

Welcome to the Graduate Nursing Program

Dear Methodist College Nursing Students,

Welcome to the Nursing Programs at Methodist College! We are delighted that you are continuing your education with us and are excited about your contributions to the learning community at Methodist. This is a time to reflect, grow, and excel! Learning is driven by you own curiosity, desire for achievement, and commitment to personal growth.

The nursing faculty at Methodist College are invested in your success and view you as a partner in your own learning. We encourage you take advantage of your opportunity to learn from, and with, these scholars. Studying nursing is a growth producing experience; what you receive will definitely be commensurate with the effort you invest.

Opportunities after graduation with your nursing degree may take you on a variety of exciting paths. You may find yourself practicing in a hospital, practicing in a community, school, or clinic setting. You may advance into a leadership position in a healthcare organization, or you may continue your studies! This nursing degree is your passport to a new level of opportunity, and we are delighted that you are at Methodist College!

The faculty, staff, and administration of Methodist College join us in wishing you the best as you develop your expertise in teaching, learning, scholarship, and leadership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Blanca Miller, Ph.D, RN
Dean of Nursing
bmiller@methodistcol.edu
(309) 671-2909

Dr. Theresa Schwindenhammer, Ph.D., RN
Graduate Program Coordinator
tschwindenhammer@methodistcol.edu
(309) 672-5507

Methodist College General Information

Program Sponsor:
Methodist College of UnityPoint Health

Accredited by:
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411
Phone: 800-621-7440/312-263-0456
www.hlcommission.org

Characteristics & Definitions:

Methodist College provides a high-quality education in nursing, health sciences, and human services through high quality programming and excellent clinical practice.

Organization and Governance:

Methodist College is a four-year college affiliated with UnityPoint Health-Central Illinois. It is governed by a Board of Directors, composed of 12 members who represent the Peoria area community.

Mission Statement:

Provide quality educational programs that promote the holistic development of a diverse student population to become healthcare professionals. The college is also committed to civic engagement, community service, and to meeting the healthcare needs of the diverse population it serves.

Our Vision:

Methodist College will be the premier college of choice for excellence in Health Science and Human Service education within the Midwest.

Methodist College Values:

Human Dignity: Unconditional respect for the inherent worth, uniqueness, and autonomy of individuals.

Integrity: Displaying strong moral character and acting in accordance with accepted standards of behavior and an appropriate code of ethics.

Inquiry: An active process of exploration and investigation that leads to understanding and construction of knowledge through one's life.

Social Justice: Acting in accordance with fair treatment regardless of gender, economic status, race, religion, ethnicity, age, citizenship, disability, or sexual orientation.

UnityPoint Health Values (FOCUS):

F – Fostering Unity: Use the skills and abilities of each person to enable great teams. Collaborate across departments, facilities, business units, and regions.

O – Own the Moment: Connect with each person, treating them with courtesy, compassion, empathy, and respect. Enthusiastically engage in our work. Be accountable for our individual actions and our team performance. Take responsibility for solving problems, regardless of origin.

C – Champion Excellence: Commit to the best outcomes and highest quality. Have a relentless focus exceeding expectation. Believe in sharing our results, learning from our mistakes, and celebrating our successes.

S – Seizing Opportunities: Embrace and promote innovation and transformation. Create partnerships that improve care delivery in our communities. Have the courage to challenge the status quo.

Institutional Goals:

- Create and support a positive, student-centered learning environment.
- Provide quality instruction and programs.
- Create quality student support services and programs.
- Recruit and retain a diverse, qualified workforce.
- Promote fiscal responsibility and accountability.
- Provide adequate resources to support institutional mission.
- Recruit and retain a qualified, diverse student body.
- Develop collaborative relationships for the benefit of the community.

Graduate Nursing Program Information

Nursing Program Philosophy

Methodist College prepares the baccalaureate graduate to practice as a professional nurse generalist, independently and collaboratively with other health professionals, to promote health, prevent disease, and to attain, maintain, or restore wellness. The comprehensive education program serves as a foundation for both holistic nursing practice and lifelong learning.

Members of Methodist College are guided by the values that enhance nursing care and nursing practice: Social Justice, Inquiry, Human Dignity, and Integrity. The philosophy guides faculty and nursing students in beliefs about major concepts in nursing and nursing education, the complexity of the healthcare environment, and the influence of external and internal systems on human functioning. The conceptual basis of the philosophy is further defined to provide clarity and to promote understanding as a cognitive model for educating professional nurses in the 21st century.

Purpose of Methodist College Master's Degree Programs:

The graduate academic program builds upon the foundation of baccalaureate education with a continuing focus on ethical, professional, and intellectual development. Graduate studies are designed to enhance both knowledge and expertise in specific academic disciplines and particular areas of professional practice. The College places an emphasis on preparing graduates who think critically and creatively, engage in research and scholarship, demonstrate disciplinary excellence, and are socially and ethically responsible. Learning experiences prepare graduates to provide leadership and expertise to meet the needs and demands of a diverse society. The graduate program seeks to provide an environment in which the pursuit and commitment to learning is nourished and enhanced to foster advancement of knowledge and the assurance of an educated healthcare workforce.

Graduate Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of a Master's degree at Methodist College, the graduate will be able to do the following:

1. Professional Development (Disciplinary Excellence)
 - a. Demonstrate teamwork and leadership ability by utilizing appropriate leadership skills and styles in a variety of intradisciplinary and interdisciplinary work groups.
 - b. Collaborate with a variety of individuals and/or groups using elements of effective team dynamics to effectively and appropriately structure teamwork.
2. Intellectual Development (Critical and creative thinking; engages in research and scholarship)
 - a. Competently apply the essential elements of core principles to analyze and evaluate problems and to construct and implement solutions in the healthcare environment.
 - b. Employ appropriate analytical models and apply critical reasoning processes to evaluate evidence, select among alternatives, and generate creative options to further effective decision making.
3. Social and Ethical Responsibility
 - a. Demonstrate selection of ethical courses of action in research and practice.
 - b. Demonstrate social responsibility by applying the institutional values to professional and personal endeavors and activities.

Accreditation

The master's degree in nursing program at Methodist College is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

Student Nursing Organizations

Student Nurses' Association (SNA)

Methodist College SNA serves as the local chapter of the National Student Nurses' Association. There are a variety of opportunities for students to develop themselves as both leaders and future professional nurses. The SNA meets regularly throughout the academic year and invites new students to attend a meeting for an introduction to the SNA.

Sigma Honor Society

Sigma is the only worldwide International Honor Society of Nursing. Sigma promotes global health through nursing knowledge, scholarship, and a commitment to professional development. The Methodist College Phi Phi chapter is one of 486 existing Sigma chapters with members in more than 90 countries.

It is both an honor and a privilege to be a member of an organization that represents excellence in nursing. Membership is by invitation and is extended to baccalaureate prepared nursing students as they near program completion based on individual achievement and leadership abilities. For more about this outstanding organization and its support of the advancement of nursing, visit the website at <http://www.nursingsociety.org>.

Admission Requirements

All College documents contain current pertinent information. Methodist College reserves the right to make changes as necessary, including changes in requirements, programs, policies, and fees. Changes shall go into effect whenever appropriate with such notice as is reasonable under the circumstances.

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites and co-requisites in effect at the time of publication are printed in this handbook/catalog. However, prerequisites and co-requisites may change over time and do not depend on the handbook/catalog year. The registration system will enforce prerequisites and co-requisites in effect at the time of registration.

Graduate Admission Process

Methodist College enrolls students whose goals reflect and are in accordance with the Methodist College Mission to; provide quality educational programs that promote the holistic development of a diverse student population to become health care providers, demonstrate a commitment to civic engagement and community service, and meet the health care needs of a diverse population. While experiencing and engaging in the MC vision of excellence for the future of nursing education, MSN students will enact the values of: Human Dignity, Integrity, Inquiry, and Social Justice.

Students seeking admission to the Nurse Educator, MSN Generalist, or MSN Prelicensure programs must submit a completed Graduate Packet; See required graduate packet criteria below.

Complete and send all documents to the Department of Admissions. All requirements for admission to the master's program must be met before students will be considered for admission to the post-licensure MSN Degree programs.

- Submit a completed graduate program application
- Pay a non-refundable Application Fee
- Provide evidence of having earned a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing from an accredited institution
- Have earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a baccalaureate degree or a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 for the last 60 hours of baccalaureate studies.
- Have a current unrestricted licensure to practice as a Registered Nurse in Illinois
- Submit official transcripts from all previously attended post-secondary institutions of education
- Submit a letter of reference from a professional contact
- Submit a letter of reference from a personal or academic contact

Students seeking admission to the Master of Science in Nursing Prelicensure Program must submit a completed Graduate Packet; See required graduate packet criteria below.

- Submit a completed graduate program application
- Pay a non-refundable Application Fee
- Provide evidence of having earned a Baccalaureate Degree from an accredited institution
- Have earned a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Submit official transcripts from all previously attended post-secondary institutions of education
- Submit a letter of reference from a professional contact
- Submit a letter of reference from a personal or academic contact

- Completion of eight-credit hours of Anatomy & Physiology with a minimum grade of “B”
- Completion of four-credit hours of Microbiology with a minimum grade of “B”

Nursing CAS

Applicants can also submit applications through NursingCAS (www.nursingCAS.org)

1. Individuals completing their applications through NursingCAS need to complete the application per the NursingCAS instructions.
2. If updates or materials are sent to NursingCAS subsequent to the initial submission of the application, please notify Methodist College Admissions, admissions@methodistcol.edu.

Military Service Members

Military Service Members interested in attending Methodist College should speak with their Education Services Officer (ESO) or counselor within their Military Service prior to enrolling at Methodist College.

Readmission Policy for Graduate Students

Students who have withdrawn from the College or who have been dismissed from the Graduate Programs: MSN or MSNPL, for failing to meet Academic Good Standing in Nursing requirements, but who meet the requirements for Academic Good Standing at Methodist College, are eligible to reapply to the program after an absence of one regular semester. The MSNPL program consists of five concurrent semesters allowing the absence of one semester to meet the policy requirements. A student may return after an absence of one semester however may need to only be in online courses and wait until clinical course is available to return to clinical. The MSNPL students will have the option to move to the second degree prelicensure program however the courses from MSNPL are non-transferrable.

Each application will be reviewed considering multiple academic factors as well as a cumulative review of past performance and outcomes that may influence future academic success.

Students applying for readmission must meet these criteria:

1. Demonstrate a cumulative GPA in nursing specific courses at or above 3.0
2. Earned grades of B or greater or only one C in all level nursing courses
3. Successfully progress through N5307 (did not receive a level two on ATI exam)
4. Demonstrate a cumulative GPA in A&P I, A&P II, and Microbiology of 3.0 or above

Readmission Process:

MSN Prelicensure process for application for readmission is as follows:

1. Individuals currently enrolled at the College

The applicant must provide the following documents in one packet to the Office of the Registrar via email at registrar@methodistcol.edu for review no later than March 1 for fall readmission and September 1 for spring readmission:

 - a. Complete the online Application for Readmission form available on the College website
 - b. Letter of Application for Readmission including a detailed account of what has changed that would result in a successful outcome if readmission were to be awarded
2. Individuals who have withdrawn from the College

The applicant must provide the following documents to the Office of the Registrar via email to registrar@methodistcol.edu for review no later than March 1 for fall readmission and September 1 for spring readmission:

 - a. Complete the online Application for Admission form available on the College website.
 - b. Compose a Letter of Application for Readmission including a detailed account of what has changed that would result in a successful outcome if readmission were to be awarded
 - c. Official transcripts of any coursework completed after dismissal from the Methodist College MSN Program.

1. Post-Readmission Review Process

- a. When a recommendation for readmission is made, the Graduate congress will identify stipulations that must be met as a condition of readmission. Failure to meet these stipulations may warrant dismissal with no opportunity for readmission.
- b. The Dean of Nursing will notify the readmission applicant of the final decision regarding readmission, along with any stipulations pertinent to readmission, via United States Postal Service with a return receipt requested. Notification letters will be sent from the Office of the Registrar not later than November 1 for spring readmission and May 1 for fall readmission.
- c. The decision of the Graduate Congress may be appealed to the Dean of Nursing within one week (five business days) of notification if the applicant for readmission desires. A formal, written letter of appeal must be submitted that substantiates the appeal as having not accurately reflected the criteria specified in this policy, including a completion of all lower division nursing courses with a grade of C or better, a science GPA of 3.0 (Anatomy and Physiology I & II and Microbiology), successful progression from N5307 to upper division (met GPA of 3.0, ATI with a Level 2, and course completion with a grade of C or better), and a cumulative nursing GPA of 3.0.
- d. The Dean of Nursing will render a decision within a period of ten (10) business days from the time the appeal is received. The decision will be communicated through the United States Postal Service with a return receipt requested. A PDF copy of the letter will be emailed to the student's Methodist College email address. The decision of the Dean of Nursing is final.
- e. If an offer of readmission is made, the offer is valid for the academic semester specified by the Graduate Congress or the Dean of Nursing in the decision rendered.
- f. Once the student is offered readmission, the student must meet with the Director of Academic Advising to select courses and develop an academic plan and then with the Office of the Registrar to finalize readmission paperwork and enroll in their courses.
- g. Students will be admitted in accordance with the admission policies in effect at the time they are granted readmission.
- h. Once accepted for readmission to the College, students will be required to meet the curriculum requirements for the degree as stated in the current catalog as of the time of their readmission.
- i. A student who is readmitted and proceeds to earn a grade of C in any nursing course in a subsequent semester will be dismissed from the MSN Nursing Program with no option to apply for readmission.

Program Requirements

Upon admission into Methodist College, all students are required to provide documentation of required health records for each program of study. This documentation is provided to a third-party vendor; students will be provided information about this system upon admission and payment of the non-refundable enrollment deposit. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain updated records and/or renewals of immunizations, as well as CPR certification.

Failure to complete and provide documentation of the required health records will result in the immediate removal from all courses.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for All Methodist College Students

Methodist College is committed to providing a safe environment that protects the health of students, patients, healthcare workers, visitors, and the communities we serve. Recognizing the serious consequences that COVID-19 can have, compliance with the COVID-19 vaccination program outlined within this policy is required of all Methodist College students. This requirement for all Methodist College students aligns with our parent company, UnityPoint Health.

All Methodist College students are required to submit proof that they are fully vaccinated. Both two-step or single dose vaccinations are acceptable. Medical and Religious Exemptions are available upon request. Please contact Health Records for these requests.

This policy applies to all current and newly enrolled students, even those in online programs or taking online classes for the semester regardless of their residency location. This policy includes all booster doses, as recommended by the manufacturer.

Health Records Compliance

It is each student's responsibility to verify they are compliant with the health record policy and up-to-date with all immunizations and clinical/internship requirements.

Before the beginning of each semester, students are required to turn in updated records for any expiring immunization or requirement that will occur within said semester.

1. Fall semesters: students who have health requirements expiring *any time* throughout the fall semester must submit updated records.
2. Spring semesters: students who have health requirements expiring *any time* throughout the spring semester must submit updated records.
3. Summer semesters: students who have health requirements expiring *any time* throughout the summer semester must submit updated records.

Failure to remain compliant with the health records policy will result in one or more of the following:

1. Registration hold
2. Immediate removal from classes and/or
3. Inability to attend clinical/internship

Students who are dropped from their courses will only be able to add classes up to the add/drop dates as stated in the Academic Calendar and only once they become compliant with all health records requirements.

Health Record Requirements for Graduate Programs

Required upon admission:

1. State of Illinois requirements
2. Department of Child and Family Services Background Check
3. Fingerprint Background Check (conducted at New Student Orientation or at another designated time before the end of the first week of class)
4. Hepatitis B (three doses)
5. 2-step tuberculin skin test (TB) - followed by annual 1-step (TB)
6. Varicella (two doses, titer, or had disease)
7. Urine Drug Screen (at least 5-panel)
8. Seasonal Influenza Vaccine (to be completed annually)

Required for clinical and/or internship:

1. Tuberculosis screening with negative results (to be completed annually)
2. CPR Certification (Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers via the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or Methodist College)

Health Record Exemptions

Students can request an exemption from required immunization(s) or health record(s) for the following reasons:

1. Exemption due to a medical condition
2. Exemption due to religious beliefs

Students requesting an exemption must obtain the Health Requirement Exemption Form from the Health Records Clerk. Submitted forms will be reviewed and verified within two business days of receipt.

For medical exemptions:

1. The form must be completed and submitted with documentation from a healthcare provider verifying the immunization(s) cannot be administered due to health reasons.

For religious exemptions:

1. The form must be completed and submitted with a signed statement detailing the student's objection to the immunization(s) on religious grounds
2. The objection must set forth the specific religious belief that conflicts with the immunization(s)
3. The religious objection may be personal and need not be directed by the tenets of an established religious organization
4. General philosophical or moral reluctance to allow immunizations **will not** provide a sufficient basis for an exemption

Students who are granted an exemption must complete titers for the exempted immunization(s). If the titer reveals a non-immune result the student must either receive the vaccination or complete a declination form. If a non-immune, non-vaccinated student is exposed to a disease, the student is required to sit out of their clinical/internship for the duration of the disease's incubation period.

There are specific clinical experiences in the nursing program that require an annual one-step TB test for students to participate in those rotations. Completing this clinical experience is mandatory to successfully complete that clinical rotation. Students are encouraged to communicate with their instructor as needed regarding this clinical requirement.

Documentation Requirements and Specifications

See current college catalog for documentation requirements and specifications.

Malpractice Insurance

See current college catalog for malpractice insurance information.

[Department of Child and Family Services \(DCFS\) Background Check](#)

See current college catalog for Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) Background Check requirements.

[Fingerprint Background Check](#)

See current college catalog for Fingerprint Background Check requirements.

[Out-of-State Online Students in Programs Requiring a Background Check](#)

See current college catalog for Out-Of-State Online Students in Programs Requiring a Background Check requirements.

[Nursing Student Incident: Medication Error or Student Injury](#)

Students who have incurred an incident, medication error, or needle stick exposure will be treated according to Methodist hospital and the college protocol.

- Student Medication Error:

If a student commits a medication error, the student shall notify the instructor. The instructor will assist the student in completing the appropriate paperwork necessary to report the nature of the error. The student and instructor will complete the agency paperwork per agency policy. Failure to notify the instructor of a medication error may result in the student's dismissal from the program. The faculty member should notify the Dean of Nursing immediately if the incident/error is a sentinel event.

The student and faculty member will complete the Methodist College Student Incident/ Medication Error form (forms available on the "I" drive and in Faculty copy room). The form should be given to the Dean of Nursing within 24 hours.

- Student Injury:

Students who sustain an injury during class or clinical time shall report the injury to their instructor. Students who sustain a needle stick will report to the Emergency Department of the hospital within two hours of the injury (as per hospital protocol). Medical expenses related to treatment of injury, including needle stick injuries, are the financial obligation of the student. The instructor will assist the student in completing the appropriate paperwork necessary to report the nature of the error. The faculty member should notify the Dean of Nursing immediately if the incident/error is a sentinel event.

The student and faculty member will complete the Methodist College Student Incident/ Medication Error form in duplicate (forms available on the "I" drive and in the Faculty copy room). The form should be given to the Dean of Nursing within 24 hours.

ALL medical expenses related to treatment of any injury are the financial obligation of the student. The student seeking treatment should submit related medical bills to their own insurance company.

Clinical Attendance Expectations

Clinical Attendance Policy

Students must meet all required clinical hours listed in the course syllabus to achieve a satisfactory for clinical. Clinical absences will be documented, and the student will be assigned a date and time to make up the clinical hours missed to meet the course requirements. Students are required to make up missed clinical hours within a designated time as assigned by the course faculty. If the clinical hours are not made up as assigned by the course faculty, students will receive an unsatisfactory for the clinical experience. A progress report will be completed by clinical faculty and a meeting with the clinical faculty member will be required.

Clinical Attendance

Absenteeism, including late arrivals and early leaves, resulting in 15% of missed clinical time per semester (for 8-week courses 1 clinical day can be missed. For 16-week courses 2 clinical days can be missed), will cause the student to receive an unsatisfactory and a failing course grade. If a student misses clinical time, the student will be required to complete an assignment. The assignment will include clinical site or simulation hours. Assignments and/or experiences will take place on a date and at a time when an instructor is available to provide appropriate supervision. Any clinical time missed WILL be documented on the student's clinical evaluation tool regardless of assignment completion. The missed clinical time will be counted towards the percentage of absences.

The faculty recognize that, although each course builds upon the previous course, the clinical experiences may differ. Therefore, absences within each semester stand alone and do not accumulate during the program.

Proper Notification for Clinical Lateness/Absence

Students are expected to notify their clinical instructor prior to the start of the clinical start time if they will not be able to attend clinical or anticipate a late arrival. A documented emergency will be taken under consideration by the program.

Note: Both the clinical instructor and/or preceptor (if applicable) must be notified.

Failing to use proper notification procedures ("no call – no show") for clinical absence/tardiness will be cause for administrative action. A pattern of this unprofessional behavior may result in course failure.

Tardiness is defined as arriving after the scheduled clinical start time. Time missed will count toward 15% of absence.

Note: Asking a classmate to inform the instructor that you will be late or absent does NOT constitute proper notification.

Additional Circumstances

Unprepared: To maintain patient safety, the faculty may dismiss the student from the clinical area with instructions to remedy the problem if the student is not prepared for the clinical experience. Such dismissal will be documented as an absence.

Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator program is to prepare graduates as nurse educators. Nurse educators function as clinical educators in a variety of healthcare settings and as academic educators in a variety of higher and post-secondary educational settings. The nurse educator designs and implements educational programs for specific populations including patients, families, community groups, nursing students, technical students, and those students who are continuing professional education for nurses. The American Association of Colleges of Nursing defines the nurse educator as a direct care role.

Program Overview

The Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator program, is a 35-credit hour program of study. The curriculum is designed to accommodate the working nurse who desires an advanced degree in nursing. Students gain admittance in fall semesters and can complete the program in six consecutive semesters, including summer terms, by taking six to seven credit hours per semester. Six credit hours per semester is considered full-time status. The program of study must be completed in five years as measured by the first semester of enrollment through degree completion. The degree program also prepares the graduate to pursue a terminal degree.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing: Nurse Educator program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Professional Development (Disciplinary excellence)
 - a. Integrate theories from nursing, healthcare, education, leadership and related fields to the care of individuals, communities, education of students and patients and the practice of leadership.
 - b. Critically assess, plan, implement and evaluate educational experiences of learners (nursing students, staff and clients) to improve learning and health outcomes.
 - c. Demonstrate collaborative and inter-professional approaches in advanced clinical practice roles, research, and nursing education.
2. Intellectual Development (Critical and creative thinking; engages in research and scholarship)
 - a. Utilize the process of scientific inquiry, evidence based research, and information technology to validate and refine knowledge relevant to nursing and nursing education.
 - b. Translate current evidence in the practice setting through problem identification, systematic inquiry, and continuous improvement processes.
 - c. Analyze trends in healthcare and nursing education and their impact on the profession of nursing, nursing education, and the systematic delivery of patient care.
3. Social and Ethical Responsibility
 - a. Demonstrate a commitment to social justice and advocacy for all clients (patients and students), families and communities, including the most vulnerable populations.
 - b. Analyze differences in cultural norms and healthcare practices when providing education and healthcare for aggregates of varied racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.
 - c. Incorporate knowledge of population based global health variants in provision of health promotion, maintenance, and restoration in comprehensive care.
 - d. Maintain an environment of academic integrity.

Curriculum

See college catalog for curriculum.

Master of Science in Nursing: Generalist Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing: Generalist program is to provide the student with the opportunity to customize their education. The student's educational program will consist of 20 credit hours in the foundational courses and a selection of a minimum of 14 credit hours from the direct core or functional area courses in either the Nurse Educator curriculum to complete the Master of Science in Nursing: Generalist program degree requirements with a minimum of 34 credit hours.

Program Overview

The Master of Science in Nursing: Generalist program is a 34-credit hour program of study (credit hours may change due to course selections). The curriculum is designed to accommodate the working nurse who desires an advanced degree in nursing. Students gain admittance in the fall semester and can complete the program in six consecutive semesters, including summer terms, by taking six to seven credit hours per semester. Six credit hours per semester is considered full-time status. The program of study must be completed in five years as measured by the first semester of enrollment through degree completion. The degree program also prepares the graduate to pursue a terminal degree.

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing: Generalist program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Professional Development (Disciplinary Excellence)
 - a. Develop and facilitate interdisciplinary teams using effective group dynamics to coordinate, foster, and evaluate safe patient care
 - b. Collaborate with a variety of individuals using effective team dynamics to effectively and appropriately manage teamwork
 - c. Create meaningful community partnerships to provide holistic care to disparate populations.
2. Intellectual Development (Critical and creative thinking; engages in research and scholarship)
 - a. Utilize evidence to engage in validating knowledge relevant to nursing
 - b. Translate current evidence to practice setting
 - c. Analyzes trends in health care and organizational functions as they impact the profession of nursing and patient care.
3. Social and Ethical Responsibility
 - a. Demonstrate commitment to social justice and advocacy for clients (individuals, communities, families).
 - b. Analyzes differences in cultural norms and healthcare practices
 - c. Provides culturally competent care for ALL patients in a variety of healthcare systems.

Curriculum

See college catalog for curriculum.

Master of Science in Nursing: Prelicensure Program

Purpose

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing, Prelicensure program is to provide students who have received a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and met the prerequisite 12 semester-credits of science with prescribed grades to complete this five-semester Master of Science in nursing program.

Upon successful completion of this program, students will also be prepared to obtain licensure as a registered nurse.

Program Overview

The Master of Science in Nursing, Prelicensure program is a 70-credit hour program of study. The curriculum is designed to accommodate students who are highly motivated and able to assume a credit load that ranges from 9 to 16 semester credits. Students will receive educational content that will provide concepts found in the *Essentials of Bachelor's Education* through the *Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing*. Students gain admittance in the fall semester and can complete the program in five consecutive semesters, including summer terms. This program can be completed on a part-time basis; however, progression will be dependent upon course availability. Six credit hours per semester is considered full-time status in graduate studies. Completion of the program of study cannot exceed five years as measured by the first semester of enrollment through degree completion. The degree program also prepares the graduate to pursue a terminal degree.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing: Prelicensure program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Professional Development (Disciplinary excellence)
 - a. Obtain the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to successfully practice as a registered nurse.
 - b. Develop communication skills to effectively and safely provide and guide collaborative intra and interdisciplinary healthcare.
 - c. Integrate concepts from theoretical research from multiple fields to develop appropriate healthcare interventions.
2. Intellectual Development (Critical and creative thinking; engages in research and scholarship)
 - a. Use the process of evidence-based inquiry to develop, implement, and evaluate healthcare interventions, programs, and practices.
 - b. Analyze trends in healthcare and nursing education and their impact on the profession of nursing, nursing education, and the systematic delivery of patient care.
3. Social and Ethical Responsibility
 - a. Demonstrate a commitment to social justice and advocacy for all clients (patients and students), families, and communities, including the most vulnerable populations
 - b. Analyze differences in cultural norms and healthcare practices when providing education and healthcare for aggregates of varied racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups.

Curriculum

See college catalog for curriculum.

Post-Master's Certificate: Nurse Educator

The purpose of the Nurse Educator program post-master's certificate is to prepare current nurses who have a master's degree to build a foundation of knowledge, skills, and attitudes to prepare them for future or enhance current roles as an educator. Nurse educators function as clinical educators in a variety of healthcare settings and as academic educators in a variety of higher and post-secondary educational settings. The nurse educator designs and implements educational programs for specific populations including patients, families, community groups, nursing students, technical students, and nurses who specialize in clinical expertise.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing defines the nurse educator as a direct care role.

Completion requirements for this certificate can be found in college catalog.

Academic Status

In Good Standing

At the end of each semester, a student must have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 to progress in a Methodist College graduate degree program.

A student is expected to earn a grade of B or better in all attempted graduate degree courses. Only one C grade is allowed in a degree program. This C grade may be repeated one time only.

Academic Dismissal

A student will be academically dismissed for any one of the following reasons:

- Failure to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
- Second C earned in the MSN curriculum.
- Second withdrawal from a single MSN course.
- Failure to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher within 2 semesters of enrollment after being granted conditional admission.
- Sanctions imposed for violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

“*Academic Dismissal*” will be posted on the student’s academic record. The student may apply for readmission to resume enrollment one regular semester (fall, spring, or summer for accelerated programs) following academic dismissal. (See the [Readmission Policy](#)).

Students dismissed from the MSN PL program may transfer to a BSN Prelicensure program the following semester. Appropriate progression upon transfer may be contingent on availability of courses.

Academic Support Policies, Information, & Procedures

Registration and Enrollment Policies

Course registration is managed through the Office of the Registrar. Faculty advisors are available during the registration period to assist students in their selection of courses. Registration may be completed through the fifth day of the semester.

To register, students should:

1. Review the course schedule
2. Meet with their advisor for an enrollment review
3. Register online through the CAMS student portal during the assigned registration period.

Enrollment Status

Students are classified according to the number of hours he/she is enrolled in a semester. For graduate studies, six credits are considered a full-time graduate load. To receive financial aid, students must be enrolled at least half-time (i.e., 4 credits).

Policies

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation:

The MC grade point average is calculated only on courses completed at MC. Transfer credits are not computed in the GPA. The GPA is calculated on all hours attempted and all hours earned and is based on the 4-point scale.

Grading Scale

In MSN courses, students must earn a grade of “B” in all MSN curriculum courses. Only one “C” can be earned

in the program. A “C” grade may be repeated only once. A second grade of “C” results in Academic Dismissal. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to progress.

MSN Program(s) Attendance Policies:

Attending both didactic and clinical/lab/internship/practicum experiences is considered critical for student success. Faculty will include specific attendance practices in the course syllabus and/or course instructions/clinical instructions. Students must adhere to such practices as defined within each course.

Nursing Student Dress Code

Professional appearance is essential when representing Methodist College during community appearances, hospital clinical rotations, and attendance in the Simulation Center and the Clinical Practice Center for clinical/laboratory purposes. The Methodist College name badge must include both first name and must be worn in a visible area above the waist during all clinical, lab, and community experiences. Should there be any exceptions to this dress code policy, students will be notified by the clinical instructor prior to the clinical experience.

- Professional appearance is required of all Methodist College students.
- Scrubs are to be worn during select community appearances, hospital clinical rotations, and in the Simulation Centers.
- Scrubs should be hunter green – MC logo on the top.
- Nursing & MSN also need a white or green lab coat (blazer style jacket) with the MC emblem embroidered on the left side.
- Students need clean, mostly all-white shoes with a closed heel and toe. No sandals, flip-flops, or similar styles are permitted.
- Students need to purchase a uniform for health assessment. Check with your instructor for more specific course requirements
- Students must wear a name badge in a visible area above the waist.
- For clinical and community experiences not requiring scrubs: clean, pressed, professional, modest attire that reveals no cleavage or midriff and not form fitting is required.
- No shorts, jeans, or open sandals, or no flip-flops for clinical settings.
- Business casual is required in some clinical rotations at the discretion of the clinical instructor
- Students will be sent home from clinical experiences if not dressed appropriately.

Students can purchase scrubs and lab coats from the campus store, near the entrance of Methodist College.

Students can also call Sam Harris Uniforms (309) 673-5961 to order uniforms. Visit www.sharrisuniforms.com.

Nursing Student Equipment Requirements

- Professional grade stethoscope | Preferred vendor: MDF
- Pupil Gauge Penlight
- Pocket Pal
- Bandage Scissor
- Watch
- Blood Pressure Cuff
- Mostly White closed back shoes
- Students will need equipment for health assessment course and all clinical courses.
- Limited equipment items are available for purchase in the Campus Store
- Order your instruments online at: www.mdfinstruments.com/methodist

Nursing Student Uniform/Equipment Voucher Information

- Students are able to purchase a specific dollar amount of scrubs/lab coats and medical equipment in the Methodist College Campus Store and apply it to your Methodist College account and pay it like any other tuition and fee.
- There are different equipment bundles for nursing students.
- New students will receive an email with this information before the first day of classes.

Academic Honesty:

As a community of students and professional healthcare workers (nurses, medical assistant, social work), the College strives to set and maintain the highest standards of integrity. Any dishonesty related to academic work in the classroom or clinical area will constitute misconduct and, as such, is incompatible with the standards of this College and subject to investigation and disciplinary action. Students are expected to read the policy in their handbook/catalog concerning academic conduct. Recording of a quiz or exam will be considered an attempt to give unauthorized aide and/or to obtain improper acquisition of a copy of a quiz or exam and will be considered to constitute academic misconduct.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's written work or thoughts as your own. To discourage plagiarism, students are advised the College may submit written work to an online detection service for evaluation of originality and proper use and attribution of sources.

Student Responsibility Statement:

It is the student's responsibility to engage in professional and ethical behavior and to know the requirements to complete his or her degree, including—but not limited to—required courses, prerequisites courses, policies, procedures, payment and payment arrangements, awarding of financial aid, and catalog and handbook requirements. Methodist College faculty and staff will provide as much assistance as possible to help assure the students are able to complete their chosen degree program efficiently and in a timely manner. However, it is ultimately the student who is responsible for earning the degree. All policies and procedures can be found in the student handbook or college catalog.

Additional Policies:

For additional policies and procedures, refer to the Methodist College Catalog and the Methodist College Student Handbook. Both can be found at <https://www.methodistcol.edu/academic-calendar-and-catalog.aspx>.

*Methodist College Graduate Nursing
Program Handbook Signature Page*

By my signature, I certify that I have read and understand the Methodist College Graduate Nursing Handbook, and I am committed to demonstrating the skills and abilities detailed within.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Date