

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF NURSING
POLICY # D-1**

TITLE: Graduate Program Purpose and Objectives

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Graduate Program in Nursing is to educate nurses to function in advanced roles in nursing (leadership, practice, and education). The graduate who earns a Masters of Nursing (MN) is prepared as an advanced generalist focusing on evidence-based practice and leadership in order to meet the health care needs of rural individuals, families and communities. The graduate who earns a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is prepared as an advanced practice nurse with broad understanding of health care systems and challenges. The population focus for the MSU DNP is either Family/Individual or Psych/Mental Health.

MASTERS OF NURSING (MN) DEGREE (CLINICAL NURSE LEADER)

Focus

The focus of the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) masters degrees is to prepare graduates with advanced leadership skills to be applied in the healthcare delivery system across a wide range of settings. Functions of the CNL include client advocacy, team manager, information manager, outcomes manager, systems analyst/risk anticipator, educator, and active professional.

Objectives

1. Effect change through advocacy for the client, interdisciplinary health care team and the profession.
2. Communicate effectively to achieve quality client outcomes and lateral integration of care for a cohort of clients.
3. Pursue knowledge and skills as the CNL role, needs of clients, and the health care delivery system evolve.
4. Delegate and utilize the nursing team resources (human and fiscal) and serve as a leader and partner in the interdisciplinary health care team.
5. Identify clinical and cost outcomes that improve safety, effectiveness, timeliness, efficiency, quality, and the degree to which they are client-centered.
6. Use information systems and technology at the point of care to improve health care outcomes.
7. Participate in systems review to critically evaluate and anticipate risks to client safety to improve quality of client care delivery.
8. Assume accountability for healthcare outcomes for a specific group of clients within a unit or setting recognizing the influence of the meso-system and macro-system on the microsystem.
9. Assimilate and apply research-based information to design, implement and evaluate clients' plans of care.
10. Synthesize data, information and knowledge to evaluate and achieve optimal client and are environment outcomes.
11. Use appropriate teaching learning principles and strategies as well as current information, materials and technologies to facilitate the learning for clients, groups, and other health care professionals.
12. Complete and successfully defend a professional project appropriate to the role and scope of the Clinical Nurse Leader.

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE (DNP) DEGREE (NP, FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL OR PSYCH/ MENTAL HEALTH)

Focus

The DNP prepares advanced practice nurses who demonstrate clinical expertise, judgment, scholarship, and leadership to provide the highest level of nursing practice in the primary health care setting.

Objectives

1. Integrate nursing science and theory, biophysical, psychosocial, ethical, analytical, and organizational science as the foundation for the highest level of nursing practice.
2. Analyze complex health care system to assess strengths and weaknesses to facilitate organization-wide changes in practice delivery.
3. Synthesize, interpret, and apply knowledge from nursing practice, research, theory, and informatics to evaluate outcomes and sustain evidence-based advanced nursing practice.
4. Advocate for health care policy addressing issues of social justice and equality in the delivery of advanced practice nursing services.
5. Enact leadership and effective communication in inter- and intra-professional collaborator relationships to facilitate and improve outcomes for individuals, populations, and health care systems.
6. Assess epidemiological, financial, sociopolitical, occupational, and organizational forces in the development, implementation, and evaluation of clinical prevention and population health.
7. Integrate professional standards, values, accountability, and ongoing self-reflection into role acquisition as an advanced practice nurse.
8. Influence health outcomes by providing advanced independent comprehensive health care services including health promotion and counseling, health assessment and diagnosis, and disease prevention and management of health and illness of individuals and families throughout the lifespan.
9. Complete and successfully defend a scholarly project appropriate to the role and scope of the doctorally prepared advanced practice registered nurse.

CERTIFICATE IN NURSING EDUCATION

Focus

The Certificate in Nursing Education prepares registered nurses for teaching in academic settings or practice environments. Outcomes are consistent with the competencies for nurse educators described by the National League for Nursing.

Objectives

1. Use assessment strategies to evaluate educational needs.
2. Facilitate learning in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains.
3. Implement teaching strategies in classroom, clinical, or online situations.
4. Evaluate course or program outcomes.
5. Participate in curriculum development.
6. Function within an educational environment.

Reviewed/Approved by

Level I: GAAC: September, 2013; amended, November, 2014; amended, October, 2015, affirmed April 2018

Approved by Faculty: October, 2013; amended, January, 2015; amended, October, 2015, April, 2018.

Level II Review: Associated Dean for Graduate Programs: April 2018.