NURSING, M.S. (ACCELERATED)

Saint Louis University's Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing offers a 21-month, five-semester direct-entry accelerated Master of Science in Nursing program that will prepare you to become a clinical nurse leader (CNL).

SLU's direct-entry accelerated Master of Science in Nursing (AMSN) is the first and only of its kind in Missouri. This 21-month, five-semester program is designed for individuals who are not registered nurses but have already earned a baccalaureate degree in another field. By completing the program, you will graduate with a Master of Science in Nursing and be prepared to sit for both the nursing licensure exam and certification as a clinical nurse leader.

The Valentine School of Nursing is renowned for excellence in nursing education. In 2020, our AMSN NCLEX pass rate was 94%. In 2021, Niche ranked Saint Louis University's Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing as the No. 8 best college in the country for nursing. Additionally, U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks our MSN-NP program as a top 50 program in their Best Graduate Schools survey. 

Students who are reviewing our A.M.S.N. program may also consider our one-year accelerated B.S.N. program.

About Clinical Nurse Leaders
The master’s level coursework of SLU’s direct-entry accelerated Master of Science in Nursing program focuses on the competencies and role development you need to become a clinical nurse leader (CNL). Clinical nurse leaders coordinate the care of a distinct group of patients and actively provide direct patient care in complex situations. They focus on outcomes measurement, risk assessment, quality improvement, interprofessional communication and application of evidence-based practice.

Graduates initially work as staff nurses, with their CNL skill set later allowing them to pursue advanced roles in health care.

Program Highlights
The increasing number and range of opportunities available in nursing today make the accelerated Master of Science in Nursing the perfect second-degree option. Unique features of this program include:

- Nearly 1,000 hours of clinical experience throughout the program
- Excellent clinical experiences at major St. Louis-area hospitals and health care facilities
- Clinicals begin in the first semester of the program
- Minimum prerequisite course requirements (Human Anatomy, Human Physiology, Microbiology and Statistics)
- Faculty who are nationally recognized for teaching, research, leadership and student mentorship
- State-of-the-art classroom and simulation laboratory facilities

Curriculum Overview
The master’s level coursework of our direct entry accelerated Master of Science in Nursing program focuses on the competencies and role development you need to become a clinical nurse leader (CNL). Clinical nurse leaders coordinate the care of a distinct group of patients and actively provide direct patient care in complex situations. They focus on outcomes measurement, risk assessment, quality improvement, interprofessional communication and application of evidence-based practice. Please see the roadmap (p. 3) for our AMSN curriculum plan.

Careers
Graduates of our direct entry accelerated Master of Science in Nursing often initially work as staff nurses, with their CNL skill set later allowing them to pursue advanced roles in health care.

This is not an advanced practice role. Graduates of this accelerated master’s program will not be prepared for certification as a nurse practitioner but may pursue a post-master's certificate in that area.

A.M.S.N. graduates are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN, an exam that measures the competencies needed to perform as an effective entry-level nurse. Upon RN licensure, graduates will be eligible to sit for the clinical nurse leader exam offered by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing Commission on Nurse Certification.

Admission Requirements
The Saint Louis University Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing adheres to the principles of a holistic admission process in which selection criteria are broad-based and linked to our University's and school's mission and goals. While we do consider academic metrics we also look at applicant experiences, attributes, potential for success, and how applicants may contribute to the school's learning environment and to the profession.

Licensure Disclosure
The curriculum for this program meets the educational requirements for licensure as a Registered Nurse in the State of Missouri. Note that the Missouri Board of Nursing may impose additional requirements on candidates prior to granting a license; we encourage you to investigate these requirements.

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing has not determined whether the curriculum for this program meets the educational requirements for nursing licensure in any other states or territories. We encourage you to investigate the requirements in your state or territory prior to accepting an offer of admission at the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing.

- Previous completion of a prior baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college or university, or an internationally equivalent degree. WES, ECE or equivalently translated transcripts are required for international courses.
- Undergraduate GPA of 3.20 or higher on a 4.00 system in previous college work.
- Completion of the following prerequisite coursework: (*Science coursework preferably completed within the last five years.)
  - *Microbiology (3 credits)
  - *Human Anatomy (3 credits)
  - *Human Physiology (3 credits)
  - Inferential Statistics (3 credits)

Contact slunurse@slu.edu for an unofficial transcript review.
Requirements for International Students

Due to the rigor of this accelerated program, students are recommended to have a 94 iBT and a score of 7.0 on the IELTS for this program. At a minimum, an 80 on the computer-based TOEFL (iBT) or a 6.5 on the IELTS is required to demonstrate students’ English proficiency.

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University

- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside of the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

Application Process

Applying for the direct entry accelerated Master of Science in Nursing program requires careful planning to ensure that all admission requirements are met. You may experience a significant delay in processing if the application instructions are not followed exactly as listed.

Please follow the five steps outlined below to apply:

**Step 1 - Application**

Submit the application form and fee through either SLU (https://www.applyweb.com/slugrad/) or NursingCAS (https://nursingcas.liaisoncas.org/apply/).

Note: Students only need to submit one application option. There is no preference by the School of Nursing between the SLU or NursingCAS application.

**Step 2 - Transcripts**

Option A: If you are completing the application through SLU please submit your official e-transcripts from all colleges/universities attended to graduate@slu.edu.

Option B: If you are completing the application through NursingCAS please submit your official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended in sealed envelopes directly to NursingCAS. They will provide instructions when the application is initiated.

Option A and B: If you have completed college credits outside of the U.S., you must submit:

- The official evaluated transcript from an accredited credential evaluation service (WES or ECE).
- The official foreign transcript.

**Step 3 - Recommendation Forms**

Submit two recommendation forms.

Option A: If you are completing the application through SLU you will enter your references email address within the online application. Your references will receive an email with a recommendation form to complete and email back to Saint Louis University.

Option B: If you are completing the application through NursingCAS they will provide instructions when the application is initiated.

**Step 4 - Resume**

Attach your professional resume within the SLU or NursingCAS application.

**Step 5 - Professional Goal Statement**

Attach your professional goal statement within the SLU or NursingCAS application. The goal statement should outline your anticipated nursing career trajectory for five years after graduating and include an explanation of why you’ve decided on that path. The statement should be one-to-two pages and double-spaced.

**Application Deadline**

Although the application deadline is July 1, students are strongly encouraged to apply and submit all supporting documents by Feb. 1, as space is limited.

**Review Process**

The Valentine School of Nursing admits students on a rolling basis, typically beginning in February, and there is a deadline to accept an offer of admission.

**Scholarships and Financial Aid**

Financing for this program may be available through grants, scholarships, loans (federal and private) and institutional financing plans.

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing at Saint Louis University offers scholarship and graduate research assistantship opportunities to eligible graduate students. Additionally, most nursing students will participate in a tuition assistance program provided through their employer.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/.

**Accreditation**

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing at Saint Louis University is fully approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Master of Science in Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice at the Valentine School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE/) and approved by the Missouri State Board of Nursing (https://www.pr.mo.gov/nursing.asp). To achieve its educational objectives, the school uses the hospitals within SSM Health and many health care organizations of greater St. Louis.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Graduates will be able to implement collaborative strategies to provide ethical, high quality, safe, effective, patient-centered care.

2. Graduates will be able to use scholarly inquiry including evidence-based practice and research application to improve decision-making and health outcomes.
3. Graduates will be able to integrate advanced competencies, skills, theories, and cultural sensitivity in relationships with patients and professionals.

4. Graduates will be able to design culturally sensitive patient care that includes health promotion and disease prevention.

5. Graduates will be able to facilitate the improvement of health care through leadership within health care systems and communities.

6. Graduates will be able to demonstrate competence in a specialized area of advanced practice nursing that builds on foundational nursing knowledge.

7. Graduates will be able to utilize health care informatics and technologies to support practice.

8. Graduates will be able to advocate for policies that improve the health of the public and the profession of nursing.

### Requirements

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5010</td>
<td>Nursing Strategies in Physiological Health Alterations</td>
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<td>Foundations in Nursing Care</td>
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<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
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<td>Health Care Systems &amp; Policy</td>
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<td>Clinical Studies I</td>
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<td>Clinical Nursing Leadership for Advanced Generalists</td>
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<td>NURS 5067</td>
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<td>NURS 5068</td>
<td>Physiological Adaptations of the Complex Client</td>
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| Total Credits | 65 |

### Non-Course Requirements

Students will complete 1000 clinical hours.

### Continuation Standards

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

### Roadmap

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

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Licensure Examination
Graduates are eligible to apply to take the professional licensure examination; however, the Missouri Nurse Practice Act, Chapter 335.066, states, “Completion of an educational program leading to a degree or diploma in nursing does not guarantee eligibility to write the licensure examination.” Background checks are required of applicants for clinical rotations and again to apply for licensure.

Contact Us

Apply for Admission (http://www.slu.edu/admission/)

For additional admission questions please contact:
Scott Ragsdale
Recruitment Specialist
SLU Valentine School of Nursing
314-977-8995
slunurse@slu.edu