

# NURSING

## Undergraduate Program Information

NMSU's School of Nursing (SON) offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. The degree plan provides two options to accommodate either the beginning nursing student and the beginning nursing student with a baccalaureate degree in another major. Students graduating from the two options are eligible to take the NCLEX-RN® examination for licensure as a registered nurse upon completing their program of studies. This BSN degree is also offered at two additional satellite sites at NMSU Grants, NM and NMSU Alamogordo, NM.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Accreditation by the CCNE assures prospective students and employers that the program has met national education standards. The BSN degree program in nursing has full approval from the New Mexico Board of Nursing. Approval by the New Mexico Board of Nursing is required for BSN graduates to be eligible to take the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX-RN®) for licensure as a registered nurse.

The NMSU SON is a full New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) member and offers the NMNEC BSN curriculum.

NMSU pre-nursing and transfer students should contact the pre-nursing advisors in the Center for Academic Advising and Student Support (CAASS) at Educational Services Center, Suite 200 for information on the pre-nursing curriculum. Second-degree students should contact the School of Nursing Advising Center (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/SON-Advising-Center.html>) to determine eligibility for the Pathways or Roadrunner options. Contact the School of Nursing Advising Center (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/SON-Advising-Center.html>) for the BSN program application (all options) and information about the HESI A2 Entrance Exam, Military students, and specific questions about the nursing program.

**School of Nursing Advising Office:** HSS 110, 575-646-3812, [nursing@nmsu.edu](mailto:nursing@nmsu.edu)

### Application and Admission Requirements: Traditional 4-year BSN Program

Application and admission requirements for the four-year BSN program are as follows:

1. Obtain admission to NMSU.
2. Satisfy NMSU basic academic competency requirements in English and Math.
3. Completed or in the last semester of nursing prerequisite courses (see BSN degree plan (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-documents/BSN-4-Sem-Degree-plan-2022-2023-revised-2021-11-11.pdf>)).
4. Prerequisite science courses must have been completed within the past seven years at the time of application.
5. Minimum nursing prerequisite course GPA 2.75 or above, which includes grades earned from all higher education institutions.
6. Minimum of C- grade in all prerequisite and general education courses
7. Completion of the HESI-A2 Admission Exam (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/faq-bsn-admission.html#hesi>) (Biology, Chemistry, Math, and all English

sections) by the application deadline with a score of > 75% in each section.

8. Submit a complete BSN program application and all supporting documents by the program deadline (see below). No incomplete applications will be considered.
9. Acceptance of transfer students into the BSN program is contingent upon NMSU Admissions receiving an official transcript verifying completion of all required prerequisite courses with satisfactory grades, as defined by BSN program requirements. The official transcript must be received by NMSU Admissions within 30 days following the end of the term in which the final prerequisite courses were completed.

Students should meet with a School of Nursing advisor to determine eligibility to apply to the five-semester BSN program and to obtain the BSN program application.

#### Application deadlines:

- April 1st—for consideration for Fall admission to the nursing major (Las Cruces, Grants and Alamogordo applicants)
- September 1st—for consideration for Spring admission to the nursing major (Las Cruces applicants only).

For more information on the application/admission policies and procedures, please visit the School of Nursing website (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/bsn-program.html>).

*NOTES: Admission to the BSN program is competitive and available seats in each class are limited. Admission scores are based primarily on nursing pre-requisite GPA and scores on the HESI A2 Entrance Exam. Any applicant not admitted to the nursing major may reapply during the next admission cycle. Applicants for fall semester admission may not finish nursing prerequisites in the summer session immediately preceding the fall semester in which they wish to be admitted.*

### Application and Admission Requirements: Second Degree Options (Roadrunner and Pathways)

The Nursing Program offers two options for 2nd-degree-seeking students. Both programs are designed for students who already have a Bachelor's degree in another major but would like to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). The Roadrunner option starts in the summer semester and is completed in 19 months. Students in the Pathways option are admitted alongside traditional 4-year BSN students in the fall and spring semesters. Please refer to the School of Nursing website (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/2nd-degree-BSN-options.html>) for more information about the two options.

Application and admission requirements for the Roadrunner and Pathways BSN options are as follows:

1. Obtain admission to NMSU as a second bachelor's degree-seeking student.
2. Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the first bachelor's degree.
3. Achieve a B grade in all nursing prerequisite courses: Anatomy and Physiology or A&P I and A&P II (8 credits), Microbiology with lab, and Statistics (3 credits). Roadrunner applicants must have completed Pathophysiology (4-6 credits) prior to the start of the program.
4. Nursing prerequisite courses must not be older than 7 years at the time of application. Pathway applicants must complete at least

two prerequisites prior to application. Roadrunner applicants must complete three prerequisites prior to application.

5. Completion of the HESI-A2 Admission Exam (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/bsn-program.html>) (Biology, Chemistry, Math, and all English sections) by the application deadline with a score of > 75% in each section.
6. Submit a complete BSN program application and all supporting documents by the program deadline (see below). No incomplete applications will be considered.
7. Acceptance of transfer students into the BSN program is contingent upon NMSU Admissions receiving an official transcript verifying completion of all required prerequisite courses with satisfactory grades, as defined by BSN program requirements. The official transcript must be received by NMSU Admissions within 30 days following the end of the term in which the final prerequisite courses were completed.

#### Application deadlines:

- April 1st—for consideration for Fall admission to the nursing major (Las Cruces, Grants, and Alamogordo Pathways applicants)
- February 1st—for consideration for Summer admission to the nursing major (Las Cruces campus Roadrunner option)
- September 1st—for consideration for Spring admission to the nursing major (Las Cruces Pathways applicants only)

For more information on the application/admission policies and procedures, please visit the School of Nursing website (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/bsn-program.html>). Second-degree students must contact an advisor at the NMSU School of Nursing Advising Center (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/SON-Advising-Center.html>).

*NOTES: Admission to the BSN program is competitive, and available seats in each class are limited. Admission scores are based primarily on the nursing prerequisite GPA and the HESI A2 Entrance Exam scores. Any applicant not admitted to the nursing major may reapply during the next admission cycle. Pathways applicants for fall semester admission may not finish nursing prerequisites in the summer session immediately preceding the fall semester in which they wish to be admitted.*

## Graduate Program Information

New Mexico State University's School of Nursing offers graduate education designed to advance nursing practice and improve care outcomes for individuals, families, communities, and systems. Across these programs, students build expertise in evidence-based practice, quality improvement, leadership, policy advocacy, informatics, culturally-sensitive practice, and systems thinking, with a strong emphasis on translating research to practice improving outcomes for populations experiencing or at risk for health disparities. Graduate study culminates in advanced clinical and scholarly preparation that supports nurses, nurse practitioners, and nurse anesthetists in leading healthcare system improvements and strengthening patient-centered care.

New Mexico State University's master's degree program in nursing (MSN), Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs, and post-graduate APRN certificate programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), 655 K Street NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791. The Nurse Anesthesiology concentration in the DNP program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA), 10275 W. Higgins Rd., Suite 906, Rosemont, IL 60018-5603; (847) 655-1160. Accreditation by CCNE

and COA ensure programs undergo rigorous scrutiny and meet national education standards.

Detailed information about degree options, including program pathways, clinical requirements, and application and admission guidelines is provided below. For more information, please visit the **School of Nursing website**.

### MSN Degree

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) provides graduate-level education and training in the field of Nursing Leadership and Administration. Students enrolled in the Nursing Leadership and Administration MSN program acquire the knowledge and experience to assume leadership positions in a wide range of healthcare systems and fulfill the fundamental requirements to secure middle and top-level administrative positions in healthcare agencies. The MSN Leadership and Administration degree option is available to nurses who possess an RN license and a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (BSN). Courses for this degree are delivered via distance education through NMSU Global Campus (i.e., online), allowing nurses to advance their careers while remaining in their communities.

Please visit the Master's of Science in Nursing webpage (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/nursing/son-pages/MSN-Program.html>) or contact the Nursing Graduate Advisor for more information about application and admission requirements at (575) 646-4007.

**Application deadline: January 2** for a spring semester start; **August 2** for a fall semester start.

### DNP Degree

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is a terminal degree in nursing that focuses on advancing nursing practice directed towards improving nursing care outcomes for individuals, families, communities, and systems. The program emphasizes culturally sensitive practice, evidenced-based practice, and translation of research to practice as it relates to improving the care of individuals, families, groups and communities experiencing or at risk for health disparities. The complexity of health care combined with rapidly increasing knowledge and the need for both evidence-based practice and translation of research to practice support the scholarship goals of the DNP. Students in the DNP program complete a year-long final project. A minimum of 1000 supervised clinical contact hours must be completed for the DNP degree.

### MSN-DNP Option

The MSN-to-Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) concentration in Population Health Leadership allows nurses with a Master's degree in a nursing field to obtain a terminal degree with advanced education in population health, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, leadership, policy advocacy, informatics, and systems thinking. Nurses with the DNP degree are prepared to lead efforts to make healthcare system changes and improve patient outcomes. Nurses with the MSN degree who are working in APRN or non-APRN roles are encouraged to apply. Upon admission, a review of supervised contact hours obtained in the MSN degree will be conducted. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 1000 clinical and/or leadership contact hours between their prior Master's degree and the DNP degree. Courses for this degree are delivered via distance education through NMSU Global Campus (i.e., online), allowing nurses to advance their careers while remaining in their communities.

Please visit the MSN to DNP webpage (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/graduate-program/msn-dnp-in-population->

health-leadership.html) or contact the Nursing Graduate Advisor for more information about application and admission requirements at 575-646-4007.

**Application deadline: May 15** for a fall semester start.

### **BSN-DNP Option**

#### **Concentration: Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**

The BSN Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) option allows baccalaureate-prepared RNs to assume advanced practice nursing (APRN) roles within the health care arenas of **Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)** and **Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP)**. In these DNP concentrations, students must take courses in advanced pathophysiology, advanced assessment, and advanced pharmacology, in addition to specialty courses within their area of study. The clinical training consists of over 1000 supervised clinical contact hours completed in the student's clinical specialty and related areas. Courses for this degree are delivered via distance education through NMSU Global Campus (i.e., online), allowing nurses to advance their careers while remaining in their communities.

For more information, please visit the Family Nurse Practitioner webpage (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/graduate-program/family-nurse-practitioner.html>) or the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner webpage (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/graduate-program/psychiatric-mental-health-nurse-practitioner-specialty.html>). You can also contact the Nursing Graduate Advisor for more information about application and admission requirements at 575-646-4007.

Application deadlines: **February 15** for a fall semester start.

#### **Concentration: Nurse Anesthesiology**

The BSN Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) option allows baccalaureate-prepared RNs to assume an advanced practice nursing (APRN) role within the health care arena as a **Nurse Anesthesiologist**. In this **3-year** DNP concentration, students must take advanced courses in anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, health assessment, and pharmacology, in addition to other specialty courses within anesthesiology. The clinical training requires a minimum of 2400 supervised clinical contact hours completed in the student's clinical specialty and related areas. Courses for this degree are delivered through a combination of in-person didactic and laboratory experiences at the Las Cruces campus, and asynchronous and synchronous online learning. The majority of clinical training is completed at hospitals and surgical centers in the Las Cruces/El Paso and Albuquerque/Santa Fe regions. Residents complete a required rural New Mexico clinical rotation.

Please visit the Doctor of Nursing Practice Nurse Anesthesiology webpage (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/graduate-program/doctor-of-nursing-practice-dnp.html>) or contact the Nursing Anesthesiology Student Program Coordinator for more information about application and admission requirements at 575-646-3688.

Application deadline: **February 1** for a start in the following Spring semester.

### **Post-Graduate APRN Certificates**

This program is for currently certified Master's or doctorally-prepared nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists who wish to obtain the coursework needed to sit for certification in another specialty. Post-Graduate APRN certificates

are offered in the following specialties: **Family Nurse Practitioner** and **Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**. Courses for these certifications are delivered via distance education through NMSU Global Campus (i.e., online), allowing nurses to advance their careers while remaining in their communities.

Please visit the Post Graduate APRN Certificate webpage (<https://schoolofnursing.nmsu.edu/graduate-program/post-graduate-aprn-certificates/>) or contact the Nursing Graduate Advisor for more information about application and admission requirements at (575) 646-4007.

**Application deadline: January 15** for a fall semester start.