# RN TO MSN ARTICULATION PROGRAM

Degree: Master of Science

Major: Nursing

Concentration: RN to MSN Program

Total Hours: 148-157

The RN to MSN Articulation Program is for Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Degree (AASN or ADN) or diploma nurses seeking a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). The JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing offers the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree in both administration and education concentrations. Licensed Registered Nurses (RNs) in the articulation program and graduate program meet course requirements through didactic courses, laboratory activities, practicum, and projects. The RN to MSN program awards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree upon completion of the undergraduate portion of the program. After applying for graduation and upon successful completion of NURS 4580 Synthesis in Professional Nursing (Capstone) course, RN to MSN students will receive 31 escrowed credit hours for foundational nursing courses awarded in acknowledgement of validated competencies demonstrated through RN licensure and prior accredited associate-level nursing education.

## MSN Program Goals and Outcomes

a. Goal: Program demonstrates evidence of students' achievement in completing the nursing program.
Outcome: 15% of students will graduate within 100% the length of the program.

b. Goal: The program demonstrates evidence of graduates' achievement in job placement.
Outcome: 80% of those seeking employment will be involved in role-related professional practice at 6-12 months post-graduation.

c. Goal: The program demonstrates evidence of students' achievement of each End of Program Student Learning Outcome/role-specific professional competency.
Outcomes:
Student Learning Outcome (SLO) Indirect Method: 75% of MSN graduates are expected to respond, "agree or "strongly agree" (4.0 or higher) to each end of program SLO.
Student Learning Outcome Direct Method: All MSN graduates are expected to achieve end of program SLOs by a combined score of 75% or higher on the culminating Synthesis Project using a standardized rubric.

d. Goal: The program demonstrates evidence of students' achievement of role-specific professional competencies.
Outcomes:
Professional Competency Indirect Method: 75% of MSN graduates are expected to respond "agree" or "strongly agree" (4.0 or higher) to each end-of-program role-specific professional competency by graduation.
Professional Competency Direct Method: All MSN graduates are expected to achieve a score of 75% or higher on the Oral Presentation RSNC using a standardized rubric.

## MSN End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Nurse Educator or Nurse Administrator Programs of the MSN program will demonstrate the following program outcomes:

a. Analyze issues in the context of healthcare policy and finance, including economic, legal, and political factors, to address the healthcare needs of a diverse society.

b. Analyze strategies to improve healthcare outcomes equitably across the health continuum for diverse populations in a global setting.

c. Utilize research methods, evidence-based practice, and informatics to investigate problems, evaluate outcome data, promote changes, promote safety and health outcomes, and improve nursing practice.

d. Translate current and emerging evidence from nursing theoretical frameworks and other sciences to guide decision-making that demonstrates best practices.

e. Demonstrate advanced nursing practice roles from professional, organizational, and personal perspectives within an ethical and legal framework.

f. Communicate effectively using multiple modalities with diverse individuals, groups, and populations in a global health care environment.

g. Contribute to system-level planning, decision-making, and evaluation for disasters and public health emergencies.

## Admission

RN to MSN applications are processed through the common application - ApplyTexas (https://www.applytexas.org/). Follow the instructions carefully so that the correct major is chosen (Registered Nurse to MSN-ONLINE DEGREE). If the wrong major is selected, there can be a delay in the admission decision.

Admission to Lamar University is required as well as admission to the RN-MSN Articulation Program in the Dishman School of Nursing. Official transcripts from other colleges or universities must be evaluated by Lamar University.

To be considered for admission to the RN-MSN Program, the student must:

a. Have an Associate of Applied Science in Nursing Degree (AASN or ADN) or diploma in nursing from an approved program.

b. Apply and be admitted to Lamar University.

c. Current unencumbered RN license to practice professional nursing in the United States or an approved U.S. Territory.

d. Must have a "C" or better in ENGL 1301 Composition I, ENGL 1302 Composition II, MATH 1314 College Algebra, MATH 1313 Mathematics for Allied Health, or MATH 1332 Contemporary Mathematics I, MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods/PSYC 2317 Introduction to Statistical Methods, BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I, BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II, BIOL 2421 Microbiology for Science Majors , PSYC 2315 Lifespan Development, and NUTR 1322 Introductory Nutrition to be accepted into the program.

e. Overall grade point average of 3.0 or above.

If the grade point average is between 2.85 and 2.99, students may be admitted on a conditional basis, provided:

a. Students will be allowed to enroll in the first nine (9) credit hours of nursing courses.

b. Students must pass each course with a "B" or better to progress in the RN-MSN Program. See the Lamar University Graduate Catalog for more information regarding GPA status and academic probation.

c. If the student is unsuccessful in achieving a "B" or better, he/she will be removed from the Dishman School of Nursing RN-MSN Program.

The Admission Process is as follows:

a. The student should follow the instructions for the common application ApplyTexas (https://www.applytexas.org/), selecting Online Campus, then the correct degree code (Registered Nurse to MSN -- ONLINE DEGREE), and the semester in which the student wants to enroll.

b. Send official transcripts to the,
Lamar University Admissions Office
P.O. Box 10009
Beaumont, Texas, 77710.

c. The Lamar University Admissions Office will then determine the student's admission status and what courses will transfer. Admissions will send an email with the decision regarding the student's acceptance to Lamar University.

d. The Dishman School of Nursing will be notified after admission is complete.

e. The Dishman School of Nursing will review the students' files and transcripts to determine if the student meets the admission requirements for the RN-MSN Program.

f. Accepted students will receive a packet by email from the Dishman School of Nursing providing them with details regarding their degree and the requirements necessary to progress in the track. Students will need to review the packet and their degree plan through their degree audit on Self-Service Banner.

g. After students have reviewed the acceptance packet, they must email their advisor (dept_rnbsn@lamar.edu) confirming their acceptance and schedule an advising appointment.

## Curriculum Plan for RN to MSN Program

Students are required to begin with MSNC 5310 Theoretical Foundations as their first nursing course in this program and may be taken with or before NURS 4316 Comprehensive Holistic Health Assessment. NURS 4316 Comprehensive Holistic Health Assessment has 3 pre-requisites: BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I and BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II and Microbiology (BIOL 2420 Microbiology or BIOL 2421 Microbiology for Science Majors). The remaining BSN-level courses (NURS 4540 Nursing Practice: Care of Communities, NURS 4550 Nursing Practice: Leadership and Management in the Healthcare System, and NURS 4620 Nursing Practice: Compromised Multiple Health States) and MSNC 5311 Nursing Research must be completed before enrolling in MSNC 5319 Advanced Nursing Issues and Health Policy. Statistics (PSYC 2317 Introduction to Statistical Methods or MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods) must be taken before MSNC 5311 Nursing Research. Students are required to earn a passing grade in each nursing course while following the sequence identified for the program of study.

The final, capstone course for the BSN portion of the program is MSNC 5319 Advanced Nursing Issues and Health Policy, and upon successful completion of the course, students apply to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (provided all other course requirements are complete) before continuing to the remaining graduate-level nursing courses in the program.

Students are required to consult with an RN-MSN Articulation Program Advisor (dept_rnbsn@lamar.edu) before each semester to discuss the best options for their academic progress. Students may enroll on a full time or part-time basis.

## Progression in the RN to MSN Program

The grading scale for nursing courses in the RN-MSN Program is as follows:

- A= 100-90  Excellent
- B = 89-80  Good
- C = 79-75  Satisfactory
- D = 74-60  Failure
- F = 59-0  Failure

To remain in the RN-MSN Program , students must earn a grade of "B" or above in the following courses:

- MSNC 5310 Theoretical Foundations
- MSNC 5311 Nursing Research
- MSNC 5319 Advanced Nursing Issues and Health Policy

Students are required to earn a grade of "C" or better in each of the following courses:

- NURS 4316 Comprehensive Holistic Health Assessment
- NURS 4540 Nursing Practice: Care of Communities
- NURS 4550 Nursing Practice: Leadership and Management in the Healthcare System
- NURS 4620 Nursing Practice: Compromised Multiple Health States

Students in the RN-MSN program must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. RN-MSN Program students with GPAs between 2.0 and 2.99 will no longer qualify for the RN-MSN Program buy may continue in the RN-BSN Program if they meet the RN-BSN progression policy requirements.

In order to progress in the RN-MSN Program students are required to:

- Maintain a current unencumbered nursing license
- Complete a criminal background screening
- Maintain Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification
- Submit to a physical exam completed by their physician
- Provide documentation of current immunizations
- Obtain nursing liability insurance

These requirements are the responsibility of the student and are not included in Lamar University's tuition and fees.

See the Articulation Student Handbook for specific policies on program progression. The handbook is available on the Dishman School of Nursing website (https://www.lamar.edu/nursing-health-professions/nursing/student-success/online-forms-bsn-application-msn.html).

## Escrow Courses for RN to MSN Students

RN-MSN students will be awarded 31 hours of undergraduate nursing credits via escrow, which will be added to the student's transcript once all nursing coursework from the BSN portion of the curriculum has been completed.

# Transfer Credits

An official transcript evaluation by Lamar University is required for all transfer credits. Transfer credits that are not equivalent to Lamar University credits must be evaluated on an individual basis by the appropriate department. Credit earned at other regionally accredited institutions will be considered for transfer to Lamar University based on the policies outlined in the Transfer Credit Evaluation (https://www.lamar.edu/catalog/undergraduate-admissions/#transfereval) section of the Lamar University Undergraduate Admissions Process and Requirement section of this catalog for more information. Transfer of graduate-level credits is addressed under the Academic Policies of the College of Graduate Studies (https://www.lamar.edu/catalog/graduate-academic-policies/#acadpol) of the Graduate Academic Policies and Procedures section of this catalog. Technical credits will not be accepted by the Dishman School of Nursing.  Please speak with an advisor regarding questions about technical credit courses.

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| **General Education Core Curriculum** | | |
| *Communication* | | |
| ENGL 1301 | Composition I | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| COMM 1315 | Public Speaking I | |
| COMM 1321 | Business and Prof Speech | |
| FREN 1311 | Beginning French I | |
| SPAN 1311 | Beginning Spanish I | |
| *Mathematics* | | |
| MATH 1332 | Contemporary Mathematics I [A] | 3 |
| *Life and Physical Sciences* | | |
| BIOL 2401 | Anatomy and Physiology I | 4 |
| BIOL 2402 | Anatomy and Physiology II | 4 |
| *Language, Philosophy and Culture* | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| ENGL 2300 | Ethics and Literature | |
| ENGL 2322 | British Literature | |
| ENGL 2326 | American Literature | |
| ENGL 2331 | World Literature | |
| ENGL 2376 | African-American Literature | |
| *Creative Arts* | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| ARTS 1301 | Art Appreciation | |
| ARTS 1303 | Art History I | |
| COMM 1375 | Film Appreciation | |
| COSC 1324 | The Art of Computer Game Development | |
| DANC 2303 | Dance Appreciation | |
| MUSI 1306 | Music Appreciation | |
| MUSI 1310 | History of Rock and Roll | |
| PHIL 1330 | Arts and Ideas | |
| THEA 1310 | Theatre Appreciation | |
| *American History* | | |
| Select one from: | | 6 |
| HIST 1301 | U S History I 1763-1877 | |
| HIST 1302 | U S History II Since 1877 | |
| HIST 2301 | Texas History | |
| *Government/Political Science* | | |
| POLS 2301 | Intro to American Government I | 3 |
| POLS 2302 | Intro/American Government II | 3 |
| *Social/Behavioral Sciences* | | |
| Select one of the following: | | 3 |
| BULW 1370 | Business Environment and Public Policy | |
| ECON 1301 | Principles and Policies | |
| ECON 2301 | Principles of Economics I Macro | |
| ECON 2302 | Principles of Economics II Micro | |
| INEN 2373 | Engineering Economics | |
| PSYC 2301 | General Psychology | |
| SOCI 1301 | Introduction to Sociology | |
| *Component Area Option* | | |
| ENGL 1302 | Composition II | 3 |
| MATH 1342 | Elementary Statistical Methods | 3 |
| or PSYC 2317 | Introduction to Statistical Methods | |
| **Required Courses for Undergraduate Major** | | |
| *Additional Required Courses* | | |
| BIOL 2421 | Microbiology for Science Majors [B] | 4 |
| NUTR 1322 | Introductory Nutrition | 3 |
| PSYC 2315 | Lifespan Development | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Elective | | 3 |
| Elective | | 1 |
| *R.N. to M.S.N. Transition Courses* | | |
| MSNC 5310 | Int Theories and Sch Writing [1] | 3 |
| MSNC 5311 | Nursing Research | 3 |
| MSNC 5319 | Adv Nsg Issues & Health Policy [2] | 3 |
| *B.S.N. Completion Courses* | | |
| NURS 4316 | Comprehensive Holistic Health Assessment | 3 |
| NURS 4620 | Nursing Practice: Compromised Multiple Health States | 6 |
| NURS 4540 | Nursing Practice: Care of Communities | 5 |
| NURS 4550 | Nursing Practice: Leadership and Management in the Healthcare System | 5 |
| *Escrowed Nursing Courses [3]* | | |
| NURS 3540 | Concepts of Professional Nursing | 5 |
| NURS 3241 | Practicum: Concepts of Professional Nursing | 2 |
| NURS 3110 | Nursing Simulation Lab I | 1 |
| NURS 3330 | Principles of Pharmacology | 3 |
| NURS 3520 | Care of Adults | 5 |
| NURS 3221 | Practicum: Care of Adults | 2 |
| NURS 3320 | Care of Behavioral Health Client | 3 |
| NURS 3231 | Practicum: Care of Behavioral Health Client | 2 |
| NURS 3112 | Nursing Simulation Lab II | 1 |
| NURS 4560 | Care of the Parent-Child Family | 5 |
| NURS 4261 | Practicum: Parent-Child Family | 2 |
| **Required Courses for Graduate Major** | | |
| *M.S.N. Core Courses* | | |
| MSNC 5395 | Evidence-Based Practice I | 3 |
| MSNC 5396 | Evidence-Based Practice II | 3 |
| *Concentration* | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Select one concentration | | 19-22 |
| **Total Hours** | | **145-148** |

A  Though MATH 1332 is preferred, MATH 1313, MATH 1314, 2311, 2312 & 2413 will also be accepted

B  BIOL 2420 will also be accepted

[1]  Must be **first** nursing course in BSN degree.

[2]  Must be **last** nursing course in BSN degree.

[3]  Escrowed credit will be awarded in the last semester of the undergraduate portion of this track.


**Note:** Must have a "C" or better in ENGL 1301 Composition I, ENGL 1302 Composition II, MATH 1313 Mathematics for Allied Health, MATH 1314 College Algebra, or MATH 1332 Contemporary Mathematics I, MATH 1342 Elementary Statistical Methods or PSYC 2317 Introduction to Statistical Methods, BIOL 2401 Anatomy and Physiology I, BIOL 2402 Anatomy and Physiology II, BIOL 2420 Microbiology or BIOL 2421 Microbiology for Science Majors, PSYC 2315 Lifespan Development, NUTR 1322 Introductory Nutrition, and all RN-MSN core courses to be accepted and progress in the program.

## Concentrations

### Nursing Administration

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| MSNA 5221 | Nurse Leader Practicum I | 2 |
| MSNA 5232 | Nurse Leader Practicum II | 2 |
| MSNA 5300 | Business Princip Nurse Leaders | 3 |
| MSNA 5320 | Role Development Nurse Leaders | 3 |
| MSNA 5321 | Strategic Plan in Health Deliv | 3 |
| MSNA 5323 | Health Information Systems for Nurse Leaders | 3 |
| MSNA 5331 | Qual Res Mgmt Nurse Leaders | 3 |
| MSNA 5344 | Pop Health Adv Nursing Roles | 3 |
| **Total Hours** | | **22** |

### Nursing Education

| Code | Title | Hours |
|---|---|---|
| MSNE 5350 | Role Development, Learning Theory and Teaching Strategies for Nursing Educators | 3 |
| MSNE 5330 | Adv Assessmnt Nurs Educators | 3 |
| MSNE 5351 | Curriculum Design | 3 |
| MSNE 5254 | Nurse Educator Practicum I | 2 |
| MSNE 5352 | Measurement & Evaluation | 3 |
| MSNE 5255 | Nurse Educator Practicum II | 2 |
| MSNE 5349 | Adv Patho for Nurse Educators | 3 |
| MSNE 5356 | Adv Pharma for Nurse Educators | 3 |
| **Total Hours** | | **22** |

## Other

Upon completion of required undergraduate courses, students may apply to receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing before progression to the remaining graduate courses in their concentration of choice, Nursing Education or Nursing Administration.

## Hours

Undergraduate - 120 Hours

Graduate - 37 Hours