14.2 MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM

NURSING CASE MANAGEMENT. The Capstone College of Nursing offers the distance-based master of science in nursing (MSN) with all courses offered online. This program prepares nurses to assume leadership positions in health care administration and to coordinate and administer case management services at the macrosystems level. Case management has been defined as a "collaborative process which assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates options and services to meet an individual's health needs through communication and available resources to promote quality, cost-effective outcomes." Graduates of this program will be able to practice in a variety of settings, assuming leadership positions in health care organizations.

*Case Management Society of America (CMSA), Standards of Practice for Case Management (Little Rock, Arkansas: CMSA, 2002)

Admission Requirements
Applicants for the MSN degree program will be considered on a competitive basis. The following are requirements for admission into all graduate level nursing programs, but a complete description of Graduate School Admission Criteria is found in the Graduate Catalog.

For admission to the master's program, an applicant must possess a functional level of capability to perform the duties required of a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL), Case Manager (CM), or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). These abilities include but are not limited to (a) adequate vision such as that required to observe changes in physical conditions, to read small print on labels and laboratory reports, and to discern subtle changes in color; (b) adequate hearing such as that required to distinguish muted sounds through a stethoscope; (c) fine motor skills and manual dexterity such as that required to turn and assist with lifting adults and to lift and carry children; (d) the mobility to respond quickly to emergency situations; (e) the ability to engage in two-way conversation and interact effectively with others orally and in writing; (f) the ability to detect odors; (g) the ability to implement the role of CNL, CM or APRN in delivering health care service in one or more delivery systems, including acute, ambulatory, managed, and integrated systems; and (h) the ability to consistently and dependably engage in critical thinking to make safe and ethical clinical judgments.

The graduate faculty of the Capstone College of Nursing has identified the skills and professional behaviors that are essential to pursue a course of study and to practice in the role of CNL, CM, or APRN. These skills include but are not limited to the skills presented in The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (2011), a publication of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. If these skills and professional behaviors cannot be developed by the individual, either unassisted or with the dependable use of assistive devices, the faculty reserves the right to decline an individual’s admission or to disenroll the student from clinical courses. A copy of The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing (2011) is available upon request from the College’s Program Records Office.

Admission Requirements for Nursing Case Management
Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are
interested in the Case Management/Leadership concentration are encouraged to contact the Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison or the Assistant Dean of the Graduate Programs.

The following are requirements for admission:
1. For unconditional admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
   For conditional admission, a grade point average of at least 2.5 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) for undergraduate work, and a score of at least 300* on the revised Graduate Record Exam (GRE) OR a 900** on the GRE general test OR at least in the 40th percentile on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required.
2. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited school of nursing.
   * As of August 2011
   ** Prior to August 2011

Degree Requirements
The MSN will be awarded to the student who has met the following requirements:
- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- good standing at the time of graduation
- successful completion of the required coursework

To fulfill the research requirements of the program, students may choose from two options described below:

Thesis project option
A thesis project is research conducted by one student and directed by a graduate committee. The student is awarded three semester hours of thesis project credit for a successfully completed project. An oral public defense of the thesis project is required.

Non-thesis option
Students who choose the non-thesis option participate in courses, seminars, or other faculty-directed experiences that will give them an acquaintance with the methods of research and an appreciation of the place and function of original investigation in the field.

Curriculum
The master of science in nursing program can be completed in one year of full-time study or two or more years of part-time study.

SAMPLE NCM PROGRAM OF STUDY (FULL-TIME)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NUR 501</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theoretical Models for Advanced Nursing Practice with Rural Populations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 505</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NUR 529/BSC 529</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 502</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues in Community Health Care for Rural Populations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUR 503</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informatics in Healthcare</td>
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</table>

Total semester hours: 13
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CHS 520</td>
<td>Basic Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 581/NHM 580</td>
<td>Research and Statistics for Health Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 520</td>
<td>Evidence Based Practice: Roles and Processes</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 522</td>
<td>Human Relations Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 530</td>
<td>Case Management Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 580</td>
<td>Fiscal Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 521</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>12</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thesis (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 599</td>
<td>Thesis Option</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>38-41</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SAMPLE NCM PROGRAM OF STUDY (PART-TIME)**

**Fall I**
- NUR 501 Theoretical Models for Advanced Practice 3
- NUR 529/BSC 529 Advanced Pathophysiology 3
- NUR 503 Informatics in Healthcare 2

**Total semester hours** 8

**Spring I**
- CHS 520 Basic Epidemiology 3
- NUR 581/NHM 580* Research and Statistics for Health Professionals 3

**Total semester hours** 6

**Summer I**
- NUR 580 Fiscal Resource Management 3
- NUR 505 Advanced Health Assessment 3

**Total semester hours** 6

**Fall II**
- NUR 502 Issues in Community Health Care for Rural Populations 2
- NUR 522 Human Relations Management 3
Total semester hours 5

Spring II
NUR 520 Evidence Based Practice: Roles and Processes 4
NUR 530 Case management Practicum 3

Total semester hours 7

Summer II
NUR 521 Advanced Pharmacology 3
NUR 530 Case Management Practicum

Thesis (optional)
NUR 599 Thesis Option 3

Total semester hours for degree completion 38-41

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM: CLINICAL NURSE LEADER

The Capstone College of Nursing offers the distance-based Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with all courses offered online. The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) is a master’s prepared generalist, accountable for clinical and health care environmental outcomes. The CNL functions at the microsystem level; oversees care coordination of a distinct group of patients; serves as a resource for clinical decision making; and serves as a lateral integrator of care. The CNL puts evidence-based practice into action, collects and evaluates patient outcomes, assesses cohort risk, and has the decision-making authority to change care plans when necessary.

This clinician functions as part of an interdisciplinary team by communicating, planning, and implementing care directly with other health care professionals. The CNL is a leader in the health care delivery system across all settings in which health care is delivered. Graduates of the MSN program are eligible to take the CNL certification examination offered by American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and may assume the role of Clinical Nurse Leader in a variety of health care settings.

Admission Requirements for the Clinical Nurse Leader Focus

Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the MSN will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are interested in the CNL concentration are encouraged to contact the Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison or the Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs.

The following are requirements for admission:

1. For unconditional admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
   For conditional admission, a grade point average of at least 2.5 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) for undergraduate work, and a score of at least 300* on the revised Graduate Record Exam (GRE) OR a 900** on the GRE general test OR at least in the 40th percentile on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required.

2. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited school of nursing.

As of August 2011
** Prior to August 2011
See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Degree Requirements
The degree of master of science in nursing with the CNL focus will be awarded to the student who has met the following requirements:
- Successful completion of the required coursework
- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Good standing at the time of graduation

To fulfill the research requirements of the CNL focus within the MSN program, students may choose either the thesis or non-thesis option:

Thesis option
A thesis is original research conducted by one student and directed by a graduate committee. The student is awarded three semester hours of thesis research credit for a successfully completed thesis. An oral public defense of the thesis is required. The thesis must conform to the guidelines of the Graduate School.

Non-thesis option
Students who choose the non-thesis option participate in courses, seminars, or other faculty-directed experiences that will give them an acquaintance with the methods of research and an appreciation of the place and function of original investigation in the field.

Admission to Candidacy
Admission to the Graduate School does not imply admission of a student to candidacy for a degree. Admission to candidacy is contingent upon the recommendation of the program faculty and the approval of the graduate dean.

The application for admission to candidacy should be filed after 12 semester hours of graduate credit have been earned at The University of Alabama and/or by transfer credit. Approval will depend on (a) the quality of the applicant’s graduate work prior to the time the application is made (see the Graduate School Degree Requirements); (b) the removal of any special conditions; and (c) the certification of the Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs (ADGP) that the student is well qualified to continue work toward a degree. Students must complete and submit to the department an Admission to Candidacy for the Master’s Degree form. The department-approved form will be forwarded to the Graduate School for final approval.

The Graduate School’s Degree Requirements section of this catalog has additional information on the admission to candidacy and other degree requirements.

Curriculum
The CNL focus of the MSN program can be completed in one year of full-time study or two or more years of part-time study.

SAMPLE CNL PROGRAM OF STUDY (FULL-TIME)

Fall
- NUR 501  Theoretical Models for Advanced Nursing Practice with Rural Populations  3
- NUR 505  Advanced Health Assessment  3
- NUR 529/BSC 529  Advanced Pathophysiology  3
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUR 502</strong></td>
<td>Issues in Community Health Care for Rural Populations</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 503 Information in Healthcare</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>CHS 520</strong> Basic Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 581/NHM 580 Research and Statistics for Health Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NUR 525</strong> Evidence-Based Practice Roles and Processes for CNL</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NUR 522</strong> Human Relations Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>NUR 535</strong> Clinical Immersion Experience</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NUR 580</strong> Fiscal Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>NUR 521</strong> Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis (optional)</td>
<td><strong>NUR 599</strong> Thesis Option</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>38-41</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**SAMPLE CNL PROGRAM OF STUDY (PART-TIME)**

**Fall I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUR 501</strong></td>
<td>Theoretical Models for Advanced Practice Nursing with Rural Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 529/BSC 529* Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 503 Informatics in Healthcare</td>
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<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
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**Spring I**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHS 520</strong></td>
<td>Basic Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NUR 581/NHM 580* Research and Statistics for Health Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Total semester hours</strong></td>
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**Summer I**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NUR 580</strong></td>
<td>Fiscal Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NUR 505  Advanced Health Assessment  3

Total semester hours  6

Fall II
NUR 502  Issues in Community Health Care for Rural Populations  2
NUR 522  Human Relations Management  3

Total semester hours  5

Spring II
NUR 525  Evidence-Based Practice Role and Processes for CNL  4
NUR 535  Clinical Immersion Experience  3

Total semester hours  7

Summer II
NUR 535  Clinical Immersion Experience  3
NUR 521  Advanced Pharmacology  3

Thesis (Optional)
NUR 599  Thesis Project  3

Total semester hours for degree completion  38-41

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAM: NURSE PRACTITIONER
The Capstone College of Nursing offers the distance-based Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree with specialization in the Nurse Practitioner (NP) Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations. This dual certification NP Concentration prepares students to sit for both the Family Psychiatric-Mental Health and Family Nurse Practitioner national certification exams. Students complete the majority of their coursework online and attend on-campus activities as often as three times a semester. The Capstone College of Nursing arranges clinical sites and preceptors for required NP clinical rotations.

Nurse Practitioners are health promotion and disease prevention experts who manage and diagnose common acute and chronic illnesses. Nurse Practitioners provide quality, safe, cost-effective care.* Nurse Practitioners teach and counsel individuals, families, and groups according to their practice specialty.*

Services provided by NP's include, assessing, diagnosing, treating, and managing their patients’ health care needs; ”ordering, conducting, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests”; and prescribing ”pharmacologic agents and non-pharmacologic therapies.” ** Graduates should practice according to their State practice act, and adhere to all regulatory requirements.*


Admission requirements are consistent with those of the Graduate School. Applicants for the MSN will be considered on a competitive basis. Nurses who are interested in the Nurse Practitioner Concentration are encouraged to contact the Capstone College of Nursing (CCN) Graduate Recruitment and Retention Liaison or the Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs.

The following are requirements for admission:

1. For unconditional admission, a grade point average of at least 3.0 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) or 3.0 for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work is required.
   For conditional admission, a grade point average of at least 2.5 overall (based on a 4.0 grading scale) for undergraduate work, and a score of at least 300* on the revised Graduate Record Exam (GRE) OR a 900** on the GRE general test OR at least in the 40th percentile on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) is required.
2. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from an accredited school of nursing.

* As of August 2011
** Prior to August 2011

See the Admission Criteria section of this catalog for more information.

Degree Requirements
The degree of Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) with the Nurse Practitioner Concentration will be awarded to the student who has met the following requirements:

- Successful completion of the required coursework
- GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Good standing at the time of graduation

To fulfill the research requirements of the Nurse Practitioner concentration within the MSN program, students may choose either the thesis or non-thesis option:

Thesis option
A thesis is original research conducted by one student and directed by a graduate committee. The student is awarded three semester hours of thesis research credit for a successfully completed thesis. An oral public defense of the thesis is required. The thesis must conform to the guidelines of the Graduate School.

Non-thesis option
Students who choose the non-thesis option participate in courses, seminars, or other faculty-directed experiences that will give them an acquaintance with the methods of research and an appreciation of the place and function of original investigation in the field.

Admission to Candidacy
Admission to the Graduate School does not imply admission of a student to candidacy for a degree. Admission to candidacy is contingent upon the recommendation of the program faculty and the approval of the graduate dean.

The application for admission to candidacy should be filed after 12 semester hours of graduate credit have been earned at The University of Alabama and/or by transfer credit. Approval will depend on (a) the quality of the applicant’s graduate work prior to the time the application is made (see the Graduate School Degree Requirements); (b) the removal of any special conditions; and (c) the certification of the Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs (ADGP) that the student is well qualified to continue work toward a degree. Students must complete and submit to the department an Admission to Candidacy for the Master’s Degree form. The
department-approved form will be forwarded to the Graduate School for final approval.

The Graduate School's Degree Requirements section of this catalog has additional information on the admission to candidacy and other degree requirements.

Curriculum
The Nurse Practitioner concentration of the MSN program can be completed in two years of full-time study.

Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations
Cohort II - Full Time Program of Study

Semester Hours

Fall I
NUR 521 Advanced Pharmacology 3  
NUR 505 Advanced Health Assessment 3  
NUR 529 Advanced Pathophysiology 3  
NUR 503 Informatics in Healthcare 2  
**Total: 11**

Spring II
NUR XXX Approved Elective 2  
NUR 520 Evidence Based Practice Roles and Processes (3 didactic: 1 clinical) 4  
NUR 586 Primary Care for Rural Families I (2 clinical: 2 didactic) 4  
*150 hours of clinical / 10 hours a week  
**Total: 10**

Summer I
NUR XXX Psychiatric Treatment Modalities 2  
NUR 585 Mental Health for Rural Families I (2 clinical: 2 didactic) 4  
*150 hours of clinical / 15 hours a week  
**Total: 6**

Fall II
NUR 501 Theoretical Models for Advanced Nursing Practice 3  
NUR 502 Issues in Community Health for Rural Populations 2  
NUR 588 Primary Care for Rural Families II (2 clinical: 2 didactic) 4  
*150 hours of clinical / 10 hours a week  
**Total: 9**

Spring II
NUR 522 Human Relations Management (2 didactic: 1 clinical) 3  
NUR 587 Mental Health for Rural Families II (2 clinical: 2 didactic) 4  
*150 hours of clinical / 10 hours a week  
NUR 590 Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Families 3  
Residency I (clinical)  
*225 hours of clinical / 15 hours a week  
**Total: 10**

Summer II
NUR 580 Fiscal Resource Management (2 didactic: 1 clinical) 3
NUR 590 Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Families 3
Residency II (clinical)
*225 hours of clinical / 22.5 hours a week
Total: 6

NUR 599 Thesis (Optional) 3
Total: 3

Total Hours 49-52

A total of 14 clinical credit hours from courses after the 3 P’s for a total of 1050 hours (1:75)
Family Mental Health Cert Exam = 300 hours + 225 (NUR 590) = 525 hours (500 hours required)
Family Primary Care Cert Exam = 300 hours + 225 (NUR 590) = 525 hours (500 hours required)