

RN to MSN Degree Requirements

1. The RN to MSN option requires:
 - a. Fifty-eight designated semester hour credits in undergraduate non-nursing courses
 - b. Sixteen designated semester hour credits in undergraduate nursing courses
 - c. MSN-FNP Option: Forty-four semester hour credits in graduate nursing courses and three semester hour credits in a required elective (47 graduate credits)
 - d. The NE option requires a minimum of 40 semester credit hours, with 34 of those credits in residence.
2. All courses required in the program are open only to graduate students.
3. Master of Science in Nursing students must complete all clinical courses with a grade of “B” or higher and maintain an overall “B” (3.0). A student ineligible to continue because of poor grades or incongruent core performance standards, based upon special circumstances, may petition the Graduate School for reinstatement. A petition for reinstatement must be accompanied by statements of endorsement or non-endorsement from the coordinator of the master’s program and the dean of the School of Nursing. A student so reinstated will be dismissed if, again, an overall “B” average is not maintained, or if a grade below a “B” is earned.
4. A research activity consisting of a Nursing Research course (3 credits), and either a thesis (3 credits) or a master’s project (3 credits), is required. The master’s project emphasizes methods of implementing research findings to solve identified clinical problems or using research methods to evaluate advanced nursing practice. A scholarly presentation is required to disseminate findings from the research activity.
5. Upon completion of required courses in the RN-MSN Option, the student will be awarded 40 semester hours of placement credit for basic nursing education program.
6. The Oral Comprehensive Examination will be the thesis defense or the research project defense.
7. Each student must complete an approved course of study within five years of the date of the first registration for graduate study to be eligible for graduation.

Requirements for the RN to MSN option:

Non-Nursing Undergraduate Courses:

ENG 101 (3)

ENG 201 (3)

One course from each Basic Studies Categories:

History (3) (Choice)

Foreign Language (3) (Choice)

Literature (3) (Choice)

Philosophy (3) (PAR 101 or 110 or 115 or 205 or 211 or 215)

Fine Arts (3) (Choice)

CHM 101 (4)

BIO 204(4)

BIO 240 (4)

BIO 241 (4)

BIO 246 (4)

MAT (3) 111 or 115

PED 101 (2)

PSY 105 (3)

PSY 223 (3)

SOC (3) 105 or ECN (3) 125 or 221

Statistics (3) 210 or 215 or other acceptable course

Undergraduate non-nursing courses may be completed at UNCW or transferred from another school.

Undergraduate Nursing Courses

Undergraduate nursing courses must be completed at UNCW during the first year of the RN to MSN option.

RN-MSN Option

Full Time Course Sequence Required Course Sequence --- Hours

First Year - Fall Semester

NSG 250 Health Assessment	3
NSG 316 Contemporary Issues in Nursing Practice	5
NSG 503 Families in Rural and Urban Counties (FNP only)	<u>3</u>
Total Credit Hours	8-11

First year - Spring semester

NSG 332 Community Health	5
NSG 415 Research in Nursing	3
NSG 512 Advanced Pharmacotherapeutics (FNP and NE or Year two for MSN-NE)	<u>3</u>
Total Credit Hours	8-11

The student who successfully completes year-one of the RN-MSN curriculum is encouraged to continue years two and three as full-time students to achieve the Master's outcomes in three years. The student who completes the RN-MSN will achieve all of the equivalent academic content and program outcomes required for both the BS and the MSN. Therefore, at this point 40 semester hours of placement credit will be awarded for the basic nursing program.

Year two through completion of the RN-MSN must be planned with the academic advisor in order to meet the requirements for the FNP or the NE option.

Part-time Program

Students must complete the undergraduate and graduate nursing courses required in the first year of the RN to MSN option in one academic year. Students may enroll in the second and third years of the RN to MSN option (graduate nursing courses) part-time. The program must be completed in five years. Each student will work with his/her advisor in designing his/her part-time program of study. A copy of the suggested program of part-time study can be obtained from the School of Nursing, Student Services Office.