

Frequently Asked Questions

CNS

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE of NURSING

I'm very busy with work and family responsibilities. Can I still earn my MSN?

Yes! The MSN program in Nursing Education clinical nurse specialist and education concentration at MSU College of Nursing is now being offered in a totally on line format. Courses are offered in a traditional semester format, but you can log on to your course work at any time and day of the week that is convenient for you. The College of Nursing has a long history of providing a quality learning experience to distance, life-long learning, and working students. You will be taking 3-7 credits a semester, which is manageable with work and family responsibilities.

Why should I earn my MSN in Clinical Nurse Specialist - Nursing Education?

Nursing education today is very challenging. Nurse educators need to be clinical experts and be able to develop, design and deliver curricula to other nurses or student nurses in a classroom and/or clinical setting. MSN CNS-ED prepared nurses have more career options and job flexibility available to them, as earning your MSN expands your professional horizons. Also, earning your MSN may be a stepping stone to earning your PhD.

What do I need to do to prior to starting at Michigan State University?

The admission process begins with talking with a MSN advisor, and submitting applications and transcripts to Michigan State University and to the College of Nursing. You may contact an advisor at nurse@hc.msu.edu, 517-353-4827 or 1-800-605-6424.

I've taken many classes already. How many credits can I transfer in to Michigan State University?

You may transfer in up to 9 graduate level credits from another college or university to Michigan State University.

Is there a grade point requirement that I need to meet to be admitted to Michigan State University?

You need to have a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average in the last two years of your baccalaureate program for admission to the MSN program at Michigan State University.

Do I need to take a math course?

A Statistics course approved by the College of Nursing needs to be successfully completed prior to NUR 815 Research and Evaluation for Advanced Practice Nurses, which is taught the second semester of the program. Statistics courses that are approved are available upon request from the College of Nursing Office of Student Affairs. Prior approved statistical courses should have been completed within the last five (5) years. Please contact the MSN advisor for courses that exceed the 5 year timeline.

Are there any clinical courses that I will need to take?

Yes, several of the courses have a clinical component that will include internship rotations in a clinical and academic setting. Nursing 866 is an Academic Education Internship which involves 90 hours of student teaching in an academic environment. In addition, NUR 862 and NUR 864 are courses offered during the final year and require internships related to the clinical nurse specialist role. These internship experiences take place in a clinical setting and require a minimum of 250 clinical internship hours working with an approved certified clinical nurse specialist. These internship requirements can generally be completed within your community. Clinical and academic preceptors, in addition to the internship placement site will need to meet certain criteria that are established by the College of Nursing.

How long does it take to earn my MSN as a CNS - Nurse Educator from Michigan State University?

Once you are admitted to the MSN program in CNS - nursing education, you can complete the program in 6 semesters (full time) or 8 semesters (part time). Since the course work in the program is sequential, any deviation in the progression of course work needs to be discussed with the MSN Advisor.

How often does a new group of MSN in CNS - Nursing Education students start the program?

A new group of students begin the program every fall.

Is financial aid available?

There are a limited number of scholarships available for MSN students from the College of Nursing, and you are encouraged to apply for them. You may also check with the [Michigan State University Office of Financial Aid](#) for further assistance. Many agencies also offer tuition reimbursement-ask your employer about their requirements. You can also check with your state Board of Nursing to see how many continuing education credits are granted for university course work. You may be able to claim tax credits for your course work if you use them for continuing education credits or if they are part of your job requirement - check with your financial or tax advisor for details. Students have also taken out student loans or home equity loans to assist in financing their education.