The School of Nursing offers a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree program that prepares nurses for advanced practice roles in today's complex health care systems. The program combines knowledge and skills from clinical and health care systems practice to prepare graduates to provide and manage care for individuals and groups of patients, with an emphasis on understanding a patient's clinical progression, care transitions and processes, evidence-based practice, quality improvement and patient safety. Nurses holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and RNs with an associate's degree or diploma in nursing can apply to all MSN options.

**MSN Options**

**Nurse Practitioner Options:**
- Adult/Gerontology–Primary Care
- Adult/Gerontology–Oncology-Primary Care
- Family
- Pediatric-Primary Care
- Psychiatric-Mental Health

**Health Care Systems Options:**
- Administration
- Clinical Nurse Leader
- Education
- Informatics
- Outcomes Management

**RN to MSN Pathway**

RNs with an associate's degree or diploma in nursing can apply to the MSN program. The nursing component of the RN to MSN pathway includes three undergraduate nursing courses as well as graduate credits. RN to MSN students take courses in the professional, research and clinical cores as well as nursing leadership and education.

**Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education**

The education certificate is open to students enrolled in the MSN, PMSN, DNP and PhD Programs. To receive the certificate, students must complete 9 credits of education courses (3 courses). Those who complete the education option will meet the NC Board of Nursing requirements for education contact hours and be eligible to take the Certified Nurse Educator exam after graduation.

**Admissions Information**

**Application Opens:** August *
**Deadline:** December *
**Program Matriculates:** Fall

*refer to [http://nursing.unc.edu/admissions/applications/](http://nursing.unc.edu/admissions/applications/) for specific dates each year

Applicants must possess a minimum of one year of recent (within last 3 years) clinical work experience, as a Registered Nurse by the date of matriculation. The following specialties have additional requirements:

- **Psychiatric/Mental Health (PMH):** applicants should have the equivalent of 6 months within the past 3 years of full-time clinical work experience as a Registered Nurse in an acute or community setting that serves psychiatric illness/substance abuse
- **Pediatric (PNP):** applicants should have a minimum of 6 months of the most recent 12 months of full- time clinical work experience as a Registered Nurse with pediatric patients in a neonatal or pediatric inpatient setting, or community setting that serves children and families

The application requires:

- Transcripts from all colleges attended
- Three letters of recommendation
- A thoughtfully prepared professional statement
- Current resume
- Copy of RN license

**BSN to MSN Prerequisites**
- Statistics (3 credits) with a grade of C or better within 10 years of matriculation

**RN to MSN Prerequisites (51 college credits)**
- English Composition (3 credits)
- Humanities (9 credits)
- Biological Sciences, including A&P (12 credits)
- Other Sciences (6 credits)
- Social Sciences (12 credits)
- Human Growth & Development (3 credits)
- Statistics (3 credits) within 10 years of matriculation
- Elective (3 credits)
# Master of Science in Nursing

BSN to MSN & RN to MSN pathways

nursing.unc.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner</th>
<th>Family Nurse Practitioner</th>
<th>Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care</th>
<th>Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner</th>
<th>Health Care Systems (all options)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents, young adults, adults and elderly across trajectory of health/illness</td>
<td>Primary care of families across the lifespan, community/health care settings, and health-illness continuum</td>
<td>Primary care of infants, children and adolescents (birth to 21 years old)</td>
<td>Specialized care of persons with mental health problems across the life span. Includes individuals, groups and families as well as underserved groups</td>
<td>Coordination and integration of services for individuals, groups and families across the life span</td>
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<tr>
<th>Full-time study (Limited availability of part-time study)</th>
<th>BSN to MSN: 4 semesters, 1 intervening summer</th>
<th>BSN to MSN: 4 semesters, 1 intervening summer</th>
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<th>BSN to MSN: 4 semesters, 1 intervening summer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RN to MSN: 6 semesters, 1 intervening summer</td>
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<tr>
<th>Required credits and estimated clinical hours</th>
<th>46 credits; 50 credits for oncology focus</th>
<th>44 credits</th>
<th>41 credits</th>
<th>49 credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>600 clinical hours</td>
<td>600 clinical hours</td>
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<td>600 clinical hours</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Examples of Employment Settings | Community-based health departments and primary care practices, independent or private practice, managed care organizations, internal medicine and other specialty practices, geriatric practice and long-term care facilities, student health, corporate health | Community-based health departments and primary care practices, corporate setting, health maintenance organizations, private practice, rural and underserved areas | Health maintenance organizations, newborn nurseries, pediatric private practice, schools, specialty/chronic illness settings | Behavioral health clinics, emergency departments, home mental health, nursing homes, managed care agencies, outpatient clinics, physician's offices, primary care settings, private practice, psychiatric hospitals | Acute care and specialty hospitals, ambulatory care, community health, corporate settings, long-term care, managed care organizations, nursing education, academic settings |

* Offered when sufficient number of students and resources are available. Open to all nurse practitioner areas that prepare graduates to care for adults.

## Financial Aid

A variety of funding options are available for those pursuing graduate nursing education. Find out about merit-based scholarships, student research support, employment opportunities and other sources of support at [http://nursing.unc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/for-msn-applicants/](http://nursing.unc.edu/admissions/financial-aid/for-msn-applicants/).

## About the Director

**JENNIFER D’AURIA** received her PhD in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin and an MSN from the University of Colorado at Denver with a major in pediatric ambulatory care (PNP) and a minor in teaching and curriculum development. Her research focuses on chronic illness in children.