



COLUMBIA

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Program

CCON graduate students develop advanced skills essential to providing high-quality care for patients, families, and communities. These skills include, but are not limited to, collaboration, ethical decision making, diversity competence, and critical thinking. Graduates are able to develop, implement, and evaluate processes and programs that ensure smooth transitions throughout the continuum of care. Ultimately, MSN graduates shape the nursing profession and embrace life-long learning that integrates evidence-based practice, research, and professional development.

Program Outcomes

- Synthesize knowledge from the sciences, business, nursing, and other health disciplines to advance nursing practice.
- Evaluate attitudes and skills necessary to think critically, use clinical reasoning, manage information and technology, and assume accountability for independent decisions in advanced nursing practice.
- Analyze, design, and coordinate systems to enhance provision of competent, age-appropriate, and culturally sensitive care to protect, promote, and optimize health and alleviate suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human responses.
- Analyze and collaborate effectively with nurses, physicians and other healthcare providers, consumers, organizations, and regulatory agencies to improve patient, family, and aggregate outcomes.
- Synthesize research and evidence-based knowledge from multiple ways of knowing to inform practice, improve patient outcomes, and resolve clinical issues.
- Synthesize management and leadership skills across diverse and varied populations to create cultures of safe, accessible, cost-effective, quality healthcare in an effort to improve healthcare outcomes.
- Integrate ethical reasoning and actions into promotion of advocacy, collaborative activities supporting social justice, and ecocompetence with enhanced awareness of vulnerable populations.
- Develop an identity of self as a Clinical Nurse Leader within the context of a complex diverse world, with emphasis on lifelong personal and professional development.
- Demonstrate resource stewardship by the cost-effective use of human, environmental, state, and national resources by applying principles of healthcare policy, finance, economics and ethics to care delivery.

Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

The CCON MSN program prepares graduates for the role of Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL). The CNL is a leader in the healthcare system across all settings where care is delivered. The CNL leads at the point of care by overseeing care management, developing quality improvement strategies, facilitating team

communication, and implementing evidence-based solutions at the unit level. This program prepares graduates for certification as a CNL.

Designed with the working nurse in mind, the 34-credit CNL program is offered in weekday evenings and can be finished in less than 17 months. The workload is manageable, as students take 1 or 2 courses at a time. Theory courses are offered in eight-week sessions, and practicum courses are offered in 16-week sessions over 4 trimesters. During the practicum courses, students complete at least 200 hours in each course.

Program Accreditation

The nursing program is approved by the Wisconsin State Board of Nursing. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and the undergraduate nursing program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The CNL program will undergo the CCNE accreditation process during the first year.