

# Frequently Asked Questions about the MSN Program & Application Process

## GENERAL

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### **Where do I obtain information or download application paperwork?**

All paperwork is available on our website at [www.nursing.msu.edu](http://www.nursing.msu.edu) and follow the links to “Academic Programs”/“MS in Nursing.”

**What MSN options are available?** Students can choose Nurse Practitioner (Adult or Family primary care focus), Clinical Nurse Specialist-Education, or Nurse Anesthesia. Nurse Practitioner and CNS-Education have both part time and full time options. Nurse Anesthesia is only available full time.

**For the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) - Education option, do I need to come to campus?** We require a mandatory on-campus orientation in August prior to starting the program. All courses in the program are in a totally online format.

**Are all courses for Nurse Practitioners also online?** No, the NP program is hybrid, which means some courses are online but there are also some courses that combine online with on-campus. Students generally come to campus 3-6 times per semester for these hybrid courses.

**Online courses:** 801,803,805,809,810,815,841 **Hybrid courses:** 807,820/850 and clinical courses.

**Can coursework for the Nurse Anesthesia concentration be completed online?** All MSN core courses are available in an online format, but the Nurse Anesthesia concentration requires significant campus time and clinical hours. Please see the Frequently Asked Questions document regarding further information about the Nurse Anesthesia program.

**Do I need a Bachelors Degree in Nursing to apply?** Yes, all students applying for the MSN program must have a Bachelors Degree in Nursing to be eligible for admission.

**Do you have off-campus sites around Michigan?** No, coursework is either completed online or on-campus in East Lansing. Clinicals for some concentrations may be completed in your home area or at designated clinical sites around the state of Michigan.

**How much does the program cost?** Tuition costs are always changing. For the most current information go to [www.ctr.msu.edu](http://www.ctr.msu.edu) .

**Is the GRE required?** For Nurse Practitioner and CNS-Education concentrations the GRE is *not* required. For Nurse Anesthesia the GRE is a requirement for admission consideration.

**When applying to MSU, what major code do I use?** Nurse Practitioner students use **4003**, Clinical Nurse Specialist-Education students use **4016**, and Nurse Anesthesia students use **4024**.

**If your program is full can I take any classes while I wait for next year?** Almost all classes are restricted to students in the program and we do not encourage early course enrollment before admissions. Generally students complete the statistics or other additional requirements while they wait for the next application period.

**What if I have a course from another program that I would like to transfer?** Up to 25% of your MSN program can be transferred from other universities (this comes out to about 9 credits). Once your application is complete, you will submit the syllabus for each prior course for evaluation. If the course is accepted, your education plan will be adjusted to reflect the change.

## **APPLICATION**

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**Do I need to submit all documents at once?** Yes. Please follow the instructions in the Application Packet. All materials must be received by the deadline. All documents must be submitted in order for a student to be eligible for interview.

**When is the deadline?** For the MSN Nurse Practitioner and MSN Clinical Nurse Specialists the Application Deadlines for Fall 2010 are October 1, 2009 for an early admission decision and March 1, 2010 for the regular admission process. **Please consult the College of Nursing website for the most up to date application deadlines at [www.nursing.msu.edu](http://www.nursing.msu.edu).**

**What transcripts do I need to submit?** Please submit transcripts from any institution that granted a degree (nursing or non-nursing) or any institution at which you took prerequisite courses that transferred for a degree. Only the College of Nursing will need a set of transcripts.

**How do I know if I've been admitted?** Students who have submitted complete applications and are chosen for interview will be contacted by the College. After an interview is completed, the applicants will be reviewed by a committee and a final decision letter sent. The process can take two months or more. Students denied admission at any point during the admission process are sent letters via postal mail.

## **STATISTICS**

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**What if I took my course more than 5 years ago?** Students have the option of taking a challenge exam to waive the time limit. The prior course must be approved in order to be eligible for this exam. The exam must be completed prior to the start of the program. For the Fall 2010 Program, an approved statistics course has to have been taken no earlier than Fall 2005.

**Can I take any course to fulfill this requirement?** No, the course needs to be approved by the College of Nursing.

**Must this requirement be completed before applying?** No, but you will be admitted provisionally until the requirement is met. Final deadline is the end of your first semester in the program, but we strongly recommend you complete the course prior to starting the program. Expect that your program will be delayed if this requirement is not met on time.

*Please note that students admitted provisionally are not eligible for financial aid (government grants, loans) until the provision is lifted. It is recommended that you complete all requirements before starting the program.*