the 21st century including those that directly impact governing boards, physicians, directors/administrators, investors, and the public. Methods to assure compliance with corporate auditing accountability regulations, financial disclosures, investor protection statutes, anti-kickback laws, healthcare provider self-referral, and governing board legal responsibilities are explored. Investigates Omnibus Reconciliation Acts; their content and stipulations affecting the provision of healthcare.

NURS 6913: Healthcare Informatics, Database Management and Financial Reimbursement (3 hours): Provides an overview of healthcare informatics and its current use

by both public and private healthcare agencies. Teaches students to navigate and enter data into complex healthcare databases using the principles of database management including the ability to conduct population studies through the use of databases. Explores the interpretation and evaluation of quality indicators within databases to maximize reimbursement in a variety of settings.

NURS 6973: Evidence Based Practicum (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study in a cumulative practice experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set at the Master's level. Working in collaboration with a Faculty Adviser and Preceptor, students formulate individualized learning objectives, engaging in applying theory to better understand a specialization role within the context of an organization. Emphasis is on the implementation of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the skills necessary to enter the specialty practice field. The practicum includes a minimum of 90 hours that are reflected in a cumulative journal.

NURS 6983: Applied Evidence-Based Research Design (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study to culminate in a theoretical application experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set. Students are prepared to assess needs for practice change, critically appraise existing evidence, and develop a plan for implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practice interventions. Emphasis is on the understanding and value of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the research-related skills necessary to enter the specialty area.

Plus, an elective from Quality Management.

Nursing Education:

NURS 6203: Theoretical Foundations of Learning and Teaching (3 hours): Explores the roles of both educator and student in the creation of an effective learning environment. Frameworks for analyzing pedagogical philosophies, adult learning theories, ethical/legal issues, research, and professional values related to nursing education are examined. The incorporation of Christian teachings into nursing education and various other teaching strategies are explored. Also presented are the influences of accreditation and/or certification requirements, as well as the implementation of innovations and technologies in nursing education.

NURS 6213: Curriculum Design and Teaching Strategies (3 hours): Emphasizes curriculum development, outcomes, and competencies while focusing on effective teaching strategies. Evaluates the faculty role, the social responsibility of program curricular design, and pedagogies in meeting consumer and community needs, as well as professional nursing standards. Presents best practices and research-based strategies to promote various learning styles and encourage the creation of active learning environments that increase student retention and learning success for diverse student populations.

NURS 6223: Assessment of Student Learning (3 hours): Provides students with an opportunity to compare, question, and analyze various assessment and evaluation concepts, models, and frameworks for their applicability in the quality assurance process of curriculum and program development. Explores techniques to evaluate learner knowledge and competence.

Methods of curricula and program evaluation are explored. Students consider innovations in the area of evaluation based on current theories and practice.

NURS 6233: Clinical Education, Simulation & Technology in the Learning Environment (3 hours): Explores the unique aspects of clinical teaching, as well as theories and trends that support the use of technology for the enhancement of learning. Focuses on developing the education specialist's skill set to be able to select and implement appropriate instructional technologies, including simulation and the electronic health record, to enhance learning in a variety of settings.

NURS 6243: Advanced Clinical Concepts for Nurse Educators (3 hours): Provides students the opportunity to develop in-depth knowledge and expertise in a particular area of nursing that includes graduate-level clinical practice content and experiences. This practicum encompasses the delivery of safe, quality nursing care to diverse populations in a variety of settings and incorporates engaging client and caregiver, managing symptoms, education and promoting self-management, and collaborating and coordinating care. Students advance their clinical knowledge in a selected specialty to prepare them to fulfill the roles of the nurse educator.

In consultation with course faculty, the practice hours focusing on advanced clinical concepts (90 hours) need to be arranged individually by the student with a preceptor or preceptors in appropriate Health Care roles.

NURS 6253 Education Certificate Practicum (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study to cumulative in a practice experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set at the Master's level. Working in collaboration with a Faculty Adviser and Mentor, students formulate individualized learning objectives, engaging in applying theory to better understand a specialization role within the context of an organization. Emphasis is on the implementation of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the skills necessary to enter the specialty practice field. The practicum includes a minimum of 90 hours that are reflected in a cumulative journal.
** 90 Clinical Hours; mentor experiences based on advancing preparation in student's clinical specialty.

NURS 6603: Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology (3 hours): Develops an in-depth scientific knowledge base of advanced physiology and pathophysiology conditions across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on linking physiology to pathophysiology, at the micro to macro level, to formulate the clinical decisions needed in primary healthcare prevention, treatment, and maintenance management. Uses scientific knowledge to differentiate between normal and abnormal changes in physiological development and aging.

NURS 6623: Advanced Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics (3 hours): Builds on prior knowledge of medication classification, uses, actions, interactions, and adverse reactions. Emphasis is placed on linking the formulation of clinical decisions to the initiation of treatment regimens for commonly encountered primary care conditions. Focuses on the use of protocols, prescription writing, and the advanced practice nurse's role in prescribing and monitoring pharmacologic therapies in the primary care setting. Addresses dosages and dosage-dependent medication effects as well as adjusting medication dosages, monitoring patient compliance, problem identification, and physician consultation.

NURS 6314: Advanced Health Assessment (4 hours) (45 practicum hours): Provides a systematic and holistic presentation of advanced assessment techniques, concepts, and approaches to evaluate the physiological, psychological, sociocultural, developmental, and spiritual conditions of all human systems. Includes characteristics such as genetics, behavior, communication, health literacy, and learning styles. Emphasis is placed on linking the assessment to diagnosis, to treatment, including adult education in primary care settings.

NURS 6973: Evidence Based Practicum (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study in a cumulative practice experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set at the Master's level. Working in collaboration with a Faculty Adviser and Preceptor, students formulate individualized learning objectives, engaging in applying theory to better understand a specialization role within the context of an organization. Emphasis is on the implementation of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the skills necessary to enter the specialty practice field. The practicum includes a minimum of 90 hours that are reflected in a cumulative journal.

NURS 6983: Applied Evidence-Based Research Design (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study to culminate in a theoretical application experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set. Students are prepared to assess needs for practice change, critically appraise existing evidence, and develop a plan for implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practice interventions. Emphasis is on the understanding and value of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the research-related skills necessary to enter the specialty area.

Healthcare Quality Management

NURS 6103: Theoretical Foundations of Leadership (3 hours): Presents leadership concepts and theories, as well as an orientation to organizational structures and dynamics in health care delivery systems. Students examine theories and analyze environmental and societal determinants that influence an organization's capacity for change and quality improvement. The complementary qualities of leadership and management are examined and their impact on organizational effectiveness and corporate success is analyzed. Interventions that advance and strengthen the organizational mission and vision are explored.

NURS 6133: Quality and Regulation Management (3 hours) (for DCPs prior to 3/1/2023): Integrates the concepts of outcomes management and research as the basis to improve the quality and effectiveness of health care organizations. Program evaluation, performance improvement, and other methods of measuring outcomes are examined for their utility within the health care setting. Systematic approaches for analyzing and evaluating processes of care delivery and their impact on client populations, organizational processes, and communities are considered. National quality data bases and national benchmarking is explored. Accreditation and/or regulatory requirements will be presented. Through readings, projects, and various interactions students develop an informed basis for leading quality improvement efforts in various healthcare settings.

NURS 6143: Healthcare Law (3 hours): Examines laws associated with healthcare facility operations in the 21st century including those that directly impact governing boards, physicians, directors/administrators, investors, and the public. Methods to assure compliance with corporate auditing accountability regulations, financial disclosures, investor protection statutes, anti-

kickback laws, healthcare provider self-referral, and governing board legal responsibilities are explored. Investigates Omnibus Reconciliation Acts; their content and stipulations affecting the provision of healthcare.

NURS 6913: Healthcare Informatics, Database Management and Financial Reimbursement (3 hours): Provides an overview of healthcare informatics and its current use by both public and private healthcare agencies. Teaches students to navigate and enter data into complex healthcare databases using the principles of database management including the ability to conduct population studies through the use of databases. Explores the interpretation and evaluation of quality indicators within databases to maximize reimbursement in a variety of settings.

NURS 6973: Evidence Based Practicum (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study in a cumulative practice experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set at the Master's level. Working in collaboration with a Faculty Adviser and Preceptor, students formulate individualized learning objectives, engaging in applying theory to better understand a specialization role within the context of an organization. Emphasis is on the implementation of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the skills necessary to enter the specialty practice field. The practicum includes a minimum of 90 hours that are reflected in a cumulative journal.

NURS 6983: Applied Evidence-Based Research Design (3 hours): Integrates the knowledge, skills, and specialty expertise gained throughout the MSN course of study to culminate in a theoretical application experience designed to further advance the graduate's role and skill set. Students are prepared to assess needs for practice change, critically appraise existing evidence, and develop a plan for implementation and evaluation of evidence-based practice interventions. Emphasis is on the understanding and value of evidence-based practice, effective communication, and the demonstration of the research-related skills necessary to enter the specialty area.

NURS 6523: Risk Management in Healthcare (3 hours): Examines the history and trends of risk management in the United States. Provides education on achieving a risk-intelligent enterprise including oversight of regulatory requirements, compliance risk, understanding financial/business risk, advising organizational leaders on the management of new and existing risk, and assisting leaders with value protection and value creation. Presents methods of risk mitigation such as risk management, risk retention, risk modification, risk transfer, and error recovery to reduce risk. Incorporates the requirements necessary for healthcare organizations to achieve high reliability status.

NURS 6533: Building a Culture of Patient Safety (3 hours): Defines interventions, and their employment, to drive change to proactively maintain patient safety within healthcare organizations. Identifies themes and patterns while examining organizational systems and processes for potential points of failure. Presents plans to implement guidelines and goals from national organizations including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the National Quality Forum (NQF), and The Joint Commission (TJC) to enhance and assure patient safety throughout the care continuum.

Plus, an elective from Healthcare Administration

Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

NURS 6701: Role Transitions to Nurse Practitioner Practice (1 hour): Explores the transitions necessary to assume the nurse practitioner role and to make independent decisions about the advanced nursing care needs of patients in primary care. Discusses the requirements for advanced practice in Kansas, and in anticipated practice states, and the authority vested in the advance practice nurse to make medical diagnoses and decisions and implement medical plans of care. Identifies the adjustments needed for the nurse to move from a care provider to a care director. Explores the possibilities of collaboration with multiple stakeholders to improve care in the adult-gerontology population.

NURS 6702: Primary Care I – Clinical Practicum (2 hours) (120 practicum hours): Offers students faculty-supervised clinical experiences with adolescent and adult patients in the primary care setting, including patient/family education, providing preventive healthcare, managing acute or episodic illness (including the ordering and interpretation of laboratory and other diagnostic procedures), differential diagnosis, and the prescription of therapeutic interventions. Students have the opportunity to apply knowledge learned in the didactic course to the clinical arena and to explore practice with a nurse practitioner or physician in primary care.

NURS 6703: Primary Care I – Care of Adults and Special Populations (3 hours): Provides the nurse practitioner student with the content necessary to provide holistic, compassionate care to culturally diverse adolescent through adult patients. Prepares students to provide patient and/or family education, preventive healthcare, manage common acute or episodic illnesses, and the provision of care for common chronic diseases in the primary care environment. Advanced assessment skills (including the ordering and interpretation of laboratory and other diagnostic procedures), differential diagnoses, and evidence-based therapeutic interventions are used for anticipated optimal patient outcomes. Nurse practitioner standards of practice, and role competencies are emphasized.

NURS 6712: Primary Care II – Clinical Practicum (2 hours) (120 practicum hours): Offers students faculty-supervised clinical experiences with patients in the primary care setting, including patient/family education, providing preventive healthcare, managing acute or episodic illness (including the ordering and interpretation of laboratory and other diagnostic procedures), differential diagnosis, and the prescription of therapeutic interventions. Students have the opportunity to apply knowledge learned in the didactic course to the clinical arena and to explore practice with a nurse practitioner or physician preceptor in primary care.

NURS 6713: Primary Care II – Care of the Elderly (3 hours): Provides the nurse practitioner student with the content necessary to provide holistic, compassionate care to culturally diverse elderly patients. Prepares students to provide patient and/or family education, preventive healthcare, manage common acute or episodic illnesses, and the provision of care for common chronic diseases in the primary care environment. Advanced assessment skills (including the ordering and interpretation of laboratory and other diagnostic procedures), differential diagnoses, and evidence-based therapeutic interventions are used for anticipated optimal patient outcomes. Emphasis is placed on differentiating and treating morbidity and identifying the normal aging process.

NURS 6732: Legal, Ethical, and Practice Issues in Primary Care (2 hours): Examines legal, ethical, and practice issues of importance to the nurse practitioner including a review of the legal and regulatory landscape of establishing an NP practice, the ethical implications of providing

care and the nurse practitioner's role in addressing health disparities. Leadership in the practice and policy arena will be explored through the identification of opportunities for the nurse practitioner to impact policy and make practice contributions that will benefit individuals and communities.

NURS 6733: Informatics, Quality and Safety for the Advanced Practice Nurse (3 hours):
The role the advanced practice nurse in informatics is examined with an emphasis on the impact of the policy in the development of public health informatics and the potential of health information technology to enhance quality and safety, cost reduction and population health. Data management and quality improvement methodologies are analyzed that promote improvement in health care outcomes. Point-of-care technology and digital innovations that assist in the delivery of care are examined and analyzed for their benefit to the patient and health care consumer.

NURS 6793: Evidence-Based Nurse Practitioner Project (3 hours): Facilitates student
development of an evidence-based project designed to improve an identified issue, practice, procedure, or area in primary care. Project completion requires a formal written paper, oral presentation, and project dissemination.

NURS 6794: Primary Care III – Advanced Nursing Synthesis Practicum (4 hours) (240 practicum hours):
Focuses on the incorporation of previous knowledge, skills, and role behaviors in a concentrated, experiential, supervised clinical opportunity to function in the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner role. Students apply advanced clinical decision-making skills, and evidence-based practice guidelines to the assessment, diagnosis, management, and evaluation of health care problems in the adult population (adolescent to elderly) under the guidance of a preceptor.