

FORENSIC NURSING

- MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING: FORENSIC NURSING
- GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN FORENSIC NURSING

Accreditation

The Master of Science in Nursing degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Forensic Nursing Description

The forensic nursing program prepares graduates to practice globally as a forensic nurse examiner with the ability to sub-specialize in a specific area of forensic nursing, if desired. Graduates may practice in a variety of forensic nursing areas such as sexual violence, interpersonal violence, child/elder maltreatment, death investigation and emergency preparedness and disaster management.

MASTER'S PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Master of Science in Nursing degree program prepares professional nurses for advanced nursing practice, leadership in the nursing profession, and future doctoral study.

The forensic nursing program prepares graduates for professional practice in the role of the forensic nurse through the application of knowledge and principles foundational to nursing science and forensic science. Curriculum emphasizes interprofessional education related to the diverse roles and responsibilities of the forensic nurse as an independent practitioner and collaborator within the multidisciplinary forensic team while providing specialized care and services to individuals, families, communities, populations and systems that have experienced violence or trauma. Graduates are prepared to serve as leaders in forensic nursing, paving the way for the advancement of the specialty.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Science in Nursing-Forensic Nursing is **38 credits** including a minimum of 420 clinical practice hours. The program of study allows students to complete the requirements in twenty-eight months.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The forensic nursing program prepares graduates for professional practice in the role of the forensic nurse through the application of knowledge and principles foundational to nursing science and forensic science. Curriculum emphasizes interprofessional education related to the diverse roles and responsibilities of the forensic nurse as an independent practitioner and collaborator within the multidisciplinary forensic team while providing specialized care and services to individuals, families, communities, populations and systems that have experienced violence or trauma.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate Certificate in Forensic Nursing is awarded upon satisfactory completion of **18 credits** in an approved program of study and includes a minimum of 420 clinical practice hours. The program of study allows students to complete the requirements in sixteen months.

MASTER'S PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Building on the foundation of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program will prepare graduates as transformational leaders with advanced nursing knowledge and practice expertise for optimizing health outcomes. (Essential IX)

The MSN program prepares graduates to:

1. Integrate theories and scientific findings from nursing, biopsychosocial fields, genetics, public health, and organizational sciences using translational processes to improve evidence-based nursing practice across diverse settings. (Essentials I & IV, VIII, IX)
2. Describe concepts from organizational leadership, systems leadership, and information technology in the promotion of quality improvement and safety. (Essentials II, III, V, IX)
3. Synthesize requisite knowledge of legal and regulatory processes, health policy, ethics, and advocacy to improve health outcomes of diverse populations at the organizational, local, state, and federal level. (Essentials IV, VI, VIII, IX)
4. Formulate intra/interprofessional collaborative strategies integral to the design and delivery of evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention interventions to improve health outcomes in individuals, families, communities and populations. (Essentials IV, VII, VIII, IX)
5. Integrate professional standards and guidelines in the provision of nursing practice in a specialty area. (Essentials IX)

ADMISSION TERMS AND APPLICATION DEADLINES

The admission terms and application deadline are the same for both the Master's of Science in Nursing program *and* the Graduate Certificate program:

April 1

Before an applicant's file can be reviewed for full program admission, all application documents must be received in the department of graduate study and lifelong learning by the deadlines. Incomplete applications will not be sent to departments for admission review.

*International applications are reviewed for fall admission only. To ensure adequate time for review, international applications must be completed at least six months before the desired date of intended enrollment in the university. All international application materials must be submitted by **April 1** for fall admission.*

ADMISSION REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

Admission to graduate study at Oakland University is selective. In making admission recommendations to the department of graduate study and lifelong learning, the School of Nursing assesses the potential of applicants for success in the program by examining their undergraduate records, goal statement, letters of recommendation, prerequisite courses and any other admission requirements established by the academic department.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for graduate admission, applicants must submit all of the following university and program application documents by the published application deadlines. Qualified applicants will be selected to attend an interview and complete a brief evaluation of their critical care nursing knowledge and skills.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

University Graduate Application Requirements must be completed by both Master's Program applicants *and* Graduate Certificate applicants.

- Online application for admission to graduate study.
- Official transcripts providing evidence of an earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. institution, or a degree equivalent to a four-year U.S. baccalaureate degree from a college or university of government-recognized standing.
- Official transcripts for all post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned a degree (beginning with the first baccalaureate) and for all enrollment in graduate-level coursework beyond the bachelor's degree. International university transcripts must be evaluated by a professional credential evaluation service. *As part of the admission requirements, graduate programs may require official transcripts from post-secondary educational institutions from which the applicant earned an associate's degree and all enrollment in coursework both pre- and post-bachelor's degree.*
- International university transcripts must be evaluated by a professional credential evaluation service. Oakland University will only accept transcript evaluations completed by a NACES (National Association of Credential Evaluation service) member organization. Many applicants use World Educational Services (WES) or Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE). NACES membership can be confirmed by visiting naces.org/members.htm. Graduate programs requiring more detailed information may require an applicant to submit a course-by-course (or detailed) evaluation report rather than the general evaluation report. Official foreign transcripts will not be required by Oakland University since official transcripts must be submitted to and verified by the evaluation service. However, applicants must submit photocopies of their foreign transcripts with their application materials.
- Two official and original recommendation forms for graduate admission. *Note: Some programs require more than two recommendation forms. Refer to the **program application requirements** listed below for the total number of recommendations and specific requirements for the recommendations.*
- Proof of English language proficiency.
- International supplemental application and supporting documentation must be submitted before international applicants can be issued the Certification of Eligibility (I-20). This certificate is required to apply for a student visa from the U.S. embassy or consulate.

PROGRAM APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

MSN *and* Certificate Programs:

- School of Nursing supplemental application.
- Proof of a current unrestricted Registered Nurse (RN) license in the United States or its territories.
- A minimum of one year of recent clinical experience as an RN (within 2 years of application deadline) is required during which time the applicant must have functioned as an independent decision-maker and demonstrated advanced psychomotor skills.
- Applicants must have completed an undergraduate physical assessment course.
- Two recommendation for graduate admission forms must be completed by healthcare professionals in forensic nursing, leadership, administration/management or education and are able to attest to the applicant's nursing skills and/or abilities. One reference must be from a colleague who is familiar with the applicant's work.
- Professional statement of 500 to 1,000 words. The statement should focus on the applicant's reason for seeking formal forensic nursing education, how recent clinical experience has prepared him/her for forensic nursing practice, career goals after program completion, as well as plans for professional development in the specialty of forensic nursing. The professional statement will be evaluated on content and appropriate use of grammar, style, spelling and rhetoric.
- Qualified applicants will be selected for an individual interview with School of Nursing faculty. The interview will be scheduled after all application materials have been submitted.

Master's of Science in Nursing Program only:

- Applicants for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing program must have completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with an overall undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Graduate Certification Program only:

- Applicants for admission to the Graduate Certificate in Forensic Nursing program must have completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with an overall undergraduate cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or above from an institution accredited by the National League for Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Course Requirements

Foundation Courses and Clinical Core Courses are required *only* for the Master of Science in Nursing: Forensic Nursing program. The Specialty Courses are required by *both* the MSN and Graduate Certification programs.

FOUNDATION COURSES (16 CREDITS)

Foundation courses address critical content needed by all graduate nursing students. These courses include content on nursing theory, diversity, research, ethics, health policy and roles of advanced practice nursing.

- **NRS 500** - Theoretical Foundations of Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credits)
- **NRS 521** - Diversity and Social Issues (2 credits)
- **NRS 531** - Research Topics in Advanced Nursing Practice (4 credits)
- **NRS 610** - Health Policy and Finance (3 credits)
- **NRS 643** - Interprofessional Role Development Leadership and Ethics in Advanced Nursing Practice (3 credits)
- **NRS 687** - Graduate Research: Project (1 credit)

CLINICAL CORE COURSE (4 CREDITS)

The clinical core course provides graduate students with advanced clinical knowledge and skills in assessment.

- **NRS 613** - Advanced Health Assessment (4 credits)

SPECIALTY COURSES (18 CREDITS)

The specialty courses are comprised of didactic and clinical courses that prepare students for the advanced practice. The specialty courses build upon nursing knowledge and skills learned at the undergraduate level and during foundation and clinical core courses.

- **NRS 674** - Foundations of Forensic Nursing Science (3 credits)
- **NRS 677** - Forensic Nurse Death Investigation (2 credits)
- **NRS 678** - Forensic Nurse Death Investigation Clinical (1 credit)
- **NRS 679** - Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Management, and Violence in Society (2 credits)
- **NRS 681** - Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Management, and Violence in Society Clinical (1 credit)
- **NRS 682** - Sexual Violence, Interpersonal Violence, and Child/Elder Maltreatment (4 credits)
- **NRS 683** - Sexual Violence, Interpersonal Violence, and Child/Elder Maltreatment Clinical (2 credits)
- **NRS 688** - Advanced Forensic Nursing Seminar (1 credit)
- **NRS 689** - Advanced Forensic Nursing Clinical (2 credits)