

Texas A&M MSN Framework

How does the student advance their career in Nursing?

The Master of Science in Nursing-Nursing Education track prepares the graduate to apply principles of education in the role of educator in various patient care settings and in institutions of higher education. The course instruction is delivered primarily online allowing students to balance career, family and other responsibilities while advancing their education. There are some Institutions of Higher Education that allow some students to take MSN programs without having a BSN degree.

<https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-education/index.html>

Programs and Professions in Nursing			
What certificate/degree can the student get in the nursing field?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nursing Introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Types of schools to obtain certificate/degree at <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tech. school (certificate) ○ Commun. College (certificate, associate's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Job responsibilities ● Job statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pay ○ Job growth

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Nursing Introduction**

- There are many different levels of professions available in the nursing field. The first level would be the Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), then the Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN), followed by a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN), Master's of Science in Nursing (MSN), and Doctorate in Nursing (DNP). Each one of these levels takes different amounts of time to obtain, and have very different job opportunities and responsibilities.

<https://nursejournal.org/articles/types-of-nursing-degrees/>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What are the types of schools can the student earn these at?**

- Technical schools
 - Technical schools, also known as “vocational schools” offer targeted, shorter instruction at a lower tuition, or cost, leading to a certificate or an associate’s degree. Many technical schools in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.
<https://scitexas.edu/technical-school/>
- Community College
 - A community college is an institution that offers short term certificates or two year associate’s degrees. Associate’s degrees transfer and often lead to four year degrees at partnering universities. Many community colleges in Texas offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students. They typically offer less expensive education than four year universities. Most community colleges have open enrollment, meaning there are very few requirements for admission.
<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/2012/03/what-is-community-college>
- College
 - A college is an institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study (i.e. medicine or law). These degrees can act as a “stepping stone” to higher level degrees such as Master or Doctorate degrees. Colleges may have open enrollment or may have strict admission requirements.
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>
- University
 - A University is a four year institution that offers many different degrees through multiple “colleges” located on the same campus. Typically a university may have a “College of Education” or a “College of Health Sciences”. Universities also usually offer graduate (Master’s, Doctorates) and professional degrees. Typically, universities have strict admission requirements that include grades, placements tests, and admissions tests like the SAT/ACT.
<https://www.trade-schools.net/articles/college-vs-university.asp#university>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **Where can the student work with the MSN degree?**

- Master's of Science in Nursing

- Hospitals
- Clinic (which they can open without a doctor)
- Schools, Colleges, Universities

- <https://nursing.usc.edu/blog/what-can-i-do-with-my-my-msn-degree/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What kind of responsibility does MSN have?**

- Write prescriptions for particular medications, including the frequency and dosage.
- Diagnose and treat acute infections, injuries and illnesses.
- Conduct and order diagnostic tests to be conducted on your behalf, such as x-rays and electrocardiograms (EKGs).
- Record and examine the medical history, diagnoses, and symptoms of a patient.
- Talk to patients about effectively managing their health, as well as assisting in designing appropriate treatment plans and recommending further care.
- Provide care and guidance to patients when it comes to taking medication, as well as what side effects they may have, and any interactions that may take place with medication the patient is already taking.

- <https://nursejournal.org/nurse-practitioner/what-does-a-msn-nurse-practitioner-do/>

- **How much does each profession earn? What is the projected job growth of each profession?**

- The median pay for an MSN is about \$54.78 per hour - \$113,930 per year.
- The projected job growth is 26%. The government expects to have 62,000 jobs available by 2028.

- <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/nurse-anesthetists-nurse-midwives-and-nurse-practitioners.htm>

Academic Pathway			
What coursework should be taken to enter the program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Relevant Coursework (High School) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How certain courses align with nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● List examples of relevant coursework (University) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Elective requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Final GPA to be considered for the MSN Program

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Is high school coursework relevant to the nursing field?**
 - The student might not realize it, but preparing for a future career starts in high school (or even earlier). For example, did you know that nurses use algebra when calculating medication dosages? What the student learns in high school builds the foundation for their college education and career. If a student is considering nursing, they should take classes *now* that will prepare them for college *later*.
<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>
- **Does high school GPA matter?**
 - Most BSN programs often set the minimum GPA at 3.0. ADN programs are more likely to set the minimum somewhere in the 2.0 to 2.75 range. Grades in prerequisite courses may be considered separately. *These are minimum requirements and **to be competitive, the student should aim much higher**. When interest exceeds available spots, grades are often an important factor. [Getting-into-a-nursing-program.html](https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/)

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What are examples of courses to take in high school to best prepare for nursing school applications?**
<https://www.ic4n.org/become-a-nurse/preparation-for-nursing-school/>

- Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Anatomy & Physiology
 - Physics
 - Algebra
 - Geometry
 - Psychology
 - Speech
 - Foreign Language
 - Health courses
- **What other coursework should be taken for the MSN programs?**
- The curriculum for the MSN program for Nursing Education includes:
 - NURS 653 Advanced Health Assessment
 - NURS 654 Prevention & Population Health
 - NURS 631 Curriculum Foundations
 - NURS 651 Health Care QI/Informatics
 - NURS 652 Scholarship Integration and Application
 - NURS 656 Leadership & Health Policy II
 - NURS 632 Educational Assessment & Evaluation
 - NURS 617 Advanced Pathophysiology
 - NURS 618 Advanced Pharmacology
 - NURS 630 Teaching & Learning Theory
 - NURS 633 Teaching Strategies
 - NURS 638 Advanced Clinical Practicum & Project
 - NURS 634 Teaching in Nursing Practicum
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-education/index.html#tab-panel-2>
 - The curriculum for the MSN program for Forensic Nursing includes:
 - NURS 653 Advanced Health Assessment
 - NURS 654 Prevention & Population Health
 - NURS 651 Health Care QI/Informatics
 - NURS 652 Scholarship Integration and Application
 - NURS 656 Leadership & Health Policy II
 - NURS 617 Advanced Pathophysiology
 - NURS 618 Advanced Pharmacology
 - NURS 638 Advanced Clinical Practicum & Project
 - NURS 601 Foundations for Forensic Health Care

- NURS 602 Victimology: Clinical Implications and Applications
- NURS 603 Impact of Violence Across the Lifespan
- NURS 604 Forensic Investigation of Injury
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-forensic/index.html#tab-panel-2>
- The curriculum for the MSN program for Nurse Practitioner includes:
 - NURS 617 Advanced Pathophysiology
 - NURS 618 Advanced Pharmacology
 - NURS 621 Diagnostics and Procedures
 - NURS 653 Advanced Health Assessment
 - NURS 622 Primary Care of Families I
 - NURS 652 Scholarship Integration and Application
 - NURS 624 Primary Care of Families III
 - NURS 654 Prevention & Population Health
 - NURS 623 Primary Care of Families II
 - NURS 651 Health Care QI/Informatics
 - NURS 620 Advanced Roles
 - NURS 625 Primary Care of Families- Practicum
 - NURS 656 Leadership & Policy
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-practitioner/index.html#tab-panel-2>
- **Eleventh Grade**
 - **Are there any electives that need to be taken for the MSN programs?**
 - The MSN program for Forensic Nursing requires 2 credit hours or more of elective classes. These classes are:
 - NURS 610. Forensic Sexual Assault Examiner Course (Credit Hours - 3)
 - NURS 611. Clinical Pharmacology: Implications for Victims (Credit Hours - 1)
 - NURS 612. Human Trafficking (Credit Hours - 1)
 - NURS 613. Forensic Photography (Credit Hours - 1)
 - NURS 614. Forensic Healthcare Policy and Ethics (Credit Hours - 1)
 - NURS 615. Forensic Mental Health (Credit Hours - 1)

- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-forensic/index.html#tab-panel-2>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What is the final GPA needed to apply for these programs?**
 - All of the MSN programs recommend having a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA to be considered for the program of interest.
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-education/index.html#tab-panel-6>
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-forensic/index.html#tab-panel-6>
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-practitioner/index.html#tab-panel-6>

Admissions			
What does the student need in order to apply for an MSN program?			
9th	10th	11th	12th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce Masters Degree ● Introduce different Masters programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed information about each Masters program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education ○ Forensics ○ Practitioner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describe the responsibilities of each job within each program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ex. MSN Practitioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hospital setting ■ Clinic setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Admission Requirements for each program

- **Ninth Grade**

- **Is there any way to keep advancing in my nursing career after I obtain a BSN?**
 - Once you get your BSN you are able to keep going to school to obtain your Master degree. For Texas A&M, there is a Master's program in Nursing Education, Forensic Nursing, and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-education/index.html>
- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-forensic/index.html>
- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-practitioner/index.html#tab-panel-6>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the job descriptions and responsibilities within each MSN specialty?**

- Once they've earned an MSN degree, the career choices will be based on the specialization.

- An MSN in Nursing Education allows nurses to build upon their clinical foundation and acquire substantive knowledge in an area of instruction. A Nurse Educator MSN provides students with advanced training and education in theories of teaching, learning, and evaluation, allowing them to design curricula and programs that reflect innovative educational principles.

- <https://www.msnet.edu/nurse-educator/>

- An MSN in Forensic Nursing is someone who works with crime victims to gather medical evidence and provide expert testimony that can be used in court. Forensic nursing is a unique specialty that blends the worlds of nursing, science, and the legal system. They also collect evidence, provide medical testimony in court, and consult with legal authorities.

- <https://nurse.org/resources/forensic-nurse/>

- An MSN in Nurse Practitioner will write prescriptions for particular medications, including the frequency and dosage, diagnose and treat acute infections, injuries and illnesses, conduct and order diagnostic tests to be conducted on your behalf, such as x-rays and electrocardiograms (EKGs), record and examine the medical history, diagnoses, and symptoms of a patient, talk to patients about effectively managing their health, as well as assisting in designing appropriate treatment plans and recommending further care and provide care and guidance to patients when it comes to taking medication, as well as what side effects they may

have, and any interactions that may take place with medication the patient is already taking.

- <https://nursejournal.org/nurse-practitioner/what-does-a-msn-nurse-practitioner-do/>

- No matter their specialization, nurses who hold an MSN typically work in the same types of facilities. Common workplaces include:
 - **General medical and surgical hospitals:** There's always a need for advanced nurses in a hospital setting. With an MSN, you might work in the surgical ward, maternity ward or the emergency room. If you take the health administrator route, you could find yourself managing the facility or a specific department.
 - **Home health care:** A home health care nurse can make a world of difference in a patient's quality of life. Since nurses with MSNs are qualified to give more advanced care (many can even write prescriptions), the home health care setting presents great opportunities for MSN nurses.
 - **Independent practice:** This is an option that applies primarily to those MSN nurses who specialize as midwives, nurse practitioners or clinical nurse specialists. An independent practice takes a great deal of effort to launch and maintain, but the benefits include closer ties to patients and the ability to choose your own hours.
 - **Schools or universities:** If you specialize as a nurse practitioner (NP), you may find work in the health office of a college campus. Many universities employ nurse practitioners to work on campus and give medical attention to students. Nurse educators with MSNs can also work at colleges and universities teaching the next generation of nurses.
 - **Physicians' offices:** With an advanced degree in nursing, you can work in a physician's office that provides either general or specialized care. Your duties in a physician's office may vary, but in general, nurses who hold MSNs can diagnose and prescribe treatment plans for patients.
 - <https://www.allnursingschools.com/msn/career-paths/>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What are the admission requirements for each program?**

- Master's in Nursing Education requirements include:

- Cumulative GPA on all undergraduate coursework
- GPA on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework
- Admission essay(s)
- References - three academic and/or professional references
- Volunteer, community, military service
- Leadership, involvement, awards in professional activities
- TOEFL score, required of international applicants only
- Interview, if requested by Selection Committee
- History of withdraws, repeats or failures will place applicant at a disadvantage

- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-education/index.html#tab-panel-5>

- Master's in Forensic Nursing requirements include:

- Cumulative GPA on all coursework
- GPA on the last 60 hours of coursework
- Admission essay(s)
- References - three academic and/or professional references
- Prior clinical experience in forensic nursing
- Volunteer/community/military service
- Leadership/involvement/awards in professional activities
- Professional experience/certification
- TOEFL score, required of international applicants only
- Interview, if requested by Selection Committee
- History of withdraws, repeats or failures will place applicant at a disadvantage

- <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-forensic/index.html#tab-panel-5>

- Master's in Nurse Practitioner requirements include:

- Bachelor of Science in nursing degree and Texas RN license
- Primary Application: NursingCAS application and nonrefundable application fee
- Secondary Application: Apply Texas application and nonrefundable application fee

- Official college transcripts from each institution attended (sent to NursingCAS)
- Completion of elementary statistics with a minimum grade of “C” by the first class day
- Personal statement essay (submitted in NursingCAS)
- Three professional reference evaluations (submitted in NursingCAS)
- Professional resume (submitted in NursingCAS)
- Recommended minimum 3.0 cumulative and last 60 hour GPA
- International applicant credentials (if applicable)
- Admissions Interview, if requested by Selection Committee
 - <https://nursing.tamu.edu/degrees/msn-practitioner/index.html>

Want to learn more? Visit the Texas A&M MSN page here:

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