



Program Guidebook

Master of Science, Nursing - Education (BSN to MSN)

The Master of Science degree is a competency-based program that prepares graduates to be educators in diverse settings: hospitals, community agencies, schools, industry and businesses, and nursing programs. They provide education and training to nurses, nursing students, school children, community groups, workers, patients, and consumers. The WGU Master of Science in Nursing Program Education content is evidence based on national standards and research related to effective teaching, learning, and role development. It provides the knowledge and skills that enable educators to teach effectively in diverse learning environments. The Master of Science in Nursing for Nurse Educators content and processes are consistent with the National League for Nursing (NLN) Nurse Educator Competencies. The degree program is focused on the preparation of highly qualified educators. The hallmarks of our program include: (a) research-based course preparation and (b) all work in this degree program is online. This program consists of developing core knowledge related to complexities of healthcare, access, quality, and costs for diverse populations. New nursing knowledge includes research, theory, technology applied to nursing practice, evidence based practice, ethics, and new roles for master's prepared nurses. The nurse educator focuses on learning styles, the development and socialization of learners, and strategies to facilitate learning. Educators also need to organize their activities around learning theories. Developing curriculum, objectives, and learning modules are part of an educator role. The process for assessment, measurement, evaluation, and use of outcome data for improvement is presented.

Understanding the Competency-Based Approach

Practically speaking, how do competency-based programs like those offered at Western Governors University (WGU) work? Unlike traditional universities, WGU does not award degrees based on completion of a certain number of credit hours or a certain set of required courses. Instead, you will earn your degree by demonstrating your skills, knowledge, and understanding of important concepts.

Progress through a degree program is governed not by the amount of time you spend in class but by your ability to demonstrate mastery of competencies as you complete required courses. Of course, you will need to engage in learning experiences as you review competencies or develop knowledge and skills in areas in which you may be weak. To help you acquire the knowledge and skills you need to complete your courses and program, WGU provides a rich array of learning resources. Your program mentor will work closely with you to help you understand the competencies required for your program and to help you create a schedule for completing your courses. You will also work closely with course instructors as you engage in each of your courses. As subject matter experts, course instructors will guide you through the content you must master to pass the course assessments.

The benefit of this competency-based system is that enables students who are knowledgeable about a particular subject to make accelerated progress toward completing a degree, even if they lack college experience. You may have gained skills and knowledge of a subject while on the job, accumulated wisdom through years of life experience, or already taken a course on a particular subject. WGU will award your degree based on the skills and knowledge that you possess and can demonstrate—not the number of credits hours on your transcript.

Accreditation

Western Governors University is the only university in the history of American higher education to have earned accreditation from four regional accrediting commissions. WGU's accreditation was awarded by (1) the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, (2) the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, (3) the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and (4) the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The university's accreditation status is now managed by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), which reaffirmed WGU's accreditation in February 2017. The WGU Teachers College is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Health Information Management program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The College of Business programs are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

The Degree Plan

The focus of your program is your personalized Degree Plan. The Degree Plan is a detailed blueprint of the courses you will need to complete in order to earn your degree. The Degree Plan also lays out the accompanying learning resources and assessments that compose your program. The list of courses in the Degree Plan is often referred to as the standard path. The amount of time it takes to complete your program depends on both the amount of new information you need to learn and the amount of time you plan to devote each week to study. Your program mentor and course instructors will help you assess

your strengths and development needs to establish a study plan.

Students vary widely in the specific skills and information they need to learn. For example, some students may be highly knowledgeable in a particular subject matter and would not need to engage in new learning opportunities. Other students may find that portions of the program require them to learn new information and that they need to take an online class or participate in a study module to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to fulfill program competencies in that area. Some individuals may be able to devote as little as 15–20 hours per week to the program, while others may need to devote more time. For this reason, pre-assessments are there to help your program mentor form a profile of your prior knowledge and create a personalized Degree Plan.

How You Will Interact with Faculty

At WGU, faculty serve in specialized roles, and they will work with you individually to provide the guidance, instruction, and support you will need to succeed and graduate. As a student, it is important for you to take advantage of this support. It is key to your progress and ultimate success. Upon your enrollment, you will be assigned a program mentor—an expert in your field of study who will provide you with regular program-level guidance and support from the day you start until the day you graduate. Your program mentor will set up regular telephone appointments (weekly at first) with you, which you will be expected to keep. The mentor will review program competencies with you and work with you to develop a plan and schedule for your coursework. Your program mentor will serve as your main point of contact throughout your program—helping you set weekly study goals, recommending specific learning materials, telling you what to expect in courses, and keeping you motivated. In addition to regular calls, your program mentor is available to help you resolve questions and concerns as they arise.

You will also be assigned to a course instructor for each course. Course instructors are doctoral-level subject matter experts who will assist your learning in each individual course. When you begin a new course, your assigned course instructor will actively monitor your progress and will be in touch to offer one-on-one instruction and to provide you with information about webinars, cohort sessions, and other learning opportunities available to help you acquire the competencies you need to master the course. Your course instructor can discuss your learning for the course, help you find answers to content questions, and give you the tools to navigate the course successfully. In addition, you will communicate with course instructors by posting in the online learning community and participating in live discussion sessions such as webinars and cohorts.

For many of the courses at WGU, you will be required to complete performance assessments. These include reports, papers, presentations, and projects that let you demonstrate your mastery of the required competencies. A separate group of faculty members, called evaluators, will review your work to determine whether it meets requirements. Evaluators are also subject matter experts in their field of evaluation. If your assessment needs further work before it “passes,” these evaluators, who review your work anonymously, will provide you with instructional feedback to help you meet evaluation standards and allow you to advance.

Connecting with Other Mentors and Fellow Students

As you proceed through your Degree Plan, you will have direct contact with multiple faculty members.

These communications can take a variety of forms, including participation in one-on-one discussions, chats in the learning communities, and live cohort and webinar opportunities. As a WGU student, you will have access to your own personal MyWGU Student Portal, which will provide a gateway to your courses of study, learning resources, and learning communities where you will interact with faculty and other students.

The learning resources in each course are specifically designed to support you as you develop competencies in preparation for your assessments. These learning resources may include reading materials, videos, tutorials, cohort opportunities, community discussions, and live discussions that are guided by course instructors who are experts in their field. You will access your program community during your orientation course to network with peers who are enrolled in your program and to receive continued support through professional enrichment and program-specific chats, blogs, and discussions. WGU also provides Student Services associates to help you and your program mentor solve any special problems that may arise.

Orientation

The WGU orientation course focuses on acquainting you with WGU's competency-based model, distance education, technology, and other resources and tools available for students. You will also utilize WGU program and course communities, participate in activities, and get to know other students at WGU. The orientation course must be completed before you can start your first term at WGU.

Transferability of Prior College Coursework

Because WGU is a competency-based institution, it does not award degrees based on credits but rather on demonstration of competency. However, if you have completed college coursework at another accredited institution, or if you have completed industry certifications, you may have your transcripts and certifications evaluated to determine if you are eligible to receive some transfer credit. The guidelines for determining what credits will be granted varies based on the degree program. Students entering graduate programs must have their undergraduate degree verified before being admitted to WGU. To review more information in regards to transfer guidelines based on the different degree programs, you may visit the Student Handbook found at the link below and search for "Transfer Credit Evaluation."

[Click here for the Student Handbook](#)

WGU does not waive any requirements based on a student's professional experience and does not perform a "résumé review" or "portfolio review" that will automatically waive any degree requirements. Degree requirements and transferability rules are subject to change in order to keep the degree content relevant and current.

Remember, WGU's competency-based approach lets you take advantage of your knowledge and skills, regardless of how you obtained them. Even when you do not directly receive credit, the knowledge you possess may help you accelerate the time it takes to complete your degree program.

Continuous Enrollment, On Time Progress, and Satisfactory Academic Progress

WGU is a "continuous enrollment" institution, which means you will be automatically enrolled in each of your new terms while you are at WGU. Each term is six months long. Longer terms and continuous

enrollment allow you to focus on your studies without the hassle of unnatural breaks between terms that you would experience at a more traditional university. At the end of every six-month term, you and your program mentor will review the progress you have made and revise your Degree Plan for your next six-month term.

WGU requires that students make measurable progress toward the completion of their degree programs every term. We call this “On-Time Progress,” denoting that you are on track and making progress toward on-time graduation. As full-time students, graduate students must enroll in at least 8 competency units each term, and undergraduate students must enroll in at least 12 competency units each term. Completing at least these minimum enrollments is essential to On-Time Progress and serves as a baseline from which you may accelerate your program. We measure your progress based on the courses you are able to pass, not on your accumulation of credit hours or course grades. Every time you pass a course, you are demonstrating that you have mastered skills and knowledge in your degree program. For comparison to traditional grading systems, passing a course means you have demonstrated competency equivalent to a “B” grade or better.

WGU assigns competency units to each course in order to track your progress through the program. A competency unit is equivalent to one semester credit of learning. Some courses may be assigned 3 competency units while others may be as large as 12 competency units.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is particularly important to students on financial aid because you must achieve SAP in order to maintain eligibility for financial aid. We will measure your SAP quantitatively by reviewing the number of competency units you have completed each term. In order to remain in good academic standing, you must complete at least 66.67% of the units you attempt over the length of your program—including any courses you add to your term to accelerate your progress. Additionally, during your first term at WGU you must pass at least 3 competency units in order to remain eligible for financial aid. We know that SAP is complex, so please contact a financial aid counselor should you have additional questions. *Please note: The Endorsement Preparation Program in Educational Leadership is not eligible for federal financial aid.

Courses

Your Degree Plan includes courses needed to complete your program. To obtain your degree, you will be required to demonstrate your skills and knowledge by completing the assessment(s) for each course. In general there are two types of assessments: performance assessments and objective assessments. Performance assessments contain, in most cases, multiple scored tasks such as projects, essays, and research papers. Objective assessments include multiple-choice items, multiple-selection items, matching, short answer, drag-and-drop, and point-and-click item types, as well as case study and video-based items. Certifications verified through third parties may also be included in your program. More detailed information about each assessment is provided in each course of study.

Learning Resources

WGU works with many different educational partners, including enterprises, publishers, training companies, and higher educational institutions, to provide high-quality and effective learning resources that match the competencies you are developing. These vary in type, and may be combined to create the best learning experience for your course. A learning resource can be an e-textbook, online module,

study guide, simulation, virtual lab, tutorial, or a combination of these. The cost of most learning resources are included in your tuition and Learning Resource Fee. They can be accessed or enrolled for through your courses. Some degree-specific resources are not covered by your tuition, and you will need to cover those costs separately. WGU also provides a robust library to help you obtain additional learning resources, as needed.

Mobile Compatibility:

The following article provides additional details about the current state of mobile compatibility for learning resources at WGU. It includes a list that can be referenced to determine the mobile friendliness of all core course materials used in a program.

[Student Handbook article: Can I use my mobile device for learning resources?](#)

Standard Path

As previously mentioned, competency units (CUs) have been assigned to each course in order to measure your academic progress. If you are an undergraduate student, you will be expected to enroll in a minimum of 12 competency units each term. Graduate students are expected to enroll in a minimum of 8 competency units each term. A standard plan for a student for this program who entered WGU without any transfer units would look similar to the one on the following page. Your personal progress can be faster, but your pace will be determined by the extent of your transfer units, your time commitment, and your determination to proceed at a faster rate.

Standard Path *for* Master of Science, Nursing - Education (BSN to MSN)

Course Description	CUs	Term
Professional Presence and Influence	2	1
Translational Research for Practice and Populations	2	1
Advanced Information Management and the Application of Technology	3	1
Organizational Leadership and Interprofessional Team Development	3	1
Pathopharmacological Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice	3	2
Comprehensive Health Assessment for Patients and Populations	3	2
Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience	2	2
Policy, Politics, and Global Health Trends	3	3
Evolving Roles of Nurse Educators in Diverse Environments	2	3
Facilitation of Context-Based Student-Centered Learning	2	3
Contemporary Curriculum Design and Development in Nursing Education	2	3
Assessment and Evaluation Strategies for Measuring Student Learning	3	4
Emerging Trends and Challenges in 21st Century Nursing Education	2	4
Nursing Education Field Experience	2	4
Nursing Education Capstone	2	4

Changes to Curriculum

WGU publishes an Institutional Catalog, which describes the academic requirements of each degree program. Although students are required to complete the program version current at the time of their enrollment, WGU may modify requirements and course offerings within that version of the program to maintain the currency and relevance of WGU's competencies and programs. As these changes are implemented, WGU will ensure that the length of the student's degree program (i.e., total competency unit requirements) will not increase and that competency units already earned will be applied to the updated program version. When program requirements are updated, students readmitting after withdrawal from the university will be expected to re-enter into the most current catalog version of the program.

Areas of Study for Master of Science, Nursing - Education (BSN to MSN)

The following section includes the areas of study in the program, with their associated courses. Your specific learning resources and level of instructional support will vary based on the individual competencies you bring to the program and your confidence in developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required in each area of the degree. The Degree Plan and learning resources are dynamic, so you need to review your Degree Plan and seek the advice of your mentor regarding the resources before you purchase them.

MSN Professional Nursing Core

Professional Presence and Influence

Who we are and how we behave affects others. Our professional presence in therapeutic settings can support or inhibit well-being not only in patients, but also in the rest of the health care team, in the family and support system of the patients, and in the health care organization as a whole. This course will help registered nurses manage this impact by recognizing situations and practices that support a positive environment and cultivating actions and responses to achieve and maintain this environment. The growth of self-knowledge will expand nurses' ability to direct influence in ways that are intended rather than in random or destructive ways.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate utilizes personality tools to identify his/her own personality type and incorporate self-awareness practices to increase mindful presence into his/her own life, practice of health care, and interactions with patients and colleagues.*
- *The graduate uses principles of self-knowledge, active listening, authentic leadership, and mentoring in transforming and creating a healing environment.*

Translational Research for Practice and Populations

This graduate-level course builds on your baccalaureate-level statistical knowledge to help you develop skills in analyzing, interpreting, and translating research into nursing practice using principles of patient-centered care and applications to individuals and populations

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate interprets evidence and evaluates its applicability to nursing practice.*
- *The graduate evaluates comprehensive literature reviews for historical context, completeness, applicability, reliability, organization, and quality of information sources.*

Organizational Leadership and Interprofessional Team Development

This graduate-level course builds on baccalaureate-level leadership knowledge to develop application skills in complex healthcare environments with diverse teams. Graduates will develop knowledge and competencies in the following areas: leadership theory, systems and complexity theory, advanced communication, and building consensus.

Knowledge, skills, and abilities related to creating cultures of safety and leading quality improvement are key parts of this course and of contemporary leadership. Most importantly, students will develop and establish deep understanding of leadership roles within organizations, a central theme in the course. Upon successful completion of this course, Students will demonstrate:

- critical decision making, critical analysis, and visionary thinking to lead and affect positive healthcare environments;
- the ability to build consensus and communicate a compelling vision that facilitates teamwork.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate analyzes effective leadership strategies within the context of the interprofessional team.*
- *The graduate evaluates leadership practices that support accountability and integrity within an organization.*

- *The graduate analyzes the impact of contemporary healthcare trends and practices on the delivery of healthcare.*
- *The graduate identifies the impact of business and economic principles and practices, and regulatory requirements on the provision of healthcare.*
- *The graduate relates systems theory and change theory to the design, delivery, and evaluation of health care.*

Pathopharmacological Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice

In Pathopharmacological Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice, students will gain application skills by examining syndromes rather than looking at body systems independently. The course includes pathophysiologies, the associated pharmacological treatments, and social and environmental impacts. Pathopharmacological Foundations for Advanced Nursing Practice is an integrated examination of five common and important disease processes: asthma, heart failure, obesity, traumatic brain injury, and depression.

These processes are relevant to advanced nursing practice because of their prevalence and impact on the healthcare system and the health of the nation.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate distinguishes between general information and relevant assessment findings to manage and minimize pathologies and risk factors to promote optimal patient outcomes.*
- *The graduate integrates relevant patient and population data to develop pathopharmacological management strategies for populations.*
- *The graduate evaluates salient pharmacological issues in managing patient care transitions.*
- *The graduate analyzes pharmaceutical impacts, including physiological, psychological, financial, and lifestyle factors on the selected disease processes.*
- *The graduate evaluates high volume-high impact disease processes including associated pharmacological interventions and implications for advanced practice.*

Comprehensive Health Assessment for Patients and Populations

In this course, students will learn about the principles of health assessment from the individual to the global level. Students will learn to perform a comprehensive functional health assessment that includes social structures, family history, and environmental situations, from the individual patient to the population. This course builds on prior knowledge gained in previous courses and in nursing practice, in areas such as pathophysiology, pharmacology, and epidemiology, and focus on applying this knowledge in various populations with common disorders.

This course is roughly divided into three parts:

- Advanced health assessment focusing on abnormal findings for common disease.
- Integrating health assessment findings into a population, considering such issue as culture, spirituality, and continuum.
- Functionality of clients based upon the problems and populations.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate develops strategies for assessment of health maintenance and risk reduction activities of individuals and populations.*
- *The graduate identifies integrative strategies for promoting physical and functional health, and preventing disease for individuals and selected populations.*
- *The graduate develops outcome goals for individuals and selected populations based on assessment findings.*
- *The graduate develops a comprehensive assessment approach for the assessment of individuals and populations.*

Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience

The Essentials of Advanced Nursing Practice Field Experience course gives you an opportunity to apply leadership knowledge to evaluate a healthcare facility and then recommend an organizational change to improve population health. In this course you will integrate and apply your learning in a clinical experience working with a nurse leader. You will demonstrate and document the following skills:

- lead change to improve quality health in populations
- advance a culture of excellence through lifelong learning
- build and lead collaborative interprofessional care teams
- navigate and integrate care services across the healthcare system
- design innovative nursing practices
- translate evidence into practice

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate evaluates an organizational change or innovation as measured against the master's level nursing and interprofessional standards.*
- *The graduate adapts an organizational change or innovation to improve quality care outcomes while meeting the master's level nursing and interprofessional standards.*

Policy, Politics, and Global Health Trends

Social, political, and economic factors influence policies that impact health outcomes in acute care settings in communities, nationally and globally. Nurse leaders need to understand the determinants of health as well as how legal and regulatory processes, healthcare finances, research, the role of professional organizations, and special interest groups/lobbyists impact health outcomes. This course provides a framework for understanding the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations. It addresses how policies are made and factors that influence policies at local, national, and global levels that impact health/wellness and the nursing profession. The roles of values, ethical theories, stakeholder interests, research, and recent legislation related to health policy and health outcomes will be explored. The nurse leader will gain expertise in effecting change through active participation in influencing or developing policies that impact health.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate analyzes strategies that healthcare advocates use to affect policies with the goal of improving the public health and the profession of nursing*
- *The graduate analyzes the organization of healthcare delivery and financing systems in the U.S. and other nations.*
- *The graduate analyzes the effect of major legal and regulatory policies on nursing practice, health care delivery, and health outcomes for individual, families, and communities.*
- *The graduate analyzes the historical, economic, and political, factors that affect health care policy development and the impact of those policies on healthcare cost, quality and access.*
- *The graduate analyzes the values that drive policies.*

Nursing Science

Advanced Information Management and the Application of Technology

In this course you will examine complementary roles of master's level-prepared nursing information technology professionals, including informaticists and quality officers. You will analyze current and emerging technologies; data management; ethical legal and regulatory best-practice evidence; and bio-health informatics using decision-making support systems at the point of care.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate distinguishes between the critical and useful electronic data needed for effective decision support (clinical, financial, and administrative outcomes) to provide high-quality and efficient care.*
- *The graduate evaluates the essential elements of safety, security, and privacy in an information management system or informatics project.*
- *The graduate evaluates the implications of current and emerging technologies for practice, research, education, and administration.*
- *The graduate evaluates information management systems that support timely, high-quality, patient-centered care.*

- *The graduate integrates knowledge of nursing initiatives, professional organizations, and leadership into strategies for enhancing nursing informatics.*

Nursing Education

Evolving Roles of Nurse Educators in Diverse Environments

Evolving Roles of Nurse Educators examines the multidimensional roles of a contemporary academic nurse educator. This course explores the roles and responsibilities of the nurse educator as a teacher, leader, change agent, and curriculum innovator. Students will also examine the importance of personal and professional development by developing strategies that promote academic integrity, cultural sensitivity, social justice, and ethical/legal values in diverse environments. The course emphasizes the responsibility of nurse educators to utilize communication, collaboration, and leadership in mitigating challenges in academic nursing education.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate synthesizes contemporary nursing sources to inform changes in nursing education and practice.*
- *The graduate facilitates effective communication and collaboration to support academic-practice partnerships.*
- *The graduate examines the social, economic, political, and organizational forces impacting the nurse educator role.*
- *The graduate evaluates the internal and external forces that promote academic integrity, cultural sensitivity, social justice, and ethical/legal values.*
- *The graduate develops a vision for assuming the role of an academic nurse educator through interprofessional collaboration, self-reflection, and personal goal setting.*

Facilitation of Context-Based Student-Centered Learning

Facilitation of Context-Based Student-Centered Learning explores how the nurse educator will incorporate authentic experiences into the creation of course plans that facilitate scholarly inquiry, collaboration, and knowledge acquisition in varied educational environments. Emphasis is placed on innovative, transformational, and experiential teaching and learning strategies to facilitate student development of professional context-based nursing principles, knowledge, skills, and behavior. Evolving Roles of Nurse Educators in Diverse Environments is a prerequisite to this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate creates a student-centered learning environment that supports collaboration and teamwork in nursing education.*
- *The graduate designs innovative, transformational, and experiential teaching and learning strategies to facilitate student development of professional behavior and professional context-based nursing principles, knowledge, and skills.*
- *The graduate creates learning environments that facilitate the achievement of student-centered outcomes.*
- *The graduate synthesizes information from theoretical, clinical, and professional organizations to support unique student needs and diverse learning styles in solving practice-based problems.*

Contemporary Curriculum Design and Development in Nursing Education

Contemporary Curriculum Design and Development in Nursing Education analyzes the concepts of creating curriculum based on national nursing accreditation standards and instructional design best practices. Nurse educator students will create course content that supports learning in diverse, real-world environments where nurse educators facilitate learning. Instructional design strategies for delivering course content will reflect the mission of academic institution programs, contemporary trends in nursing education, and the needs of key stakeholders in nursing education and practice. Facilitation of Context-Based Student-Centered Learning is a prerequisite to this course.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate develops course elements based on contemporary educational principles and evidence-based research*

that facilitate student-centered learning and achievement of learning outcomes.

- *The graduate creates an environment that is intellectually stimulating, challenging, and encouraging of student development in contemporary nursing knowledge, skills, and competencies.*
- *The graduate incorporates instructional design models, principles, theories, and continuous improvement methods in the development of high-quality course design in a nursing education environment to promote effective and efficient patient care.*
- *The graduate develops scenario-based learning approaches to support student skill development and encourage reflective practice.*

Assessment and Evaluation Strategies for Measuring Student Learning

Assessment and Evaluation Strategies for Measuring Student Learning addresses the academic nurse educator's role in the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of student achievement outcomes in nursing education programs. This course requires students to integrate best practices from nursing theory and theories of learning to assess student learning in diverse educational settings. Topics include validity, reliability, and practicality of assessments, interpreting item difficulty and discrimination test results, and analyzing student achievement and learning outcomes data. This course has no prerequisites.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate recommends nurse educator actions based on student performance measures at the course level.*
- *The graduate develops performance-based and objective assessments useful for measuring the knowledge and skills applicable to real-world scenarios.*
- *The graduate evaluates the effectiveness of performance and objective assessments by analyzing student achievement and learning outcomes data.*
- *The graduate validates the theories, concepts, and principles used to assess, evaluate, and measure student learning in various educational settings.*
- *The graduate proposes assessment strategies and implementation plans based on the principles of effective assessment design.*

Emerging Trends and Challenges in 21st Century Nursing Education

Emerging Trends and Challenges in 21st Century Nursing Education analyzes the emerging trends, technologies, and challenges that academic nurse educators encounter when facilitating learning in diverse healthcare settings. Students will focus on the necessity of interprofessional collaboration, and the barriers and facilitators to overcoming the challenges associated with teaching and learning in nursing. Topics include the impact of emerging technology, challenges in nursing practice, and the role of the academic nurse educator as a scholar and a nursing education policy advocate. This course has no prerequisites.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate proposes strategies for academic nursing education programs to address the current and future challenges faced by nursing practice.*
- *The graduate collaborates with nursing leaders in diverse healthcare settings to initiate change through policy efficacy that strengthens nursing practice and advances the future of healthcare.*
- *The graduate recognizes the impact of trends, significant challenges, and developments in educational technology in higher education in the 21st century.*

Nursing Education Field Experience

The Nursing Education Field Experience provides the academic nurse educator student an opportunity to work collaboratively with academic mentors and interprofessional stakeholders to analyze the need-gap for a curriculum change, innovation, or improvement. Based on the identified need-gap, the graduate student will design and develop a course that reflects evidence-based instructional design and assessment principles and practices. This course prepares students for the

role of an Academic Nurse Educator, as an agent for change and quality improvement in nursing education.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate designs learning objectives and curricula based on programmatic outcomes and utilization of evidence for best practice.*
- *The graduate creates an environment in diverse academic settings that facilitates student learning and the achievement of desired cognitive, affective, and psychomotor outcomes.*
- *The graduate synthesizes contemporary theories, concepts, and principles in the development of assessments for student learning outcomes in various educational settings.*
- *The graduate creates a plan to pursue professional development related to the academic nurse educator role.*
- *The graduate creates a preferred future for nursing education and nursing practice by functioning as a change agent and leader.*

Nursing Education Capstone

The Nursing Education Capstone course provides the Academic Nurse Educator student an opportunity to apply previous course work towards the completion of an evidence-based curriculum proposal project. During this course students will build on previous work during their Nursing Education Field Experience course by planning the implementation and evaluation phases of their proposed curriculum change, innovation or improvement. The capstone proposal project represents a synthesis of competencies across the Masters Science of Nursing—Nursing Education degree program, which prepares them to lead, manage, and transform nursing education in diverse and complex academic settings.

This course covers the following competencies:

- *The graduate integrates and synthesizes competencies from across the degree program and thereby demonstrates the ability to participate in and contribute value to the chosen professional field.*

Need More Information? WGU Student Services

WGU's Student Services team is dedicated exclusively to helping you achieve your academic goals. The Student Services office is available during extended hours to assist with general questions and administrative or accessibility issues. The Student Services team members help you resolve issues, listen to student issues and concerns, and make recommendations for improving policy and practice based on student feedback. The Student Services team provides a formal means by which you can express your views, which in turn will inform the decisions we make.

Student Services team members also assist with unresolved concerns to find equitable resolutions. To contact the Student Services team, please feel free to call 877-435-7948 or e-mail studentservices@wgu.edu. We are available Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. Closed Sundays.

If you have inquiries or concerns that require technical support, please contact the WGU IT Service Desk. The IT Service Desk is available Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., mountain standard time. To contact the IT Service Desk, please call 1-877-HELP-WGU (877-435-7948) or e-mail servicedesk@wgu.edu. The support teams are generally closed in observance of university holidays.

For the most current information regarding WGU support services, please visit "Student Support" on the Student Portal at <http://my.wgu.edu>.