Master of Science in Nursing, Entry (MSN-E) Curriculum
Course Descriptions
Starting Fall 2019

IPE 5000: Patient Centered Cases I – An Interprofessional Approach (1 credit hour)
This course prepares students to practice health care services through a team approach. Working in small interprofessional teams, students explore cases representing conditions across the lifespan. The cases integrate elements common to all professionals such as ethical, behavioral, social, and psychological issues.

IPE 5100: Patient Centered Cases II - An Interprofessional Approach (1 credit hour)
A continuation of Patient Centered Cases 1.

IPE 6000: Team Training in Health Care (1 credit hour)
This course will continue to build upon the knowledge form the IPE series, but will expand upon that knowledge and require the health professional student to learn and apply advanced tools and strategies that are crucial to develop a collaborative health team. The majority of the course is independent study with students engaging in a large-scale tabletop activity where they apply team tools necessary to solve a health care dilemma.

GN 6115: Intro to Pathophysiology (3 credit hours)
Alterations in the function of human systems over the lifespan are the focus of this course. The content includes cardiovascular, respiratory, renal, gastrointestinal, respiratory, endocrine and nervous systems, and the processes of metabolism and homeostasis. Students compare normal body functioning to the physiologic changes associated with disease, as well as compensatory responses.

GN 6145: Pharmacology I (2 credit hours)
Theoretical concepts essential to the provision of safe and effective administration of pharmacotherapeutic agents are the focus of this course. Treatment of illness, health promotion, and wellness maintenance to individuals throughout the lifespan are addressed. Principles of pharmacology including drug actions, cultural, genetics, developmental consideration, and medication administration are explored.

GN 6155: Pharmacology II (2 credit hours)
Building on the concepts of Pharmacology I with a focus on the application of fundamental principles for safe and effective care is the focus of this course. Pharmacotherapeutic agents used in the treatment of illness, health promotion, and wellness maintenance to individuals throughout the lifespan are explored.

GN 6165: Evidence Based Practice and Theory (3 credit hours)
The theoretical frameworks and processes of evidence-based practice, research, quality improvement, and clinical guidelines that inform nursing knowledge and practice are examined. The evolution of knowledge development, multiple ways of knowing, structural components of theory within the nursing profession and other disciplines are explored. Students develop a spirit of inquiry, ask relevant clinical questions, search, collect, and understand best evidence.

GN 6170: Utilization of Evidence in Healthcare (2 credit hours)
Students examine and critique the components of quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods research including the research question, literature review, theoretical framework, methodology, data analysis,
and interpretation of findings for application to nursing practice. Students are introduced to descriptive and inferential statistical measures, the process of instrument development, validity and reliability assessment, pilot testing, and decision theory. In addition, students interpret and choose relevant evidence for decision making in clinical situations.

**GN 6201: Health Assessment (2 credit hours)**
Theoretical concepts of physical assessment, health history, cultural, genetics, psychosocial and nutritional assessment for individuals across the lifespan are explored in this course.

**GN 6202: Clinical Practicum: Health Assessment (1 Credit Hour)**
Application of theoretical concepts related to comprehensive health assessment of patients across the lifespan will be the focus of this course. Emphasis includes the analysis and utilization of comprehensive health assessment data including the bio-psycho-social, developmental, and environmental needs of patients and families as related to the role of the nurse.

**GN 6410: Nursing Fundamentals (3 credit hours)**
Foundational nursing concepts, skills and techniques are introduced in this course. This course is designed to assist the student to develop critical thinking abilities utilizing the nursing process in the roles of communicator, caregiver and teacher. Students learn principles of professional nursing practice and the application of selected fundamental skills including therapeutic communication, maintaining a safe and hygienic environment, assessing vital signs medical asepsis and infection control, principles of body mechanics and mobility, basic gastrointestinal and genitourinary care, oxygen therapy and airway management, calculation of drug doses, and medication administration.

**GN 6411: Nursing Fundamentals: Clinical Practicum (2 credit hours)**
Students apply theory, critical thinking and the nursing process to gain mastery of selected fundamental skills through practice and return demonstration of simulated clinical experiences in the learning resource laboratory. Clinical experience in selected acute nursing facilities will provide opportunities to utilize the nursing process and fundamental skills in patient care.

**GN 6501: Nursing of Adults and Older Adults I (4 credit hours)**
Acute and chronic health problems of the adult and older adult are the focus for this course. Emphasis is placed on selected physiological processes, pharmacotherapy, developmental theories and human responses to illness.

**GN 6502: Nursing of Adults and Older Adults I: Clinical Practicum (3 credit hours)**
Using hospitals and long-term care facilities, students develop the psychomotor and critical thinking skills to provide nursing care. Students integrate developmental theories and the roles of communicator, caregiver, advocate and teacher as students care for adult and older adult clients in the clinical setting.

**GN 6551: Nursing of Adults and Older Adults II (4 credit hours)**
Continued application of the nursing process in caring for adults and older adults is the emphasis for learning. Disturbances in the cardiovascular, neurological, and respiratory systems, rheumatic disorders, infections, shock and patients in specialized settings are included. Pathophysiology and assessment of the disease process as well as medical and nursing interventions are discussed through lecture, simulation and case studies. Emphasis is placed on geriatrics, pharmacotherapy, genetic implications, developmental theories and human responses to illness.
GN 6552 Nursing of Adults and Older Adults II: Clinical Practicum: (4 credit hours)
Within acute care hospitals and other facilities, students further develop the psychomotor and critical reasoning skills necessary to provide nursing care. Students integrate developmental theories and the roles of communicator, caregiver, advocate, collaborator and teacher while providing safe quality care for adult and older adult clients with complex health problems in the clinical setting.

GN 6601: Mental Health Nursing (2 credit hours)
This is a mental health-nursing course, which focuses on psychiatric and emotional disorders across the lifespan. Course content builds upon knowledge learned in Fundamentals of Nursing, Pathophysiology, and Health Assessment. An emphasis will be placed on utilization of the nursing process with patients presenting with altered physiological and psychopharmacological processes, and the human response to mental and/or emotional illness.

GN 6602 Mental Health Nursing: Clinical practicum (2 credit hours)
Students will develop critical thinking skills, communication skills, and nursing interventions when caring for clients with identified psychosocial and mental health issues. The mental health clinical experience provides an opportunity for the student to integrate, assimilate, and demonstrate the nursing process and theory taught in the didactic course in the psychiatric setting.

GN 6710: Obstetric Nursing (2 credit hours)
Theory and application of nursing process and nursing roles related to the care of women and childbearing families of diverse psychosocial and cultural backgrounds are examined. Family systems theory, development theories and the nursing process serve as the organizing framework for this group of clients. Employing established standards, students gain knowledge and apply essential principles for professional roles and nursing practice in the care of childbearing women, families and newborns. Students apply the theoretical concepts in the clinical setting.

GN 6711: Obstetric Nursing: Clinical Practicum (2 credit hours)
Clinical practice to develop critical thinking, psychomotor and communication skills provide students with opportunities to develop competence in the care of childbearing women, families and newborns. The roles of communicator, caregiver, advocate and teacher are emphasized.

GN 6720: Pediatric Nursing (2 credit hours)
Theory and application of nursing process and nursing roles related to the care of children and the families that care for them are emphasized. Family systems theory, developmental theories, vulnerable population theory and the nursing process serve as the organizing framework for this group of clients. Employing established standards, students gain knowledge and apply essential principles for professional roles and nursing practice in the care of children and their families within a culturally diverse population. Students apply the theoretical concepts in the clinical setting.

GN 6721: Pediatric Nursing: Clinical Practicum (2 credit hours)
Clinical practice to develop the psychomotor, critical thinking and communication skills provide students with the opportunities to develop competence in the care of pediatric patients and their families. Emphasis is placed on the integration of classroom knowledge and clinical practice as students continue to develop their roles of caregiver, care coordinator, communicator, advocate and teacher for pediatric clients and their families in the clinical setting.
GN 6777: Clinical Implementation Project 1 (1 credit hour)
Projects begin by assessment and analysis of current quality improvement data and initiatives in a clinical microsystem within a clinical environment. In collaboration with preceptors, the interprofessional team, and faculty the student selects a priority initiative for the clinical project. Students may conduct an independent project or work with an on-going quality initiative. When working with an improvement team, the student must complete independent work.

GN 6801: Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting (2 credit hours)
Preparing the RN to become a leader with the skills and knowledge to manage unit/microsystem-based teams in the provision of high quality patient-centered care is the focus of this course. MSN students are introduced to the planning, organizing, and staffing responsibilities of the management process. Various modes of inquiry, including nursing process, problem-solving models, and decision-making tools are emphasized. Theories related to organization, management, leadership, human resources, behavior, and communication are emphasized.

GN 6802: Clinical Practicum: Leadership and Management (1 credit hour)
The RN leader manager demonstrates integration and application of theory into professional nursing practice. Students utilize evidenced based knowledge and management skills to enhance decision-making, critical thinking, and problem-solving in the clinical setting.

GN 6805: Advanced Clinical Applications (3 credit hours)
Integration of theoretical knowledge, clinical, and leadership skills to develop competency in managing patients in different types of healthcare settings is the focus of this course. Emphasis is placed in the application of nursing process in the roles of professional nursing for patients, families and communities.

GN 6810: Biostatistics (2 credit hours)
The interpretation and use of biostatistics for graduate nursing practice including quantitative methodology for evidence-based practice, and statistical utility for decision making is explored. Emphasis is on statistical analysis software, the use of established instruments, and assessment of validity and reliability. Critical analysis of methods, results, and discussion sections of research reports are also emphasized.

GN 6888: Clinical Implementation Project II (2 credit hours)
Clinical Implementation Project II continues with scholarly exploration of the identified quality initiative with a review of literature and standards of care to determine: interventions for improving health outcomes; quality indicators for assessing health outcomes; and resource utilization for the health issue. Analysis and synthesis of evidence prepare students for collaborating on a practice improvement initiative.

GN 6905: Public Health and Population Based Nursing practice (3 credit hours)
Theoretical foundations for the Public Health Nursing Certificate are explored. Additional Master’s level coursework and concurrent Clinical Experience prepares the student for this specialty practice within nursing and public health. Improving population health by promoting, preventing, and protecting the health of individuals, families, and the community is emphasized. Students conduct surveillance and community assessments for a target population at risk within the local and regional communities they serve. Current public health problems, environmental, epidemiology, and community resources to meet these needs are examined. Further, students analyze the sociocultural, political, economic, ethical, and environmental factors that influence the health of communities.
**GN 6906: Public Health and Population Based Nursing practice: Clinical Practicum (3 credit hours)**
Students apply public health and population health practice competencies when caring for individuals, families and populations at risk across the lifespan. Incorporating a multi-level view of health, students apply theory and evidence in their practice with an emphasis on promotion, prevention, and protection to improve population health.

**GN 6910: Clinical Immersion 1 (3 credit hours): This course continues to the 6th semester**
Transition to professional practice is emphasized. The synthesis of theoretical and clinical knowledge is facilitated. Students are in a clinical practice area with a preceptor and may choose experiences from acute care, ambulatory care, mental health, community health, public health or rural health.

**GN 6915: Improvement Science for Quality and Safety (3 credit hours)**
Students analyze health care systems safety and quality competencies to lead improvement at microsystem. Nursing leadership in patient safety, quality management, interprofessional practice, and health are explored as avenues for improving healthcare delivery. Improvement science is explored as students prepare for transition into practice as Master’s prepared nurses effectively designing and implementing patient safety and quality improvement initiatives within the context of the interprofessional teams.

**GN 6920: Health Systems Leadership (3 credit hours)**
Development as leaders of health systems change at microsystem, mesosystem, and macrosystem levels is emphasized. Nursing leadership for patient safety, quality management, interprofessional practice, and health policy is explored as avenues for improving population health, disease management, and care delivery.

**GN 6921: Health Systems Leadership: Clinical Practicum (1 credit hour)**
Using the science of improvement, students apply relevant leadership and change theories in precepted clinical settings.

**GN 6930: Informatics and Technology (2 credit hours)**
Master’s prepared nurses utilize informatics and technologies across the health care delivery system. As knowledge workers, nurses determine appropriate use of data and healthcare technologies to support safe practice environments, cost-effectiveness, and evidence-based decision making. The use of informatics and technologies in areas such as basic competencies, ethical and legal parameters of information systems, data security, communication, data evaluation, and future directions are explored.

**GN 6940: Clinical Immersion II (3 credit hours): This course is a continuation of Clinical Immersion 1**
Transition to professional practice is emphasized. The synthesis of theoretical and clinical knowledge is facilitated. Students are in a clinical practice area with a preceptor and may choose experiences from acute care, ambulatory care, mental health, community health, public health or rural health.

**GN 6950: Advanced Professional Role (2 credit hours)**
Students are prepared for their transition into practice as a master’s prepared nurses. The MSN essentials are examined and related to current and future roles of the graduate. Role theory, transition theory and transformative learning theory are presented as frameworks for examining how nursing roles change, overlap, and at times, conflict.
GN 6951: Advanced Professional Role: Clinical Practicum (1 credit hour)
Precepted and simulated clinical activities to prepare students into transition to practice as master’s prepared nurse are provided. Students explore future roles and opportunities for a master’s prepared nurse.

GN 6960: Care Coordination/Chronic Disease Management (3 credit hours)
Nurses integrate care coordination and chronic care management into practice throughout the continuum of care as a focus on caring for populations. Students coordinate and manage the delivery of care for persons living with complex, chronic conditions within the interprofessional practice environment and across diverse health settings.

GN 6999: Clinical Implementation Project III (2 credit hours)
During Clinical Implementation Project III, students apply change theory and other appropriate theoretical frameworks, implementing and evaluating the next steps of the quality improvement.