



# MURRAY

## STATE UNIVERSITY

### Department of Nursing

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Master of Science in Nursing

## Advanced Nursing Practice Clinical Nurse Specialist

### Purposes

The overall purposes of the master's degree in Nursing are to prepare advanced practice nurses and advanced nursing practice specialists to:

- provide advanced nursing care specific to the health needs of adults, families, or individuals across the lifespan
- advance and extend nursing knowledge and skill through research and evidence-based practice
- assume an advanced nursing leadership role within the educational and health care delivery systems
- acquire a foundation for doctoral study.

The Clinical Nurse Specialist is an advanced practice nurse with a concentration in a selected area of clinical nursing. Emphasis is placed on the management, support, and coordination of the care of acutely and critically ill adult patients with episodic illness or acute exacerbation of chronic illness within the context of advanced standards of practice and professional performance. The CNS influences outcomes of client care, nursing personnel activities, and

the organizational environment. The CNS is prepared to function as an expert practitioner, educator, researcher, consultant and leader within a variety of settings.

The CNS in Adult Health option offers full-time as well as part-time schedules. The curriculum prepares the student to write the AACN critical care-CNS and the advanced medical-surgical-CNS ANCC certification exams. The CNS option is taught 100 percent online.

### Admission Procedure

- All applicants must submit the MSU application for graduate admission, and request official transcripts be sent from each and all previous colleges attended to:  
Graduate Admission and Registrar's Office,  
Murray State University  
113 Sparks Hall  
Murray, KY 42071-3312  
There is an application fee that must accompany the MSU application.
- All applicants must submit the Department of Nursing's application for admission for advanced practice nursing to:  
Graduate Coordinator, Division of Graduate Nursing  
Murray State University  
120 Mason Hall  
Murray, KY 42071-3302
- In addition to 1 and 2, applicants for the CNS-APN, BSN to MSN option must submit a copy of their advanced licensure and a copy of their national certification.
- Selected applicants will be notified of a required formal interview with the Graduate Selection Committee.
- **All materials (including recommendations) must be received by March 1.** Applications submitted after the appropriate date will be considered on a space-available basis.
- Each student will be admitted without regard to race, creed, ethnic origin, age, gender, disability or marital status.
- To check the status of applications, contact: Dr. Nancey France at [nancey.france@murraystate.edu](mailto:nancey.france@murraystate.edu).

### Admission Requirements

- Admission to Murray State and the Department of Nursing.
- Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school or the equivalent.
- Kentucky licensure and/or licensure to practice as a registered nurse in the state of anticipated preceptorship.
- Proof of liability insurance for advanced practice nursing, current immunizations, hepatitis vaccine or signed waiver, and TB testing are required before enrollment in clinical nursing courses. Please send copies of these to the Graduate Coordinator, Department of Nursing.
- GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale – GRE minimum 1,000
- For international applicants: RN licensure in Kentucky and/or licensure to practice as a registered nurse in the state of anticipated preceptorship, TOEFL paper-based score 550 or TOEFL internet-based score of 79-80 (iBT).
- Minimum one year full-time Registered Nurse experience (or 2,000 clock hours) prior to application deadline for all options; however, for the Nurse Anesthesia option this experience must be in intensive care.
- Three favorable recommendations on forms downloaded from the website. **Recommendations must be mailed from the reference directly to the Graduate Coordinator and not via the applicant.** Recommendations may determine invitation for interview.
- Successful interview.
- Current BLS certification; current BLS, ACLS and PALS certification for NA option only.
- One year RN experience required for FNP option; one year RN experience in intensive care *prior to application deadline* required for NA option.
- Students who request admission to Murray State University's Master of Science in Nursing Program must be in good standing at previously and/or currently enrolled programs.
- The Graduate committee will review all completed application packages and offer interviews to the most qualified applicants.

The MSN program is accredited through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

### Clinical Nurse Specialist Curriculum Outline

- Prerequisites: Physiology, Anatomy, CHE 111 or equivalent, Statistics (one course with both descriptive and inferential statistics content), Nursing Research, Nursing Health Assessment, GRE minimum 1,000
- Minimum one year full-time Registered Nurse experience (or 2,000 clock hours) prior to application deadline for all options; however, for the Nurse Anesthesia option this experience must be in intensive care.

**Students must have personal access to complete online computer services and the software required for courses.**

#### Advanced Nursing Core (online)

NUR 603	Concepts and Theories in Nursing	3
NUR 605	Issues In Rural Health Care	3
NUR 630	Research in Nursing	3
NUR 631	Evidence-Based Clinical Practice	3

#### Clinical Core Courses (online)

NUR 673	Pathophysiology for Advanced Nursing Practice	3
NUR 641	Advanced Nursing Assessment	4
NUR 642	Advanced Pharmacology	3

#### Specialty Courses (online)

NUR 520	Critical Care Concepts	3
NUR 622	Diagnosis and Management of Adult Health Problems	3
NUR 623	Advanced Adult Nursing in Acute Care Settings	5
NUR 624	Advanced Adult Nursing in Chronic/Rehabilitation Care Settings	4
NUR 650	Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist Integration Practicum	5

**Total Credit Hours 42**

Note: All degree requirements must be completed within five calendar years.  
Clinical hours = 585 and are based on a one credit hour to three credit hour ratio.  
Full-time and part-time options available.



**Download all application materials from our website:**

**<http://www.murraystate.edu/academics/hshs/nurse/msn.htm>**

**or contact the graduate coordinator**

**Dr. Nancey E.M. France**

nancey.france@murraystate.edu or 270.809.6671