# The Master of Science in Nursing: Clinical Nurse Leader

The Asia Pacific School of Business School of Nursing is committed to preparing individuals to provide holistic nursing care in a variety of settings to diverse clients across the lifespan. The purpose of the graduate program is to prepare clinical nurse leaders to address the healthcare needs of the 21st century by implementing outcome-based practice through management of care systems, quality improvement strategies, utilization of technology, and advanced clinical reasoning. The nursing courses in the Master of Science in Nursing-Clinical Nurse Leader program are offered in an asynchronous online format with clinical experiences arranged in the student's geographic area (when available).

The graduates are prepared to:
1. Effect change through advocacy for the profession, interdisciplinary healthcare team and the client;
2. Communicate effectively to achieve quality client outcomes and lateral integration of care for a cohort of clients;
3. Actively pursue lifelong learning as the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) role, needs of clients, and the healthcare system evolve;
4. Delegate and utilize the nursing team resources and provide leadership when partnering with the interprofessional healthcare team;
5. Identify clinical and fiscally responsible outcomes that improve safe, quality, client-centered care;
6. Use information systems and technology at the point of care to improve healthcare outcomes;
7. Participate in systems review by evaluating client safety risks to improve quality of client care;
8. Assume accountability for healthcare outcomes, recognizing systems influences on a specific group of clients;
9. Utilize information to design, implement and evaluate client plans of care;
10. Synthesize evidence to evaluate and achieve optimal client and care environment outcomes; and
11. Use appropriate teaching/learning principles, strategies, and technology to facilitate the learning of clients, groups, and the other healthcare professionals.

### Accreditation

The Master of Science in Nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 887-6791.

### Curriculum

The Master of Science in Nursing: Clinical Nurse Leader curriculum is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of the students and can be completed in four, five, six, or seven semesters. Each semester, prior to registration, students will review and update an Academic Plan of Study in consultation with the academic advisor. All work to be applied towards the Master's degree must be completed within six years of initial enrollment.

### ADMISSION AND PROGRESSION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Admission

Applicants for the Master of Science: Clinical Nurse Leader program are required to apply to The Asia Pacific School of Business and to the School of Nursing through the Office of Admissions.

Applicants must meet the following requirements to be considered for admission to the program:
1. Graduate of baccalaureate nursing program accredited by Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or the Accreditation Commission on Education in Nursing (ACEN), formally known as the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC);
2. Earned GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale on baccalaureate coursework;
3. Completed an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of "C" or better;

4.  Current unencumbered South Carolina Registered Nurse or Advanced Practice Registered Nurse license;
5.  Submission of two letters of recommendation from Master's or doctorally prepared nurses attesting to applicant's potential for graduate work;
6.  Submission of resume or curriculum vitae; and
7.  A written statement (300-500 words) discussing career goals and reasons for seeking admission to the CNL program.

**Conditional Admission**

Applicants not meeting the full admission requirements may be considered for conditional admission. Students admitted conditionally would be required to demonstrate successful graduate work with a GPA of 3.0 at the end of the first semester, at which time they would be considered fully admitted and subject to the progression and graduation policies of the School of Nursing. Students admitted conditionally and not achieving a GPA of 3.0 at the end of the first semester would be dismissed from the program.

**Non-Degree Seeking Students**

Non-degree seeking students may be considered for admission on a space available basis for selected courses. Students may not earn more than 12 credit hours as a non-degree seeking student. Non-degree seeking students should provide proof of an unencumbered South Carolina RN or APRN license and must be a graduate of an ACEN/NLNAC or CCNE accredited baccalaureate nursing program. Students that have previously earned credits as a non-degree seeking student wishing to enter the MSN program as a degree seeking student should refer to the Admissions policy and procedures.

**Program Orientation**

Accepted students are required to attend a single-day on-campus orientation prior to the beginning of the program. Students will be notified of the details of their orientation session in their acceptance letter.

**Transfer**

Students with earned graduate credits in nursing or a related field may request a transcript evaluation for transfer or substitution credits, which will be considered by the Graduate Admissions Committee of the School of Nursing. No more than 15 transfer hours may be applied to the MSN degree in the CNL program.

**Academic Plan of Study**

All CNL students must have a current Academic Plan of Study on file prior to registration for any class. The initial Academic Plan of Study will be completed during the mandatory on-campus orientation for new students. Each semester prior to registration the Academic Plan of Study will be reviewed and/or updated in consultation with the academic advisor.

**Academic Probation**

The master's student whose semester or cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 will be placed on academic probation for one (1) semester. The student must improve the cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater upon completion of the next semester in order to remain in the program.

**Priority for Course Space/Out-of-Sequence Students**

When course spaces are limited, fully matriculated students are given priority over non-degree seeking students. First-time enrollees are given priority over students who are repeating a course or non-degree seeking students.

**Readmission to Clinical Nurse Leader Program**

The CNL Program Committee will act upon all requests for readmission. Readmission to the School of Nursing is not automatic and will be considered on a space-available basis. A student seeking readmission should reapply to the CNL program by the designated date. In addition to the application for readmission to the University the student should submit a type-written letter stating the circumstances that resulted in the student's absence from the program and reason(s) that readmission to the program is justified.

**Grading Scale**

Nursing course grading scales will appear in each course syllabus. The School of Nursing uses the following grading scale for all NUR courses except courses assigned a grade of pass/fail.

A=93-100

B=85-92

C=76-84

D=68-75

F=0-68

**Clinical Grading Scale**

Students are evaluated as satisfactory or unsatisfactory in the clinical component of courses. With input from clinical preceptors, the course faculty will evaluate students based on clinical course objectives. A satisfactory clinical grade is necessary to pass a course with a clinical component.

**Attendance Policy**

The MSN-CNL program is an online program that requires a high level of independent and self-directed learning. Course attendance and participation requirements are explained in each individual course syllabus. Clinical attendance policies are negotiated between the clinical coordinator and preceptor.

**Incomplete Grade(s)**

An "Incomplete" (I) is awarded when all requirements of a course have not been completed by the end of the semester. This designation is reserved for students where failure to complete the course is due to circumstances such as unanticipated illness, accident, work-related responsibility or family hardship which are beyond the student's control. The option for an "Incomplete" is at the discretion of the course faculty. By arrangement with the course faculty, the student will have up to six months from the last day of examinations for the semester in which to complete the work and the faculty to submit the grade. After six months, an "Incomplete" which has not been made up is changed to a grade of "F".

If the student plans to progress to the next semester, the student must complete all requirements for the course in which the "Incomplete" was awarded by the drop/add period deadline of the next semester/summer term. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all arrangements for removal of the "Incomplete" have been made and that all work for completing course assignments has been accomplished. If the student fails to have the "Incomplete" removed, the student will not be allowed to progress and will be considered out of sequence. The Director of the MSN program will have a student administratively removed from any courses in which prerequisite courses have not been completed.

**Grade Reports**

At the end of each semester, a report of grades is posted on Bearcat Web.

**Grade Appeals**

APSB's Student Handbook includes provisions for grade appeals. Neither grade changes nor appeals for grade changes can be made after one calendar year from the time the grade was given. After graduation no grade can be changed or appealed.

**Requirements for Progression in the MSN-CNL program**

1. Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale; and
2. Complete the required courses with a minimum grade of "B". Note: If a student earns a grade less than "B", the student may repeat the course one time. The student cannot repeat more than one required course.

**Graduation Requirements**

1. Complete the number of graduate hours and specific courses required in the approved program of study;
2. Achieve at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale;
3. Satisfactorily complete all other requirements of the program, including all clinical hours and Graduate Synthesis Project prior to graduation; and
4. Successfully complete all required documentation required by the University pertaining to graduation (i.e. Graduation Application).

**Transcripts**

Requests for official transcripts of a student's record should be addressed to the Office of the Registrar. Procedures for requesting an official transcript can be found at https://www.apsb.edu.ky/degree-courses

**Endorsement for Certification as a Clinical Nurse Leader**

Graduates of the program will be eligible to take the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) certification examination administered by the Commission on Nurse Certification (CNC). Information regarding the examination application and endorsement program is available in the *MSN-CNL Student Handbook*, available on the School of Nursing website.

**Faculty Advisors**

The Coordinator of Graduate Studies for the School of Nursing will be assigned to each MSN student as faculty advisor to assist with academic planning.

**Special Expenses**

In addition to University tuition and fees, MSN students will incur additional expenses such as transportation to and from clinical sites, lab coat and other professional attire, fees for CNL Certification practice examination, etc.

**Core Performance Standards**

In order to perform safe patient care, students must meet core performance standards and functional abilities for admission and progression as published by the Southern Council on Collegiate Education for Nursing (SCCEN). Additional information is available in the *MSN-CNL Student Handbook*, available on the School of Nursing website.

**Drug Screening**

Students are required to comply with the drug screen requirements as documented in the MSN-CNL Student Handbook, available on the School of Nursing website.

**Petitioning**

Students have the right to request an exception to the application of academic policies of the School of Nursing. Petitions must be submitted in writing to the student's Faculty Advisor or the Dean of the School of Nursing for consideration by the Nursing Faculty Organization.

**Regulations for Clinical Courses**

Clinical experiences for MSN-CNL students will be arranged collaboratively with the student, course faculty, graduate preceptor, and healthcare agencies. Students are expected to adhere to any arranged schedule unless other arrangements have been made prior to the scheduled experience. Unavoidable absences will be made up based on preceptor and facility availability.

In addition to the regulations of the University, the following additional regulations apply to students in nursing. The provisions are required to meet regulations of healthcare agencies used for clinical experiences.

1. **Clearance for Attendance at Clinical Laboratories**
   Students must meet all School of Nursing requirements for clinical nursing courses, as listed on the vendor website (www.castlebranch.com). These requirements must be met by the first day of classes in courses with clinical components.

2. **Criminal Background Check and Drug Screening**

   Students must complete a criminal background check and drug screening annually and must report to the Director of the School of Nursing any arrests and/or criminal charges or convictions filed subsequent to the completion of the criminal background check.

3. **Health Requirements**

   In addition to meeting the health requirements of the University, students engaged in clinical nursing courses are required to provide evidence of single-step tuberculosis screening or its equivalent; annual 10-panel drug screen; documentation of rubella (German measles) immunization or immune titer; evidence of varicella (chicken pox) immunizations or immune titer; current immunization against tetanus and pertussis, influenza, and Hepatitis B; and an initial physical examination by a nurse practitioner or physician. Students must submit a health update annually. These documents, as well as proof of completing the American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers CPR course, must be submitted to the approved vendor assigned by the School of Nursing by the required deadline.

4. **Insurance Requirements**

   Students enrolled in clinical nursing courses must carry tort and professional liability insurance as well as personal health and accident insurance.

5. **Transportation to Clinical Practice Sites**

   Each student is responsible for transportation to and from clinical sites.

## Program of Study

The program of study for the Master of Science in Nursing - Clinical Nurse Leader includes the following courses:

| Course Number | Course Name | Credit Hours |
|---|---|---|
| NUR 600 | Theory and Conceptual Foundation | 3 |
| NUR 611 | Advanced Clinical Assessment | 3 (2,1)* |
| NUR 612 | Advanced Pharmacology | 3 |
| NUR 613 | Advanced Pathophysiology | 3 |
| NUR 620 | Health Care Structure and Finance | 3 |
| NUR 630 | Health Promotion and Disease Prevention | 3 |
| NUR 635 | CNL Practicum I | 3 (2,1)* |
| NUR 640 | Management of Clinical Outcomes | 3 |
| NUR 645 | CNL Practicum II | 3 (2,1)* |
| NUR 651 | Research for Evidence-based Practice | 3 |
| NUR 660 | Leadership in Healthcare | 3 |
| NUR 675 | CNL Immersion Practicum III | 6 (2,4)* |
| **Total** | ***clinical hours included** | |

*1 clinical credit hour = 6 clock hours of clinical practice

*A total of 500 hours of clinical practice are required in the Clinical Nurse Leader Program.

To provide flexibility in scheduling, students can complete the program in four, five, six, or seven semesters. Examples of schedules are as follows:

| 4 SEMESTER | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring |
| NUR 600<br>NUR 611<br>NUR 612 | NUR 613<br>NUR 620<br>NUR 651<br>NUR 635 | NUR 630<br>NUR 640<br>NUR 645 | NUR 660<br>NUR 675 |

| 5 SEMESTER | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring |
| NUR 600<br>NUR 611<br>NUR 612 | NUR 613<br>NUR 620<br>NUR 651 | NUR 635 | NUR 630<br>NUR 640<br>NUR 645 | NUR 660<br>NU 675 |

| 6 SEMESTER | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall |
| NUR 600<br>NUR 611<br>NUR 612 | NUR 613<br>NUR 620<br>NUR 651 | NUR 635 | NUR 630<br>NUR 640<br>NUR 645 | NUR 660 | NUR 675 |

| 7 SEMESTER | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring | Fall | Spring |
| NUR 600<br>NUR 611 | NUR 612<br>NUR 613 | NUR 620<br>NUR 651 | NUR 630<br>NUR 640 | NUR 660<br>NUR 635 | NUR 645 | NUR 675 |