

What is an MSN?

Nurses are an incredibly important segment of the healthcare community. They use their advanced knowledge of patient care to comfort and treat patients according to the directives of a physician or senior healthcare provider. Pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing can prepare educated nursing professionals to take on a wider range of responsibilities in the workplace.

<https://online.maryville.edu/online-masters-degrees/master-science-nursing/what-is/>

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○ Administration○ 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 can keep going to school to obtain a Master's degree. A Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) has different tracts. In UTRGV, there are three tracks: MSN in Administration, MSN in Education and MSN in Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP).

<https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/index.htm>

- The length of each MSN program varies due to the different courses that must be taken.
 - The Master in Nursing Administration program can be taken in 1-2 years depending on the student's schedule.

- The Master in Nursing Education program can be taken in 1-2 years depending on the student's schedule.
- The Master in Nurse Practitioner program is taken in 2-3 years depending on the student's schedule.
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-administration/degree-plan/index.htm>
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-education/degree-plan/index.htm>
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-family-nurse-practitioner/degree-plan/index.htm>

- **Tenth Grade**

- **What is the difference between each program?**

- The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Administration designed for those who are interested in leadership and administration as nursing leaders. The degree in Nursing Administration utilizes knowledge from health and social sciences to address the needs of diverse populations through planned programs, education, and advocacy. The graduate is prepared to demonstrate leadership in the application of interventions and technology related to policy, research, leadership, organization, and health care management.
- The Master of Science (MS) in Nursing Education designed for BSN-prepared Registered Nurses who have a passion for mentoring and teaching traditional and non-traditional programs and are interested in pursuing or advancing in a position in nursing education. Master of Science in Nursing Education graduates will be prepared to meet the needs of a diverse student population in a variety of roles in nursing education, including patient educator, as well as the educator role in clinical and academic settings.
- Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) that is designed for BSN-prepared nurses interested in meeting the

healthcare needs of individuals and families by providing comprehensive health care through the lifespan. As an advanced practice nurse, the FNP embodies a philosophy of individualized, holistic care. The priorities of the practice for FNPs focus on wellness, health promotion, disease prevention, and client education in a variety of primary care settings. The goal of the MSN FNP program is to help prepare advanced practice nurses to provide safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care.

- <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-administration/index.htm>
- <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-education/index.htm>
- <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-family-nurse-practitioner/index.htm>

- **Eleventh Grade**

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

- 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.msnedu.org/nurse-educator/>
- 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/>
- A MSN in Nurse Administration's job duties and responsibilities may include:
 - Overseeing the hiring, firing, and retention of the nursing staff
 - Creating and overseeing budgets and approving spending
 - Ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements
 - Motivating and mentoring the nursing staff
 - Ensuring facility service, budget, and resource records are accurate and current
 - Overseeing and reviewing the work activities of the nursing staff
 - Ensuring efficiency, cost savings, safety, and patient satisfaction goals are met
 - Overseeing staff and administration meetings
 - Preparing and presenting reports and data
 - Addressing operational issues in a timely manner
 - Attending committee and board meetings
 - Collaborating with medical and academic partnerships in the community
 - Overseeing fund-raising efforts, such as evidence-based research projects
 - Overseeing the professional development of the nursing staff
 - <https://www.rntomsnedu.org/nurse-administrator/>
- 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?**

- The requirements for the MSN program in Nursing Administration includes:
 - BS in Nursing or other baccalaureate degree plus the successful completion of Transition to Graduate Nursing course.
 - Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.
 - Official transcripts from each institution attended (must be submitted directly to UTRGV).
 - Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree.
 - Successful completion of undergraduate statistics course.
 - Holding an unencumbered license as a registered nurse in their state of residence.
 - Criminal background check.

- Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related programs.
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-administration/admission-criteria/index.htm>
- The requirements for the MSN program in Nursing Education includes:
 - Bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) or other baccalaureate degree plus the successful completion of NURS 5600
 - Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.
 - Official transcripts from each institution attended (must be submitted directly to UTRGV).
 - Submission of a short essay including reason for seeking admission, anticipated personal gain, relevant preparation, and future professional plans.
 - Successful completion of undergraduate statistics course.
 - Holding an unencumbered license as a registered nurse in their state of residence.
 - Criminal background check.
 - Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related programs.
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-education/admission-criteria/index.htm>
- The requirements for the MSN program in Nurse Practitioner includes:
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
 - Undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0.
 - Official transcripts from each institution attended (must be submitted directly to UTRGV).
 - Personal statement detailing professional goals and reasons for pursuing the graduate degree.
 - Submission of Resume.
 - Three (3) Letters of Recommendation.
 - Successful completion of undergraduate statistics course.
 - Licensed Registered Nurse in the State of Texas.

- Criminal background check.
- Evidence of current immunizations required by the Texas Department of Health for students in health-related programs.
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-family-nurse-practitioner/admission-criteria/index.htm>

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 lowest 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 a four year institution that offers degrees in specific areas of study (i.e. medicine or law). These degrees can lead to graduate or professional school. 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 a 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>

- **How much does a BSN Nurse earn?**

- The median pay for a BSN nurse is about \$34.48 per hour - \$71,730 per year.

- **What is the projected job growth of a BSN Nurse?**

- The projected job growth is 12%. The government expects to have 371,500 jobs available by 2028.

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"> ● International Student requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post-Master's Nurse Practitioner Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health

- **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](http://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
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- **What other coursework should be taken for the MSN programs?**
 - The curriculum for the MSN program for Nursing Administration includes:
 - NURS 6474 - Leadership, Policy, and Population Health
 - NURS 6370 - Nursing Administration Theory & Concepts
 - NURS 6301 - Theoretical Foundations in Nursing
 - NURS 6381 - Holistic Approaches to Chronic Disease
 - NURS 6208 - Nursing Informatics
 - NURS 6382 - Evidence-Based Practice in Nursing
 - NURS 6303 - Statistics in Nursing
 - NURS 6371 - Healthcare Change, Negotiation, and Conflict Resolution
 - NURS 6302 - Research in Nursing
 - NURS 6374 - Clinical Leadership in Nursing
 - NURS 7302 - Practice Intervention Project
 - NURS 6372 - Healthcare Finance
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-administration/degree-plan/index.htm>
 - The curriculum for the MSN program for Nursing Education includes:

- NURS 6474 - Leadership, Policy, and Population Health
- NURS 6363 - Curriculum Development in Nursing
- NURS 6301 - Theoretical Foundations in Nursing
- NURS 6366 - Instructional Design and Online Teaching in Nursing
- NURS 6208 - Nursing Informatics
- NURS 6365 - Evaluation in Nursing
- NURS 6304 - Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 6464 - Teaching Roles and Strategies
- NURS 6302 - Research in Nursing
- NURS 6306 - Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 7302 - Practice Intervention Project
- NURS 6305 - Advanced Health Assessment & Lab
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-education/degree-plan/index.htm>
- The curriculum for the MSN program for Nurse Practitioner includes:
 - NURS 6304 - Advanced Pathophysiology
 - NURS 6308 - Advanced Nursing Informatics
 - NURS 6301 - Theoretical Foundations in Nursing
 - NURS 6310 - Health Promotion & Lab
 - NURS 6311 - Rural Health Nursing & Lab
 - NURS 6303 - Statistics in Nursing & Lab
 - NURS 6302 - Research in Nursing
 - NURS 6347 - Nurse Practitioner Role
 - NURS 6306 - Advanced Pharmacology
 - NURS 6305 - Advanced Health Assessment & Lab
 - NURS 6307 - Health Care Policy
 - NURS 7302 - Practice Intervention Project
 - NURS 6612 - Family Nurse Practitioner I & Lab
 - NURS 6613 - Family Nurse Practitioner-II & Lab
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-family-nurse-practitioner/degree-plan/index.htm>

- **Eleventh Grade**

- **What are the requirements for international students?**
 - Master in Nursing Administration requirements:

- TOEFL or IELTS Language Proficiency Test with minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer based, or 79 on internet-based for the TOEFL; 6.5 for the IELTS. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for 2 years.
 - English translation of educational records.
 - Transcript Evaluation by the Foreign Credentials Service of America (FCSA).
 - Financial Documentation showing sufficient funds (minimum of \$25,000) to cover all expenses (living and academic) for the first year of study.
 - Immigration documents, including a current copy of your valid passport.
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-administration/admission-criteria/index.htm>
- Master in Nursing Education requirements:
- TOEFL or IELTS Language Proficiency Test with minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer based, or 79 on internet-based for the TOEFL; 6.5 for the IELTS. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for 2 years.
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 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-nursing-education/admission-criteria/index.htm>
- Master in Nurse Practitioner requirements:
- TOEFL or IELTS Language Proficiency Test with minimum scores: 550 on paper-based, 213 on computer based, or 79 on internet-based for the TOEFL; 6.5 for the IELTS. TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for 2 years.
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 - Transcript Evaluation by the Foreign Credentials Service of America (FCSA).

- Financial Documentation showing sufficient funds (minimum of \$25,000) to cover all expenses (living and academic) for the first year of study.
- Immigration documents, including a current copy of your valid passport.
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/master-of-science-in-nursing-msn-family-nurse-practitioner/admission-criteria/index.htm>

- **Twelfth Grade**

- **What is the Post Master's Certificate available at UTRGV?**
 - The Post-Master's Nurse Practitioner Certificate in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing is designed as a specialty within graduate nursing education to include programming that will assist a student to acquire advanced knowledge and clinical skills to provide best practice and comprehensive care to clients across the lifespan. The coursework and practicum will focus on a range of mental health care needs of individuals and families whether in outpatient, inpatient or private practice settings. The foundation for advanced practice is focused on content included in core courses in physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and health assessments.
 - The program requirements include:
 - Licensed as a Registered Nurse in the State of Texas or the state of residence
 - Master of Science in Nursing (MSN), or a
 - Master of Science in Nursing and Nurse Practitioner (MSN/NP)
 - Cumulative GPA of 3.0
 - Official transcripts from each institution attended (must be submitted directly to UTRGV Graduate College).
 - <https://www.utrgv.edu/nursing/graduate-programs/post-masters-certificate-in-psychiatric-mental-health-nurse/index.htm>