

## **REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSc(Nurs))**

*These regulations are applicable to candidates admitted to the Master of Science in Nursing in the academic year 2021-2022 and thereafter.*

*(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)*

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### **N1 Definition**

The degree of Master of Science in Nursing (MSc(Nurs)) is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of the curriculum of three academic years of full-time study or equivalent in the School of Nursing, LKS Faculty of Medicine.

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### **N2 Admission requirements**

To be eligible for admission to the curriculum leading to the degree of MSc(Nurs), a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
  - (c) hold a Bachelor's degree in a non-nursing discipline of this University or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose normally in recent 5 years;
  - (d) meet the 'Minimum entry requirements for training of Registered Nurses' from the Nursing Council of Hong Kong;
  - (e) have a good command of written and spoken English and Chinese (Cantonese); and
  - (f) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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### **N3 Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test a candidate's formal academic ability or his/her ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent and may include a project report; and
  - (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until he/she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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### **N4 Award of degree**

To be eligible for the award of the degree of MSc(Nurs), a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
  - (b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
  - (c) complete the curriculum requirements and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.
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### **N5 Advanced standing**

Advanced standing may be granted to a candidate who has successfully completed equivalent courses before admission to the curriculum, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) such course(s) should be completed no more than 5 years prior to the candidate's commencement of the MSc(Nurs) curriculum;
- (b) advanced standing for up to 12 credits may be granted; and
- (c) all applications are considered on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Studies and shall be approved by the Board of the Faculty.

Credits granted for advanced standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate. Application for advanced standing shall normally be made prior to the candidate's admission to the curriculum. Academic transcript and relevant course syllabuses should be submitted.

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## **N6 Period of study**

The curriculum shall normally extend over three academic years of full-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of five academic years of full-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

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## **N7 Completion of curriculum**

- (a) To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall:
    - (i) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
    - (ii) take not less than 204 credits in the manner specified in these regulations and the syllabuses, and follow the instructions in the syllabuses prescribed for the courses and complete satisfactorily all required written, practical or clinical work;
    - (iii) satisfy the examiners in the courses by continuous assessments and/or written examinations; and
    - (iv) complete and present a satisfactory thesis on an approved project and may be required to present for an oral examination.
  - (b) A candidate who has failed to fulfil the requirements within the prescribed maximum period of registration shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provision of General Regulation G12.
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## **N8 Course selection**

Selection of study patterns shall be made in consultation with the candidate's Academic Advisor and be subject to the approval of the Board of Studies.

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## **N9 Assessment**

- (a) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in a course may be permitted:
  - (i) to attend a re-examination; or
  - (ii) to re-take the prescribed assessment(s) without having to repeat the same course; or

- (iii) to repeat the course and to re-take the prescribed assessment(s)/examination(s).
- (b) A candidate who has failed to present a satisfactory thesis may be permitted to revise the thesis and to re-present it within a specified period of time.
- (c) A candidate who is not permitted to present themselves for re-examination in any course(s) or to re-submit a thesis shall be recommended for discontinuation of studies under General Regulation G12.
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#### **N10 Grading systems**

- (a) Individual courses (except the practicum courses and thesis) shall be graded according to the following letter grading systems:

<i>Grade</i>		<i>Standard</i>	<i>Grade Point</i>
A+	}	Excellent	4.3
A			4.0
A-			3.7
B+	}	Good	3.3
B			3.0
B-			2.7
C+	}	Satisfactory	2.3
C			2.0
C-			1.7
D+	}	Pass	1.3
D			1.0
F		Fail	0

- (b) The practicum courses and thesis shall be graded according to the 'Pass' or 'Fail' grading system.
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#### **N11 Publication based on work approved**

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

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## **SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MSc(Nurs))**

*These syllabuses are applicable to candidates admitted to the Master of Science in Nursing in the academic year 2023-2024 and thereafter.*

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSc(Nurs)) curriculum consists of 22 core courses (132 credits), 5 practicum courses (57 credits) and a capstone experience which includes an Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice course (6 credits) and a Nursing Thesis (9 credits), making a total of 204 credits. The assessment is based on a combination of practical examinations/tests (30%-70%) and continuous assessments (30%-70%). Candidates are also required to submit a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiner(s).

### **CORE COURSES**

NURS7501	Life Sciences I for Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7502	Applied Psychology for Nursing Practice (6 credits)
NURS7503	Fundamentals of Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7504	Science of Therapeutic Nursing I (6 credits)
NURS7505	Introduction to Nursing Research (6 credits)
NURS7506	Life Sciences II for Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7507	Microbiology and Pharmacology for Nursing Practice (6 credits)
NURS7510	Health Assessment (6 credits)
NURS7511	Promoting the Health of Individuals and Populations (6 credits)
NURS7508	Science of Therapeutic Nursing II (6 credits)
NURS7601	Science of Therapeutic Nursing III (6 credits)
NURS7602	Emergency and Critical Care Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7603	Mental Health Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7604	Social Context of Health and Illness (6 credits)
NURS7605	Science of Therapeutic Nursing IV (6 credits)
NURS7606	Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents (6 credits)
NURS7607	Nursing Care of Women and Infants (6 credits)
NURS7608	Community and Global Health Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7609	Nursing Care of the Older Adult (6 credits)
NURS7701	Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7702	Introduction to Chinese Medicine and Nursing (6 credits)
NURS7705	Management and Leadership in Health Care (6 credits)

### **PRACTICUM COURSES**

NURS7509	Introduction to Clinical Nursing Practicum (6 credits)
NURS7610	Adult Nursing Practicum (9 credits)
NURS7611	Specialty Nursing Practicum I (6 credits)
NURS7612	Specialty Nursing Practicum II (9 credits)
NURS7704	Consolidation Practicum (27 credits)

### **CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

NURS7613	Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice (6 credits)
NURS7703	Nursing Thesis (9 credits)

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## CORE COURSES

Syllabuses are as follows:

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### **NURS7501 Life Sciences I for Nursing (6 credits)**

This course covers human anatomy, physiology and basic biochemistry. The course introduces major metabolic pathways as well as the structure and normal physiological function of the human body systems, specifically the circulatory, lymphatic, respiratory, gastrointestinal and endocrine systems. The interactions between body systems in maintaining homeostasis and the body's response to selected pathological processes are also covered. The concepts of the human body functioning in healthy and diseased conditions are reinforced.

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### **NURS7502 Applied Psychology for Nursing Practice (6 credits)**

This course comprises developmental psychology and health psychology. Developmental psychology focuses the basic concepts and mechanisms inherent in the process of human development across the lifespan. It examines the biological, cognitive, social, emotional, and moral aspects of development through various theoretical models. Health psychology focuses particularly on the relationship between psychology and health. It involves the study of the promotion and maintenance of good health, the causes and experience of illness. Furthermore, this course also aims to facilitate students to understand life education, e.g. resilience and stress management.

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### **NURS7503 Fundamentals of Nursing (6 credits)**

This course will provide students with a solid foundation of nursing knowledge and an understanding of the fundamental concepts essential to nursing practice. This course has two major themes. The first theme is introduction of nursing practice including ethical, legal theories and professional conduct. The second theme is introduction of fundamental nursing knowledge and skills related to safe and high quality nursing care. This will involve developing common clinical skills and developing beginner clinical decision-making skills. The course integrates theories related to professional practice and beginning clinical skills in preparing students to practise in clinical setting.

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### **NURS7504 Science of Therapeutic Nursing I (6 credits)**

This course builds upon, and further develops the concepts and skills acquired in Fundamentals of Nursing. The aim of this course is to acquire and integrate essential knowledge from theory, research and practice in nursing and related disciplines, enabling students to conceptualize and deliver nursing care to clients and their families. This course also expands the opportunity for students to use nursing process and clinical reasoning in relation to quality improvement and safety in designing patient-centred care. The course content starts with perioperative nursing care, and the health conditions related to respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

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### **NURS7505 Introduction to Nursing Research (6 credits)**

This course provides an overview of the research process aiming to help students acquire basic skills and knowledge of nursing research, and to appreciate its importance in nursing practice. Basic statistical method will also be included in this course.

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**NURS7506 Life Sciences II for Nursing (6 credits)**

This course builds on the knowledge gained in Life Sciences I for Nursing. It introduces the structure and normal functioning of the human body systems, specifically renal, reproductive, musculoskeletal, and nervous systems. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of body systems in maintaining homeostasis. The pathophysiology of and the body's responses to selected diseases will also be covered. The concepts of the human body functioning in healthy and diseased conditions are reinforced.

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**NURS7507 Microbiology and Pharmacology for Nursing Practice (6 credits)**

This course contains two parts. Part 1 focuses on Microbiology and Part 2 focuses on Pharmacology. Microbiology emphasizes the interaction of microorganisms with humans and the diseases they cause. This course enables students to understand disease-causing representatives of different groups of microorganisms and how these are transmitted and controlled. They also learn how to avoid the spread of infectious microorganisms in the community and clinical settings. Part 2 is the Pharmacology part which relates to fundamental principles in clinical pharmacology and relevant knowledge pertaining to drugs in common use. It provides an understanding of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics which is essential for administering and managing drug therapy with good judgment in professional practice. The therapeutic effects and mechanisms of action of the drugs most frequently prescribed will be covered and the adverse reactions, toxic effects, interactions, precautions, contraindications and nursing implications pertaining to specific drugs will be highlighted as well.

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**NURS7510 Health Assessment (6 credits)**

This course uses an assessment framework such as Gordon's Functional Health Patterns to provide students with the theory and practice necessary to develop skills in health assessment. The course develops students' health history taking and physical assessment skills using a holistic approach that assesses all aspects of human health and function. The focus is on a systematic presentation of normal and abnormal findings through physical examination. This course provides students an opportunity to practice assessment skills in nursing laboratories.

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**NURS7511 Promoting the Health of Individuals and Populations (6 credits)**

This course is designed to equip students with the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to promote the health of individuals, families, groups, and populations across the lifespan. It includes essential components, such as, assess the health needs of the community, apply appropriate health promotion models and strategies and methods for evaluating the effectiveness of a health care activity. The focus is using the gained knowledge to deliver primary and preventive health information to the community. The course also integrates theory related to health promotion, sociocultural, learning, motivation, behavioural change, and group dynamics.

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**NURS7508 Science of Therapeutic Nursing II (6 credits)**

This course continues students' learning from Science of Therapeutic Nursing I by using the identified framework described for that course. The course content assists students to acquire and integrates the learnt life science knowledge and practice in nursing. The course also enables students to conceptualize and deliver nursing care to clients and their families starts with an understanding of common health conditions affecting the alimentary, nervous, endocrine, lymphatic, and integumentary aspects.

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**NURS7601 Science of Therapeutic Nursing III (6 credits)**

This course continues students' learning from Science of Therapeutic Nursing I and II by using the identified framework described for those courses. The course emphasizes the understanding of the general principles and practice of taking care of patients with musculoskeletal, haematological dysfunction. Oncology and palliative care will also be covered in this course. It also explores the impact of disabilities caused by long-term health problems and rehabilitation of these clients.

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**NURS7602 Emergency and Critical Care Nursing (6 credits)**

This course has two focuses: emergency nursing and critical care nursing. The first focus assists students to develop clinical competency and proficiency in management of patients in emergency situations. The second focus is to enrich students' clinical skills for managing patients with critical conditions. Students are introduced to critical care nursing practice and the nature of illness, including patients' experience of critical illness, the role of the critical care nurse and the context of critical care nursing practice. Theoretical concepts that are foundational to emergency and critical care nursing practice are highlighted in the course as well.

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**NURS7603 Mental Health Nursing (6 credits)**

This course provides students with basic concepts of mental health and deepens their understanding of the common psychiatric disorders, mental health law, psychiatric nursing assessment, collaborative care models, and service providers. Besides introducing students to the principles of mental health nursing, positive concepts and promotion of mental health and the nurse's therapeutic skills are emphasized throughout the course.

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**NURS7604 Social Context of Health and Illness (6 credits)**

This course provides students with opportunities to understand and analyse how society influences the individual. More specifically, it enables students to understand and apply a social model of health and illness to their practice, discuss the social production and distribution of health and illness, understand aspects of the social construction of health and illness and describe the social organization of health care. It also enables them to apply socio-cultural reasoning in the analysis of a social issue in health care.

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**NURS7605 Science of Therapeutic Nursing IV (6 credits)**

This course extends students' learning from Science of Therapeutic Nursing I, II & III. This course focuses on essential knowledge from theory, research and practice in nursing and related disciplines which enables students to conceptualize and deliver nursing care to clients and their families. Similar to Science of Therapeutic Nursing I, II & III, students are required to use nursing process and clinical reasoning in relation to quality improvement and safety in designing patient-centred care for clients. The course content starts with an understanding of the common health condition related to the renal and genitourinary, immunology, ophthalmic and oto-rhino-laryngological (ENT) aspects. Finally, application of advance technology in health care will be discussed in the course.

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**NURS7606    Nursing Care of Children and Adolescents (6 credits)**

This course builds on the human growth and development content of prerequisite courses to develop students' appropriate knowledge which enables them to apply a family centered approach to care of children, adolescents and their families. Besides using the nursing process in caring common paediatrics' problems, health education to children and adolescents and families are also the central themes throughout each developmental stage. Emphasis is placed upon age appropriate communication skills and nursing interventions.

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**NURS7607    Nursing Care of Women and Infants (6 credits)**

This course focuses on nursing care of women and infants. It aims to provide students with opportunities, through exploring common health problems in the lifecycle of women including reproductive, to apply the acquired scientific knowledge to the art of nursing practice in caring for women and infants. Within the context of fostering students' analytical ability in clinical judgment, theoretical content related to nursing management of women before, during and after childbirth are addressed. Common disorders of infants are discussed along with the nursing interventions throughout each developmental stage of infants.

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**NURS7608    Community and Global Health Nursing (6 credits)**

This course provides students with an overview of community and public health nursing theories and pertinent issues in contemporary public/global health challenges, with an introduction to key concepts of global health and the critical links between health and social and economic development. Factors that influence the community and the health of population groups will be examined. Models for community health assessment will be presented and will introduce students to the process of assessing the health status of communities and populations. The analysis of the concepts on health promotion, health maintenance and prevention of disease and disability of individuals, families and communities will be highlighted. Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention will be discussed as it pertains to the role of nursing within the multidisciplinary team approach as well as strategies will be explored related to the delivery of care to individuals and their families within the community and to the community as a whole. This course allows students to identify the significance of addressing the health and wellness of communities and populations both locally and globally.

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**NURS7609    Nursing Care of the Older Adult (6 credits)**

This course provides students with opportunities to explore principles related to promoting, maintaining and restoring the health of older adults with the latest information on gerontological nursing evidence-based practice. Emphasis will be placed on the knowledge required to plan, deliver, and manage complex health problems experienced by older adults and their caregivers in both acute care and community settings. Students will examine the role of the registered nurse as a member of an interprofessional team, in supporting older adults and their caregivers. Learning extends to legal and ethical principles associated with caring for older adults.

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**NURS7701    Professional, Legal and Ethical Issues in Nursing (6 credits)**

This course facilitates students' examination of their beliefs and values using several value clarification tools, relating them to developing a personal philosophy of their professional selves. Universal ethical principles are examined in a health care context. Major ethical theories (rule-based, consequentialist,



utilitarianism, duty-based and rights theorist) are presented and discussed in relation to current health care issues. The development of ethical decision-making within a professional role is emphasized. This course also provides students with the foundation of laws pertinent to the health care services. It enables students to develop an understanding of the legal framework and the practical knowledge between legal and ethical issues related to the provision of health care. The roles and professional standard of nurses are also examined concerning a range of health issues such as negligence, professional liability, informed consent and confidentiality.

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**NURS7702 Introduction to Chinese Medicine and Nursing (6 credits)**

This course covers the principle theories and clinical modalities of Chinese Medicine and introduces the science of Modern Chinese Medicine in the management of health and illness with reference to the contemporary integrative approach to health care. This course focuses on the understanding of the principles of Chinese Medicine practice, and the nurse's role in facilitating clients to benefit from the integrative system of health care. This course builds on students' theoretical and clinical background on the Western style of health care practice.

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**NURS7705 Management and Leadership in Health Care (6 credits)**

This course examines the evolving role of nurses as managers and leaders within the contexts of the health care team, health care organizations, and the health care system. This course also provides students with the concepts and skills to analyse, plan, manage, and evaluate health care teams, health care organizations, and health care systems. Health care policies and health informatics will be covered in the course as well.

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**PRACTICUM COURSES**

Practicum courses aim to provide students with opportunities for the integration of theoretical knowledge into nursing practice. Each nursing practicum has been designed to provide specific clinical experiences in order to enhance the clinical competence of the students. Syllabuses are as follows:

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**NURS7509 Introduction to Clinical Nursing Practicum (6 credits)**

This course focuses on the Introduction to Clinical Nursing. It aims to provide opportunities for students to develop and apply basic nursing knowledge, skills and professional behaviour in a health care setting or medical and surgical setting.

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**NURS7610 Adult Nursing Practicum (9 credits)**

This course focuses on assessment and nursing management of illness/injury, acute and complex diseases, as well as long-term health conditions. It aims to provide opportunities for students to develop and apply basic nursing knowledge, skills and professional behaviour in medical and surgical settings.

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**NURS7611 Specialty Nursing Practicum I (6 credits)**

This course comprises two components: Paediatric and Adolescents Nursing and Obstetrical Nursing. These two components aim to provide students with the opportunities for the development and

application of specific nursing knowledge, skills and professional behaviours in these specialties, i.e., paediatric and adolescent unit, and obstetric unit in hospital or community settings. Through observation, guided practice in basic skills and specific nursing therapeutic interventions for clients and their families, students will be able to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired in the related courses including nursing process, nursing therapeutics, ethical principles, communication skills and problem solving skills in this Specialty Nursing Practicum I.

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### **NURS7612 Specialty Nursing Practicum II (9 credits)**

This course comprises three components: Gerontological Nursing, Mental Health Nursing and Accident and Emergency Nursing. These three components aim to provide students with the opportunities for the development and application of specific nursing knowledge, skills and professional behaviour in hospital or community settings. Through observation, guided practice in basic skills and specific nursing therapeutic interventions for clients and their families, students will be able to apply the knowledge of nursing process, nursing therapeutics, ethical principles, communication and problem solving and decision making skills in these three specialties.

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### **NURS7704 Consolidation Practicum (27 credits)**

This course comprises four components: Medical Nursing, Surgical Nursing (including intra-operative nursing), Community Nursing and Primary Health Care Nursing. The practicum in medical and surgical nursing aims at providing students with the opportunities to further consolidated their nursing skills and knowledge to manage and care for patients and their caregivers in the medical and surgical units, respectively. The community and primary health care nursing are designed to provide students with opportunities to gain practical experience in community and primary health care settings; and to apply health promotion concepts in the community settings to achieve health promotion and disease prevention.

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## **CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE**

The capstone experience consists of a course entitled “Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice” (6 credits) and a Nursing Thesis (9 credits). The capstone courses enables students to gain experience to marshal the skills to define a problem in nursing practice, initiate investigations, demonstrate an artifact that solves the problem, and present their work. The thesis represents 9 credits of work and students will be provided an opportunity to conduct a scholarly activity that is relevant to nursing by using advanced nursing research and evidence-based approach. Syllabuses are as follows:

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### **NURS7613 Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice (6 credits)**

This course takes an integrated approach to further enhance students’ understand of, and ability to use different research methodologies acquired in Introduction to Nursing Research for scientific enquiry. The course also introduces the importance of research to improve clinical practice and quality of health care. The purpose of the course is to provide students with knowledge and analytical skills to critically appraise research literature and to use the best available evidence to improve healthcare decision-making.

Pre-requisites: NURS7505 Introduction to Nursing Research

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**NURS7703      Nursing Thesis (9 credits)**

This capstone project is a culminating experience that allows students to integrate research and clinical knowledge. Specifically, this course is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to conduct a systematic literature review built on the framework of evidence-based practice.

Pre-requisites: NURS7613 Advanced Nursing Research and Evidence-based Practice and NURS7505 Introduction to Nursing Research

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