

# Nursing

## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

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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 them 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.) Applicants may make a formal written request to waive this requirement only when the applicant has completed another graduate degree program and an appropriate transcript is transmitted in support of the request.
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. An undergraduate statistics course.

International applicants have additional requirements. See Graduate Admission section of this catalog.

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 coordinator. The credit to be considered for transfer will not be more than five years old at the time the student enters.

### Course Repeat Policy

A student may repeat any individual course in the MSN curriculum only once. Earning a grade of less than **B (82)** in a course the second time it is taken will result in being dropped from the program.

### Grades

Students must earn a grade of **B (82)** 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 coordinator's office.

## MSN WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

The WellStar Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program is fully accredited by CCNE, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. 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 7746	Research Applications & Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice I	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

**RESIDENCY**

**18**

NURS 8850	Primary Care Residency I Prerequisite: NURS 7735 Corequisite: NURS 8800	4
NURS 8851	Primary Care Residency II Prerequisite: NURS 8850; 8800 Corequisite: NURS 8805 or NURS 8815	4
NURS 8852	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 7746 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 coordinator.*  
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 7746. Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice I. 2-0-2.**

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

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 coordinator.*

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 7735. 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 7735; 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 7735; 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 7735. 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 7746. *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 program, prepares nursing graduates for leadership and administrative positions in healthcare. This program is built around required core courses and two major curricular specialty track courses (Advanced Care Leadership and Nursing Educational Leadership). These tracks include didactic and practicum courses to emphasize the required content. In addition, electives are included for some of the tracks.

	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>REQUIRED CORE COURSES</b>	<b>24</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 7755 Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7765 Pathophysiology for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7746 Research Applications & Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice I	2
NURS 7747 Research Applications & Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice II	2
NURS 8863 Advanced Leadership Project	3
NURS 7780 Ethics of Leadership for Advanced Practice Nursing	2
NURS 7785 Health Policy & Finance	2
NURS 7791 Principles of Conflict Management for Advanced Practice Nursing	1
<b>TRACK COURSES</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Advanced Care Leadership/CNS</b>	
NURS 7774 Advanced Care Management Models for Practice	2
NURS 8860 Assuming Leadership Role in Advanced Care Management - Practicum I	2
NURS 8861 Assuming Leadership Role in Advanced Care Management - Practicum II	4
NURS 8862 Assuming Leadership Role in Advanced Care Management - Practicum III	4
Electives	4

**Nursing Education Leadership**

NURS 7792	Curriculum, Instruction & Evaluation in Health Care Organizations	4
NURS 7790	Innovative Teaching and Learning Strategies	2
NURS 8870	Assuming Leadership Role in Education - Practicum I	2
NURS 8871	Assuming Leadership Role in Education - Practicum II	4
NURS 8872	Assuming Leadership Role in Education - Practicum III	4

**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 coordinator.*

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 7746. Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice I. 2-0-2.***Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program coordinator.*

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 7747. Research Applications and Outcome Evaluations in Advanced Practice II. 2-0-2.***Prerequisite: NURS 7746.*

This course builds upon the student's basic knowledge of the research process and continues the instruction begun in NURS 7746 (Research Design and Methodology). It explores quantitative and qualitative data analyses for relevant problems encountered by the advanced care practice nurse. Students will prepare and submit an Institutional Review Board request for approval for their proposal developed in NURS 7746.

**NURS 7755. Pharmacology for Advanced Practice Nursing. 2-0-2.***Prerequisite: Admission to MSN Program or permission of the program coordinator.*

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 coordinator.*

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 7774. Advanced Care Management Models for Practice. 2-0-2.**

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

This course focuses on the role of the clinical nurse leader in the advanced care management of individuals and populations in acute care or other appropriate health care settings. Principles of advanced care management including strategic planning, working with teams and various care management models and tools such as clinical pathways and care mapping in the managed care environment are emphasized. Additional concepts will be discussed such as clinical outcomes, documentation, and evaluation methodology in these environments.

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

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

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 coordinator.

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 coordinator.

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 7792. Curriculum, Instruction, & Evaluation in Health Care Organizations. 4-0-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7790, NURS 8870.

*Corequisite:* NURS 8871.

This course is designed to provide the advanced practice nurse the theoretical underpinnings of curriculum development, instruction, and evaluation needed in diverse health care organizations, including academic nursing programs. The knowledge gained can be applied to the educator role in a university setting, a health care agency, or in corporate settings focused on health care.

**NURS 8860. Assuming Leadership Role in Advanced Care Management. 2-6-2.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7735. *Corequisite:* NURS 7774.

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.

**NURS 8861. Assuming Leadership Role in Advanced Care Management—Practicum II. 4-12-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8860; NURS 7774.

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. Assuming Leadership Role in Advanced Care Management—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 Leadership Project. 2-6-2.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7747. *Corequisite:* NURS 8862 or NURS 8872.

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 or nursing education leadership. The student identifies a problem/need and designs a project that will enhance care management or nursing education in a selected practicum site.

**NURS 8870. Assuming Leadership Role in Nursing Education—Practicum I. 2-6-2.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 7735. *Corequisite:* NURS 7790.

This course consists of an introductory practicum with a preceptor/site identified as being appropriate for the student's area of interest in the nursing education leadership track and approved by the faculty. Advanced educational concepts and principles are the focus of the course. The theory component emphasizes case study presentation and critique at increasingly higher standards in incorporating teaching and instructional strategies.

**NURS 8871. Assuming Leadership Role in Nursing Education—Practicum II. 4-12-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8870. *Corequisite:* NURS 7792.

This course consists of the second practicum course with a preceptor/site identified as being appropriate for the student's area of interest in the nursing education leadership track and approved by the faculty. Increasingly advanced educational concepts and principles are the focus of the course. The theory component emphasizes case study presentation and critique at increasingly higher standards in incorporating teaching and instructional strategies.

**NURS 8872. Assuming Leadership Role in Nursing Education—Practicum III. 4-12-4.**

*Prerequisite:* NURS 8871. *Corequisite:* NURS 8863.

A continuation of the practicum experience in which students synthesize all elements of their

advanced care leadership skills in the implementation of education models as a nurse leader in a variety of appropriate settings. Competence in advanced nursing education is an expectation.

**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 coordinator.

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.