

MSN NURSING LEADERSHIP (ONLINE)

Program Contact: Carolyn Bradley,
(carolyn.bradley@qu.edu) 203-582-7975

The 35-credit Master of Science in Nursing Leadership (MSN) at Quinnipiac is an interdisciplinary program that combines elements of business, finance, leadership, and advanced practice necessary to lead in the current complex healthcare environment. The curriculum is delivered online, in a 15-month full-time or 24-month part-time pathway. It includes an advanced nurse practice clinical experience requirement along with a practicum focusing on leadership for a total of 345 clinical hours. The practicum can be completed in Connecticut or in your home state.

MSN: Nursing Leadership (online)

| Code | Title | Credits |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|
| Course Listing | | |
| NUR 501 | Nursing Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice | 3 |
| NUR 502 | Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics | 3 |
| NUR 522 | Advanced Pathophysiology | 3 |
| NUR 520 | Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan | 3 |
| NUR 503 | Advanced Practice Nursing Leadership | 3 |
| NUR 530 | Advanced Pharmacology | 3 |
| NUR 504 | Healthcare Technology and Innovation | 3 |
| NUR 505 | Advanced Nursing Practice | 1 |
| NUR 506 | Leadership Theory and Principles in Nursing | 3 |
| NUR 507 | Human Resource and Change Management for Nurse Leaders | 3 |
| NUR 508 | Healthcare Finance | 3 |
| NUR 509 | Leadership Skills in Healthcare | 4 |
| Total Credits | | 35 |

Curriculum Note

The semester-by-semester Learning Pathway for this program is available in the School of Nursing.

The curriculum for this program is subject to modification as deemed necessary by the nursing faculty to provide students with the most meaningful educational experience and to remain current with professional standards and guidelines.

Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MSN program are prepared for higher level professional practice and leadership roles in a variety of healthcare settings, as well as advanced study at the doctoral level.

Specifically, graduates will be able to:

1. Synthesize information, evidence, and the decisions of individuals and teams to inform critical thinking to enhance decision-making.

2. Analyze adaptive thinking and apply when faced with challenges by exhibiting flexibility, creativity and critical analysis.
3. Incorporate ethical principles into evidence-based decision making in advanced nursing practice.
4. Design equitable, holistic, person-centered, and evidence-informed care coordinated to improve the health of diverse communities and populations.
5. Implement evidence-based and emerging principles of safety and improvement science to enhance care delivery at the individual, organizational, and systems level.
6. Demonstrate advanced use of informatics and healthcare technologies in data-informed decision-making and the enhancement of secure, efficient, effective, and regulated healthcare delivery.
7. Integrate holistic self-care practices that promote well-being, resilience, and lifelong learning to sustain clinical practice and promote well-being in care environments
8. Exhibit advanced leadership and advocacy by influencing care delivery and advancing the nursing profession through role modeling, collaboration, and policy engagement.

Admission Requirements

- At least one year of full-time RN or APRN experience (approximately 2000 hours).
- Earned BSN with 3.0 GPA.
- Undergraduate statistics with grade C or better (or conditional acceptance & take at Quinnipiac).

Applicants should submit the following to the Office of Graduate Admissions:

1. Official transcripts from all schools previously attended.
2. Official recent results of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) for international applicants.
3. CV or resume.
4. Copy of unencumbered and unrestricted RN license.
5. Competitive applicants will provide a minimum of one reference from professional supervisors or faculty who can speak specifically to the applicant's professionalism, strengths and opportunities, and clinical experience in selected specialty.
6. Personal Statement (see application).

Applications for full-time and part-time study are accepted on a rolling basis. Final deadlines are generally two weeks prior to the start of classes. Applications are evaluated once all materials are received by Quinnipiac. Students are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible for their desired semester. Class sizes are limited.

All accepted students are required to complete a background check and urine drug screen following acceptance and before the start of classes. Acceptances are conditional until satisfactory completion of both.

Clinical Requirements for Online Students

This online program is available to students from within and outside of the State of Connecticut. The School of Nursing will identify clinical placements for all in-state students; those living in other states will be required to identify potential practicum sites well in advance so that the School of Nursing can establish necessary clinical affiliation agreements.

Students from states outside of Connecticut that do not allow students to complete clinical rotations (e.g., New York) will be notified that they will not be able to complete the program's clinical requirements in their home state.

Progression Requirements

Students are expected to take courses in the order they are presented on the curriculum pathways.

According to Quinnipiac University policy all graduate students are expected to maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale. Full-time graduate students are required to achieve a 3.00 GPA each semester. Part-time graduate students must have an overall GPA of 3.00 upon completion of nine credit hours and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 thereafter. The grading scale of the Graduate Nursing Program is consistent with that of the university.

A student who earns less than a 3.00 in a semester (after nine credits for part-time students) will be automatically placed on probation and must achieve both a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 or greater in the following semester in order to progress in the program. Failure to achieve and maintain a semester and cumulative GPA of 3.00 in all following semesters results in dismissal from the program.

The minimum passing grade in nursing courses is a B minus (B-). A student who earns less than the minimum passing grade in one nursing course, but who has a semester GPA of at least 3.00, will be required to retake the course when it is offered again at Quinnipiac University. The student may not proceed into courses for which the deficient course is a prerequisite. Thus, the student will be placed in another student cohort and the student's program completion date will be delayed. The student must achieve the minimum passing grade or better and must also achieve the minimal passing grade in all subsequent nursing courses. Failure to meet this requirement results in dismissal from the program.

A student who earns unsatisfactory grades in two or more nursing courses in any semester is not eligible to repeat the courses and will be dismissed from the program. At the end of each semester, the directors of the graduate nursing programs reviews the cumulative GPA and academic record of all graduate nursing students. The directors of the graduate nursing programs notifies both the senior associate dean and the student, in writing, of the student's failure to meet academic requirements. Students who are performing at an unsatisfactory level will be: a) placed on probation, b) suspended, or c) dismissed in accordance with the terms of the Academic Progression Policy. Students placed on academic probation remain in their program but must also complete a learning plan to help them achieve the academic standards of the School of Nursing. A copy of this learning plan, signed by the director of the graduate nursing program and the student, will be placed in the student's file and should be reviewed periodically with the advisor. Students should meet with their advisors to identify learning strategies to help them accomplish the goals in the learning plan. In order to promote student success, students may be asked to audit courses if there has been an interruption to the continuity of their curriculum plan.

Clinical progression policy

In addition to course grade requirements, unsafe clinical practice and/or unprofessional conduct are grounds for failure in any clinical course and may result in immediate removal from the clinical site. Students who demonstrate unsafe or unprofessional conduct in a clinical practice site will undergo academic review and may be dismissed from the program.

Appeal Process

1. A student wishing to appeal a progression decision must write a letter via email to the appropriate program director within 5 business days of receiving notice of their inability to progress.
2. Appeals will be considered by a Progression Appeals Committee and chaired by the senior associate dean. Results will be communicated in writing to the student via email.
3. A student wishing to appeal a course grade should follow the grade appeal process (<http://catalog.qu.edu/university-policies/procedure-appeal-final-grade/>).

NUR 501. Nursing Scholarship and Evidence-Based Practice. 3 Credits.

This course focuses on the principles and processes of evidence-based practice and relationships between theory, research, quality improvement, and evidence-based practice. Research topics such as ethical and cultural issues, methodological procedures associated with scientific investigation and potential barriers to evidence-based practice will be explored.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Summer

NUR 502. Principles of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. 3 Credits.

This course introduces epidemiologic principles, methods and data used to advance nursing practice. Students learn how to examine data and evidence regarding population health including interventions leading to positive health outcomes. Key types of data analysis including descriptive and inferential statistics are covered.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Spring

NUR 503. Advanced Practice Nursing Leadership. 3 Credits.

This course explores the concepts of leadership within the advanced practice nursing role. Leadership behaviors related to health policy, interprofessional and systems-based practice, and ethics are explored.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, All

NUR 504. Healthcare Technology and Innovation. 3 Credits.

This course will explore how nurses apply technology and innovation to clinical practice allowing nurses to streamline efficiencies, better manage workloads, and increase team communication resulting in more quality time to interact with their patients and involve them in their care and treatment.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Spring and Summer

NUR 505. Advanced Nursing Practice. 1 Credit.

This course includes a mentored clinical practicum with an advanced practice nurse and a clinical seminar and provides students with the opportunity to provide direct patient care to individuals, families, groups, and/or communities. This course is designed to advance the knowledge and expertise of students in a clinical area of practice in an advanced practice setting. The course includes 105 hours of clinical practicum.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Summer

NUR 506. Leadership Theory and Principles in Nursing. 3 Credits.

This course examines the application of leadership theories and principles essential for the nurse leader in the healthcare setting. Theoretical frameworks and organizational theory are utilized to support understanding of organizational effectiveness, and policy development and implementation within nursing practice settings. The course will explore the roles and responsibilities of nurse leaders with a focus on effective communication, strategic planning, change management, and the impact of leadership on healthcare quality and safety.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Summer

NUR 507. Human Resource and Change Management for Nurse Leaders. 3 Credits.

This course combines principles of human resources and the change management strategies for nurses in leadership roles to effectively navigate their workforce and to implement organizational changes. The course examines key principles such as talent recruitment, selection, training, employee relations, performance management and organizational behavior. Legal and ethical considerations in the nursing management/leadership role are included in the healthcare industry. The course examines strategies for nurse managers and leaders to lead teams through transitions while fostering a culture that embraces continuous improvement.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall

NUR 508. Healthcare Finance. 3 Credits.

This course focuses on providing the nurse leader with a basis for understanding the fiscal status of healthcare organizations. The course enables students to learn how to manage financial resources utilizing concepts such as economics, cost structure and allocation, risk management, cost/benefit analysis, budgeting sources of revenue and reimbursement, and effectiveness of business models.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall and Spring

NUR 509. Leadership Skills in Healthcare. 4 Credits.

This course builds upon leadership theory and principles and expands to the application of key components in the healthcare setting. This includes leadership, management, business, and financial skills. Relevant regulatory, accreditation, quality and safety, and professional nursing standards are explored and integrated into the course as related to the role and scope of the nurse leader. This course includes 240 hours of practicum experience.

Prerequisites: Take NUR 506.

Offered: Every year, Fall and Spring

NUR 520. Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan. 3 Credits.

This course presents the principles of performing a comprehensive health assessment and reporting the findings in a professional format. Attention is given to assessment and physical examination across the lifespan within diverse communities. The processes underlying diagnostic decision making are introduced. A laboratory component enables the student to master the techniques of performing a holistic health assessment.

Corequisites: Take NUR 520L.

Offered: Every year, Spring Online

NUR 522. Advanced Pathophysiology. 3 Credits.

Essential concepts of pathophysiology are emphasized. Selected disorders are studied especially as they relate to homeostatic and defense/repair mechanisms. Where appropriate the course includes clinical correlations of disease states with symptoms and physical findings.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall Online

NUR 530. Advanced Pharmacology. 3 Credits.

Students are introduced to pharmacological management across the lifespan and provided with advanced knowledge of pharmacokinetics. Selected categories of drugs commonly prescribed for management of healthcare problems and health promotion within diverse communities are presented. Controlled substances and the potential for abuse are discussed. The responsibilities and legalities of prescriptive authority in advanced practice are defined.

Prerequisites: None

Offered: Every year, Fall Online