

# Master of Science in Nursing



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPA

## Master of Science in Nursing

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner

The University of Tampa's Department of Nursing prepares advanced practice nurses for roles as primary care providers. Opportunities in a variety of settings strategically position nurse practitioners to enhance access to excellent health care for all. The program's nursing paradigm emphasizes the importance of holistic assessment, cultural congruency and consumer inclusion and collaboration in health care planning and delivery.

## A Degree in High Demand

Nursing is one of today's fastest-growing fields: the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that half a million new positions are expected to be created by 2018. As the nation's health care system undergoes a period of rapid change, advanced practice nurses will be in increasing demand as primary care providers and clinical leaders.

The University of Tampa's Department of Nursing is committed to helping meet this demand through its esteemed graduate nursing program. Designed for students who possess current licensure as registered nurses in the state of Florida, the MSN program offers two concentrations: family nurse practitioner and adult/gerontology nurse practitioner. The in-depth curriculum emphasizes clinical experience, critical thinking and leadership. Small classes promote active learning.

Students benefit from individualized attention from faculty and close interactions with their peers. A high priority is placed on the mentoring role of faculty, who are recognized internationally for their expertise and contributions. They enjoy collaborative relationships with experts in numerous health disciplines, providing MSN students and alumni with access to a valuable professional network.

Experienced preceptors assist students in fine-tuning essential skills for clinical practice. Preceptors are actively engaged in community practice settings and provide real-world lessons and advice about the scope of practice available to graduates. Students are prepared for primary care and clinical management roles in pediatrics, adult and family health, geriatrics, women's health, administration, informatics, education and other fields.

## Accreditation

UT nursing programs are accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, establishing that The University of Tampa meets national standards in curriculum, quality, faculty and achievement of learning outcomes.

The curricula are registered with the Florida Board of Nursing. The department holds membership in the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs in the National League for Nursing and in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

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## FACULTY highlights



**Cathy Kessenich**  
**DSN, ARNP**  
**Professor of Nursing**

Cathy Kessenich is a nationally recognized expert in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of postmenopausal osteoporosis. She is a nationally certified adult nurse practitioner and a fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. She maintains an active clinical practice in the community. Her numerous publications have appeared in a variety of nursing and medical journals.



**Suzanne Collins**  
**Ph.D., JD, MPH, BSN**  
**Professor of Nursing**

Suzanne Collins is a nurse-attorney with experience in the areas of medical and nursing malpractice, legal and bioethics education of health care practitioners, and consultation practice in licensure defense, forensic criminal defense, health law and policy, and health care risk management. Her particular areas of expertise focus on the intersections of law, ethics, health policy/economics and nursing.

## Admission Guidelines

Students can be admitted as full degree seeking status or pre-MSN status.

### Full degree seeking admission

- Bachelor's degree in nursing
- Current Florida RN license
- 3.0 GPA
- Applicants are required to meet one of the following requirements:
  - Earn a competitive score on the GRE and 4.0 on the analytical writing section
  - Complete NUR 600 Scholarly and Professional Communication in Nursing

### Pre-MSN admission

- Bachelor's degree in an area other than nursing
- Current Florida RN license
- 3.0 GPA
- Applicants are required to meet one of the following requirements:
  - Earn a competitive score on the GRE and 4.0 on the analytical writing section
  - Complete NUR 600 Scholarly and Professional Communication in Nursing
- Four required prerequisite courses\*
  - NUR 322 Contemporary Issues in Health Care
  - NUR 415 Nursing Leadership and Management
  - NUR 420 Principles in Community Health
  - NUR 432 Introduction to Nursing Research

*\*Students may complete these courses at another university with faculty permission.*

### Application requirements

- Application form and fee
- Copy of current Florida RN license
- Official transcripts from each university or college attended
- Two professional or academic references

- Professional résumé
- Personal statement
- Individual interview
- One year of recent clinic experience as a registered nurse is recommended
- International applicants must submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) if English is not their native language

### Required upon admission

- Proof of current Florida RN licensure
- Proof of liability insurance coverage at the advanced practice level
- Proof of current BCLS certification
- A physical exam and proof of current immunizations
- Results of annual T.B. skin test or chest X-ray
- Official background check

### Additional MSN criteria

- MSN students are required to demonstrate computer proficiency by completing an introductory computer course. Students who have not met this requirement prior to admission must complete ITM 603 or pass a waiver examination administered by UT.
- MSN students must provide evidence of successful completion of an undergraduate statistics course prior to enrollment in NUR 615 Nursing Research.
- Additional coursework may be required prior to full admission to the MSN program depending on the selected concentration.

### Transfer credit policy

A maximum of 9 graduate-level credit hours may be taken at other regionally accredited institutions. Students desiring transfer credits must submit a request for evaluation to the MSN program director.

# Preparation for Advanced Practice

## Clinical Resources

The University's active role within the community ensures expanded educational experiences in a wide range of clinical settings. UT nursing students benefit from formal affiliations with more than 120 clinical agencies and practices.

An advisory board of community leaders assists the Department of Nursing with the planning and evaluation of UT's nursing programs. Members represent agencies in the community, educational institutions, and nursing organizations. Input and feedback from employers of UT graduates help to invigorate the curriculum and to provide opportunity for enhancement and expansion to meet the needs of the community.



**Nursing Skills Lab:** The Department of Nursing has several learning laboratories, both on campus and at Tampa General Hospital, where nursing skills are taught and practiced. UT's lab simulates acute hospital and long-term care settings. The lab is also equipped with low to high fidelity manikins including "SimMan" and "SimBaby" and an electronic birthing manikin.

## MSN Curriculum

### Core Nursing Courses

- NUR 600 Scholarly and Professional Communication in Nursing
- NUR 601 Professional Issues and the Nurse Practitioner
- NUR 605 Theory Development in Nursing
- NUR 615 Nursing Research

### Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

- NUR 618 Advanced Health Assessment and Lab
- NUR 645 Clinical Pharmacology
- NUR 647 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- NUR 655 Advanced Pathophysiology

#### Clinical Courses:

- NUR 677 Clinical Management of Adults
- NUR 687 Clinical Management of Infants, Children and Adolescents
- NUR 697 Clinical Management of Women and Older Adults

- NUR 675 Practicum in Adult Primary Care
- NUR 676 Practicum in Older Adult Primary Care
- NUR 685 Practicum in Infants, Children, and Adolescents Primary Care
- NUR 686 Practicum in Women's Primary Care

### Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Concentration

- NUR 618 Advanced Health Assessment and Lab
- NUR 645 Clinical Pharmacology
- NUR 647 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- NUR 655 Advanced Pathophysiology

#### Clinical Courses:

- NUR 677 Clinical Management of Adults
- NUR 697 Clinical Management of Women and Older Adults
- NUR 675 Practicum in Adult Primary Care
- NUR 676 Practicum in Older Adult Primary Care
- NUR 686 Practicum in Women's Primary Care

*All MSN students must successfully complete an oral comprehensive exam before starting their practicum experience.*

*Practicum courses each require a minimum of 224 hours of supervised education practice.*



## alumni profile

### Hope Waterman BSN '09, MSN '12

"I chose UT for both my undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees because it combines large university sophistication with the feel of a small college. Located just blocks from a world-class trauma center, UT nursing students have access to outstanding internship and clinical opportunities. I had the chance to travel to Ecuador and the Dominican Republic on nursing service trips. These experiences with faculty continue to positively influence my nursing practice with cultural competence. My education at UT has given me the confidence to practice current, evidence-based nursing in an advanced role."



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## Michael and Michelle Franks, MSN '12

Former travel nurses Michael and Michelle Franks decided to enroll in UT's MSN program after spending two years serving in hospitals across the country. "We wanted something that would challenge us and allow us to be more a part of the decision process," said Michelle. The couple worked full time at Tampa General Hospital while completing their graduate degrees — a rigorous but rewarding experience, said Michelle. "The UT faculty are excellent, the clinical hours are higher than at other schools, you have oral boards ... I think they definitely push us harder. I'm very happy with all we've learned at UT."

## Student Organizations

In addition to the student organizations at The University of Tampa, nursing students have access to several professional and honorary organizations.

The **Student Nurse Organization (SNO)** participates in planning activities for the department and organizes community activities for students to provide services to underserved populations. In addition, the SNO plans the Pinning Ceremony each fall and spring.

Students are also encouraged to join the **Florida Nurses Association Student Nurse Organization**.

The **Delta Beta Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing** was founded in 1980 at the University of South Florida and rechartered in 2000 to include The University of Tampa. Delta Beta sponsors

an annual research program, scholarships and research grants, and promotes scholarly work in the community.

The **Nursing Alumni Association** provides an opportunity for students to maintain relations with the university and to network with colleagues.

## Scholarships

A variety of scholarships and other funding opportunities are available to graduate nursing students. These include:

- Florida League for Nursing Research Grant
- Florida League for Nursing Scholarship
- Gerrie Helwig Scholarship
- Federal Nurse Traineeships
- Graduate assistantships for part-time and full-time students

For more information, visit [www.ut.edu/graduatefinancialaid](http://www.ut.edu/graduatefinancialaid) or [www.ut.edu/msn/financialinformation](http://www.ut.edu/msn/financialinformation).



## About UT

The University of Tampa is a medium-sized, private university offering more than 150 areas of undergraduate study and 10 graduate programs. Richly diverse, UT is the school of choice for approximately 7,000 students from across the country and around the world.

Visit [www.ut.edu/nursing](http://www.ut.edu/nursing) for more information about UT and the Department of Nursing.

