

Department of Nursing

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) graduate program at Texas A&M University-Kingsville is designed to prepare graduates for a dynamic career in nursing education.

The MSN degree provides a foundation for graduate level nursing practice.

- **Nurse Educator:** This MSN Nurse Educator track focuses on the core skills identified by the National League for Nursing and needed by the nurse educator for academia, professional and staff development or patient education. Students learn the basics of curriculum design, instructional strategies, and assessment of learning.

Program Admission

Admission to the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program at Texas A&M University–Kingsville is competitive and based on a holistic review of academic achievement, professional experience, leadership potential, and personal qualities that reflect a strong commitment to excellence, equity, and service.

Requirements

MSN Applicants

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from an ACEN or CCNE-accredited nursing program.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in the last 60 credit hours of undergraduate coursework.
- Applicants with a GPA between 2.75–2.99 may be considered for conditional admission through holistic review.

All Applicants

- Official transcripts required from all post-secondary institutions attended.

Licensure and Professional Standing

- Current, unencumbered RN license in Texas or a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) state.
- At least one year of professional nursing experience preferred.

Holistic Review Components

- Professional Statement
 - A 500–750-word essay describing professional goals, motivation for graduate study, leadership or teaching interests, and alignment with program outcomes.
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Two professional references (academic faculty, nurse leaders, or supervisors) addressing leadership potential, clinical competence, and readiness for advanced study.
- Resume/Curriculum Vitae
 - Must include academic history, certifications, leadership roles, community service, and professional memberships.
- Interview (as requested)
 - May be required to assess professional readiness and fit for program outcomes.

Technology and Writing Proficiency

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Proficiency in academic and professional writing (APA expected).
- Competence in digital literacy and communication tools, including email, word processing, and virtual conferencing.
- Familiarity with evidence-based practice databases and research methods is preferred.

Additional Considerations

Preference may be given to applicants who live and work in the TAMUK Service region and who demonstrate the following:

- Commitment to serving rural and underserved communities, consistent with the TAMUK mission.
- Active participation in professional organizations (e.g., ANA/TNA, NLN, AONL, Sigma Theta Tau).
- Specialty certification or documented clinical excellence.

Notification of Admission Decisions

All applicants will be notified via TAMUK email and/or Nursing CAS portal regarding their admission status (admitted, denied, incomplete, or waitlisted). Admission offers must be accepted by the stated deadline or the offer will be forfeited.

Progression and Continuation

To remain in good standing and progress through the MSN program, students must:

- Maintain a minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 each semester.
- Earn a grade of B (80%) or higher in all graduate nursing courses.
- Uphold professional conduct, ethical practice, and academic integrity consistent with Department of Nursing standards.
- Maintain current RN licensure, CPR certification, immunizations, and health insurance coverage.
- Complete all clinical and practicum requirements, including background checks, drug screens, and site onboarding documentation.

Certificate and Degree Completion

Upon completion, graduates will receive a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN). Graduates are eligible for relevant national certifications such as NLN Certified Nurse Educator (CNE); Certified Nurse Educator, Clinical (CNEcl); or Certified Nurse Educator, Novice (CNEen) or Nursing Professional Development (NPD-BC).

Nursing (NURS)

NURS 5210 Internship 2 SCH (0-2-0)

This culminating practicum provides the opportunity for students to integrate advanced nursing competencies in real-world settings. Students engage in preceptor-guided, practice-based learning experiences aligned with their specialization and career goals. Emphasis is placed on role development, evidence-based practice, systems thinking, and professional identity formation. Nurse educator students implement evidence-based nursing care and gain teaching and evaluation experience. Healthcare leader students implement quality, safety, and staffing strategies to apply leadership principles in multi-level systems. May be repeated for credit. 4 credits are required for the MSN degree.

NURS 5300 Leadership & Role Development 3 SCH (3-0-0)

Explores contemporary nursing leadership roles, emphasizing systems leadership in direct care and academic settings, interprofessional collaboration, ethical comportment, and professional identity. Students engage in strategies that foster team effectiveness, mutual respect, and the advancement of nursing's mission to society. The development of advocacy, policy influence, and leadership capacity as leaders of healthcare delivery is a core component.

NURS 5301 Advanced Pathophysiology 3 SCH (3-0-0)

Provides a systems-based approach to understanding the pathophysiological processes underlying disease across the lifespan. Emphasis is placed on foundational knowledge of genetics, disease biology, and organ system alterations that inform clinical reasoning, diagnostic decision-making, and the development of evidence-based care plans tailored to individual patient needs.

NURS 5302 Advanced Pharmacology 3 SCH (3-0-0)

Provides advanced knowledge in pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and pharmacotherapeutics of drug classes used in the management of common health conditions. Emphasis is placed on clinical decision-making, safe prescribing practices, legal and ethical considerations, and patient education across the lifespan.

NURS 5303 Advanced Physical Assessment 3 SCH (3-0-0)

Students refine skills in comprehensive health assessment across the lifespan. The course includes advanced techniques in history taking, diagnostic reasoning, and interpretation of clinical findings to support differential diagnosis and care planning. Clinical judgment and evidence-informed decision-making are emphasized.

NURS 5304 Healthcare Informatics & AI 3 SCH (3-0-0)

This course introduces students to the principles and practical applications of health informatics and artificial intelligence (AI) in nursing. Students will examine technologies that support data-driven decision-making, quality improvement, ethical use of health data, and evidence-based care. Emphasis is placed on using informatics and AI to improve client outcomes, enhance system efficiencies, support interprofessional collaboration, and ensure ethical and safe patient care across healthcare, academic, and policy settings.

NURS 5307 Policy & Ethics in Nursing 3 SCH (3-0-0)

Explores ethical principles, health policy, and advocacy as foundations for advanced nursing practice in leadership and education for shaping healthcare systems. Students examine the role of the advanced practice nurse in problem identification and agenda setting, policy development and analysis, implementation, and evaluation by considering important social, cultural, ethical, political, and economic factors. The course supports development of advocacy strategies, systems thinking, and knowledge of legal and regulatory frameworks on policy development affecting advanced nursing roles.

NURS 5308 Evidence-Based Research Nursing 3 SCH (3-0-0)

This course emphasizes the integration of research and evidence into nursing practice. Students engage with methods for appraising literature, developing clinical questions, conducting scholarly inquiry, and applying evidence to improve educational and/or patient care outcomes. Nursing theory, ethical research conduct, data analysis, and dissemination strategies are explored.

NURS 5310 Inst Strategies in Nursing Ed **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Prepares nurse educators to design, implement, and evaluate innovative teaching strategies in academic and clinical settings. Students explore principles of adult learning, education theory, simulation, instructional design, curriculum alignment, and culturally responsive pedagogy. Emphasis is placed on fostering inclusive, learner-centered environments.

NURS 5311 Curriculum Development **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Prepares nurse educators to design, implement, and evaluate curricula in academic and clinical settings and in professional development. The course covers program outcomes, accreditation standards, learning objectives, content sequencing, and integration of informatics and policy competencies. Emphasis is placed on aligning curricula with competencies, regulatory standards, and evolving trends in healthcare education.

NURS 5312 Eval Methods in Nursing Educ **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Addresses the principles and methods of evaluating learning outcomes and teaching effectiveness in academic nursing education and professional development. Topics include education evaluation theory, test construction, formative and summative assessment, program evaluation, and the use of metrics to promote accountability and continuous improvement in education and practice settings.

NURS 5320 Org Leadership Strategic Mgmt **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Explores leadership theories, organizational behavior, and strategic management principles for healthcare leaders. Emphasis is on change management, innovation, interprofessional collaboration, and aligning organizational strategy with population needs. Students reflect on their professional identity and growth as nurse leaders.

NURS 5321 Healthcare Finance & Economics **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Introduces financial and economic principles applied to healthcare organizations and systems. Students explore budgeting, reimbursement, cost-effectiveness, and the economic forces shaping healthcare delivery. Emphasis is placed on resource allocation, equity, and the nurse leader's role in ensuring financial sustainability while advocating for quality and accessible care.

NURS 5322 Quality & Safety Systems **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Emphasizes evidence-based quality improvement, patient safety science, and systems thinking. Students analyze tools, models, and strategies for building a culture of safety and improving outcomes at the system level. Regulatory, ethical, and policy perspectives are integrated with practical approaches for measuring, reporting, and improving care quality.

NURS 5323 Coaching Teams: Nurse Leaders **3 SCH (3-0-0)**

Examines the integration of professional coaching and mentoring methodologies in the role of the nurse leader. Students will analyze the theoretical foundations of coaching, emotional intelligence, and relational leadership as essential competencies for driving nurse professional development, improving team performance, and fostering a culture of accountability and resilience in complex healthcare systems. Emphasis is placed on using coaching to facilitate evidence-based change and achieve organizational quality outcomes.

Graduate Programs

- Nursing, M.S.N.

Bridge (Leveling) Courses

The following coursework is for RNs (ADNs) with a bachelor's degree in another discipline. The coursework is required for Texas Board of Nursing compliance.

Code	Title	Semester Credit Hours
NURS 3350	Nursing Research & EBP	3
NURS 4315	Population Health Nursing-RNs	3
NURS 4325	Leadership-Management for RNs	3
NURS 4350	Capstone: EB Nursing Practice	3
Total Semester Credit Hours		12

Planned Course Offerings

This section provides a comprehensive list of graduate courses offered by the Department of Nursing, along with a two-year schedule indicating when each course is expected to be available. Please note that course offerings and scheduling are subject to change based on faculty availability and student demand. To ensure steady progress toward degree completion, students are strongly encouraged to work closely with their advisor to develop a personalized academic plan.

Nursing (NURS)

Course	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Fall 2027	Spring 2028
NURS 5210			X	
NURS 5300		X		X

NURS 5301	X	X
NURS 5302 ¹		
NURS 5303		X
NURS 5304 ¹		
NURS 5307	X	X
NURS 5308	X	X
NURS 5310		X
NURS 5311		X
NURS 5312		X
NURS 5320		
NURS 5321		
NURS 5322		
NURS 5323		

¹ This course is available during the summer term only.

Marketable Skills

Texas A&M University-Kingsville is dedicated to equipping graduate and doctoral students with the advanced marketable skills necessary for professional and academic excellence beyond the university setting. These skills encompass a range of high-level interpersonal, analytical, and applied competencies that are sought after in today's competitive workforce.

Our graduate programs are structured to cultivate these capabilities through rigorous academic inquiry, experiential learning, faculty-mentored research, professional internships, and opportunities for scholarly and community engagement.

Below are the marketable skills cultivated through the department's graduate academic program.

- **Advanced Clinical Practice:** Health assessment, diagnostic reasoning, pharmacology, care planning, and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Education & Teaching:** Instructional design, curriculum development, teaching, assessment, simulation, and program evaluation.
- **Communication & Collaboration:** Written and oral communication, teamwork, facilitation, coaching, mentoring, and active listening.
- **Critical Thinking & Analysis:** Research appraisal, data analysis, policy analysis, problem-solving, and quality improvement.
- **Evidence-Based Practice:** Applying research and outcomes data to improve healthcare and education.
- **Leadership & Professionalism:** Advocacy, ethical decision-making, accountability, resilience, and professional identity.