Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Post-master’s Certificates

MSN-prepared nurses deliver evidence-based care through a variety of specialties and subspecialties. They are in high demand as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists.

As a life-long learner, the MSN-prepared nurse are also able to pursue a practice (DNP) or research (PhD) doctorate in nursing.

There’s no better place than the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing to pursue an advanced degree in nursing. With close, interdisciplinary associations throughout Case Western Reserve University and the ability to use the clinical faculty and facilities of some of the nation’s best healthcare institutions, FPB gives you an unparalleled environment of practice, research, and scholarship.

**Entry Options**

FPB offers you several options for entry into the MSN program, depending on your background and education.

- **If you have a BSN:** Applicants with a BSN degree from an ACEN or CCNE-accredited nursing program are admitted directly.
- **If you have an ADN or a diploma and a non-nursing bachelor’s degree:** Applicants with a BA or BS from an accredited college or university in a field other than nursing and who have graduated with an ACEN or CCNE-accredited associate degree or diploma program must submit a portfolio detailing professional accomplishments and experiences. Upon approval, you may enter the MSN program directly.

**If applicable:**

- Some majors and subspecialties (such as ACNP, NNP, flight nursing, and anesthesia) require specific work experience and/or interviews. Our admissions advisors can provide you with specific information.
- Within five years of admission to FPB or prior to registering for NURS 425, you must complete a college or university statistics course equivalent to STAT 201 that includes ANOVA.

If you do not meet the above requirements, you may be referred to the MSN Admissions Committee for special consideration and may be required to fulfill additional prerequisites.

**MSN Program Requirements**

MSN majors require an average of 40 semester hours. Your individual program of study is designed to meet individual clinical interests, learning needs, and career goals. In addition, most MSN majors require a minimum of 600 clinical hours; certain programs require more.

Most FPB students complete their MSN coursework between 18 and 24 months, though the nurse anesthesia program is longer.

Research knowledge forms an integral part of graduate study in nursing. The general curriculum pattern includes requirements in each of the following areas:

- Professional Development
- Scientific Inquiry
- Nursing Practice

*Post-master’s certificates are available in all specialties.*
MSN Admission Requirements

- Three professional recommendations
- RN licensure in Ohio (or relevant state for clinicals)
- Completion of an accredited first professional degree program in nursing
- The GRE/MAT are not required for application. While the GRE/MAT test scores are not required to apply, the scores may be requested for an admission decision.

Application Deadlines*

- May 1 for Fall semester
- October 1 for Spring semester
- March 1 for Summer semester

* Applications for the Nurse Anesthesia Program are due by June 1 to be reviewed for admission for the following year.

Many Majors in Convenient Formats

Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing gives you a choice of a number of different MSN majors, plus subspecialties. If you are working as a nurse right now, FPB offers courses in nontraditional formats including intensive, web-based, and weekend courses so that you can remain in your current job. Several of our programs can even be completed in a semi-distance format with limited trips to campus, making our MSN program feasible for anyone.

Majors include:

- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Education with Population Focus *
- Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
- Family Systems Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
- Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP)
- Nurse Anesthesia
- Nurse Midwifery
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP)

A Palliative Care specialty can be done with any MSN major.
Flight Nursing specialty can be added to Acute Care majors

*Ohio Board of Nursing requires two years of experience as an RN to teach in a nursing program.

Design Your Program

The following list is just a sample of the choices available. MSN students may design their own blended major.

- Family Nurse Practitioner/Pediatric Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner/Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner/Pediatric Acute Care Nurse Practitioner

Joint Degrees

- MSN/Master of Arts in Anthropology
- MSN/Master of Arts in Bioethics

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