



## **SCHOOL OF NURSING GRADUATE PROGRAM**

Idaho State University School of Nursing offers a Master of Science degree in Nursing and is committed to providing quality graduate nursing education for professional nurses. The program is approved by the Idaho Board of Nursing and is nationally accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The strong curriculum is based on recommendations of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Graduates are eligible to sit for national certification. All MS students are required to pass a written and oral comprehensive examination during their final semester of study. There is no thesis requirement.

Graduate education offers knowledge, skills, and expertise for advanced practice that builds upon a strong nursing foundation. Emphasis on health care policy and rural issues prepare our graduates to assume leadership and provider roles in a variety of settings including administration, education, and primary health care. Programs of study are either full-time (2 years) or part-time (3 years). Five program options are offered: Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP), Nursing Education, and Nursing Leadership.

**The Master of Science in Nursing is delivered in the online format via the Internet.** Students are required to have high speed internet access. Some courses require short face-to-face intensive experiences such as advanced assessment skills lab for students in the three clinical options and suturing lab for FNP students.

### **Entry Pathways**

Entry pathways to earn the MS degree:

- AD-MS for those nurses with an Associate Degree in nursing
- BS-MS for those nurses with a Baccalaureate Degree in nursing

Post-Master's Certificate:

- For nurses with a previous Master's Degree who seek advanced preparation in a specialty area of nursing

**Clinical Nurse Leader:** The Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) option prepares students to direct outcomes management for a distinct patient population, actively provide direct patient care and implement evidence-based practice to ensure patients benefit from the latest care delivery innovations. Students are required to complete forty-four semester hours of credit. This includes a minimum of 500 hours in clinical settings.

**Clinical Nurse Specialist:** The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) option prepares students as advanced practice nurses to work in an adult medical-surgical specialty area. Clinical Nurse Specialists are engaged in education, expert clinical practice, consultation, research, and administration and are prepared to practice in primary, acute, or long-term care settings. Students are required to complete forty-five semester hours of credit. This includes a minimum of 500 hours in clinical settings.

**Family Nurse Practitioner:** The Family Nurse Practitioner option prepares students for primary care throughout the lifespan in a variety of settings. FNP courses are designed to develop critical clinical decision-making skills necessary for primary care providers working with diverse populations. Rural health issues are emphasized. Nurse practitioner faculty members maintain clinical skills through active practice. The curriculum adheres to the guidelines set forth by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF). Students are required to complete fifty-three semester hours of credit. This includes a minimum of 816 hours in clinical settings.

**Nursing Education:** The Nursing Education option prepares students for nursing faculty positions. Students are prepared as nursing leaders to respond to current and projected changes in the health care system. Grounded in adult learning theory, coursework includes a teaching/learning practicum and a focus on teaching with technology. Students are required to complete forty semester hours of credit.

**Nursing Leadership:** The Nursing Leadership option is designed to prepare nurses to assume leadership roles within acute, ambulatory care, or community-based settings. Content includes organizational and leadership theory, strategic planning, finance, human resource management, clinical and outcomes management, and health service administration. Students are required to complete thirty-nine semester hours of credit which includes practicum experiences.

Further information available on the website: [www.isu.edu/nursing](http://www.isu.edu/nursing)  
Contact the School of Nursing Student Advisor at (208) 282-2132 with questions.

*Updated 5/07*

## AD-MS Pathway

This pathway is designed to provide an accelerated program for nurses with an Associate Degree to be directly admitted into the Master's program. In addition to completion of baccalaureate bridge credits, students continue to meet baccalaureate nursing competencies while completing the graduate program. Upon completion of the requirements for the MS degree, both the BS and MS degrees will be awarded.

The AD-MS pathway is built upon the current RN-BS Statewide Nursing Articulation Plan for those with an Associate Degree earned in 1995 or later. Initial transcript evaluation is completed by ISU Admissions. All students should then consult with the nursing advisor for transcript evaluation of bridge courses and development of the bridge program of study.

### **Students in any of the following categories may be required to take additional undergraduate credits:**

1. Graduated prior to 1995
2. Graduated with fewer than 70 credits in the associate program
3. Earned an Associate of Applied Science degree

### **Important Points**

- A total of 128 undergraduate credits are needed to award the BS.
- These 128 credits **must** be completed **prior** to the first graduate course.
- Fifty-eight (58) of the 128 credits **must be completed at a four-year institution.**
- Thirty-six (36) of the 128 undergraduate credits must be 300 or 400 level.
- The BS is **not** awarded until all requirements for both the BS and MS degree have been completed.

### **The 128 undergraduate credits are earned as follows:**

- Up to seventy (**70**) credits are transferred from the associate program at the time of admission to ISU.
- Thirty-nine (**39**) credits for ISU nursing courses are awarded during the final bridge semester. These credits for previous learning are awarded through NCLEX and there is a transfer fee. The approximate cost is \$600.
- Nineteen (**19**) baccalaureate bridge credits must be completed at a **four-year institution** with a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Applications for the AD-MS pathway are accepted each fall and are due by **October 1**. Students can continue working on bridge courses during the fall in which they apply and the following spring semester. Students are **not** eligible to apply unless **all** 128 credits will be completed during the spring semester following admission to the graduate program. Applicants must be ready to begin their graduate program of study in the summer semester.

**Application to the AD-MS pathway includes application to ISU as an undergraduate student and application to the School of Nursing Graduate Program (DO NOT APPLY to the ISU GRADUATE SCHOOL)**

### Required Baccalaureate Bridge Courses

MATH 253 Introduction to Statistics 3 cr  
ANTH 237, 238, 239

#### OR

SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology 3 cr  
BIOL 305 Introduction to Pathobiology 3 cr  
NURS 330 Nursing Research 3 cr (online)  
NURS 404 Professional Role Expansion 5 cr (must be taken at ISU; online)  
Elective 2 cr

Total of 19 cr

NOTE: Students may enroll in NURS 330 and NURS 404 once admitted to the Nursing Graduate Program.

**If any of the above courses have been completed at a two-year institution, electives must be completed at a four-year institution to equal 19 credits.**

### Admission Criteria for the AD-MS Pathway

- Admission to Idaho State University as an **undergraduate** student. (If you have not been previously admitted, access online application at [www.isu.edu](http://www.isu.edu)). Official copies of transcripts should be sent to ISU Admissions. Contact information for **ISU Undergraduate Admissions** is (208)282-2475.
- A completed Nursing Graduate Program Application submitted to the School of Nursing (\$35 non-refundable fee).
- Graduation from an accredited nursing program with an Associate of Arts, Associate of Science or Associate of Arts and Science degree.
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Minimum of 35<sup>th</sup> percentile on at least one (1) of the three (3) sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Active Idaho (or compact state) Registered Nurse license in good standing.

NOTE: Admission is competitive. Achievement of minimum GPA and GRE requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Consideration for admission includes all application data.

### Application Process for AD-MS Pathway

- Application to ISU Admissions as an undergraduate student
- Application to the ISU School of Nursing Graduate Program

**To apply to the School of Nursing Graduate Program, submit the following information by October 1 to:**

School of Nursing  
Idaho State University  
Attn: AD-MS  
921 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Stop 8101  
Pocatello, ID 83209-8101

- Completed Master of Science Graduate Nursing Program Application to the School of Nursing (with fee). Print from website – [www.isu.edu/nursing](http://www.isu.edu/nursing).
- GRE scores; Dept. code 0610 – when taking the GRE request that scores are sent directly to Dept. code.
- Unofficial transcripts of all undergraduate work.
- Three professional or educational references with specific information regarding the applicant's capacity for graduate study. Forms are provided on the nursing website at [www.isu.edu/nursing](http://www.isu.edu/nursing).
- Copy of current RN nursing license.

**Application and Admission Timeline for AD-MS Pathway**

- **Summer**
  - Apply to Idaho State University as an undergraduate student if not already an admitted student. Initial transcript evaluation for transfer of credits is completed by ISU Admissions.
  - Contact nursing advisor for transcript evaluation of required bridge coursework and program of study.
  - Take GRE by September 1. It often takes four weeks for the department to receive scores.
  - Apply to the School of Nursing graduate program by October 1 deadline.
- **Mid-November**
  - Students will be notified by mail as to their admission status in the graduate program.
  - Register for spring semester: NURS 404, NURS 330 and bridge courses as needed to meet required 128 credits for baccalaureate degree
- **Feb. 1**
  - Apply online to ISU Graduate School at [www.isu.edu/graduate](http://www.isu.edu/graduate); Degree code is 1203. Send \$55 fee to ISU Graduate School.
- **March 1**
  - Apply for transfer of the NCLEX credits.
  - Contact the School of Nursing graduate office (282-2720) to initiate transfer
  - Pay \$600 fee for transfer of credits; contact cashier's office (282-2900) to arrange payment.

- Following transfer, a total of 39 ISU nursing credits will be awarded to official transcript.
- **April**
  - Register for Summer and Fall classes
- **May**
  - Submit official transcripts to ISU Admissions office for any courses taken at an institution other than ISU.
- **Summer semester**
  - Complete background check with ISU Public Safety Office.
  - Complete BIOL 563 Human Pathophysiology if required for MS option
  - Attend Graduate program on-campus orientation (August)
- **Fall semester**
  - Begin MS program of study for admitted option.

## **BS-MS Pathway**

### **Admission Criteria**

The following are required for admission to the BS-MS pathway:

- A completed application submitted to the Graduate School (\$55 non-refundable fee)
- A completed application submitted to the School of Nursing (\$35 non-refundable fee)
- Graduation from a nationally accredited baccalaureate nursing program.
- Undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better for all upper division courses.
- Minimum of 35<sup>th</sup> percentile on at least one (1) of the three (3) sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
- Active Idaho (or compact state) Registered Nurse license in good standing
- Minimum of three (3) credits of descriptive and inferential statistics with a grade of C or better.

NOTE: Admission is competitive. Achievement of minimum GPA and GRE requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Consideration for admission includes all application data.

### **Application Process**

Applications for the BS-MS pathway are accepted once each year and are available online or by contacting the School of Nursing at (208) 282-2132. Completed applications are due **February 1**. Please note that two applications are required (Graduate School and School of Nursing). Each application requires a separate fee.

A completed application includes the following:

#### **Submit to the Graduate School** (921 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stop 8075)

- Completed application to the Graduate School with fee; available online at [www.isu.edu/graduate](http://www.isu.edu/graduate); degree code is 1203
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate work
- GRE scores (School code 4355 and Dept. code 0610)

#### **Submit to the School of Nursing** (921 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, Stop 8101)

- Completed application to the School of Nursing with fee; available online at [www.isu.edu/nursing](http://www.isu.edu/nursing)
- Three professional or educational references with specific information regarding the applicant's capacity for graduate study. Forms are provided on the website.
- Copy of current nursing license



## Program of Study for the Clinical Nurse Leader Option

### Full-Time Program

#### **Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	4 cr
		Total 4 cr

#### **Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 652	Admin. Approaches to Nursing Leadership	3 cr
NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611 L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 11 cr

#### **Spring I**

NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	4 cr
NURS 660	Care Environment Management	2 cr
NURS 660 L	Care Environment Management Lab (48 clinical hours)	<u>1 cr</u>
		Total 7 cr

#### **Summer II**

NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 3 cr

#### **Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 661	Clinical Outcomes Management	2 cr
NURS 661 L	Clinical Outcomes Management Lab (96 clinical hours)	<u>2 cr</u>
PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 10 cr

#### **Spring II**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 662	CNL Practicum (288 clinical hours)	<u>6 cr</u>
		Total 9 cr

**Total Option Credits: 44**  
**Total Clinical Hours: 576**

Part-Time Program

**Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

**Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 652	Admin. Approaches to Nursing Leadership	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Spring I**

NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

**Summer II**

NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 3 cr

**Fall II**

PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	3 cr
NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611 L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	<u>3 cr</u>

Total 8 cr

**Spring II**

NURS 660	Care Environment Management	2 cr
NURS 660 L	Care Environment Management Lab (48 clinical hours)	<u>1 cr</u>

Total 3 cr

**Fall III**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 661	Clinical Outcomes Management	2 cr
NURS 661 L	Clinical Outcomes Management Lab (96 clinical hours)	<u>2 cr</u>

Total 7 cr

**Spring III**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 662	CNL Practicum (288 clinical hours)	<u>6 cr</u>
		Total 9 cr

**Total Option Credits: 44**  
**Total Clinical Hours: 576**



## Program of Study for the Clinical Nurse Specialist Option

### Full-Time Program

#### **Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	4 cr
		Total 4 cr

#### **Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611 L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	3 cr
PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	3 cr
		Total 11 cr

#### **Spring I**

NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	4 cr
NURS 657	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I	3 cr
NURS 657 L	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I Lab (48 clinical hours)	1 cr
NURS 604	Health Promotion	2 cr
		Total 10 cr

#### **Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 658	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II	3 cr
NURS 658L	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II Lab (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	3 cr

Total 11 cr

#### **Spring II**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 659	Advanced CNS Practicum (288 clinical hours)	6 cr
		Total 9 cr

**Total Option Credits: 45**  
**Total Clinical Hours: 576**

Part-Time Program

**Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

**Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Spring I**

NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	4 cr
NURS 604	Health Promotion	<u>2 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611 L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 8 cr

**Spring II**

NURS 657	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I	3 cr
NURS 657 L	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I Lab (48 clinical hours)	<u>1 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

**Fall III**

NURS 658	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II	3 cr
NURS 658L	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II Lab (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 8 cr

**Spring III**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 659	Advanced CNS Practicum (288 clinical hours)	<u>6 cr</u>
		Total 9 cr

**Total Option Credits: 45**  
**Total Clinical Hours: 576**



## Program of Study for Family Nurse Practitioner

### Full-Time Program

#### **Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	4 cr
		Total 4 cr

#### **Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	3 cr
NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611 L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 11 cr

#### **Spring I**

NURS 604	Health Promotion	2 cr
NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	4 cr
NURS 642	Primary Care of the Young Adult	3 cr
NURS 642 L	Primary Care of the Young Adult Lab (96 clinical hours)	<u>2 cr</u>
		Total 11 cr

#### **Summer II**

NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	3 cr
		Total 3 cr

#### **Fall II**

NURS 643	Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent	3 cr
NURS 643L	Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 644	Primary Care of the Middle & Older Adult	3 cr
NURS 644 L	Primary Care of the Middle & Older Adult (96 clinical hours)	<u>2 cr</u>
		Total 13 cr

#### **Spring II**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 646	NP Practicum (384 clinical hours)	<u>8 cr</u>
		Total 11 cr

**Total Option Credits: 53**  
**Total Clinical Hours: 816**

Part-Time Program

**Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

**Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	<u>3 cr</u>
		6 cr

**Spring I**

NURS 604	Health Promotion	2 cr
NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Summer II**

NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 3 cr

**Fall II**

NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611 L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	3 cr
NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 8 cr

**Spring II**

NURS 642	Primary Care of the Young Adult	3 cr
NURS 642 L	Primary Care of the Young Adult Lab (96 clinical hours)	<u>2 cr</u> 5 cr

**Fall III**

NURS 643	Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent	3 cr
NURS 643L	Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 644	Primary Care of the Middle & Older Adult	3 cr
NURS 644 L	Primary Care of the Middle & Older Adult (96 clinical hours)	<u>2 cr</u>
		Total 10 cr

**Spring III**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 646	NP Practicum (384 clinical hours)	<u>8 cr</u>
		Total 11 cr

**Total Option Credits: 53**  
**Total Clinical Hours: 816**



## Program of Study for the Nursing Education Option

### Full-Time Program

#### **Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	4 cr
		Total 4 cr

#### **Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 633	Rethinking Nursing Education	3 cr
NURS 640	Evaluation Issues and Strategies	3 cr
		Total 9 cr

#### **Spring I**

NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	4 cr
NURS 635	Curriculum Issues and Development	3 cr
	Elective	2-3 cr
		Total 9-10 cr

#### **Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 639	Teaching and Learning Strategies	3 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	3 cr
		Total 9 cr

Total 11 cr

#### **Spring II**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 647	Advanced Practicum in Nursing Education (288 practicum hours)	6 cr
		Total 9 cr

**Total Option Credits: 40-41**

Part-Time Program

**Summer I**

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

**Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 633	Rethinking Nursing Education	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Spring I**

NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	<u>4 cr</u>
		Total 4 cr

Total 9-10 cr

**Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 640	Evaluation Issues and Strategies	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Spring II**

NURS 635	Curriculum Issues and Development	3 cr
	Elective	<u>2-3 cr</u>
		Total 5-6 cr

**Fall III**

NURS 639	Teaching and Learning Strategies	3 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 6 cr

**Spring III**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 647	Advanced Practicum in Nursing Education (288 practicum hours)	<u>6 cr</u>
		Total 9 cr

**Total Option Credits: 40-41**



**Program of Study for the Nursing Leadership Option**

Full-Time Program

**Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 652	Administrative Approaches to Nursing Leadership	3 cr
	Elective	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 9 cr

**Spring I**

NURS 653	Organizational Behavior in a Changing Health Care System	3 cr
NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	4 cr
NURS 654	Financial Management	3 cr
		Total 10 cr

**Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 655	Advanced Leadership	3 cr
NURS 655 L	Advanced Leadership Lab (96 practicum hours)	2 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
		Total 11 cr

**Spring II**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 656	Advanced Leadership Practicum (192 practicum hours)	4 cr
	Elective	<u>2-3 cr</u>
		Total 9-10 cr

**Total Option Credits: 39-40**  
**Total Practicum Hours: 288**

Part-Time Program

**Fall I**

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice	3 cr
NURS 652	Administrative Approaches to Nursing Leadership	<u>3 cr</u>
	Total	6 cr

**Spring I**

NURS 653	Organizational Behavior in a Changing Health Care System	3 cr
NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Application	<u>4 cr</u>
	Total	7 cr

**Fall II**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	<u>3 cr</u>
	Total	6 cr

**Spring II**

NURS 654	Financial Management	3 cr
	Elective	<u>3 cr</u>
	Total	6 cr

**Fall III**

NURS 655	Advanced Leadership	3 cr
NURS 655 L	Advanced Leadership Lab (96 practicum hours)	2 cr
	Elective	<u>2-3 cr</u>
	Total	7-8-cr

**Spring III**

NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr
NURS 656	Advanced Leadership Practicum (192 practicum hours)	<u>4 cr</u>
	Total	7 cr

**Total Option Credits: 39-40**  
**Total Practicum Hours: 288**

## Post-Master's in Nursing Certificate Pathway

The Certificate Pathway is designed for Master's prepared nurses who seek advanced preparation in another specialty area of nursing. Students must have received a graduate degree from a nationally accredited program. To receive a Post-Master's Certificate in the Clinical Nurse Specialist, Clinical Nurse Leader, Family Nurse Practitioner option, Nursing Education option, or the Nursing Leadership option, students must:

- Meet all School of Nursing and Graduate School admission and progression criteria for the Master of Science degree in Nursing option in which they enroll.
  - Note: GRE scores are not required
- Successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits from Idaho State University.
- Successfully complete all prerequisite courses with a grade of B or better.

The nursing graduate faculty approve prerequisite courses prior to or at the time of admission to the certificate program. These courses may be taken at ISU or another nationally accredited program. Prerequisite courses may also be taken as part of the program of study if not completed as part of a previous degree. In addition, students may transfer up to 9 credit hours of required coursework with approval by the graduate faculty. A minimum of 12 credit hours must be successfully completed at ISU to receive a Post-Master's Certificate from ISU.

- Note: Individual programs of study may be developed for those nurses who have earned a graduate degree in a non-nursing field.

### **Application Process**

Applications for the Post-Master's Certificate program are accepted once each year and are available online or by contacting the School of Nursing at (208) 282-2132. Completed applications are due **February 1**. Please note that two applications are required (ISU Graduate School and the School of Nursing). Each application requires a separate fee.

A completed application includes the following:

#### **Submit to the ISU Graduate School** (921 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Stop 8075, Pocatello, ID 83209-8075)

- Completed application to the Graduate School with fee; available online at [www.isu.edu/graduate](http://www.isu.edu/graduate); degree code is 1228
- Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work

#### **Submit to the School of Nursing** (921 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Stop 8101, Pocatello, ID 83209-8101)

- Completed application to the School of Nursing with fee; available online at [www.isu.edu/nursing](http://www.isu.edu/nursing)
- Three professional or educational references with specific information regarding the applicant's capacity for graduate study. Forms are provided on the website.
- Copy of current nursing license

NOTE: Admission is competitive. Achievement of minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Consideration for admission includes all application data.

## Post-Master's Certificate Programs of Study

### Prerequisites for admission to all options:

NURS 600	Theoretical Foundations For Nursing	3 cr
NURS 602	Health Care Policy and Finance	3 cr
NURS 610	Advanced Evidence Applications	4 cr
NURS 621	Advanced Nursing Roles	3 cr

### Additional prerequisites for CNL, CNS, FNP option:

NURS 611	Advanced Health Assessment	2 cr
NURS 611L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (144 lab/clinical hours)	3 cr
BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	4 cr
PHAR 645	Pharmacotherapeutics for APN	3 cr

### Additional prerequisite for Education options:

BIOL 563	Human Pathophysiology	4 cr
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### **Required Coursework: Clinical Nurse Leader Option**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 652	Administrative Approaches to Nursing Leadership	3 cr
NURS 660	Care Environment Management	2 cr
NURS 660 L	Care Environment Management Lab	1 cr
NURS 661	Clinical Outcomes Management	2 cr
NURS 661L	Clinical Outcomes Management Lab (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 662	CNL Practicum	6 cr

### **Required Coursework: Clinical Nurse Specialist Option**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 657	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I	3 cr
NURS 657L	Advanced Adult Health Nursing I Lab (48 clinical hours)	1 cr
NURS 604	Health Promotion	2 cr
NURS 658	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II	3 cr
NURS 658 L	Advanced Adult Health Nursing II Lab (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 659	Advanced CNS Practicum	6 cr

**Required Coursework: Family Nurse Practitioner Option**

All students who are currently licensed nurse practitioners (adult, pediatric, geriatric, etc.) and desire the FNP post-master's certificate must complete a combined 816 clinical contact hours from their first NP program and the ISU NP program.

NURS 604	Health Promotion	2 cr
NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 642	Primary Care of the Young Adult	3 cr
NURS 642 L	Primary Care of the Young Adult (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 643	Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent	3 cr
NURS 643L	Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent Lab (96 clinical hours)	2 cr
NURS 644	Primary Care of the Middle and Older Adult	3 cr
NURS 644 L	Primary Care of the Middle and Older Adult Lab (96 clinical hours)	2 cr

Students who are not licensed nurse practitioners must also complete the following additional course for the FNP post-master's certificate option:

NURS 646	NP Practicum (384 clinical hours)	8 cr
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**Required Coursework: Nursing Education Option**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 633	Rethinking Nursing Education	3 cr
NURS 635	Curriculum Issues and Development	3 cr
NURS 639	Teaching and Learning Strategies	3 cr
NURS 640	Evaluation Issues and Strategies	3 cr
NURS 647	Advanced Practicum in Nursing Education	6 cr

**Required Coursework: Nursing Leadership Option**

NURS 612	Health Care of Rural Communities	3 cr
NURS 652	Administrative Approaches to Nursing Leadership	3 cr
NURS 653	Organizational Behavior in a Changing Health Care System	3 cr
NURS 654	Financial Management	3 cr
NURS 655	Advanced Leadership	3 cr
NURS 655 L	Advanced Leadership Lab (96 practicum hours)	2 cr
NURS 656	Advanced Leadership Practicum (192 practicum hours)	4 cr

## Graduate Program Courses

All courses are delivered online.

### **BIOL 563 Human Pathophysiology 4 credits.**

The study of basic processes underlying diseases with an emphasis on correlating anatomical, functional, and biochemical alterations with clinical manifestations.

### **NURS 404 Professional Role Expansion 5 credits.**

Integrates concepts of professional development, community/ leadership development, and nursing informatics to prepare the associate degree nurse for graduate study and practice in the changing health care environment. PREREQ: ADMISSION TO THE AD-MS program.

### **NURS 600 Theoretical Foundations for Nursing Practice 3 credits.**

Critical examination of the development of nursing knowledge; critique, evaluate and apply a variety of theories from nursing, family and related disciplines as a base for advanced nursing practice.

**NURS 602 Health Care Policy and Finance 3 credits.** Analysis of policy research relevant to health care, finance and integrated care systems. Evaluate effects of local, regional, national, and international health policy and trends on delivery systems and advanced nursing practice. PREREQ: NURS 600

### **NURS 604 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for Advanced Practice Nurses 2 credits.**

Identification of risk factors and critical examination of screening and therapeutic interventions employed in health promotion and disease prevention across age and culture in diverse populations. PREREQ: NURS 600, PHAR 645

### **NURS 610 Advanced Evidence Application 4 credits.**

Application of evidence to advance nursing practice. Includes issue identification research process, statistical principles, and outcomes evaluation. PREREQ: NURS 600.

### **NURS611 Advance Health Assessment 2 credits.**

Concepts of advanced health assessment required for advanced nursing practice in various settings in diverse populations. Introduction to differential diagnosis and clinical reasoning skills. PREREQ: BIOS 563. COREQ: NURS 600, 611L.

### **NURS 611L Advanced Health Assessment Lab 3 credits.**

Acquisition and application of advanced health assessment skills in diverse populations. Skills include health history, physical assessment and health promotion. Graded S/U. PREREQ: BIOL 563 COREQ: NURS 600, 611

**NURS612 Health Care of Rural Communities 3 credits.**

Utilize appropriate epidemiological, social, and environmental data sources to conduct rural community assessment. Emphasis on developing culturally relevant care systems at the community level. PREREQ: NURS 610.

**NURS 621 Advanced Nursing Roles 3 credits.**

Integration of theory and research related to role development, transition and ambiguity in advance nursing practice. Emphasis on evaluation of health care delivery, ethical decision-making partnership development, collaborative practice and accountability for quality. COREQ: NURS 646 or 647 or 656 or 659 or 662.

**NURS 633 Rethinking Nursing Education 3 credits.**

Theoretical perspective on teaching and learning in nursing education, creating a theoretical base for the education curriculum. The learner will examine theories of learning and adult learning and explore their application to nursing education.

**NURS 635 Curriculum Issue and Development 3 credits.**

Examination of various external and internal issues influencing nursing curriculum. Curriculum components and design will be explored and model curriculum developed. PREREQ: NURS 633

**NURS 636 Special Problems 1-3 credits.**

Independent study under faculty guidance. May be repeated up to 6 credits.  
PREREQ: PERMISSION OF INSTRUCTOR.

**NURS 639 Teaching and Learning Strategies in Nursing Education 3 credits.**

Exploration of a variety of strategies to facilitate achievement of curriculum outcomes. The use of current technology and learner-centered strategies are emphasized.  
PREREQ: NURS 633.

**NURS 640 Evaluation Issues and Strategies in Nursing Education 3 credits.**

Examination of issues surrounding program and student evaluation. Plans for formative and summative evaluation will be developed. COREQ: NURS 633.

**NURS 642 Primary Care of Young Adults 3 credits.**

Management and evaluation of primary care problems in the young adult. The course provides the student with knowledge to assist individuals with common health problems, while integrating the concepts of health promotion. PREREQ: NURS 611, 611L, PHAR 645. COREQ: 642L

**NURS 642L Primary Care of the Young Adult Lab 2 credits.**

Delivery of advanced nursing care to young adults and their families. Clinical application of theoretical knowledge with ongoing refinement of essential skills used by nurse practitioners in primary health care. Identification and management of a broad range of common health problems including health promotion in various clinical settings. Graded S/U. PREREQ: NURS 611, 611L, PHAR 645 COREQ: NURS 642

**NURS 643 Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent 3 credits.**

Management and evaluation of primary care problems of children, adolescents and their families in a variety of ambulatory settings. The initiation of health promotion and health maintenance activities is stressed. PREREQ: NURS 642, 642L COREQ: NURS 643L

**NURS 643L Primary Care of the Child and Adolescent 2 credits.**

Delivery of advanced nursing care to children and adolescents and their families. Clinical application of theoretical knowledge with ongoing refinement of essential skills used by nurse practitioners in primary health care. Identification and management of a broad range of common health problems including health promotion in various clinical settings. Graded S/U. PREREQ: NURS 642, 642L COREQ: NURS 643

**NURS 644 Primary Care of the Middle and Older Adult 5 credits.**

Management and evaluation of primary care problems of middle and older adults, including acute episodic and chronic illness. The initiation of health promotion and maintenance activities is stressed. PREREQ: NURS 642, 642L. COREQ: NURS 644 L

**NURS 644 L Primary Care of Middle and Older Adults Lab 2 credits.**

Delivery of advanced nursing care to middle and older adults and their families. Clinical application of theoretical knowledge with ongoing refinement of essential skills used by nurse practitioners in primary health care. Identification and management of a broad range of common health problems including health promotion in various clinical settings. Graded S/U. PREREQ: NURS 642, 642L COREQ: NURS 644

**NURS 646 NP Rural Practicum 8 credits.**

Application of theoretical content, research findings and intervention strategies to advanced nursing practice in both rural and non-rural settings. PREREQ: NURS 604, 612, 642 643, 644.

**NURS 647 Advance Practicum in Nursing Education 6 credits.**

Application of learning theories, strategies and evaluation in a nursing program. The learners will explore and practice various facets of the faculty role. Graded S/U PREREQ: NURS 633, 635, 639, 640.

**NURS 652 Administrative Approaches to Nursing Leadership 3 credits.**

Synthesis and evaluation of organizational theory in leadership and management of health care organizations. Emphasis on system-wide structures, processes, and outcomes.

**NURS 653 Organizational Behavior in a Changing Health Care System 3 credits.**

Examination of administration and organizational behavior in relation to population-based needs. Includes examination of organization and management theory in relation to strategic planning, management of the changing health care delivery system, program planning and evaluation, decision-making, and change. PREREQ: NURS 600, 652.

**NURS 654 Financial Management 3 credits.**

Application of basic strategies for evaluating financial resources for health care systems; models of forecasting, prediction, and politics of budgeting and healthcare finances.

**NURS 655 Advanced Leadership 3 credits.**

Examination of nursing leadership in health care delivery systems. Theoretical knowledge required for program management and interprofessional collaboration. Examination of quality and risk management, legal and ethical implications, shared governance, and conflict management. PREREQ: NURS 600, 610, 653. COREZ: NURS 655L

**NURS 655 L Advanced Leadership Lab 2 credits.**

Application of knowledge and practice of skills required for program management and interprofessional collaboration. Application of quality and risk management, legal and ethical implications, shared governance, and conflict management. Graded S/U PREREQ: NURS 600, 610, 653 COREQ: NURS 655

**NURS 656 Advanced Leadership Practicum 4 credits.**

Critical examination and application of leadership in health care delivery systems with an emphasis on individualized leadership experiences. Graded S/U PREREQ: NURS 655, 655L

**NURS 657 Advanced Adult Health Nursing I 3 credits.**

Physiological concepts of health and illness and the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in assisting patients, families, and caregivers to manage simple health situations in adult populations. PREREQ: NURS 611, 611L COREQ: NURS 657

**NURS 657L Advanced Adult Health Nursing I Lab 1 credit.**

Delivery of advanced nursing care to adults and their families. Clinical application of theoretical knowledge with ongoing refinement of essential skills used by clinical nurse specialists. Management of simple health situations in various clinical settings. Graded S/U. PREREQ: NURS 611, 611L COREQ: NURS 657

**NURS 658 Advanced Adult Health Nursing II 3 credits.**

Physiological concepts of health and illness and the role of the Clinical Nurse Specialist in assisting patients, families, and caregivers to manage complex health situations in specialty adult populations. PREREQ: NURS 657, 657L. COREQ: NURS 658L

**NURS 658L Advanced Adult Health Nursing II Lab 2 credits.**

Delivery of advanced nursing care to adults and their families. Clinical application of theoretical knowledge with ongoing refinement of essential skills used by clinical nurse specialists. Management of complex health situations in various clinical settings. Graded S/U PREREQ: NURS 657, 657L COREQ: NURS 658

**NURS 659 Advanced CNS Practicum 6 credits.**

Synthesis and application of clinical specialty and CNS role knowledge and skills in select areas of adult medical-surgical practice. Graded S/U PREREQ: NURS 658, 658L

**NURS 660 Care Environment Management 2 credits.**

Prepares the student for generalist practice in care environment management. Includes concept of horizontal leadership, unit level microsystems of care delivery, quality management, risk reduction, patient safety and informatics. PREREQ: NURS 611, 611L, 652. COREQ: 660L

**NURS 660L Care Environment Management Lab 1 Credit.**

Clinical application of theoretical concepts of care environment management in a variety of clinical settings. Graded S/U. PREREQ: NURS 611, 611L COREQ: NURS 660

**NURS 661 Clinical Outcomes Management 2 credits.**

Prepares the student for generalist practice in clinical outcomes management. Includes care management, outcome measurements, epidemiology, and clinical decision making. PREREQ: NURS 660, 660L COREQ: 661L

**NURS 661L Clinical Outcomes Management Lab 2 credits.**

Clinical application of theoretical concepts of clinical outcomes management in a variety of clinical settings. Graded S/U. PREREQ: NURS 660, 660L COREQ: NURS 661

**NURS 662 Clinical Nurse Leader Practicum 6 credits.**

An immersion experience designed as a full-time CNL practice role with a designated clinical preceptor. Emphasis on implementation and synthesis of the CNL role and skills in a selected care delivery system. Graded S/U PREREQ: NURS 661, 661L

**PHAR 645 Pharmacotherapeutics for Advanced Practice Nurses 3 credits**

A problem-based course emphasizing the fundamentals of drug action and the rational use of drugs to treat various organ system disease states.