A Way to Grow Professionally – the On-line MSN Program

Each semester the Lamar University Graduate Nursing Studies program in Beaumont admits nurses with a Bachelor’s in Nursing degree into their nationally accredited Master of Science in Nursing Program. The MSN program offers a choice of Administration or Education tracks. Graduate students progress through the curriculum on a part-time or full-time basis taking courses on-line during times that are convenient for them. There are occasional synchronous meeting via Adobe Connect identified very early in the semester to accommodate the students plan for attendance at the scheduled time via their computer. Otherwise the curriculum is offered online using Blackboard as the class format.

Students receive personal one-on-one attention from a graduate advisor and experience a teaching/learning environment that fosters professional growth. The graduate curriculum was noted as a program strength by the program’s accrediting body (NLNAC). Students take 37 credit hours to complete the MSN degree. There are six shared or common core courses taken by students in either track. These courses focus on scholarly thinking and evidence-based learning projects.

The Nursing Administration track provides 22 additional credit hours in advanced knowledge focused on organizations, management, leadership, health policy, and nursing administration. A unique aspect of the administration track are business support courses in marketing, financial accounting, and economics. While this strong business focus completes the nursing administration track, it provides an additional opportunity for the student to move into a dual degree, the MBA. Lamar University offers the combined dual MSN/MBA degree, however the Business courses are not on-line at this time. Students who need all courses on line can transfer these equivalent Business courses (up to 9 credit hours) into the MSN program from other online schools.

The Nursing Education track provides 22 credit hours focused toward knowledge and skills necessary to become educators in academic settings. Particular attention is given to teaching learning strategies and theories for today’s learners. Graduate Students learn to use educational technology to enhance their teaching. A unique feature of the education track is the actual practice and hands-on experience in the classroom arranged with preceptors or Master Teachers in Nursing. The advanced knowledge in curriculum design and development, as well as testing and evaluation, offer a sound framework for a new or experienced nurse educator role.

The MSN program at Lamar University has several requirements for admission into the program. Those requirements are:
1. Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from a nationally accredited (NLNAC or CCNE) undergraduate program.
2. 3.0 GPA or higher for all undergraduate and graduate course work.
3. Satisfactory scores on either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Miller Analogy Test (MAT) taken within the last five years. Entrance exams may be waived for those who graduate with a BSN from a nationally accredited program and possess a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
5. Completion of a college statistics course, with a grade of “C” or better taken within the last five years.
6. Clear Criminal Background check

Potential students may often take up to three credit hours in the MSN program without being fully enrolled. This opportunity allows the student to experience the expectations of graduate nursing education.

If you are interested in the MSN program at Lamar University, please seek out additional information about courses, faculty, curriculum, or any other facets of graduate nursing education by contacting Dr. Nancy Blume, PhD, ARNP-CNS, Lamar University’s Director of the Graduate Nursing Studies, at (409) 880-7720 or accessing our website at http://dept.lamar.edu/nursing/