NURSING, M.S. (NURSE PRACTITIONER)

If you are already a registered nurse, Saint Louis University’s online Master of Science in Nursing-Nurse Practitioner degree can train you to become a nurse practitioner. SLU’s M.S.N.-Nurse Practitioner degree prepares you to balance patient care needs with the demands of today’s health care providers or to educate future nurses. We offer nurse practitioner specialties in adult/gerontological acute care, family, pediatric primary care, and family psychiatric/mental health.

The online M.S.N.-nurse practitioner degree program at SLU's Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing offers the flexibility and support that working RNs require and can be specialized to your interest. Once accepted into this program, our students meet with their faculty advisor to create an individualized full- or part-time curriculum plan suitable for their personal and professional schedules.

If you plan to teach, you can take three additional courses focusing on theory and practicum experience in nursing education. If you’d like to also apply for the National League for Nursing Nurse Educator certificate, you will take an additional three-credit education course. Post-master’s certificate programs are available in all specialty areas.

Top Online M.S.N. Degree Program

SLU’s MSN-NP program is highly respected across academic and professional nursing institutions. Our MSN-NP program was featured on the 2020 Best Online Colleges for Value ranking by Guide to Online Schools and U.S. News and World Report consistently ranks our MSN-NP program as a top 50 school in its Best Graduate Programs survey. Additionally, 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.

Program Highlights

SLU’s M.S.N.-NP degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and offers:

- Full- and part-time curriculum plans
- Many specialty areas and role options
- Options to emphasize research in any specialty area
- Responsive faculty who are nationally recognized for teaching excellence, nursing leadership, scholarly research and student mentorship
- Faculty advisers who are individually assigned to mentor each student throughout the program
- An online library and online writing center
- State-of-the-art teaching facilities

Curriculum Overview

The School of Nursing offers five concentrations in the Master of Science in Nursing program completely online.

1 Two campus visits are required. The first visit is a two-day orientation immediately before the program begins. The second visit occurs during one of the clinical management courses. This visit is to evaluate your progress and to teach skills not acquired through online learning, such as suturing.

Adult/Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

If you choose the adult/gerontological acute care nurse practitioner program, you will learn to use complex monitoring and invasive therapies, high-intensity interventions, and continuous vigilance within the range of high-acuity care to help meet the specialized physiological and psychological needs of adults of all ages, including the frail elderly.

Adult/gerontological acute care nurse practitioners work in emergency departments, tertiary care settings, intensive care units, trauma centers and specialty medicine areas treating patients with acute, critical and chronic illness, as well as those with disabilities or injuries. Graduates are eligible for national certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

SLU's family nurse practitioner program prepares you to provide primary health care to patients of all ages. You will help prevent disease, assess and manage acute and chronic health problems, and consult and refer patients within the health care system. SLU's family nurse practitioner program emphasizes quality relationships with patients, families and communities, as well as education and coordination of services aimed at specific health outcomes.

Family nurse practitioners, also known as FNPs, work in a variety of settings and are also well-suited to rural populations, where specialty care may not always be available. Graduates are eligible for national certification from the American Nurses Credentialing Center and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program.

Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

If you choose the pediatric primary nurse practitioner program, you will be prepared to provide care to patients from birth through the age of 21. Pediatric primary nurse practitioners, also known as PNPs, focus on health promotion, disease prevention, and management of acute and chronic conditions in pediatric offices as well as school, community, urgent care and specialty settings.

Graduates are eligible for national certification from the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board.

Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration

If you pursue the SLU’s family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program, you will work with children, adolescents and adults of all ages with acute or complex mental health needs, or psychiatric diagnoses. SLU’s family psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner program encourages evidence-based, culturally sensitive, recovery-oriented and holistic care.

You will be prepared to apply the nursing process and medical/medication management to promote optimal mental health while engaging in active, ongoing collaboration with clients, their families, significant others, and the interprofessional team. Graduates are eligible
Applicant Criteria

A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a program accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency.  
A cumulative grade point average of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.  
An unencumbered registered nurse license in the state in which clinical experience will be done. You must have a registered nurse license at the time of application.  
Current CPR certification from the American Heart Association is required after acceptance into the M.S.N. program.  
Completion of a beginning-level health assessment course or the equivalent thereof prior to enrollment in “Advanced Health Assessment.”

Application Requirements

Applying for the M.S.N.-N.P. program requires careful planning to ensure that all admission requirements are met. You may experience a delay in processing if the application instructions are not followed exactly as listed.

Requirements for International Students

International students on F-1 or J-1 student visas are not eligible for admission to this nursing program due to the fact that the Master of Science in Nursing degree is offered completely online. For additional information, contact the Office of International Services office at 314-977-2318.

Please follow the five steps outlined below to apply:

Step 1 - Application

Submit the application form and fee through either the SLU (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php) graduate application (http://www.slu.edu/apply.php) or NursingCAS (https://nursingcas liaisoncas.org/apply/). Students only need to submit one application option. Submitting the application directly through SLU is preferred but not required.

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 directly to NursingCAS. They will provide details when the application is initiated.

Step 3 – Resume or Curriculum Vitae

Attach your CV/résumé documenting your education, clinical nursing experience, and service to the nursing profession/community within the SLU or NursingCAS application.

Step 4 - Professional Goal Statement

Attach your professional goal statement within the SLU or NursingCAS application. The goal statement should outline your short- and long-term goals as a nurse practitioner and include an explanation of why you’ve decided on that path. The statement should be one-to-two pages and double-spaced.

Step 5 – RN License

Attach a copy of your unencumbered registered nurse license in the state in which clinical experience will be done within the SLU or NursingCAS application.

Application Deadlines

Students interested in the M.S.N. degree program should apply by August 1 for the spring semester and May 1 for the fall semester. If the application deadline has passed for your semester of interest, please contact slunurse@slu.edu to determine if the application deadline has been extended.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed shortly after the submission deadline. Applicants will have a decision two weeks after that time.
Scholarships and Financial Aid
Financing for this program may be available through grants, scholarships, loans (federal and private) and institutional financing plans. For price estimates, please review the SLU Cost Calculator (https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/tuition-and-costs/calculator.php).

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing at Saint Louis University offers scholarship and graduate research assistantship opportunities (https://www.slu.edu/nursing/scholarships/) 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 (https://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/).

Accreditation
The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing 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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5040</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCE 5500</td>
<td>Ethics in Nursing&amp; Health Care</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5080</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Scholarships and Funding Options Include:
- Scholarship and graduate research assistantship opportunities
- Tuition assistance program provided through employer

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

Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5110</td>
<td>Advanced Assessment and Clinical Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5140</td>
<td>Health Promotion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5160</td>
<td>Principles of Practice Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5170</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5200</td>
<td>Gen Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5900</td>
<td>Residency</td>
<td>0</td>
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Concentration Courses
Select one of the following: 16-22
- Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (p. 3)
- Family Nurse Practitioner (p. 3)
- Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner (p. 3)
- Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (p. 4)

Total Credits 36-42

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5310</td>
<td>Critical Appraisal of Technology: Acute Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5260</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Studies I: The Acute Care Setting</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5270</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Studies II: The Acute Care Setting</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5810</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum</td>
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Total Credits 17

Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5550</td>
<td>Family and Child Development</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5320</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Studies I: Nursing of Children</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5330</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Studies II: Nursing of Children</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5810</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum</td>
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Total Credits 18
Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration

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<tr>
<td>NURS 5400</td>
<td>Ecological Approach to Human Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5550</td>
<td>Family and Child Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5340</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Studies I: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5350</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Studies II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5430</td>
<td>Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5810</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum</td>
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Total Credits 22

Nurse Educator Option

Nurse educator courses provide an opportunity for course work and practicum experience in nursing education. NURS 5560 Evidence-Based Approaches for the Nurse Educator (2 cr) may be added to earn the Nurse Educator Certificate.

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<tr>
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<td>NURS 5570</td>
<td>Curriculum Development in Nurse Education</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5580</td>
<td>Instructional Strategies and Evaluation in Nurse Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5590</td>
<td>Practicum in Nursing Education</td>
<td>2</td>
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Total Credits 6

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.

Adult-Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5040</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5170</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
<td>3</td>
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Credits 4

Spring

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCE 5500</td>
<td>Ethics in Nursing&amp; Health Care</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5200</td>
<td>Gen Research Methods</td>
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Credits 5

Year Two

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5110</td>
<td>Advanced Assessment and Clinical Decision Making (75 clinical hours)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5080</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology</td>
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Credits 6

Spring

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 5140</td>
<td>Health Promotion</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 5510</td>
<td>Mental Health Care Family</td>
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Credits 5

Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration

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<td>NURS 5040</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition</td>
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<td>NURS 5170</td>
<td>Advanced Pathophysiology</td>
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Credits 4

Spring

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Credits 5

Year Two

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Credits 6

Spring

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<td>NURS 5510</td>
<td>Mental Health Care Family</td>
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Credits 5
### Year Three

#### Fall
- **NURS 5280** Advanced Clinical Studies I: Adults and Older Adults  
  Credits: 5
- **NURS 5630** Dynamics of Family Nursing Practice  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5290** Advanced Clinical Studies II: Women and Children  
  Credits: 5
- **NURS 5900** Residency  
  Credits: 0

#### Spring
- **NURS 5340** Advanced Clinical Studies I: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (150 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 4
- **NURS 5350** Advanced Clinical Studies II: Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing (150 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 5
- **NURS 5900** Residency †  
  Credits: 0

#### Summer
- **NURS 5810** Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum (150 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 2

#### Year Four

#### Fall
- **NURS 5160** Principles of Practice Management  
  Credits: 2
- **NURS 5810** Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum (150 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 2

### Total Credits
- 40

### Family Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Concentration

#### Course Title Credits
- **NURS 5170** Advanced Pathophysiology  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5040** Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition  
  Credits: 1

#### Spring
- **NURS 5080** Advanced Pharmacology  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5140** Health Promotion  
  Credits: 3

#### Summer
- **NURS 5430** Psychopharmacology  
  Credits: 2

#### Year Two

#### Fall
- **NURS 5110** Advanced Assessment and Clinical Decision Making  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5550** Family and Child Development  
  Credits: 3

#### Spring
- **NURS 5200** Gen Research Methods  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5400** Ecological Approach to Human Behavior  
  Credits: 3

#### Summer
- **HCE 5500** Ethics in Nursing & Health Care  
  Credits: 2

### Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

#### Course Title Credits
- **NURS 5040** Advanced Practice Nursing: Role Acquisition  
  Credits: 1
- **NURS 5140** Health Promotion  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5170** Advanced Pathophysiology  
  Credits: 3

#### Spring
- **NURS 5080** Advanced Pharmacology  
  Credits: 3
- **NURS 5110** Advanced Assessment and Clinical Decision Making († 75 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 3

#### Summer
- **HCE 5500** Ethics in Nursing & Health Care  
  Credits: 2

#### Year Two

#### Fall
- **NURS 5320** Advanced Clinical Studies I: Nursing of Children (75 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 4
- **NURS 5200** Gen Research Methods  
  Credits: 3

#### Spring
- **NURS 5330** Advanced Clinical Studies II: Nursing of Children (75 clinical hours)  
  Credits: 4
- **NURS 5160** Principles of Practice Management  
  Credits: 2
- **NURS 5900** Residency  
  Credits: 0

† 3 day on-site; usually end of April
Summer

NURS 5810  Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum (150 clinical hours)  2

Credits  2

Year Three
Fall

NURS 5810  Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Practicum (225 clinical hours)  3
NURS 5550  Family and Child Development  3

Credits  6

Total Credits  36

Contact Us

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

For additional admission questions, please contact the Valentine School of Nursing’s recruitment and enrollment staff:

Undergraduate Inquiries
314-977-8995
slunurse@slu.edu

Graduate Inquiries
314-977-8976
slunurse@slu.edu