The University of Saint Mary’s online Master of Science in Nursing curriculum represents the very latest in nursing education online, integrating the Essentials of Master’s Education in Nursing from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). This online MSN is structured around these new Essentials. Plus, our program puts you a step ahead should you decide to pursue a doctorate.

Below are the core courses required to earn your MSN and the concentration courses for both the Nurse Educator and Nurse Administrator specialization? The online program consists of 35 credit hours and can be completed in about two years if you adhere to the recommended course schedule.

Earn your online MSN from the University of Saint Mary and start your journey to a better career right now by calling 877.307.4915 to speak with an Admissions Advisor.

**Core Courses (8 courses, 22 credit hours)**

**NU 701 Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice** Examines nursing as a profession and its role in a complex, dynamic health care environment. Explores advanced nursing practice, theoretical foundations of nursing, current issues of professional nursing, relationships between theory, research, and practice, as well as Nursing’s Social Policy Statement: The Essence of the Profession, Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretative Statements, and Nursing: Scope and Standards of Nursing Practice. This course also explores the Institute of Medicine (IOM) health professions core competencies: provide patient-centered care, work on interprofessional teams, employ evidence based practice, apply quality improvement, and use informatics. Introduces Sister Simone Roach’s 5 Cs of caring: commitment, conscience, competence, compassion, and confidence. Promotes critical thinking through synthesis of the literature and scholarly writing. This course is to be taken during student’s first term. *(3 credit hours)*

**NU 703 Analysis and Utilization of Research** Focuses on critical analysis of nursing research and its application to nursing practice, education, and/or administration/leadership. This includes quantitative, qualitative, outcomes, and intervention-based research. Emphasizes research as the foundation for evidence-based practice via strategies to access data, to synthesize data, and to translate research into practice. Examines ethical issues in design, conduct, and dissemination of research. Explores relationship between research and nursing care, healthcare policy, quality and safety, quality improvement, and Magnet
Recognition Program. Assesses the literature for a select topic. Prerequisite: NU 641 Statistics for Health Care. (3 credit hours)

**NU 705 Health Care Policy and Ethics** Examines social, historical, economic, and political influences on American health care policy; impact of policy along with regulatory and accreditation requirements on accessibility, accountability, and affordability of health care; influence of nursing research on shaping health care policy; global impact of health care policy; ethical principles and Code of Ethics; and health care disparities. (3 credit hours)

**NU 607 Advanced Health Assessment and Health Promotion** Builds on previous knowledge and skills in health assessment, therapeutic communication, and patient teaching. Utilizes physiological, psychological, sociocultural, genetic, and developmental assessment skills across the lifespan as well as case studies to enhance learning. Develops a differential diagnosis based on assessment data. Explores patterns of disease or injury using epidemiological data and addresses analysis and documentation of findings via electronic health records (EHR). Utilizes culturally responsive patient teaching to promote health and prevent illness. (3 credit hours of which 0.5 credits (30 hours) are clinical application.)

**NU 609 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology** Builds upon previous knowledge of physiology and pathophysiology. Focuses on advanced knowledge of physiology and pathophysiology to understand pathologic mechanisms underlying select human disease processes across the lifespan. Explores effects of genetics/genomics. Analyzes physiologic responses to illness and treatments including pharmacologic agents. (3 credit hours)

**NU 711 Advanced Pharmacology** Examines basic pharmacologic principles of select categories of drugs. Assesses, diagnoses, and manages/prescribes pharmacologic agents for common health problems. Analyzes relationship between pharmacologic agents and physiologic/pathologic responses. Explores issues affecting patients’ willingness to adhere to drug regimens as well as issues related to prescriptive authority for advanced practice nurses. (3 credit hours)

**NU 641 Statistics for Health Care** Examines statistical concepts and procedures including statistical approaches to epidemiological data. Explores relationship between statistical methods and research questions. Provides opportunity to work with data and to evaluate results of healthcare related research. (1 credit hour)
**NU 737 Capstone Synthesis** Synthesizes knowledge and skills acquired from core and specialty focus courses. Recognizing the potential interplay of legal, economic, political, regulatory, and ethical factors the student identifies a problem related to one’s specialty focus that is amenable to an evidence-based intervention. Student will search the literature, create an annotated bibliography, propose a solution, develop and implement a plan, and evaluate outcomes. Student will disseminate the process and outcomes in a scholarly paper and a presentation. Student also compiles a portfolio to substantiate achievement of program and University outcomes. This capstone course is taken after all course work is completed. With consent of the faculty, course may be taken concurrently with nurse educator practicum, NU 735, or with nurse administrator practicum II, NU 723. *(3 credit hours, of which 2 credits - 120 hours - are practicum.)*

**Nurse Educator Courses (5 courses, 13 credit hours)**

**NU 725 Foundations of Learning and Teaching** Examines pedagogies, adult learning theories, learning styles, legal and ethical issues, and evidence-based practice. Explores the role of the educator and student in creating an active learning environment. Differentiates instructional strategies for virtual, face-to-face, clinical, and simulation settings. Examines *The Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice*. Explores effects of gender, generation, and culture on learning and teaching as well as legal and ethical issues related to nursing education. *(3 credit hours)*

**NU 727 Curriculum and Evaluation** Examines curriculum development. Analyzes influence of competencies, accreditation standards, NCLEX-RN test plan, institution and program mission and learning outcomes on curriculum. Examines strategies to assess learning. Explores legal and ethical issues related to academic performance. *(3 credit hours)*

**NU 731 Teaching with Technology** Examines theories, trends, and research pertaining to the use of technology in nursing education. Analyzes use of technology and simulation to enhance learning. Incorporates technology into learning activities. *(3 credit hours)*

**NU 733 Specialty Advanced Nursing Practicum** Applies advanced nursing knowledge and skills in a nursing specialty area such as medical, surgical, mother-baby, pediatrics, community health, or mental health. Demonstrates a solid clinical knowledge base in a specialty area, effective communication skills, and a high level of cultural competence. The student will be in a clinical setting of the student’s nursing specialty area with a master’s or doctorate prepared preceptor. Prerequisites: NU 701 Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice, NU 607 Advanced Health Assessment and Health Promotion, NU 609 Advanced Physiology and Pathophysiology, and NU 711 Advanced Pharmacology. *(2 credit hours = 120 hours of practicum)*
NU 735 Nurse Educator Practicum Implements the nurse educator role in a nursing education setting. Opportunity to utilize learning and teaching strategies, assessment and evaluation methods, and technologies to enhance learning with students from diverse backgrounds. The student will be in an education setting with a master’s or doctorate prepared preceptor. Prerequisites: all common and educator core courses. This course may be taken concurrently with NU 737 Capstone Synthesis. (2 credit hours = 120 hours of practicum)

Nurse Administrator Courses (5 courses, 13 credit hours)

MGT 701 Organizational Management Explores the role of the manager in organizational settings. In-depth focus and examination of social systems and their influence on the motivation of individuals, the effect on work outcomes, emergent leadership and control of behavior in the workplace. Also explores important concepts that help students understand and respond to the influences and forces affecting the behavior of individuals in the workplace. Among the individual topics examined are (1) motivation, (2) self-concept, (3) interpersonal dynamics, (4) conflict and resolution, (5) group dynamics, (6) leadership, and (7) change, as it affects the behavior of people in the workplace. The course extensively utilizes case studies of people and groups in actual work situations to help students develop diagnostic and effective tools for exercising leadership and management. Managers can only be effective when they understand the principles of human behavior in organizations and master the skills of management. These include how people learn, the factors that motivate them to put forth effort, the indicators and outcomes of stress, group dynamics, team building, and conflict management. At the graduate level, it is important for students to understand the theory that underlies practice. Thus the course will focus on the discipline of Organizational Behavior and relate theory and practice in that subject area to effective management and communication. The course explores how individual, group, and organizational processes and structure influence behavior in organizations. (3 credit hours)

MGT 750 Leadership Focuses on the role of leaders in creating the vision necessary to change firm structures, motivate people, improve performance and position the company for the challenges of the future. The course will engage participants in identifying both good and poor leadership characteristics with an emphasis on cases, examples and relation to the participant’s experience. Participants will be challenged to assess themselves as leaders and to identify traits necessary to improve their skills. Leadership will be analyzed and reflected through problems, observation, readings, case analysis and examples from culture. (3 credit hours)
**NU 720 Human and Fiscal Resource Management** Examines human resource management, staffing the organization, and employee relations. Integrates human resource management and business principles including finances. Examines labor relations, employment laws, privacy laws, performance appraisal, and disaster preparedness. Topics include but not limited to recruitment, staffing and scheduling, performance appraisal, customer service, productivity, budgets, and quality and safety. *(3 credit hours)*

**NU 721: Nurse Administrator Practicum I** Implements role components of a nurse administrator in a healthcare organization. Opportunity to apply knowledge, skills, and attitudes of a nurse administrator. Student will be in a health care setting with a master’s or doctorate prepared preceptor. Prerequisites: all common and administrator core courses (except NU 723). *(2 credit hours = 120 hours of practicum)*

**NU 723 Nurse Administrator Practicum II** Continues to implement role components of a nurse administrator in a healthcare organization. Continues to apply knowledge, skills, and abilities of a nurse administrator. Student will be in a health care setting with a master’s or doctorate prepared preceptor. Prerequisites: all common and administrator core courses including NU 721 Nurse Administrator Practicum I. NU 723 may be taken concurrently with NU 737 Capstone Synthesis. *(2 credit hours = 120 hours of practicum)*

**Elective Courses**

**NU 739 Capstone Synthesis Cognate** Affords student the opportunity to register for one credit to complete NU 737 Capstone Synthesis. *(1 credit hour) Student may enroll in NU 739 a maximum of twice.*

**NU 743 Practicum Cognate** Affords student the opportunity to register to complete additional practicum hours. *(1 or 2 credit hour(s); 1 credit hour = 60 hours of practicum).*