College of Nursing
UNIVERSITY OF **HOUSTON**

GRADUATE
STUDENT
HANDBOOK

2022-2024

NURSING. EXCELLENCE. PERIOD.

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Hi! I am Dr. Kathleen Reeve, Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate Program.

Welcome to the University of Houston **College of Nursing (CON)** where **"WE DARE"** to educate a diverse student population that builds professional leaders and clinical experts**.** The CON has been offering educational, informational, and cultural opportunities to students from many South Texas counties since 2006. Located at campuses in Houston, Sugar Land, and Katy, the CON establishes educational partnerships with both rural and urban health care facilities. The nursing faculty utilize many learning modalities to provide exemplary education across a continuum of cultural, educational, and generational learning concepts. Approved graduate programs include the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Administration, Education and Family Nurse Practitioner tracks, the Education and Administration Certificate Programs, and the Post Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Family Nurse Practitioner or Administration tracks.

Students will see and experience many innovative changes when joining the CON this fall. More change will be upcoming throughout the year. Nursing faculty are committed to guiding students' learning and to providing challenging experiences which will serve our graduates well as they enter the richly rewarding, dynamic, and rapidly-evolving healthcare environment.

Nursing faculty view CON students as future professional colleagues and expect students to conduct themselves in a professional manner on campus and in the clinical area. The CON policies inform students of expectations of graduate students. The graduate nursing student handbook contains policies specific to the CON programs that supplement those found in course syllabi, the UH Catalog and the UH Student Handbook. Students are responsible for using the Handbook as a resource when questions arise and as a guide to academic and nonacademic policies and procedures.

The information in this handbook is updated every two years or as needed; however, changes may also be made throughout the academic year. If a change occurs, an announcement will be posted on the CON website and in the CON's learning management system.

**Congratulations on your decision to advance your education.
The faculty and staff are here to help you reach your goal!**

COLLEGE OF NURSING PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is designed to build upon the BSN degree. Students in the MSN program are prepared to function at advanced levels with an expanded knowledge of theory, research, population health, and clinical application. Graduates are prepared to provide evidence-based health care and to work in interdisciplinary teams. Each graduate will be prepared to function in their chosen advanced practice role. Family Nurse Practitioner students are educationally prepared to sit for national certification through the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Board (AANPCB) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Master of Science in Nursing program prepares professional nurses for leadership roles in nursing. Graduate study in nursing requires the acquisition and systematic application of knowledge and skills in nursing practice, evidence-based practice, and a nursing role. Innovative educational delivery and part-time study is available for the Nurse Administration, Nurse Education, and Family Nurse Practitioner tracks.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM GOALS (OUTCOMES)

1. Assume advanced leadership roles in a variety of health care settings.

2. Exemplify ethical, legal, and professional standards for advanced nursing practice.

3. Integrate advanced knowledge of nursing and related disciplines in the roles of educator, administrator, or clinician.

4. Participate in research and other scholarly activities to expand nursing knowledge.

5. Work effectively in interdisciplinary relationships or partnerships to promote, maintain, and restore the health of clients; improve health care delivery systems; shape health policy; or influence professional education.
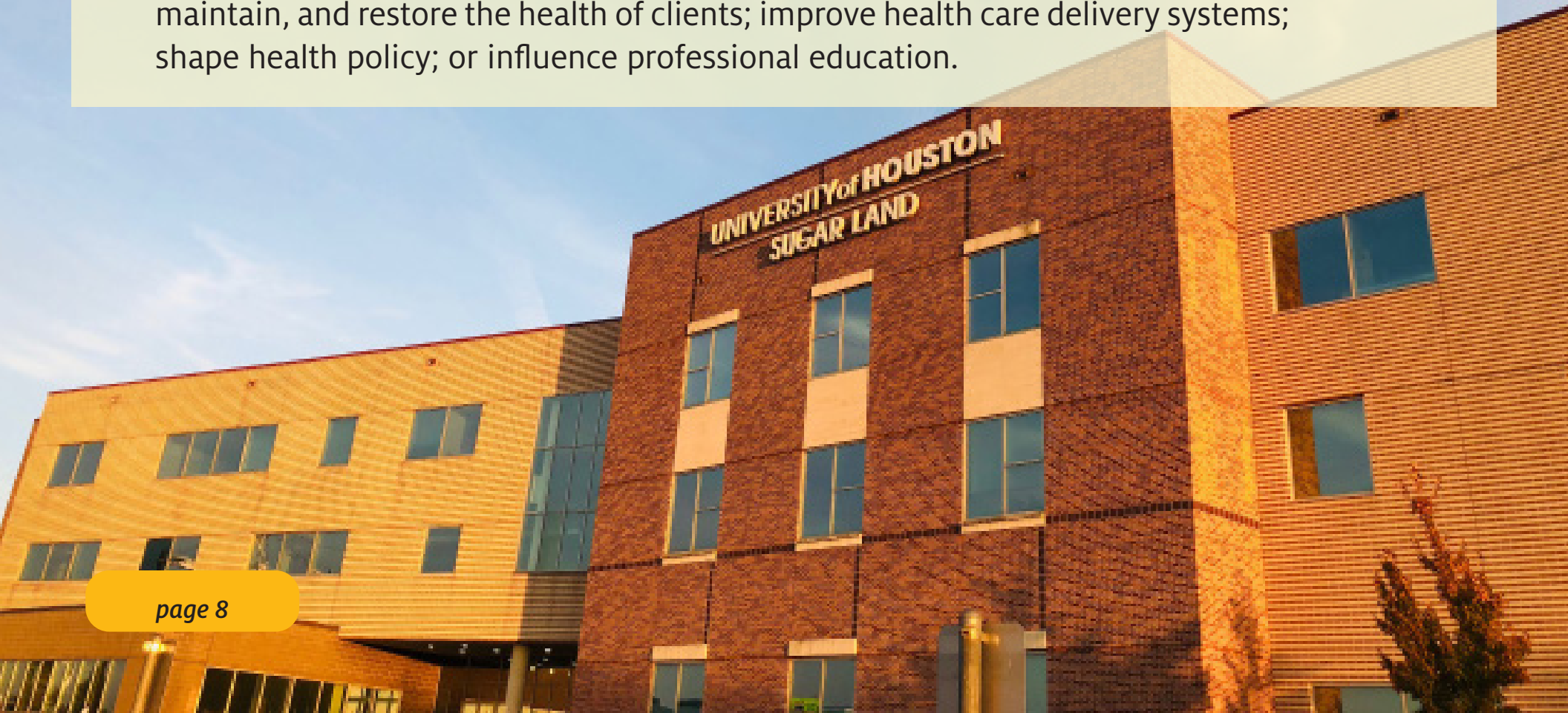
POST MASTER'S OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The Post Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program is designed to build upon the existing MSN program at UH. The CON DNP has a practice focus--a post master's program educating in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, and systems leadership.

The DNP program is offered in a hybrid model utilizing both online and face-to-face modalities two days per term at the University of Houston campus. Additionally, clinical experiences will be available face-to-face in the community setting.
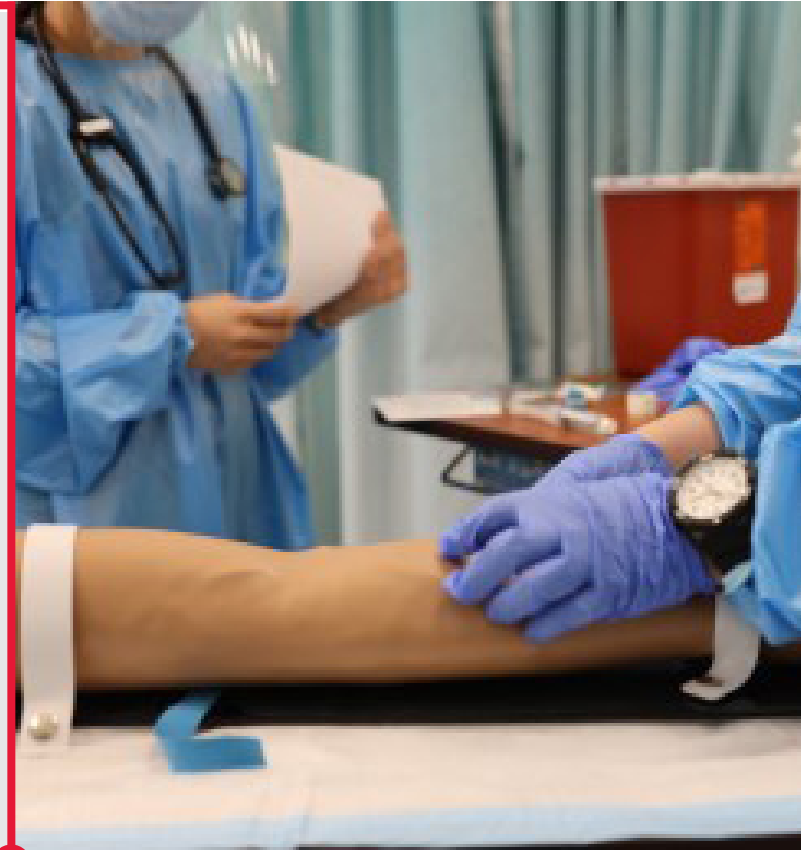
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PRACTICE ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The DNP program is a part-time post master's program designed for working nurses. Students may chose to enroll in one of two tracks: (1) the Post-Master's Administrative, or (2) the Post-Master's Family Nurse Practitioner Track.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM GOALS (OUTCOMES)

1. Perform at the highest level of advanced nursing practice, providing expanded health care access to individuals, families, populations, and communities.

2. Incorporate leadership and interprofessional collaboration skills to deliver safe, effective, comprehensive, cost-effective care.

3. Develop, implement, and evaluate innovative programs in the areas of patient care, population health, leadership, education, and policy.

4. Enhance nursing education in nursing programs through evidence-based knowledge, research, ethical standards, technology, and clinical judgment to advance quality of care and health concerns.

5. Guide change in health care policies and systems.

6. Demonstrate achievement of DNP nationally recognized essentials and competencies.

MSN AND DNP DEGREE PLANS

CORE COURSES (18 Credit Hours)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6301	Advanced Research Integrated Evidence Practice	3	
NURS 6306	Policy, Role, and Economics	3	
NURS 6320	Healthcare Informatics	3	
NURS 6332	Biostatistics	3	
NURS 6333	Population Health	3	
NURS 6351	Evidence-based Practice Project (NOT FNP)	3	
	CORE TOTAL	**18**	

MSN DEGREE PLANS

NURSING ADMINISTRATION CONCENTRATION COURSES (18 Credit Hours)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6309	Advanced Leadership and Management	3	
NURS 6316	Healthcare Organizational Behavior	3	
NURS 6317	Human Resource Management in Healthcare	3	
NURS 6318	Health Care Delivery Systems and Organization	3	
NURS 6319	Health Care Finance	3	
NURS 6321	Leadership Practicum	3	135
	CONCENTRATION TOTAL	**18**	
	TOTAL ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM	**36**	

EDUCATION CONCENTRATION COURSES (24 Credit Hours)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6312	Measurement and Evaluation in Nursing Education	3	45
NURS 6313	Theories and Methods of Teaching and Learning in Nursing	3	45
NURS 6314	Development of Nursing Curriculum	3	
NURS 6330	Advanced Diagnostic Physical Exam	3	
NURS 6331	Advanced Pharmacotherapy	3	
NURS 6335	Management of Health Disorders in Adults	3	
NURS 6336	Management of Health Disorders in Adults Clinical	3	135
NURS 6338	Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
	CONCENTRATION TOTAL	**24**	
	TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	**42**	**225**

FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER CONCENTRATION COURSES (32 Credit Hours)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6230	Diagnostic Tests & Procedures	2	
NURS 6330	Advanced Diagnostic Physical Examination	3	
NURS 6331	Advanced Pharmacotherapy	3	
NURS 6335	Management of Health Disorders in Adults	3	
NURS 6336	Management of Health Disorders in Adults Clinical	3	135
NURS 6338	Advanced Pathophysiology	3	
NURS 6345	Management of Health Disorders in Women and Children	3	
NURS 6346	Management of Health Disorders in Women & Children Clinical	3	180
NURS 6355	Management of Health Disorders Across the Lifespan in Diverse Settings	3	
NURS 6356	Management of Health Disorders across the Lifespan in Diverse Settings Clinical	3	180
NURS 6366	Capstone Clinical	3	180
	CONCENTRATION TOTAL	32	675 PRACTICUM
	TOTAL FNP PROGRAM	47	675

*POST MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN NURSING EDUCATION (9 Credit Hours)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6312	Measurement & Evaluation in Nursing Education	3	45
NURS 6313	Theories and Methods of Teaching and Learning in Nursing	3	45
NURS 6314	Development of Nursing Curriculum	3	
	CONCENTRATION TOTAL	9	90
	TOTAL POST MSN CERTIFICATE	9	90

*POST MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN NURSING ADMINISTRATION (9 Credit Hours)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6309	Advanced Leadership and Management	3	
NURS 6317	Human Resource Management in Health Care	3	
NURS 6319	Healthcare Finance	3	
	CONCENTRATION TOTAL	9	0
	TOTAL POST MSN CERTIFICATE	9	0

*Post Master's certificate candidates are required to achieve a grade of B or higher in all post MSN certificate courses to be eligible to earn the certificate.

The following courses are required for attaining the Post Master's Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree. Students also have the opportunity to complete a Post Master's Certificate in Nursing Education while earning the DNP. Students should refer to individual degree plans and course descriptions for additional information on course prerequisites.

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
Semester 1			
NURS 8301	Healthcare Project Design, Methods, & Analysis	3	
NURS 8302	Advanced Practice Finance and Economics	3	
Semester 2			
NURS 8207	Writing for Publication	2	
NURS 8208	DNP Seminar I	2	
Semester 3			
NURS 8336	Advanced Synthesis Practicum	3-6	135-270

DNP DEGREE PLANS

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
Semester 4			
NURS 8215	Advanced Leadership and Management Seminar	2	
NURS 8316	Advanced Leadership Practicum	3	135
OR			
NURS 8225	Complex Health Deviations Seminar	2	
NURS 8326	Complex Health Deviations Practicum	3	135
Semester 5			
NURS 8205	Interdisciplinary Care Seminar	2	
NURS 8306	Interdisciplinary Focus Clinical	3	135
Semester 6			
NURS 8304	Systems Management of Vulnerable Populations	3	

DNP DEGREE PLANS

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
Semester 7			
NURS 8303	Complex Systems and Leadership	2	
NURS 8356	Scholarly Project Development/Implementation	3-5	135
Semester 8			
NURS 8209	DNP Seminar II	2	
NURS 8357	Scholarly Project Dissemination	3	
	TOTAL	**37-42**	**540-810**

DNP DEGREE PLANS

POST MASTER'S CERTIFICATE IN NURSING EDUCATION (9 CREDIT HOURS)

Course Number	Title	Credit Hrs.	Lab/Practicum Hrs.
NURS 6312	Measurement and Evaluation in Nursing Education	3	45
NURS 6313	Theories and Methods of Teaching & Learning in Nursing	3	45
NURS 6314	Development of Nursing Curriculum	3	
	CONCENTRATION TOTAL	**9**	**90**
	TOTAL POST MSN PROGRAM	**9**	**90**

Graduates of a DNP program must achieve 1000 clinical hours from a combination of clinical hours in a master's program and the DNP program. Each student will achieve a minimum of 500 clinical hours in the CON DNP program. To ensure students meet the required minimum 1000 clinical hours, students with an MSN degree that did not include 500 clinical hours must have a portfolio review to determine an action plan for achieving the required clinical hours. A plan will be developed to achieve any additional hours required. The portfolio may include a written description of the individual's practice experience, participation in academic and specialized programs in the specialty area, national certification in specialty area, and/or additional activities and experiences that exemplify expert practice in nursing and healthcare leadership. The clinical hours accepted to meet the 500-hour requirement at the master's level must be outside the individual's normal scope of paid employment.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIREMENTS FOR MSN AND DNP PROGRAM ADMISSION

Applicants to the graduate nursing programs must meet all requirements for graduate admission as described in the UH Catalog, on the CON MSN website Requirements Page and on the CON DNP website Requirements Page.

The number of MSN students admitted each year is determined by availability of appropriate qualified faculty and/or clinical resources. Applicants are reviewed on an individual basis.

GENERAL GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

STUDENT POLICIES

S100 Academic Progression

S101 Student Clinical Readiness

S104 Classroom, Lab, and Clinical Attendance

S106 Evaluation of Faculty and Course

S108 Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

S112 Inactive Status

S113 Minimal Technology Requirements

S117 Student Involvement in Curriculum and Evaluation

S122 Blood, Body Fluid, and Hazardous Exposure Policy and Protocol

S123 Clinical Agency Policy and Procedure

S126 Classroom Expectations

S127 Student Testing

S133 Non-Student Formal Complaints

S134 Student Preceptor, Clinical Facilitator, and Faculty Responsibilities

S135 ADA Policy

S136 Student Professional Conduct and Demeanor

S137 Academic Jeopardy Notification

S138 Dress Code Policy

S139 Core Performance Standards (CPS) for the College of Nursing

S140 Medication Administration

S141 Simulation Laboratory Policy

S142 Grading

S143 Student Library Services

GENERAL GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES

GRADUATE STUDENT POLICIES

G305 MSN Degree Plan

G308 Transfer of Graduate Credit

G310 Graduate Student Advanced Practice Clinical

DNP STUDENT POLICIES

D600 Student Admission

D601 Attendance Policy

D602 Professional Behavior

D603 Clinical Practice Hours

D604 DNP Degree Plans

D605 DNP Academic and Portfolio Advisement

D606 Scholarly Project Prospectus - Form A

D607 DNP Portfolio - Form B

D608 Security Screening

D609 DNP Time Limit

D610 Student Status Change

D611 Grading Policy

D612 Eligibility for Graduation

The policy of the University of Houston (UH) is to ensure equal opportunity in all its educational programs and activities, and all terms and conditions of employment without regard to age, race, color, disability,

religion, national origin, veteran's status, genetic information, or sex (including pregnancy), except where such a distinction is required by law. Additionally, UH prohibits discrimination in all aspects of employment and educational programs on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Employees, students, applicants for employment or admission, and visitors to campus with questions and/or complaints regarding discrimination or sexual misconduct (such as sexual violence) under Title IX may contact the Title IX Coordinator for Equal Opportunity Services (EOS) or the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.The Title IX Coordinator can be contacted at:

Title IX Coordinator

4367 Cougar Village Drive, Building 526

Houston, TX 77204

eos@uh.edu

713.743.8835

FACULTY INFORMATION

Click above to visit the CON website faculty page and learn more about graduate faculty, including their qualifications, professional expertise, clinical and research interests, publications, and contact information.

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