NURSING - MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)

Contact Info
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Aurora, CO 80045
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Overview: CU Nursing's Master of Science Degree is Top

Ranked among the top ten graduate programs nationally, according to U.S. News & World Report (https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/college-nursing-program-ranked-top-10-u-s-news-world-report/), CU Nursing's online master's degree program was named 17th best out of more than 200 programs nationwide in 2021. Our MSN online administration and leadership program (iLEAD) earned the 14th best spot out of 61 programs. We are recognized because of our exceptional faculty, administrators, students and quality innovative programs. In fact, CU Nursing has led the way for nursing education and has the distinction of being the birthplace of the Nurse Practitioner program. Our faculty excel at the top of their fields, and don’t just teach. They also have clinical practices and see patients.

Our Master of Science in nursing program is designed to prepare nurses for career paths for future leaders in direct and indirect care roles in nursing. Our graduates are prepared to formulate clinical, administrative or policy decisions to promote health with clients experiencing wellness, acute or chronic illness and to develop, manage and evaluate the care within communities and health care systems.

A distinct benefit of our program is that we are part of a major medical campus that includes three hospitals – two of which are nationally ranked – the University of Colorado Health Hospital, Children’s Hospital Colorado and the Veterans Administration. In addition, the College has its own nurse-run and led clinics that allow for our students to gain on-the-job training.

The CU College of Nursing Master of Science (MSN) degree will help you advance your career and increase your earning potential. You'll build valuable clinical skills while completing core classes and specialized coursework.

Our 12 Specialty Tracks:

- Adult-Gerontology (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-programs/)
- Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner/)
- Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-primary-care-nurse-practitioner/)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/family-nurse-practitioner/)
- Health Care Informatics (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/health-care-informatics/)
- i-LEAD Nursing Leadership and Health Care Systems (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/i-lead-nursing-leadership-and-health-systems/)
- Nurse-Midwifery (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/nurse-midwifery/)
- Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/womens-health-nurse-practitioner/)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/acute-care-pediatric-nurse-practitioner/)
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/primary-care-pediatric-nurse-practitioner/)
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner/)
- Veteran and Military Health Care (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/veteran-and-military-health-care/)

For a full list of MS admissions requirements, please visit: https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-programs/masters-dnp-phd/masters-program-admissions/.

There are certification options for other Master’s Program tracks; however, certification is not required for practice.

Applications are submitted through Nursing’s Centralized Application Service (NursingCAS (https://nursingcas2021 liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login)).
Choose one of our specialties:
Students select from 12 different specialties, comprised of direct patient care and indirect patient care areas of study. Past coursework to be applied toward the degree will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The specific courses required for each specialty option are included in the plans of study tab. Graduates of specialty tracks are eligible to apply for national certification by examination. Once you pass the certification examination, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and CNS specialties may apply for licensure in all 50 states, including Colorado where licensure is granted as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) and is required for practice. (Learn more at the Colorado Board of Nursing APRN (https://dpo.colorado.gov/Nursing/APNApplications/).

Direct Patient Care Specialties

• Adult-Gerontology (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-programs/)

• Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-programs/adult-gerontology-acute-care-nurse-practitioner/) This specialty prepares nurses to provide care for adult and older patients with acute, critical and complex chronic illnesses. Graduates will be prepared to formulate clinical, administrative and policy decisions to care for the very sickest elderly patients and provide acute care services. Students will also learn to develop, manage and evaluate the care within hospitals and healthcare systems.

• Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-programs/adult-gerontology-primary-care-nurse-practitioner/) As an AGPCNP, you’ll work closely with patients ranging from teenagers to older and disabled adults through the end of life, maximizing their ability to stay active, healthy and strong. Our program prepares advanced practicing nurses to deliver high-quality care and transform lives. Specifically, you’ll learn to diagnose and manage acute and chronic health problems, enhance your leadership and clinical decision-making skills and promote health and disease prevention.

• Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Adult-Gerontology (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-programs/clinical-nurse-specialist-adult-gerontology/) You can be an advocate for our most vulnerable population when you become an Adult-Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist (AGCNS) at CU Nursing. Our specialists care for patients from wellness through acute care, specifically focusing on acute and critically ill patients, medical-surgical patients and elderly patients, along with patients requiring palliative care services (chronic illness management and end-of-life care). The AG CNS is involved in all levels of healthcare from long-term care to acute-care hospitals to home care.

• Family Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/family-nurse-practitioner/) Our FNP specialty track will give you the clinical skills and education to treat physiologic and psychologic health, and prevent, assess and manage common, acute and chronic illnesses. Having specialized education and clinical training in family care, you will be able to provide primary care services for infants to seniors. Practitioners also conduct wellness checks, administer treatments, screen for diseases and order tests to improve patients’ overall health and well-being.

• Nurse-Midwifery (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/nurse-midwifery/) Do you have a passion for childbirth and counseling women before conception, during pregnancy, birth and post-partum? CU Nursing’s Nurse-Midwifery track is the specialty area for you! Because we run and operate our own Midwifery clinics, our students have a distinct advantage over other programs specializing in midwifery. In addition to attending births, our midwives perform annual exams, counsel families and write prescriptions.

• Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/adult-gerontology-programs/)

• Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/acute-care-pediatric-nurse-practitioner/) This specialty prepares graduates to care for children with complex acute, critical and chronic illness from birth to young adulthood in critical care units, emergency departments, inpatient units and ambulatory-specialty based clinics. Most of the clinical placements happen right on campus at Children's Hospital Colorado, a nationally ranked Top 10 Academic Pediatric Tertiary Care Facility.

• Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/primary-care-pediatric-nurse-practitioner/) Make a difference in a child's life. Help maximize children’s health and prevent disease from birth through their young adult years from one of the best programs in the country. U.S. News & World Report ranked our program as #8 in Top Nursing Programs in 2017. In this specialty, you will learn about well child-care and prevention management of common pediatric acute and chronic medical diseases and illnesses. The practitioners are involved in health promotion, screening, and primary prevention education.

• Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner/) PMHNP's assess, diagnose and treat people with psychiatric disorders and illnesses such as mood disorders, substance abuse, anxiety and depression. The nurses can also provide therapy and prescribe medications for patients who have mental health disorders and drug and alcohol abuse problems. At CU Nursing, we emphasize holistic care, integrated mental health, cultural sensitivity and substance treatment to prevent and treat psychiatric conditions. Coursework includes psychotherapy, neurobiology, and psychopharmacology content for patients during their lifetime.

• Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduate-specialties/advanced-ms-dnp-specialties/womens-health-nurse-practitioner/) Focus on the care of women throughout their lives as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP). Learn about conditions specific to women to improve their health, prevent disease and make smart lifestyle choices. WNHPs provide comprehensive care focusing on reproductive, obstetric and gynecological health. While pursuing your MS in this specialty, you'll work in private practice settings, learning from the best of the best where you will learn about the comprehensive health needs of women: gynecological, prenatal, post-partum care, common minor and acute health problems, as well as influences that affect women's lives. The WHNP program is based on in-depth knowledge of nursing
Adult Gerontology Acute Nurse Practitioner - MS

Indirect Patient Care Specialties

- Health Care Informatics (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduated-specialties/health-care-informatics/) Looking for an exciting career that combines your clinical expertise with your passion for technology? The field of informatics provides opportunities for health care professionals to become leaders in the forefront of health care transformation through the use of provider and patient care technologies. Our online programs prepare you to plan, select, design and implement emerging technologies that advance consumer engagement, support clinical decision making, promote safety and drive quality care.

- i-LEAD Nursing Leadership and Health Care Systems (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduated-specialties/i-lead-nursing-leadership-and-health-systems/) So, you’re on track to be a leader in your organization, but you need additional skills in order to do so. iLEAD provides nurses who are interested in advancing their careers with essential competencies to become effective leaders and managers in a variety of health care settings. In this specialty, you’ll learn to implement evidence-based practices and data-driven processes to provide high-quality care with best outcomes. You’ll be equipped to manage others across a continuum of primary care, acute care, long-term care, school nursing, correctional facilities, home care and care coordination. Knowledge gained in cultural competence, informatics and evidence-based practice will provide educated leaders with the ability to excel in today’s complex and changing health care system.

- Veteran and Military Health Care (https://nursing.cuanschutz.edu/academics/graduated-specialties/veteran-and-military-health-care/) Featured in US News & World Report as part of a constellation of initiatives to serve our veteran population, this emerging health care specialty is first-of-its-kind in the nation. Designed for working nurses who are currently novice to expert leaders and are affiliated with the military and/or veteran community, this specialty prepares you to be leaders, innovators, care coordinators, and change agents in caring for veterans and service members. This innovative and focused curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the individual learner and allows students to rapidly apply knowledge in their own practice settings.

### Adult Gerontology Programs

#### Adult Gerontology Acute Nurse Practitioner - MS

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<td>AGACNP Practicum I</td>
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Total Didactic Credits: 36

Total Clinical Credits: 12

Total Clinical Hours: 540

#### Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist - MS

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Total Didactic Credits: 35

Total Clinical Credits: 14

Total Clinical Hours: 630
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<td>NURS6746</td>
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**Total Clinical Credits:** 14
**Total Clinical Hours:** 630

**Health Care Informatics - MS**

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<td>Information Systems Life Cycle</td>
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<td>Digital Tools for Connected Health</td>
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<td>HCI Design Principles</td>
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<td>Knowledge Management</td>
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<td>NURS6293</td>
<td>Database Mgmt Systems</td>
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**Total Clinical Hours:** 37-40

**Total Didactic Credits:** 42

**Total Clinical Credits:** 14

**Total Clinical Hours:** 630

**Family Nurse Practitioner - MS**

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<td>Adv Pharm &amp; Therapeutics</td>
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<td>Evidence-Based Practice: Evaluating Evidence</td>
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<td>NURS6761</td>
<td>Advanced Assessment</td>
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<td>NURS6070</td>
<td>Policy and Politics of Health</td>
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<td>NURS6640</td>
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<td>Ob-Gyn Essentials for the FNP</td>
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<td>NURS6950</td>
<td>Synthesis/Integration/Transition into FNP Practice</td>
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**Total Didactic Credits:** 35
**Total Clinical Credits:** 14
**Total Clinical Hours:** 540

**i-LEAD Nursing Leadership and Health Care Systems - MS**

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<td>Evidence-Based Practice: Evaluating Evidence</td>
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<td>NURS6793</td>
<td>State of Science: Healthcare Systems</td>
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<td>NURS6795</td>
<td>i-LEAD Administrative Internship</td>
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<td>NURS6108</td>
<td>Inferent Statistics &amp; Quality Improvement Applying Evidence</td>
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**Total Clinical Hours:** 30

**Total Didactic Credits:** 27
**Total Clinical Credits:** 3

**Nurse-Midwifery - MS**

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### Women's Health Nurse Practitioner - MS

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<td>NURS 6376</td>
<td>Reproductive Physiology</td>
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<td>NURS 6344</td>
<td>NMW Gynecologic Care</td>
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<td>NURS 5941</td>
<td>NMW Advanced Practicum I</td>
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<td>NURS 6378</td>
<td>Care of the Childbearing Family I</td>
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<td>NURS 6850</td>
<td>NMW Primary Care of Women</td>
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<td>NURS 6374</td>
<td>NMW/WHNP Adv Clinical Skills - Outpatient</td>
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<td>NURS 5942</td>
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<td>NURS 6379</td>
<td>Care of the Childbearing Family II</td>
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<td>NURS 6375</td>
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<td>NMW Advanced Practicum III</td>
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Total Didactic Credits: 40
Total Clinical Credits: 18
Total Clinical Hours: 720

### Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Acute Care - MS

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<td>Policy and Politics of Health</td>
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<td>NURS 6761</td>
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<td>NURS 6859</td>
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<td>Theory Foundation for Advanced Nursing</td>
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<td>NURS 5921</td>
<td>AC-PNP Practicum I</td>
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<td>NURS 6490</td>
<td>Pediatric Primary Care Essentials</td>
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<td>Advanced Pediatric Physical Assessment</td>
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<td>AC PNP Advanced Practicum II</td>
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<td>NURS 6456</td>
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<td>AC PNP Advanced Practicum III</td>
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<td>AC-PNP Practicum IV</td>
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Total Didactic Credits: 56-58
Total Clinical Credits: 56-58
Total Clinical Hours: 720

### Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Primary Care - MS

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<td>Foundations Informatics</td>
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<td>NURS 6222</td>
<td>Adv Pharm &amp; Therapeutics</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 6070</td>
<td>Policy and Politics of Health</td>
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<td>NURS 6761</td>
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<td>NURS 6109</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Practice: Evaluating Evidence</td>
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<td>NURS 5911</td>
<td>PNP Advanced Practicum I</td>
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Total Didactic Credits: 50
Total Clinical Credits: 50
Total Clinical Hours: 50
### Nursing - Master of Science (MS)

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<td>NURS 6450</td>
<td>Advanced Pediatric Physical Assessment</td>
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<td>NURS 6478</td>
<td>Primary Care of Children: Well Child Care</td>
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<td>NURS 6456</td>
<td>Advance Pediatric Clinical Skills</td>
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<td>NURS 5913</td>
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<td>NURS 6488</td>
<td>Pediatric Minor and Acute Illness</td>
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<td>NURS 5914</td>
<td>PNP Advanced Practicum IV</td>
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<td>NURS 6496</td>
<td>Pediatric Chronic Illness and Disability</td>
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**Total Didactic Credits:** 35  
**Total Clinical Credits:** 12  
**Total Clinical Hours:** 540

### Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - MS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 6243</td>
<td>Adv Pathophysiology &amp; common psychiatri</td>
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<td>NURS 6664</td>
<td>Integrated behavioral health care &amp; common psychiatri</td>
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<td>Adv Pharm &amp; Therapeutics</td>
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<td>Policy and Politics of Health</td>
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<td>NURS 6665</td>
<td>PsyTherapy, BehavioralChange &amp; HP Lifespan</td>
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<td>NURS 6659</td>
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**Total Hours:** 52

### Veteran and Military Health Care - MS

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<td>Policy and Politics of Health</td>
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<td>Veteran and Military Health Care Systems</td>
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<td>NURS 6015</td>
<td>Women &amp; War</td>
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<td>NURS 6017</td>
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<td>Caring for Veterans: Aging, Chronicity, &amp; End of Life</td>
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<td>NURS 6025</td>
<td>Veteran and Military Health Care Admin Internship</td>
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**Total Didactic Hours:** 450  
**Total Practicum Hours:** 90  
**Total Credits:** 32

### MS Program Outcomes

- Participate in an interdisciplinary healthcare team as a leader and an active member to promote quality and safe care at the patient, family, population or system levels.
- Develop a professional, ethical, caring and culturally sensitive approach when working with patients, families, populations or systems.
- Integrate patient care technologies to improve patient, family, population or system outcomes.
- Use theoretical frameworks to address patient, family, population or system needs.
- Integrate evidence-based knowledge into managing the care of patients, families, populations or systems to improve and protect health and wellness in Colorado and beyond.
- Formulate strategies to advocate for patients, families, populations, systems or the nursing profession in Colorado and beyond.

Approved 2-2018