

# Master of Science in Nursing

The WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program and the MSN in Advanced Care Management and Leadership Program are professional degree programs that build on the background of experienced registered nurses to prepare to function as advanced caregivers in a variety of leadership roles in the emerging world of collaborative health care.

Housed in the WellStar College of Health and Human Services, the MSN programs maintain close community ties with a variety of health care agencies and providers.

## General Requirements for Admission to the MSN Programs

MSN admission requires:

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing from a nationally accredited institution with a satisfactory GPA of at least 3.0.
2. A minimum of three years full-time professional experience as a registered nurse as documented in a professional résumé. **This experience must have occurred within the last five years and have involved direct patient care.** Preference will be given to those candidates with a greater amount of professional experience.

3. Current RN licensure in the state of Georgia.
4. A minimum combined total score of 800 in the verbal and quantitative categories and a minimum 3.5 in the analytical writing category on the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination. (Applicants submitting scores for the GRE taken prior to October 1, 2002, must submit a minimum total score of 1350 on the verbal, quantitative, and analytical portions of the GRE.)
5. A formal statement of personal goals for the program not to exceed one typed page.
6. An undergraduate physical assessment course.
7. An undergraduate research course.
8. International Applicants (see page 19).

**Admission decisions are based on overall evaluation of all these elements.**

## Transfer credit

Up to 15 quarter hours or nine semester hours of graduate work from other accredited institutions may be transferred. This work must correspond to the Kennesaw State University MSN curriculum. Decisions regarding this transfer will be made by the program director. The credit to be considered for transfer will not be more than five years old at the time the student enters.

## Grades

Students must earn a grade of **B** or better in every course in order to progress in the program.

**Petition to Graduate**

MSN candidates must petition to graduate at least one semester prior to the semester in which they complete their degree requirements. Petition to graduate forms are available in the program director's office.

**MSN WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner**

The WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program is fully accredited by CCNE, the Commission of College Nursing Education and is fully approved by the Georgia Board of Nursing. This professional degree prepares experienced registered nurses to sit for certification as a family or adult nurse practitioner. The program builds on the background of professional nurses to prepare them to function as primary care givers in the emerging collaborative world of health care.

**Credit Hours**

<b>COURSE DESIGNATION CORE COURSES</b>		<b>14</b>
NURS 7715	Professional Advanced Practice Role Development and Health Care Issues	2
NURS 7725	Health Care Theory	2
NURS 7735	Advanced Health Assessment, Health Maintenance, and Health Promotion	4
NURS 7745	Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice	2
NURS 7755	Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7765	Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
<b>AREA OF CONCENTRATION</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Family</b>		
NURS 8800	Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Adults	3
NURS 8805	Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Children	3
NURS 8830	Clinical Management of Reproductive Health	2
<b>OR</b>		
<b>Adult</b>		
NURS 8800	Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Adults	3
NURS 8815	Clinical Management of Selected Chronic Health Conditions in Middle-Aged and Older Adults	3
NURS 8830	Clinical Management of Reproductive Health	2
<b>RESIDENCY</b>		<b>18</b>
NURS 8850	Primary Care Residency I Prerequisite: NURS 7730 Corequisite: NURS 8800	4
NURS 8851	Primary Care Residency II Prerequisite: NURS 8850; 8800	4

NURS 8852	Corequisite: NURS 8805 or NURS 8815 Primary Care Residency III Prerequisite: NURS 8851; 8805 or 8815; Corequisite: NURS 8830, 8853	4
NURS 8853	Primary Care Residency IV Prerequisite: NURS 8851; Corequisite: NURS 8854, 8852, 8830	4
NURS 8854	Primary Care Clinical Project Prerequisite: NURS 7740 Corequisite: NURS 8852; 8853	2

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 40**

## WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Course Descriptions

### **NURS 7715. Professional Advanced Role Development and Health Care Issues. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program.*

Within this course, role theory, change theory, and leadership theory as they apply to advanced practice nursing are examined. The issues related to the role of the advanced practice nurse in today's health care environment are explored. Ethical and legal decision-making processes are investigated. The standards and regulations governing advanced practice nursing are examined.

### **NURS 7725. Health Care Theory. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

Theories from healthcare, nursing and related fields are analyzed and critiqued from the perspective of theory development and theory utilization. Theoretical concepts are considered as they apply to the advanced practice nursing in research, communication, practice, and professional autonomy.

### **NURS 7735. Advanced Health Assessment, Health Maintenance and Health Promotion. 2-6-4.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program.*

This course is designed to develop the student's skill and critical appraisal of the history and physical examination of clients. Health promotion, risk screening, and disease prevention are emphasized while clinical strategies and interventions are critiqued utilizing research and theoretical data. A clinical practicum provides experiences in health promotion and maintenance allowing students to develop their assessment, interpretive, and diagnostic competencies.

### **NURS 7745. Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

This course builds upon the student's basic knowledge of the research process. It explores research design, methodology, data analysis, and outcome evaluation for relevant problems encountered by the advanced practice nurse. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are examined. Students will critique relevant studies in an area of interest and develop a proposal related to a topic in their specific area of interest.

### **NURS 7755. Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

This course expands the experienced professional nurse's understanding of pharmacological principles, including pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Emphasis is placed on enhancing the knowledge necessary to improve client care outcomes.

### **NURS 7765. Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

This course is designed to provide the experienced professional nurse with advanced content concerning normal and abnormal human physiologic responses to pertinent pathophysiologic conditions. Emphasis is placed on the clinical manifestations of these conditions may successfully intervene in a variety of advanced practice clinical settings.

### **NURS 8800. Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Adults. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 7730. Corequisite: NURS 8850.*

This course addresses the common health conditions, both simple and complex, affecting individuals, aged 17 and older, frequently encountered in primary care setting. Client's clinical presentation, underlying causes, and appropriate treatment modalities are explored. The nurse practitioner's role in the clinical management of common health conditions in the adult client is the focus with emphasis on referral, follow-up, and client education. The impact of health problems on the family unit is also explored.

**NURS 8805. Clinical Management of Selected Common Health Conditions in Children. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7730; 8800. *Corequisite:* NURS 8851.

This course is designed to provide an exploration of theories and knowledge needed for child health supervision in the primary care setting with a focus on the nurse practitioner's role in clinical management, anticipatory guidance, referral, and follow-up. Emphasis is placed upon parents as participants in assessment, decision-making, and management of common health problems and the stresses of normal development in infancy, childhood, and adolescence.

**NURS 8815. Clinical Management of Selected Chronic Health Problems in Middle-Aged and Older Adults. 3-0-3.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7730; 8800. *Corequisite:* NURS 8851.

This course addresses the chronic health conditions frequently encountered in the primary care of middle-aged and older adults. Clients' clinical presentation, underlying causes, and appropriate treatment modalities are explored. The nurse practitioner's role in the management of chronic health conditions is emphasized with attention to protocol development, referral, follow-up, and client education.

**NURS 8830. Clinical Management of Reproductive Health. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8805 or 8815. *Corequisite:* NURS 8852, 8853.

This course focuses on the health care needs of essentially healthy women throughout the reproductive years and beyond. Emphasis is placed on the clinical management of common health problems of women, well pregnant women and the care of the newborn. Appropriate referral and follow-up care for more complex health problems and high risk pregnancy are explored.

**NURS 8850. Primary Care Residency I. 1-9-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7730. *Corequisite:* NURS 8800.

This course consists of an introductory practicum with a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or physician preceptor approved by NP faculty. Beginning clinical management skills are the focus of the course. The theory component emphasizes student case study presentation and critique.

**NURS 8851. Primary Care Residency II. 1-9-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8850. *Corequisite:* 8805 or 8815.

A continuation of the practicum experience with appropriate preceptors. Improved clinical management skills are an expectation in a variety of clinical sites. The case study methodology is continued.

**NURS 8852. Primary Care Residency III. 1-9-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8851; 8805 or 8815. *Corequisite:* NURS 8830, 8853.

A continuation of the practicum experience with appropriate preceptors. Increasing complex clinical management skills are an expectation in a variety of appropriate clinical sites. The case study methodology is continued.

**NURS 8853. Primary Care Residency IV. 1-9-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8851; *Corequisite:* NURS 8852, 8830.

This course is the capstone practicum experience in which students synthesize all elements of their clinical management skills. Competence in the clinical management of health conditions frequently encountered is an expectation.

**NURS 8854. Primary Care Clinical Project. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7740. *Corequisite:* NURS 8853, 8852.

The clinical project provides the student with the opportunity to synthesize and apply acquired knowledge and skills in a clinically focused project related to the role of the nurse practitioner in research, health promotion, and community education. The student identifies a problem/need and designs a project that will improve the health care of a specific population.

## MSN in Advanced Care Management and Leadership

The MSN in Advanced Care Management and Leadership, a 40 semester hour cohort program prepares the experienced professional registered nurse to practice in a variety of leadership positions in the ever changing health care environment. Grounded in clinical practice and guided by health care theory and research, this advanced practice nurse will demonstrate an in-depth understanding of complex clinical problems as well as possessing the knowledge and skills to manage and improve client care.

		<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>COURSE DESIGNATION CORE COURSES</b>		<b>14</b>
NURS 7715	Professional Advanced Practice Role Development and Health Care Issues	2
NURS 7725	Health Care Theory	2
NURS 7735	Advanced Health Assessment, Health Maintenance, and Health Promotion	4
NURS 7745	Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7755	Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7765	Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
<b>AREA OF CONCENTRATION</b>		<b>13</b>
NURS 7770	Advanced Care Management Models I	1
NURS 7775	Advanced Care Management Models II	1
NURS 7780	Ethics of Leadership for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7785	Health Policy and Finance	2
NURS 7790	Innovative Teaching Strategies in Advanced Care Management	2
NURS/CM 7791	Seminar in Principles of Conflict Management for Advanced Practice Nursing	1
NURS/GBA 6150	Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice Nursing	4
<b>RESIDENCY</b>		<b>13</b>
NURS 8860	Advanced Care Management Leadership Practicum I	3
NURS 8861	Advanced Care Management Leadership Practicum II	4
NURS 8862	Advanced Care Management Leadership Practicum III	4
NURS 8863	Advanced Care Management Leadership Project	2

**PROGRAM TOTAL: 40**

## Advanced Care Management and Leadership Course Descriptions

### **NURS 7715. Professional Advanced Role Development and Health Care Issues. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program.*

Within this course, role theory, change theory, and leadership theory as they apply to advanced practice nursing are examined. The issues related to the role of the advanced practice nurse in today's health care environment are explored. Ethical and legal decision-making processes are investigated. The standards and regulations governing advanced practice nursing are examined.

### **NURS 7725. Health Care Theory. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

Theories from healthcare, nursing and related fields are analyzed and critiqued from the perspective of theory development and theory utilization. Theoretical concepts are considered as they apply to the advanced practice nursing in research, communication, practice, and professional autonomy.

### **NURS 7735. Advanced Health Assessment, Health Maintenance and Health Promotion. 2-6-4.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program.*

This course is designed to develop the student's skill and critical appraisal of the history and physical examination of clients. Health promotion, risk screening, and disease prevention are emphasized while clinical strategies and interventions are critiqued utilizing research and theoretical data. A clinical practicum provides experiences in health promotion and maintenance allowing students to develop their assessment, interpretive, and diagnostic competencies.

### **NURS 7745. Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

This course builds upon the student's basic knowledge of the research process. It explores research design, methodology, data analysis, and outcome evaluation for relevant problems encountered by the advanced practice nurse. Both quantitative and qualitative methods are examined. Students will critique relevant studies in an area of interest and develop a proposal related to a topic in their specific area of interest.

### **NURS 7755. Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

This course expands the experienced professional nurse's understanding of pharmacological principles, including pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Emphasis is placed on enhancing the knowledge necessary to improve client care outcomes.

### **NURS 7765. Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program director.*

This course is designed to provide the experienced professional nurse with advanced content concerning normal and abnormal human physiologic responses to pertinent pathophysiologic conditions. Emphasis is placed on the clinical manifestations of these conditions may successfully intervene in a variety of advanced practice clinical settings.

### **NURS 7770. Advanced Care Management Model I - Assuming a Leadership Role. 1-0-1.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 7735. Corequisite: NURS 8860.*

This is part one of a two-part course. Part I focuses on the advanced care management of individuals and populations in an acute care or other appropriate setting. Principles of advanced care management including clinical pathways and care mapping in the managed care environment are emphasized.

### **NURS 7775. Advanced Care Management Model II - Assuming a Leadership Role. 1-0-1.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 7770. Corequisite: NURS 8861.*

This is part two of a two-part course. Part II continues to focus on the advanced care management of individuals and populations in the acute care or other appropriate setting. Emphasis is placed on clinical outcomes, documentation, and evaluation in the managed care environment. Each student develops a proposed advanced care management model.

### **NURS 7780. Ethics of Leadership for Advanced Practice Nursing. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or permission of the program director.*

This course engages the student in exploration of the ethical and legal frameworks, theories, and

applications that relate to leadership, management, and decision-making in health care organizations. Case analysis and presentation will be used to emphasize the student's ability to identify ethical and legal problems and work with others to resolve them.

**NURS 7785. Health Policy and Finance. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or permission of the program director.*

This course is designed to provide the practice nursing student with an overview of the factors involved in understanding the current state of health care policy in the United States. Various methods of health care financing, organization, role of government in health care, and an historical perspective will be explored. Issues such as access, the roles of health care providers, primary care, and organizational structures will be discussed.

**NURS 7790. Innovative Teaching Strategies in Advanced Care Management. 2-0-2.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or permission of the program director.*

This course is designed to assist the in understanding the development and implementation of educational courses, seminars, workshops, or community programs for staff, students, clients, or community members. The content will focus on classroom, clinical, and online settings. The student will consider several best practice strategies as well as the use of technology to enhance or present content. A course or a workshop that may be used in a practice setting will be developed.

**NURS 8860. Advanced Care Management Leadership Practicum I. 3-9-3.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 7735. Corequisite: NURS 7770.*

This course consists of an introductory practicum with a preceptor/site identified as being appropriate for the student's area of interest and approved by the faculty. Advanced care management skills are the focus of the course with students analyzing and evaluating clinical care models and participating in their implementation in the delivery of client care. The theory component emphasizes case study presentation and critique. or present content. A course or a workshop that may be used in a practice setting will be developed.

**NURS 8861. Advanced Care Management Leadership Practicum II. 4-12-4.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 8860. Corequisite: NURS 7775.*

This course is a continuation of the practicum experience with appropriate preceptors/sites. Advanced practice management skills continue to be the focus of the course with greater expertise an expectation. The case study methodology and critique is continued.

**NURS 8862. Advanced Care Management Leadership Practicum III. 4-12-4.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 8861. Corequisite: NURS 8863.*

A continuation of the practicum experience in which students synthesize all elements of their advanced care management skills in the implementation of clinical care models in a variety of appropriate settings. Competence in advanced care management is an expectation.

**NURS 8863. Advanced Care Management Leadership Project. 2-6-2.**

*Prerequisite: NURS 7745. Corequisite: NURS 8862.*

This course is a experience that provides the student with the opportunity to synthesize and apply acquired knowledge and skills in a focused project related to the role of the advanced practice nurse in advanced care management. The student identifies a problem/need and designs a project that will enhance care management in a selected practicum site.

**NURS/GBA 6150. Analytical Business Applications and Leadership Skills for Advanced Practice Nursing. 4-0-4.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or permission of the program director.*

The course provides the advanced practice nurse with foundation business knowledge and analytical skills needed in the economic environments of health care organizations. The focus is on the skills needed for the successful creation, distribution, and management of health care services.

**NURS/CM 7791. Seminar in Principles of Conflict Management for Advanced Practice Nursing. 1-0-1.**

*Prerequisite: Admission to the MSN program or permission of the program director.*

This course introduces advanced practice nurses to the principles, theories, and skills of conflict management. Students will explore the application of these concepts and skills to health care issues, including patient care, patient safety, and the creation of a workplace environment that supports quality care.

