Master of Science in nursing

Program information

College	Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing		
Department or school	Enter department or school		
Degree abbreviation	M.S.N.	**CIP code**	51.3801
Program website	www.fau.edu/nursing/academics/master-of-science-nursing-program		

Our commitment to you

This Academic Learning Compact describes the program's mission, what students who complete the program will know and be able to do and how faculty assess that learning. Florida Atlantic University publishes a compact for every degree program and standalone certificate so students, families, employers and the community can see what each program commits to providing its graduates.

Program mission

The Master of Science in nursing prepares nurses for advanced roles, offering the leadership, clinical experience and teaching skills each role requires. The program is grounded in the college's philosophy of caring.

Florida Atlantic University's mission

Florida Atlantic University is recognized as an opportunity university and R1 research institution dedicated to transforming lives through education, discovery, and innovation. We empower students to achieve economic mobility, advance knowledge that creates meaningful impact, and forge partnerships that drive prosperity and connection in the communities we serve.

How the program supports the university mission

The program supports the university's mission by transforming lives through education. Practicum and clinical experiences prepare career-ready graduates.

About the program

M.S.N. students deepen their nursing knowledge and prepare for an advanced role. Concentrations include adult-gerontology nurse practitioner, family nurse practitioner, advanced holistic nursing, nurse educator, and nursing administration and financial leadership. Every student completes practicum, clinical, or lab experiences in their chosen role. The program is a great fit for nurses who want to grow as clinicians, teachers, or leaders.

Student learning outcomes

By graduation, students will be able to demonstrate outcomes in three core areas: content/discipline knowledge and skills (Outcome 1), communication skills (Outcome 2) and critical thinking skills (Outcome 3). Faculty assess all three core outcomes every year.

A. Content/Discipline Knowledge and Skills

What graduates will know and be able to do in their field

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Declarative knowledge:** key vocabulary, history, theories and concepts of the field
- ☒ **Research skills:** finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting information the way the field does
- ☐ **Technical skills:** hands-on tools and methods of the field, such as software, instruments, lesson plans or business reports

Declarative Knowledge: Graduates will be able to develop advanced nursing practice grounded in caring science.
Research Skills: Graduates will be able to evaluate evidence-based interventions to improve outcomes and reduce disparities in populations across the lifespan.

How students show it & Where
Declarative Knowledge: NGR6110 – Nursing Situation Synthesis Paper: Integrating theory & Caring Concepts
85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Nursing Situation Synthesis Paper

Research Skills: NGR 6812 – Evidence Table
85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Evidence Table

B. Communication Skills

How graduates will share ideas and work with others

Areas this program addresses (check at least two)

- ☒ **Written communication:** clear, well-organized writing suited to the audience and purpose
- ☐ **Oral communication:** well-organized presentations that connect with an audience
- ☐ **Other forms of communication:** visual, media, performance or exhibit work
- ☒ **Team/collaborative communication:** contributing to group projects and shared goals

Written Communication: Graduates will be able to model ethical leadership that upholds human dignity and influences health policy.
Team/Collaborative Communication: Graduates will be able to integrate interprofessional strategies grounded in caring science to improve quality outcomes.

How students show it & Where
Writing Communication: NGR 6891 – Healthy Policy Concern PPT
85% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 84% on the Healthy Policy Concern PPT

Team/Collaborative Communication: The ratings on Benchworks Exit survey questions related to Interprofessional Partnerships: Facilitate Team-based Communication

Overall graduates will average ≥ 5 (range 1-not at all to 7-extremely)

C. Critical Thinking Skills

How graduates will analyze, create and solve problems

Areas this program addresses (check at least one)

☐ **Analytical skills:** weighing evidence, comparing ideas and judging arguments

☐ **Creative skills:** combining knowledge to create something new, such as a design, performance or proposal

☒ **Practical skills:** applying knowledge to real situations, such as a business proposal, lesson plan or grant

Practical Skills: Graduates will be able to advocate for practices that advance the nursing profession and enhance healthcare access, value and quality.

How students show it

NP: NUR 6619/6607L - Final SOAP NOTE/Nursing Situation/Case Study Presentation
90% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 80% (proficient) on the Graduate Nursing Practice Skills Evaluation Rubric

ED: NUR6006L - Clinical/population focused presentation portfolio
90% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 80% (proficient) on the Graduate Nursing Practice Skills Evaluation Rubric

ADMIN: NUR6724L - Portfolio showing Project Application
90% of the graduates will achieve ≥ 80% (proficient) on the Graduate Nursing Practice Skills Evaluation Rubric

Assessment approaches

Every year, faculty review samples of student work to see how well students are meeting all three outcomes, and they use what they learn to improve the program.

The program assesses graduates' knowledge, research, communication, and practical skills through course assignments, specialty portfolios, and the Benchworks Exit Survey. Across nurse practitioner, educator, and administration tracks, 90% of graduates are expected to achieve at least 80% proficiency on the Graduate Nursing Practice Skills Evaluation Rubric. Developed in 2026, the draft rubric will be implemented in Spring 2027. Findings will inform potential revisions for the 2027–2028 Academic Learning Compact (ALC).

Assessment methods may change over time.