

Graduate Program IN NURSING



12/11

Master of Science in Nursing

Viterbo University's graduate program is specifically designed to be relevant and responsive to the needs of practicing professional nurses who wish to formally advance their knowledge and skills and seek an advanced nursing role. The program tracks are the family nurse practitioner, the nurse educator, the adult-gerontology nurse practitioner, and the newest track, advanced clinical nursing, which includes the clinical nurse leader and other related clinical role preparations. In addition, post-Master of Science in Nursing certificate programs are available in each track if space is available.

The Viterbo Difference

At Viterbo, the graduate nursing program is small and personal. The dedicated faculty members are well prepared in both their respective nursing roles and teaching. They also are very approachable and student-centered. The curriculum has been planned with working professionals and commuters in mind, with classes held one day a week in a blended online/on-campus delivery method. The **NEW** nursing building brings with it cutting edge technology and friendly, learner-centered spaces. The graduate nursing faculty are always up to date on the latest curricular guidelines and national nursing/health initiatives. The **NEW** curriculum is based on the expressed needs for all nursing professionals in advanced roles to have increased knowledge of informatics and health care technologies, quality improvement and safety, organizational and systems leadership, inter-professional collaboration for improving patient/population outcomes, and advocacy, as well as an advanced scientific and humanities-based background for practice (AACN, *The Essentials of Master's Education in Nursing*, 2011).

Master of Science in Nursing Program Mission

The graduate program prepares nursing leaders who are dedicated to improving the health outcomes of diverse populations through advanced knowledge and skills, ethical leadership, and faithful service within their chosen roles and settings.

For More Information www.viterbo.edu/msn



Graduate Outcomes

This program will prepare graduates who:

- practice in an expanded, specialized, and/or advanced practice role.
- affirm the dignity of life and human diversity.
- advocate for quality outcomes for individuals, families, populations, and systems.
- demonstrate ethical leadership and faithful service in their chosen roles and settings.
- facilitate the translation of research and evidence into practice.
- utilize technology to impact best practices.

Curriculum

The Master of Science in Nursing program is a 41–58 credit program offering core courses and a choice of four tracks that prepare graduates for a selected role and population focus. The degree can be accomplished in three years of study, with six credits a semester considered full-time. Total credits and clinical hours needed for graduation vary according to choice of tracks. Classes are normally scheduled one day a week. Clinical practicums require additional time and can be done in the student's own city or town if possible. Partially online courses reduce the number of campus visits necessary each semester.

The curriculum will prepare graduates for advanced nursing roles that enhance the standard of practice in a variety of settings. Depending on the plan of study chosen, graduates may function as nurse practitioners, educators, or in other leadership roles requiring expanded knowledge and skills, including the clinical nurse leader.

Cost/Financial Aid

Fee per credit is \$655 for 2011–12. Additional course fees may apply. Federal student loans may be available to those who qualify. Contact the Viterbo University financial aid office for more information at 608-796-3900. A limited number of scholarships may be available to continuing students.

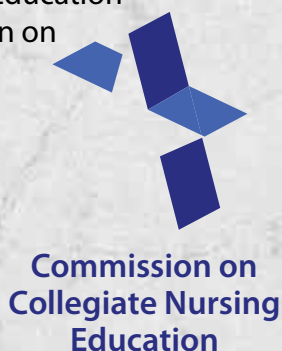
Certification

Graduates may be eligible for various certification exams depending on options chosen within the curriculum and individual clinical backgrounds. Graduates of the family nurse practitioner and adult-gerontology nurse practitioner tracks are eligible to apply for the national certification exams available for these specialties (AANP, ANCC). Graduates of the nurse educator track are eligible for the NLN CNE exam after they have completed the required professional role hours.

Graduates of the advanced clinical nursing track with clinical nurse leader preparation are eligible for the Commission on Nursing Certification CNL exam.

Accreditation

- The North Central Commission on Higher Education
- Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education



Application Procedure



Visit our Web page at www.viterbo.edu/msn to apply online, for instructions about additional documentation needed to complete the application, and for more specific curricular information. The first priority admission review date is Feb. 1. After that date, continued review of applications and acceptance will be ongoing until the limits are met or until June 1. Those interested in the nurse practitioner tracks are encouraged to have their materials in by the end of December if possible. After receipt of all admission documents a personal interview may be requested.

Non-degree seeking students with a BSN and students wishing the post-MSN certificate programs may be admitted for selected courses, if prerequisites are met, on a space available basis.

Admission Requirements for Degree-seeking Applicants

To apply for the Master of Science in Nursing Program, the applicant must have graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from an NLNAC or CCNE accredited school and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater on a 4.0 scale. Applicants with a lower GPA will be considered on an individual basis. Recent professional practice is preferred and recommended. Access to a highly functioning personal computer and a high speed Internet connection are necessary.

The following documents must be submitted:

- Completed application and non-refundable application fee
- Transcripts from undergraduate and any graduate education programs (see instructions on the application)
- Evidence of current unrestricted licensure as a registered nurse
- Official scores on Miller Analogies Test (MAT). MAT is waived for previous graduate credits (five). Information on taking the MAT exam in La Crosse can be obtained by calling the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse at 608-785-8074. Persons in other locations in Minnesota, Iowa, or Wisconsin should check www.viterbo.edu/msn for more information. Advance arrangements are necessary at all sites. A "Candidate Information" booklet for the MAT is available at www.milleranalogies.com. GRE may be substituted for the MAT if the student prefers.

NOTE: Additional requirements are necessary for the Adult-Gerontology and Family Nurse Practitioner tracks including the equivalent of two years of recent relevant direct patient care experience as an RN prior to the nurse practitioner specialty courses in the second year of the curriculum; positive interview and recommendations indicating potential for this role; potential opportunities for clinical practicum experiences within the student's home area; and the ability to commit to the blocked practicum hours necessary to optimize nurse practitioner role development. Applicants planning clinical practice in areas of health professional need and/or with underserved persons may be given priority.



Additional Prerequisite/Ongoing Requirements:

- Intermediate personal computer skills.
- The ability to use the Microsoft Windows environment, the Internet, and competency with Microsoft Word. PowerPoint experience is desirable.
- Undergraduate level physical assessment course or equivalent (college credit/CEU) prior to admission.
- Satisfactory completion of an introductory statistics course prior to admission.
- Satisfactory completion of an introductory research course prior to admission.
- Evidence of current CPR throughout program.
- The ability to meet both university and clinical agency health and personnel requirements, including specified immunizations and satisfactory caregiver required background checks, throughout program.

For further information regarding admission contact:

Bonnie Nesbitt, Ph.D., ANP-BC

Assistant Dean, Graduate Program Director
Viterbo University School of Nursing
900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-796-3688

or

Bobbi Hundt

Graduate Program Administrative Assistant
Viterbo University School of Nursing
900 Viterbo Drive
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-796-3671

Graduate Nursing Program Curricular Model



Full-time Faculty

- Silvana Richardson, Ph.D., RN, Dean
- Bonnie Nesbitt, Ph.D., ANP-BC, Assistant Dean, Graduate Nursing Program
- Judy Anderson, Ph.D., CCRN, CNE
- Karen Briggs, MSN, ANP-BC
- Julie Clements, MSN, ANP/FNP-BC
- Jackie Kuennen, Ed.D., ANP-BC
- Karen Briggs, MSN, ANP-BC



Apply online at
<https://www.viterbo.edu/applyonline.aspx>