



## RN-MSN TRANSITION SEQUENCE

### University Profile

The University of Saint Francis was founded in 1890 and has a rich heritage of offering quality education. Rooted in the Catholic and Franciscan traditions of Faith and Reason, the University of Saint Francis engages a diverse community in learning, leadership and service. Personal attention to students is what makes a USF education so meaningful and enriching to its approximately 2,100 students. The campus has 108 acres of rolling lawns and trees with 19 buildings and four residence halls that surround beautiful Mirror Lake.

### Department of Nursing Mission

Rooted in Franciscan values, the Nursing faculty prepare a diverse community of students for professional nursing, lifelong learning, service, and leadership.

### Program Overview

The RN-MSN Transition Sequence of courses is intended to prepare the adult ASN or diploma nurse for entrance into the Graduate Nursing Program. Students must be accepted into the Graduate Nursing Program in order to be eligible for the transition sequence of courses. Students enroll as Graduate Nursing students, but are not allowed to take courses toward the graduate nursing degree until the transition courses in the "transition sequence" are satisfactorily completed.

Classes are offered in a hybrid format, with a portion of each class online and a portion on campus. Transition courses will meet on-ground once a month on a Tuesday. An orientation is planned in May and August and is a required on ground experience for all new MSN students.

### Prerequisites

Must be completed prior to starting the Transition Sequence:

- Current practice as an RN with a diploma or associate degree in nursing
- Anatomy and Physiology I and II
- Microbiology
- Pharmacology
- Pathophysiology
- English Composition I
- Introduction to Psychology
- Growth and Development

### Transition Sequence

Entry into the Transition Sequence of courses is fall semester only. Students are ready to enter the Graduate Nursing Program after two academic semesters. Students with an ASN or diploma who do not have a bachelor's degree in another field take a 16 credit package of courses to prepare for the Graduate Nursing Program.

The Transition Sequence of courses include:

- Two general education courses:
  - ENGL 204 Advanced Expository Writing
  - MATH 302 Statistics
- Three nursing courses taught in an intensive block format:
  - NURS 502 Professional Communication (2 cr.)
  - NURS 500 Professional Nursing Concepts I (4 cr.)
  - NURS 503 Professional Nursing Concepts II (4 cr.)

Students with an ASN or diploma *and* bachelor's or master's degree in another field take 8 credits of nursing courses to prepare for the Graduate Nursing Program. These courses include:

- Two nursing courses taught in an intensive block format:
  - NURS 500 Professional Nursing Concepts I (4 cr.)
  - NURS 503 Professional Nursing Concepts II (4 cr.)

The ASN/Diploma nurse must have completed 1000 hours of clinical practice before taking NURS 570/572 in the FNP track.

Students will not be awarded a BSN at the completion of the nursing courses, but will be able to begin Graduate Nursing coursework at USF.

### Transition Sequence of Courses:

#### Fall Semester

- ENGL 204- online, for 15 weeks
- NURS 502 - hybrid, for first 5 weeks of semester
- NURS 500- hybrid, for last 10 weeks of semester

#### Spring Semester

- MATH 302- online or on campus, for 15 weeks
- NURS 503- hybrid, for first 10 weeks of semester

### Accreditation

The Master of Science in Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

### Faculty

Students will find highly skilled and respected nursing faculty who are dedicated to teaching and learning and provide personalized attention. On enrollment each student is assigned a nursing faculty advisor to assist the student in course planning and program completion.

## Course Descriptions

### NURS 500 - Professional Nursing

#### Concepts I, 4 Credit Hours

Emphasizes the transition and socialization to professional nursing practice. Examines the relationship between nursing theory, research and practice. Introduction to selected theories relevant to professional nursing practice. Examination of selected legal and ethical issues of professional nursing. Focuses on broadening the professional nurse's health promotion and health assessment skills throughout the lifespan. Assists the student to incorporate knowledge of the patient interview process, as well as knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology into the skills of health assessment. Emphasizes how to perform focused assessment skills on any system-specific problem and utilization of nursing models to address health beliefs. (Hybrid course that involves both campus and web-based meetings.) Prerequisite RN Licensure.

### NURS 503- Professional Nursing

#### Concepts II, 4 Credit Hours

Focuses on socialization into leadership and management roles, the role of the professional nurse as an individual and group member, and participation in organizational change. Explores evidence-based practice and development of strategies to use research in practice. Emphasizes integrating nursing research with nursing theory, knowledge and practice. Exploration of the professional role of the nurse in the community using holistic approach to health promotion and disease prevention in the provision of nursing care to individuals, groups and communities through primary, secondary and tertiary therapeutic nursing interventions. Explores future issues and trends affecting professional nursing. (Hybrid course that involves both campus and web-based meetings.) Prerequisite RN Licensure.

### NURS 502 - Professional

#### Communication, 2 Credit Hours

Employs principles of effective communication related to professional presentations in written, verbal and

computer-based formats. Focuses on use of computer applications as they apply to the professional nurse role. Serves as a foundation to expand professional practice through exploration of concepts including diversity, collaboration, effective communication, technology, self-awareness, and reflective practice. (Hybrid course that involves both campus and web-based meetings.) Prerequisite RN Licensure.

## Admission Criteria

1. Meet general admission standards for graduate education at the University of Saint Francis.
2. Hold a baccalaureate degree in nursing. (Upon completion of the USF RN-MSN Transition Sequence, ASN and Diploma RNs may progress directly into the MSN Program.)
3. Hold a current license as a registered nurse.
4. Have an undergraduate GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale.
5. GRE is required if GPA is less than 3.0. A minimum score of 400 on the verbal and 400 on the quantitative must be achieved.
6. Satisfactorily complete a graduate or undergraduate statistics course within the last five years or complete MATH 302 during the transition sequence.
7. Submit a résumé or curriculum vitae.
8. Submit three (3) letters of reference.
9. Complete and submit the USF MSN Essay (Written Goals).
10. Complete MSN Admission Interview (Personal Interview).
  - Current interview dates can be found at [www.sf.edu](http://www.sf.edu).

Prospective students who do not meet all of the above criteria may be admitted "provisionally", at the discretion of the MSN Program Director and Chair of the Nursing Department. These graduate students must earn a GPA of 3.2 in the first six hours of graduate nursing core courses at USF to be fully admitted to the Graduate Nursing Program.

Graduate students are required to have a personal desktop or laptop computer with high speed internet access. A computer with wireless capabilities that is less than 3 years old is recommended. Your computer should meet the criteria as established by the university. Contact Campus Computing for specifics on the USF website at [www.sf.edu/computing/](http://www.sf.edu/computing/).

## Clinical Requirements

In order to participate in clinical experiences, clinical requirements as set by the Department of Nursing and clinical agencies must be met including, but not limited to, criminal background checks and drug testing.

## How do I apply for admission?

1. Request an application for admission from the Office of Admissions.
2. Send the completed application along with the required non-refundable application fee of \$20 to the Office of Admissions.
3. Request an official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended and have it sent to the Office of Admissions. Transcripts are considered official only when they are sent directly from the school and have a school seal or signature of a school official.
4. If you have been in military service, submit a copy of your DD214 military discharge form.

## Financial Aid

Financial aid is available in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. More than 95 percent of undergraduate students receive financial assistance; most receive more than one type of aid. Early Estimator packages are available for dependent students during the fall at [www.sf.edu/financialaid](http://www.sf.edu/financialaid).

All students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Priority deadline is no later than March 10.

## How do I find out more?

Call the Office of Admissions at 260-399-8000 or 800-729-4732, or visit our website at [www.sf.edu](http://www.sf.edu).

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