



MS in Nursing & MA in Forensic Psychology Joint Degree Program

DEGREES OFFERED

MS in Nursing and MA in Forensic Psychology Joint Degree Program is designed for working nurses and is offered by two departments, the Department of Nursing and the Department of Counseling Psychology.

Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) and Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology (MA)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The interdisciplinary master degree program prepares students for working in the field of forensic mental health nursing. The program provides students with the skills to work with incarcerated, paroled perpetrators as well as victims of crime in a mental health setting or in the community.

Because the faculty is made up of nursing and psychology clinicians, students are exposed to a wide variety of theoretical and practical frameworks for working in the mental health/legal systems. This program is very attractive because (1) classes incorporate didactic learning with opportunities for experiential practice.; (2) nursing courses are offered once a month on a weekend (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) on campus or by interactive conferencing which brings the coursework directly to the workplace, (3) the forensic psychology courses are offered online; and (4) the entire program can be completed in 24 months.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

The prerequisites for enrollment are:

- BSN in nursing from a college/university accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- A current California RN license
- Two letters of reference
- A TOEFL score of 550 or higher if English is the second language
- Cumulative GPA of 2.8 and a GPA of 3.00 in nursing from the baccalaureate degree program
- A resume
- Courses in statistics and research at the undergraduate level

CURRICULUM

Required Nursing Courses

NURS 211	Theoretical Basis and Philosophical Foundation of Advanced Practice (3)
NURS 212	Healthcare Law and Ethics (3)
NURS 214	Health Promotion and Risk Reduction of Diverse Populations Across the Life Span (3)
NURS 216	Social Impact of Healthcare Economics in a Changing Healthcare Environment (3)
NURS 217A	Scientific Inquiry in Nursing (2)

NURS 217B	Capstone (2)
NURS 240	Advanced Health Assessment (3)
NURS 240L	Advanced Health Assessment Lab (1)
NURS 244	Advanced Pharmacology (3)
NURS 271	Clinical Experience I (4)
NURS 272	Clinical Experience II (4)

Total = 31 units

Required Forensic Psychology Courses

CPSY 200	Foundations of Counseling: Process and Skills (3)
CPSY 205	Psychopathology (3)
CPSY 206	Forensic Psychology and the Law (3)
CPSY 207	Psychology of Criminal Behavior (3)
CPSY 208	Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment (3)
CPSY 209A	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment of the Victim (3)
CPSY 209B	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment of the Offender (3)
CPSY 211	Forensics: Psychometrics and Assessment (3)
CPSY 226	Advanced Issues in Correctional and Community Counseling (3)
CPSY 240 C	Use of the Statistical Manual IV as a System for Identifying and Classifying Psychopathology (1)
CPSY 245C	HIV/AIDS Assessment and Treatment (1)
CPSY 245D	Domestic Violence (1)

Total = 30 units

Total for Two degrees = 61 units

Pathway Program to the MSN/MA in Forensic Psychology Option

Students who have a California RN license and have earned a bachelor degree in a non-nursing field of study and are interested in enrollment in the MSN/MA in Forensic Psychology program may meet the entrance requirements for the program by completing the Pathway courses. For enrollment in the MSN/MA in Forensic Psychology, students need to complete the following courses at the undergraduate level of nursing before admission to the MSN/MA in Forensic Psychology program:

NURS 141	Nursing Research (3)
NURS 142W	Family and Community Health Nursing I (3)
NURS 142L	Family and Community Health Nursing I Lab (3)
NURS 131	Health Assessment (3)
NURS 152	Family and Community Health Nursing II (3)
NURS 171	Pathophysiology (3)

NURSING FACULTY

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