

THE MEPN – USD CONNECTION IN NURSING

Finishing your undergraduate degree while beginning your graduate degree in nursing

MISSION

- Meet the needs of undergrads who want nursing in a university with no undergraduate program in nursing
- Prepare masters entry clinicians for nursing practice in the hospital or the community
- Meet the needs of patients who need nurses with advanced preparation in critical thinking/reasoning skills, decision making/action skills, evidence-based practice
- Meet the needs of the clinical agencies for advanced generalist with rapid response skills to save lives, leadership and change agent skills to make a difference

ENTRY OPTIONS

- Apply in sophomore year and begin the graduate program part-time in Junior year; finish MSN 1 year after completion of the undergraduate degree (5-year plan)
- Apply in junior year and begin the graduate program part-time in Senior year; finish MSN 2 years after completion of undergraduate degree (6-year plan)
- Apply in senior year and begin graduate program full-time in August following completion of undergraduate degree and finish MSN 2 years later (6-year plan)

ADVANTAGE

- Acceptance into the nursing program before graduation with undergraduate degree assures continuation of your career goals
 - > Such acceptance does not guarantee continuation in MSN program unless your undergrad GPA is ≥ 3.3
 - > If it falls below, you are dropped from the MSN program
- An MSN allows earlier entry into clinical leadership roles, ability to serve as clinical faculty, ability to apply for advanced practice nurse programs, ability to continue on for a PhD

PROCESS

- Select undergraduate major early
 - › No preference given for a science, psych, or other medical related major
 - › GPA and completing prerequisites with a B or higher is critical (A's preferred since the GRE is being waived)
- Obtain and sustain a GPA \geq 3.3
- Request academic advising by Pre-Health and Nursing Advisor regarding classes, etc.
- Apply online to the MEPN program in the year that works best for you (depends on major, athletic responsibilities, desire for semester abroad, etc.)

PREREQUISITES

- GPA \geq 3.3
 - > Must sustain it as well as maintaining at least a 3.0 in all graduate level courses
- 3 sciences with labs (completed by end of sophomore year)
 - > A&P (8 units)
 - > Microbiology (4 units)
- Statistics (completed by end of sophomore year)
- Cultural anthropology (completed by end of junior year)
- Intro to psych (completed by end of junior year)
- Intro to sociology and developmental psych, nutrition recommended (completed by end of junior year)

NURSING EDUCATION

- 2 academic years
 - > 21 month full-time curriculum
 - Begins August of year accepted and ends May 2 years later
 - > Those beginning junior year complete year 1 of the MEPN program part-time in junior and senior year
 - > Those beginning senior year complete ½ of year one of the MEPN program at end of senior year and finish the remaining program in an additional 2 years
 - > Those beginning after they complete their undergrad degree, finish the MEPN program on the full-time schedule mentioned above
- Prepares you to sit for RN licensure by end of your MSN; graduate with an MSN

NURSING EDUCATION

- Curriculum
 - > 72 units (refer to handouts received)
- Clinical preparation
 - > Throughout the education there is combined theory and clinical practicum
 - > You complete 1300 hours in clinical work in the hospitals and 200 hours in the simulation laboratory
 - > You have medical-surgical, psych-mental health, OB, pediatrics, family, community, advanced leadership, and critical care clinical experiences
- Advanced courses in pathophysiology, physical assessment & diagnosis, pharmacology
- Coursework to obtain certifications in rapid response, stroke care, gerontology, ACLS, clinical nurse leader

OPPORTUNITIES AFTER

- Master's level entry into nursing practice prepares you as an **ADVANCED GENERALIST**
 - › Eligible to sit for RN licensure
 - › Enter new grad nursing positions in hospitals, and long term care agencies
 - › Following MSN you could enter a PhD in nursing program or law school
 - › After 1 year of clinical experience (preferably in a hospital), you can
 - apply for entry into a nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist program (second masters) or a DNP (Doctor of Nursing Practice) program

OPPORTUNITIES AFTER

- › After 2 years of practice
 - in labor and delivery you can apply for a nurse midwifery program
 - in the OR you can apply for a nurse anesthetist program
 - in a neonatal intensive care unit you can apply for neonatal nurse practitioner program
 - or move to such specialties as flight nurse, space or oceanography health care, clinical trials lead, etc.
 - Other positions: educator, management, quality, risk management, case management

QUESTIONS