

# Morgan State University



## School of Graduate Studies Catalog 2014-2015

### School and College Sections

### School Community Health and Policy

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Changes are effected from time to time in the general regulations and in the academic requirements. There are established procedures for making changes and procedures which protect the institution's integrity and welfare. A curriculum or graduation requirement, when altered, is not made retroactive unless the alteration can be accommodated within the span of years required for graduation. Additionally, because of space limitations in limited enrollment programs, Morgan State University may not be able to offer admission to all qualified students applying to these programs and/or class-sections.

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# School Community Health and Policy

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## **SCHOOL SUMMARY**

The Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy (SCHP) offers a range of unique academic and practical opportunities designed to foster a skilled diverse public health workforce. The School is committed to providing students from varied backgrounds with a rigorous education in three health sciences disciplines --nursing, nutrition and public health -- incorporating community based learning experiences as an integral component of the educational core. The School of Community Health and Policy, which has two graduate programs (Public Health and Nursing) equips its graduates to assume professional positions that address health and health disparities at the individual and group level, with capacity to approach these issues for urban populations, in Maryland, across the nation, and globally.

## **SCHOOL MISSION**

The Morgan State University School of Community Health and Policy's mission is to develop a corps of health professionals committed to transforming urban communities by promoting health and reducing health inequities.

## **VISION**

The vision of the School of Community Health and Policy is to be an integral part of the community, working to achieve optimal health.

## **Graduate Programs within the School of Community Health and Policy**

### **The Public Health Program**

The Public Health Program (PHP) was accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) in 2004, and reaccredited in October 2009 for the maximum seven-year term, extending through December 2016. As the first doctorate-granting, urban practice-based public health program at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU), the PHP provides students with the opportunity to learn community-based participatory research methods and critical analytic skills, applied to practice in urban and underserved settings. With a focus on teaching students to address racial and ethnic health disparities,

PHP produces cutting-edge professionals who are prepared to take advantage of the range of opportunities in the field of health promotion and disease prevention, and are ready to make a difference in the 21st Century.

Through its three departments - Behavioral Health Sciences, Health Policy and Management, and Public Health Analysis, the Program provides a rigorous public health curriculum for each degree offered: Doctorate (DrPH) and Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees. With guidance from academic advisors, students are able to focus on selected public health core areas.

### **Public Health Program Mission**

The mission of the Public Health Program is to cultivate a community-engaged public health workforce focused on the needs of marginalized urban populations, and to prepare leaders who will generate, disseminate and implement new scientific information, policies and best practices. The achievement of this mission is supported by two goals.

**Goal 1:** Provide and promote highly effective practice-based public health education to a diverse student body through a model of community engagement.

**Goal 2:** Develop, translate and disseminate new knowledge in public health designed to create best practices for health promotion and disease prevention as well as inform policy decision-making for urban communities in an effort to eliminate health disparities.

### **Public Health Program Admissions Policy**

The admissions requirements for each of the degree programs are detailed in subsequent sections which respectively detail the admission and program requirement for both the DrPH and MPH degrees. Additionally, there are specific policies addressing (1) students accepted in other Morgan University graduate programs who wish to transfer into one of the public health program degree programs (DrPH or MPH) and (2) non-degree students accepted into the Graduate School interested in taking public health classes. These policies apply to both the DrPH and MPH degree programs.

### **Students Transferring into Public Health from Other Morgan State University Graduate Programs**

The School of Community Health and Policy's Public Health Program will accept MSU students from other graduate degree programs wishing to go into the field of public health. Such students will be assessed on an individual basis regarding their public health interest, relevance of prior undergraduate and graduate courses to the School, and academic performance in their respective fields, as well as their potential to cope with public health science-based courses. A maximum of six (6) graduate credits of course work may be transferred from other graduate programs (which were not counted towards the previous graduate degree).

### **Non-Degree Students Admitted to the Public Health Program**

Persons admitted as non-degree students may take a Public Health course with the permission of the Chair of the Department responsible for the course. The following conditions apply:

- Non-degree students who are granted permission to take courses can take no more than the 12 credits as specified by the Graduate School before submitting an application to the Public Health Program.
- Non-degree students can enroll in Public Health Program courses for no more than two consecutive semesters before submitting an application to the Public Health program.
- Non-degree students must notify the Public Health Program of their intent to register for Public Health Program courses to insure that the policy regarding non-degree status is clearly under-

stood. Contact the School's Office of Student Affairs by sending an email to [carolann.hendricks@morgan.edu](mailto:carolann.hendricks@morgan.edu) to do so.

## DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DrPH)

### Objective

The Doctor of Public Health degree program is designed to educate public health practitioners to address and solve contemporary health problems of urban and minority populations utilizing core and cross-cutting competencies and skills in a leadership capacity. It is also committed to increasing and validating the body of knowledge required for public health research and practice.

### Admission to the Program

For admission, applicants must have earned a Master's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on previous baccalaureate or masters degree course work. Admission to the Doctor of Public Health Program occurs during the fall semester and includes the following minimum requirements:

- Three letters of recommendation from public health professionals and/or other professionals or academicians.
- Recent resume/curriculum vitae including previous academic achievement and professional accomplishments.
- A Master's Degree in a health or social science from an accredited College or University with a minimum academic grade point average of 3.0.
- A 1-2 page essay describing work/educational experience, area of interest, and career objectives of the applicant.
- Official transcripts of all post secondary studies and documentation of previous academic achievement, and professional accomplishments.
- Results obtained on the Graduate Record Examination (sent directly from Education Testing Service [ETS]); test scores for those with a master's degree may not be more than five (5) years old prior to date of application. If the applicant has a doctoral degree in the health or social sciences area, this criterion may be waived based on the assessment of his/her individual academic record.
- At least one (1) year of work-related experience in public health/ allied health field is preferred.
- An interview with the doctoral program Admissions Committee.

### General Requirements for the Doctor of Public Health Degree

- All students who seek to earn the Doctor of Public Health degree will be required to complete a minimum of sixty (60) graduate credit hours.
- Complete a Public Health Practicum.
- Students must also successfully pass the Program's core competency exam in partial fulfillment of graduation, upon successful completion of all core course requirements.

NOTE: Although Program length will vary for students who are part-time, the time allotted for completion of all requirements for the doctoral degree by the School of Graduate Studies is seven (7) consecutive years.

### DrPH Program of Study

Incoming DrPH students must complete a doctoral curriculum designed to provide advanced level knowledge of the five domains of public health plus other foundational courses. Combined these courses cover advanced areas of epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics, research methods, health planning, and policy administration as well as social and behavioral factors in public health. In

addition to the foundational courses, doctoral students must undertake a practicum as well as complete dissertation research centered courses. A minimum of sixty (60) credits hours are required for the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Degree.

### Summary for DrPH Degree Coursework (with a Master's of Public Health degree)

Degree Coursework	Credit Hours
Foundational Courses	27
Elective Courses	12
Public Health Practicum	9
Dissertation Seminar (Graduate School Requirement)	<u>6</u>
Satisfaction of Graduate School Required Credits	54
Dissertation Related Research Courses	6
[Note: Fulfilled through Dissertation Guidance and Research]	
<b>Total Credits for the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) Degree</b>	<b>60</b>

### Foundational Courses

HEGIS/Course No.	Course Name	Credit Hours
PUBH 708	Advanced Research Methods	3
PUBH 801	Advanced Level Social Behavioral Health Sciences*	4
PUBH 805	Advanced Level Health Policy & Administration*	4
PUBH 806	Advanced Level Epidemiology*	4
PUBH 808	Advanced Level Environmental Health*	4
PUBH 810	Advanced Level Biostatistics*	4
PUBH 812	Advanced Level Critical Health Issues	4
* Signifies the core courses required before sitting for the Core Competency Examination		
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>27</b>

### The Public Health Doctoral Practicum

HEGIS/Course No.	Course Name	Credit Hours
PUBH 551	Doctoral Internship I (Application of Public Health Principles)	3
PUBH 651	Doctoral Internship II (Field Experience)	3
PUBH 751	Doctoral Internship III (Integrating Experience)	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>9</b>

### Dissertation Research Courses

HEGIS/Course No.	Course Name	Credit Hours
PUBH 997	Dissertation Seminar	6
PUBH 998	Dissertation Guidance	3
PUBH 999	Research	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>12</b>

### Elective Courses

HEGIS/Course No.	Course Name	Credit Hours
	Elective Courses	<b>12</b>

**Students without a MPH** or another health related degree will be assessed on an individual basis regarding their academic preparedness for the doctoral curriculum. Transcripts will be evaluated to determine if the following core courses, or equivalent content, were taken in achieving the required Master's degree:

#### **Master's Level Core Courses Needed without an MPH Degree**

##### **HEGIS/Course**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
PUBH 500	Epidemiological Methods of Public Health	4
PUBH 501	Statistical Methods in Public Health I	4
PUBH 502	Social and Behavioral Health Science	4
PUBH 503	Policy and Health Services Planning and Management	4
PUBH 506	Environmental Health	4
	<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>20</b>

#### **Applying Previously Earned Credits toward the DrPH Degree**

Six credits can be accepted towards the minimum degree credit requirement. These credits cannot have been used towards a previous degree. This evaluation takes place after admission into the Program.

The five domain focused courses must be taken at Morgan except where permission of the Department Chair for the course is granted.

#### **Doctoral Dissertation**

The doctoral dissertation is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and original research experience, and requires a minimum of twelve (12) hours of related dissertation credits. The dissertation credits can be fulfilled after the successful completion of course work and passing the core competency examination. The SCHP-PHP is committed to helping students successfully move through the Program in the allotted time.

#### **Public Health Practicum**

Nine (9) credit hours of internship are required of all DrPH students. The internship provides the student an opportunity to engage in community practice experiences by working with ongoing community projects. Depending on the student's interest, the internship may be carried out in governmental or non-governmental health agencies, health institutes, community organizations, and academic units and programs of public health.

#### **Core Competency Examination**

All DrPH students are required to sit for the Program-wide Core Competency Examination. Specific policies and procedures for the exam are provided upon application to sit for the exam.

#### **DrPH Planned Sequence of Courses**

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Fall (Year 1)</b>		
PUBH 801	Advanced Social and Behavioral Health Sciences	4
PUBH 805	Advanced Health Policy and Management	4

PUBH 806	Advanced Epidemiological Methods in Public Health	4
		<b>Total Semester Hours 12</b>

**Spring (Year 1)**

PUBH 808	Advanced Environmental Health	4
PUBH 810	Advanced Statistical Methods in Public Health	4
PUBH 812	Advanced Critical Health Issues	4
		<b>Total Semester Hours 12</b>

**Core Competency Examination****Fall (Year 2)**

PUBH 551	Doctoral Internship (Level 1-Application)	3
PUBH 708	Advanced Research Methods	3
	Elective Course	3
		<b>Total Semester Hours 9</b>

**Spring (Year 2)**

PUBH 651	Doctoral Internship Practicum (Level 2-Field Experience)	3
	Elective Course	3
	Elective Course	3
		<b>Total Semester Hours 9</b>

**Fall (Year 3)**

PUBH 751	Doctoral Internship (Level 3-Synthesis)	3
	Elective Course	3
		<b>Total Semester Hours 6</b>

**Spring (Year 3)**

PUBH 998	Dissertation Seminar	6
		<b>Total Semester Hours 6</b>

**Accumulated Graduate Clearance Credits 54**

(Target time to have completed a dissertation proposal and ready to present for defense.)

**Fall (Year 4) and Subsequent Semesters**

PUBH 997	Dissertation Guidance	3
		<b>Total Semester Hours 3</b>

**Note:** This course meets the continuous enrollment requirement – 3 credits per semester

**Spring (Year 4) and Subsequent Semesters**

PUBH 997	Dissertation Guidance	3
		<b>Total Semester Hours 3</b>

**Note:** Student can also enroll in PUBH 999.185 once the six credit Dissertation requirement

**Total DrPH Program Credit Hours 60**

## MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH (MPH)

### Objective

To prepare students to be public health professionals who draw on knowledge and skills from a variety of disciplines to define, critically assess, and resolve urban public health problems. Morgan State University Public Health graduates will have a foundation in public health that enables them to be advocates, researchers, practitioners, and policy developers relative to urban public health problems.

### Admission to the Program

For unconditional admission, applicants must have earned a bachelor and/or master's degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on previous baccalaureate or master's degree course work. Admission to the Master of Public Health Program is granted for only the fall semester and is based on the following requirements:

- Three (3) letters of recommendation from practicing public health professionals and/or other professionals or academicians.
- A current resume.
- A 1-2 page essay describing your work/educational experience, area of interest, and career objectives.
- Official transcripts of all post-secondary studies and documentation of previous academic achievement, and professional accomplishments.
- Results obtained on the Graduate Record Examination [sent directly from Education Testing Service (ETS)]; test scores for MPH degree applicants may not be more than five (5) years old prior to date of application.
- At least one (1) year of work-related experience in public health/allied health field is preferred.
- Interview with a member of the Program's admissions committee

### General Requirements for the Master of Public Health Degree

All students who seek to earn the Master of Public Health degree will be required to complete a total of 48 graduate credit hours including a Public Health practicum for seven (7) credit hours.

### MPH Program of Study

The MPH curriculum consists of core, other required courses (including the Practicum) and electives. The core courses cover the areas of environmental health, quantitative analysis and methods, health planning, policy and administration, as well as social and behavioral science.

### Summary for MPH Degree Coursework

<b>Degree Coursework</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
Program Required Courses	32
Elective Courses	9
Public Health Practicum	7
<b>Total Credits for the Master of Public Health (MPH) Degree</b>	<b>48</b>

### Required Courses

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
PUBH 500	Epidemiological Methods in Public Health I*	4
PUBH 501	Statistical Methods in Public Health I*	4
PUBH 502	Introduction to the Behavioral Science of Public Health*	4

PUBH 503	Policy and Health Services Planning and Management I*	4
PUBH 504	Public Health and Health Disparities	3
PUBH 506	Environmental Health Sciences*	4
PUBH 512	Biological Basis of Public Health	1
PUBH 603	Public Health Community Needs Solutions	3

**Required Courses****HEGIS/Course**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
PUBH 610	Public Health Research Methods and Systems Thinking	3
PUBH 743	Public Health Community Needs Solutions II	2

\* Signifies the core courses required before sitting for the Core Competency Examination

<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	<b>32</b>
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**Practice Courses****HEGIS/Course**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
PUBH 517	MPH Internship I (Application of Public Health Principles)	1
PUBH 518	MPH Internship II (Field Experience)	3
PUBH 607	MPH Internship III (Integrating Experience – Synthesis)	3
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>		<b>7</b>

**Public Health Practicum**

Seven (7) credit hours of internship is required of all MPH students. The internship provides the student an opportunity to engage in community practice experiences by working with ongoing community projects. Depending on the student's interest, the internship may be carried out in governmental or non-governmental health agencies, health institutes, or academic units and programs of public health.

**Core Competency Examination:**

All MPH students are required to sit for the Program-wide Core Competency Examination. Specific policies and procedures for the exam are provided upon application to sit for the exam.

**MPH Planned Sequence of Courses**

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Fall (Year 1)</b>		
PUBH 500	Epidemiological Methods in Public Health I	4
PUBH 502	Social and Behavioral Health Science	4
PUBH 504	Public Health and Health Disparities	3
PUBH 512	Biological Basis of Public Health	1
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Spring (Year 1)</b>		
PUBH 501	Statistical Methods in Public Health I	4
PUBH 503	Policy and Health Services Planning and Management	4
PUBH 506	Environmental Health	4
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Summer (Year 1)</b>		
PUBH 517	MPH Internship I (Application of Public Health Principles)	1
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Core Competency Examination</b>		
<b>Fall (Year 2)</b>		
PUBH 603	Public Health Community Needs Solutions I	3
PUBH 610	Public Health Research Methods and Systems Thinking	3
PUBH 518	MPH Internship II (Practice in the Field)	3
Elective Course	On Focus Area	3
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Spring (Year 2)</b>		
PUBH 607	Integrating Experience (Capstone- MPH Internship III)	3
PUBH 734	Public Health Community Needs Solutions II	2
Elective Course	On Focus Area	3
Elective Course	On Focus Area	3
<b>Total Semester Hours</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Total MPH Program Credit Hours</b>		<b>48</b>

## THE GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM

### **MAMIE MONTAGUE, Ph.D.**

Acting Director, Nursing Program

Jenkins 308

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The Graduate Nursing Program offers a 43-credit Master of Science degree (MS) in two areas of graduate nursing practice, Nurse Administrator and Nurse Educator. A rigorous weekend program designed specifically for working and other adult learners, the MS nursing program prepares graduates for nursing practice and leadership roles which incorporate research and evidence based practice.

### **The Graduate Nursing Program Mission**

The primary mission of the Graduate Nursing Program is to prepare registered nurses with baccalaureate degrees in nursing for advanced preparation at the Master's level. The nursing program is designed to prepare its graduates for the roles of Nurse Educator and Leadership/Management in Nursing. The nursing program also seeks to provide its graduates with the background necessary to further their professional nursing education and cultivate a desire for life-long learning. The graduate will also gain a greater appreciation of nursing as a professional discipline that exemplifies its art and science through care and compassion. Furthermore, it is the mission of the Nursing Program to provide continuing nursing education specific to the needs of the Baltimore nursing community by providing an educational milieu that spurs development of the nursing profession through scholarly activity.

### **The Graduate Nursing Program Admissions Policy**

The criteria for admission to the Master of Science (Nursing) are listed below:

- Earned BS in Nursing from a CCNE or NLN-AC accredited institution or institution with approved application for accreditation.
- Licensed to practice nursing as a registered nurse (RN) in the State of Maryland or approved compact state license
- At least one year practice as a registered nurse (RN)
- 3.0 cumulative grade point average (4.0 grading scale) from an undergraduate program
- If the applicant's native language is not English, the applicant must complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum average score of 550 and no sub-score below 52 (paper version) or 79 with no sub-score below 17 internet based test).

### **Application Process**

The Morgan State University Nursing Program application is a four part process; the following steps must be completed to be considered for admission:

- Completion of the MSU School of Graduate Studies' application form with a copy of curriculum vitae/resume.
- A written essay of 150-200 words that addresses the applicant's career goals and motivations for graduate study in the selected area of specialty nursing practice: nurse educator or nursing administration.
- Three Graduate School reference forms completed by health professionals or academicians .
- If English is not native language, submission of TOEFL scores
- Interview with Graduate Nursing Faculty and essay writing sample at interview.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (MS)

### Program of Study

The MS core coursework and concentration specific courses all build on the foundational learning of the baccalaureate degree in nursing. Core courses include advanced health assessment, advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacology, contexts of health care, epidemiology, health care policy and law, health care information management, leadership and management, nursing research, and evidence-based practice. The overall graduate nursing program is consistent with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), *Essentials of Masters Nursing Education* (2011).

The **MS (Nursing) Administration** concentration is designed to prepare baccalaureate-prepared registered (RNs) for the advanced practice role of nursing administrator in health care delivery settings. Students will complete the MS core courses, then proceed to the courses specific to nursing leadership and management. Courses in health care industry and planning, health care organizational management, leadership and management, and budget preparations are required for the capstone seminar and nursing administrative settings. The graduate of the MS (Nursing) program is prepared to excel in a professional leadership role that supports design and implementation of strategies to improve patient and organizational outcomes. Upon graduation, the graduate will be prepared to take the American Nurse Credentialing Center examination for the Executive Nurse Administrator.

The **MS (Nursing) Education** concentration is designed to prepare baccalaureate-prepared RNs for the advance practice role of educator in an academic or healthcare setting. Nursing Education course content is delivered via a face-to-face interaction coupled with teaching practice with an assigned preceptor in either an academic or a healthcare setting. Students will complete the MS core courses, and then proceed to the course specific to nursing education. Courses in curriculum design, teaching/learning, and educational technology are required in preparation for a capstone seminar and educational practice settings. Upon graduation, the graduate is prepared to take the National League for Nursing Examination to become a Certified Nurse Educator after two years of practice in an educational setting.

### Summary for MS Degree in Nursing Coursework

Degree Coursework	Credit Hours
Foundation Courses	30
Concentration Courses (Administration or Education)	9
The Capstone	4
<b>Total Credits for the Master of Science Degree (Nursing)</b>	<b>43</b>

### Foundation Courses

HEGIS/Course No.	Course Name	Credit Hours
NURS 601	Context of Healthcare System	3
NURS 603	Principles of Leadership and Management in Nursing	3
NURS 606	Healthcare Law and Policy	3
NURS 612	Healthcare Information Management	3
NURS 618	Epidemiology and Health Promotion	3
NURS 619	Nursing Research and Statistical Methods	3

NURS 620	Evidence Based Practice	3
NURS 621	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 622	Advanced Concepts of Pathophysiology	3
NURS 623	Advanced Concepts of Pharmacology	3
<b>Total Foundation Courses</b>		<b>30</b>

**MS Nursing Administration Concentration**

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
NURS 605	Practicum: Administration Theory & Budget	3
NURS 608	Health Economics and Nursing: Critical Professional Issues	3
NURS 617	Financial Management for Nurse Managers and Executives	3
<b>Total MS Nursing Administration Concentration</b>		<b>9</b>

**MS Education Concentration**

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
NURS 614	Curriculum Design and Assessment of Nursing Education	3
NURS 615	Strategies for Teaching Nursing	3
NURS 616	Practicum in Nursing Education	3
<b>Total MS Nursing Education Concentration</b>		<b>9</b>

**Capstone**

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
NURS 610	Leadership for Nurse Managers and Educators (Capstone)	4
<b>Total Capstone</b>		<b>4</b>

**Sequencing of Graduate Nursing Courses**

Students must complete all core/foundation courses before enrolling in concentration courses. For full time students, the sequencing of courses is provided below.

<b>HEGIS/Course No.</b>	<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Credit Hours</b>
<b>Core Courses Year One Fall Semester (Terms 1 And 2)</b>		
NURS 601	Context of Healthcare System	3
NURS 621	Advanced Health Assessment	3
NURS 622	Advanced Concepts of Pathophysiology	3
NURS 623	Advanced Concepts of Pharmacology	3
<b>Total Year One Fall Semester</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Core Courses Year One Spring Semester (Terms 1 And 2)</b>		
NURS 603	Principles of Leadership & Management in Nursing	3
NURS 618	Epidemiology & Health Promotion	3

NURS 619	Nursing Research & Statistics	3
NURS 620	Evidence Based Practice	3
<b>Total Year One Spring Semester</b>		<b>12</b>

**Core Courses Year Two Fall Semester Term 1**

NURS 606	Healthcare Law and Policy	3
NURS 612	Healthcare Information Management	3
<b>Total Year Two Fall Semester Term 1</b>		<b>6</b>

**Concentration Courses Year Two Fall Semester Term 2*****Nurse Education Concentration***

NURS 614	Curriculum Design & Assessment of Nursing Education	3
NURS 615	Strategies for Teaching Nursing	3

**OR*****Nursing Administration Concentration***

NURS 608	Health Economics and Nursing	3
NURS 617	Financial Management for Nurse Managers and Executives	3

**Total Year Two Fall Semester Term 2 6****Total Year Two Fall Semester 12****Year Two Spring Semester (Terms 1 and 2)**

NURS 610	Leadership for Nurse Managers and Educators (Capstone)	4
<b>Total Capstone</b>		<b>4</b>

***Nursing Administration Concentration Practicum***

NURS 605	Practicum: Administration Theory & Budget	3
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**OR*****Nursing Education Concentration Practicum***

NURS 616	Practicum in Nursing Education	3
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**Total Practicum 3****Total Year Two Spring Semester 7****Total Credits for the Degree 43**

**SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND POLICY****COURSE DESCRIPTIONS****PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM****PUBH 500: Epidemiological Methods in Public Health I****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This course introduces the epidemiologic concepts and tools needed to apply them to public health practice and research. Methods to examine epidemiologic data sources for learning the distribution and determinants of health issues and their evaluation will be utilized. A weekly practice is included.

**PUBH 501: Statistical Methods in Public Health****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This is the basic course in Biostatistics, which will cover rates and ratios, data graphs, measures of central tendency and dispersion, probability, probability distributions, sampling distributions, estimations, confidence interval, sampling, odds ratios and relative risks, and an introduction to regression analyses.

**PUBH 502: Social and Behavioral Health Sciences****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This course covers fundamental elements and concepts of community health education, health promotion and disease prevention; and their association with social, behavioral, and physical sciences in relation to health maintenance, optimal health, disease prevention and control of various forms of community health problems. Case studies and other practice-oriented resources are used.

**PUBH 503: Policy and Health Services Planning and Management****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This course includes an overview of the basic institutions and key health policy issues which shape the current health care delivery system in America, including a basic analysis of providers and consumers of health care. The capacity and interrelationship of federal, state, and local public health agencies will be explored with emphasis placed on the core public health functions which promote the health improvement imperative for all individuals and communities. Case studies and other practice-oriented resources are used.

**PUBH 504: Public Health and Health Disparities****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

The course provides an introduction to public health and health disparities, including history, as well as the science, politics, and healthcare agencies at the federal, state and local levels. The varying ideologies by which public health services are delivered will also be examined. Selected health disparities are examined in terms of scope, determinants, mechanisms, as well as potential alternatives.

**PUBH 506: Environmental Health Sciences****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This course examines the effects of biological, chemical and physical environmental agents on humans. The course will focus on the health issues, scientific understanding of causes, and approaches to control of environmental health problems. Students will develop an understanding of the effects of various environmental issues on the health of populations.

**PUBH 512: Biological Basis of Public Health****1 Hour: 1 Credit**

Students will gain an understanding of the basic pathophysiology, natural history, clinical manifestation, prevention and control of common chronic and communicable diseases prevalent in domestic urban environments.

**PUBH 517: MPH Internship I****One Hour: 1 Credit**

This course is the first in a series of three courses which fulfill the required public health practicum for the MPH student. During the practicum course series, also referred to collectively as the Practice Experience, students will acquire competencies in developing a strategy, analyzing the process, and preparing to implement the plan for an identified public health problem.

Prerequisites: PUBH 500, PUBH 501, PUBH 502, PUBH 503, and PUBH 506 or their equivalents.

**PUBH 518: MPH Internship II****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is the second in a series of three courses which fulfill the required public health practicum for the MPH student. The focus of the course is the application of public health principles and skills to practical problems with supervision provided by an agency mentor and faculty advisor. Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Core Competency Examination, and completion of or concurrent enrollment in PUBH 517.

**PUBH 551: Doctoral Internship I****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is the first in a series of three courses which fulfill the required public health practicum for the DrPH student. During the practicum course series, also referred to collectively as the Practice Experience, students will acquire competencies in developing a strategy, analyzing the process, and preparing to implement the plan for an identified public health problem. Pre-requisites: PUBH 801, PUBH 805, PUBH 806, PUBH 808, and PUBH 810 or their equivalents.

**PUBH 605: Policy, Advocacy, and Ethics****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is designed to provide students with the concepts and complexities of policy, ethics, and advocacy presented in public health and research. The principal features, critical ideological issues, development of the future national and global policy, and contemporary public health issues will be discussed.

**PUBH 607: MPH Internship III (Integrating Experience)****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is the third in a series of three courses which fulfill the required public health practicum for the MPH student. This course is intended to be the capstone experience for all MPH students. This course provides students an opportunity to demonstrate their ability to integrate and apply core MPH competencies to a relevant public health problem. The framework for development of the Integrating Experience may include one of four options by the student: Program Evaluation Proposal; Program Plan; Problem Solving Analysis; or a Research Report. Pre-requisites: PUBH 517 and 518.

**PUBH 610: Public Health Research & Systems Thinking****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course examines issues in conceptualizing and determining the appropriate study design for research problems, strengths and weaknesses of research designs, review processes for preparation of proposals, including budgeting for research and program grants. In addition, the course discusses systems theory and its application for problem solving in public health. Prerequisite: Completion of MPH core – PUBH 500, 501, 502, 503 and 506 or permission of the instructor.

**PUBH 615: Public Health Seminar****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to be exposed to current topics in public health practice and research. This course will be team taught with different Public Health faculty meeting each week to critically review literature in public health.

**PUBH 617: Application of SAS Packages****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will introduce and promote mastery of SAS software in the construction of simple and complete data sets and the analysis of data. The course is designed to make application of knowledge gained in Biostatistics courses to the analysis of epidemiological data. Prerequisites: PUBH 810 or consent of instructor.

**PUBH 618: Community Based Participatory Research****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course allows advanced students the opportunity to apply theories and models of public health to the solution of community problems. Issues related to funding for public health programs are also discussed.

**PUBH 623: Community Needs Solutions I****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is the first in a two course sequence that emphasizes the application of community engaged assessment and health planning strategies by public health professionals involved in all areas of public health. Prerequisite: Completion of MPH core – PUBH 500, 501, 502, 503 and 506 or permission of the instructor.

**630: Field Epidemiology****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course allows students develop competencies for applying epidemiologic methods and tools to improve public health in communities, industry and health care settings. The practical approach to this course enables students to perform common epidemiologic activities in real life public health practice. Prerequisite: Completion of PUBH 500 or its equivalent.

**PUBH 651: Doctoral Internship II****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is the second in a series of three required courses which fulfill the required public health practicum for the DrPH student. The focus of the course is the application of public health principles and skills to practical problems with supervision provided by an agency mentor and faculty advisor. Prerequisite: Successful completion of the Core Competency Exam. Pre-requisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in PUBH 551.

**PUBH 708: Advanced Research Methods****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course examines issues in determining the appropriate study design for research problems, strengths and weaknesses of research designs, and review process for preparation of a grant using the traditional National Institutes of Health (NIH) format. Student evaluation will be based on class participation and assigned project. Prerequisites: PUBH 806 or consent of instructor.

**PUBH 709: Longitudinal Survey Methods****Three Hours: 3 credits**

This course covers additional advanced sampling methods, longitudinal models, complex survey statistical analyses, and a data analysis project.

Prerequisites: PUBH 501 or consent of instructor.

**PUBH 710: Preventive Health Behavior****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course focuses on the concepts and issues in health promotion and program development with the emphasis on modifying group and individual high-risk behaviors which includes planning, program development, and implementation of preventive health services. Topics will also include the current Healthy People objectives as the framework for addressing programming demands.

**PUBH 711: Public Health Principles of Social Marketing****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will examine issues in the relationship between public health marketing methodology and social systems using qualitative methods. Individual knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and practices that can be used to develop public health messages and marketing strategies that influence healthy behavior will be analyzed.

**PUBH 712: Public Health and Law****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course introduces the legal underpinnings of private and public health systems in the United States. It provides a foundation in relevant law for public health officers and healthcare administrators and the opportunity to explore legal solutions to public health problems.

**PUBH 713: Social Epidemiology****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course examines the social determinants of health. This course will expand on biological and psychological mechanisms by which social conditions influence health. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the theories, measurement and empirical evidence related to specific social conditions. Prerequisite: Completion of PUBH 500 or its equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

**PUBH 714: Special Studies****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will examine special topics in the field of public health. The specific course content and faculty will vary each semester. Topics will vary from semester to semester to address contemporary population issues.

**PUBH 715: Research Seminar and Public Health****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will provide an opportunity for students to critically examine current literature related to public health problems, understand the role and value of academic/institutional sponsored research, discuss issues and concepts relevant to public health and begin to examine critically the scientific merit of at least one research project within the School of Community Health and Policy.

**PUBH 717: Bioterrorism as a Public Health Problem****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will increase student understanding of the political, economic, and cultural implications of Bioterrorism and the government's role in preparing and protecting Americans. The course will emphasize the cultural implications of an all-hazards approach to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery planning.

**PUBH 718: Maternal, Child, & Family Health Epidemiology****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will provide an in-depth analytical framework of the epidemiology of maternal and child health (MCH) from pre-conception to late adolescence to pregnancy. Factors contributing to pregnancy decision-making, adverse pregnancy outcomes, and early and late childhood growth and development will be systematically reviewed. In addition, geographic, environmental, demographic, behavioral, genetic, and medical impacts on pregnancy outcomes will be presented.

**PUBH 720: Qualitative Research in Public Health****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will focus on the use of both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to answer research questions. It will discuss the epistemology of both research designs, describe the evaluation of mixed method utilization, contrast and compare the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative methods, assess how to match specific methods to the appropriate research questions, and critically analyze the controversy regarding the integrity of the methods. Lastly, the course will provide opportunities for developing specific qualitative research skills, like data collection and analysis skills, while gaining familiarity with theories, issues, and problems in qualitative research.

**PUBH 721: Occupational Health and Safety Hazards of the Workplace****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This is a prevention-focused course that emphasizes: identification of chemical, biologic, physical, ergonomic, psychological, and safety hazards at work; identification of environmental monitoring methods; selection of health surveillance and safety measures; and discussion of methods to control exposures and injuries in the workplace.

**PUBH 727: Epidemiology of Drug Use & Addiction****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course provides a comprehensive review of some of the most important issues related to the epidemiology of drug use problems among minority and underserved populations in the US, and particularly in Maryland. This is a graduate course specifically designed to provide doctoral and master's students with an opportunity to review, discuss, and develop alternative approaches in search of solutions to health disparities and hazards associated with substance use.

**PUBH 742: Health Services Planning and Evaluation****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course develops conceptual and applied understandings of what a health program is, how it is developed, and how its performance can be monitored, assessed, and improved. Planning and evaluation tools and processes to promote effective health programs are detailed.

**PUBH 743: Community Needs Solutions II****Two Hours: 2 Credits**

This course engages students in multiple methods to implement community solutions. It is the second in a two course sequence that emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to community problem solving. This second course specifically focuses on program implementation and evaluation practices. Students will work with community stakeholders throughout the semester.

**PUBH 751: Doctoral Internship III****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is the third in a series of three required courses which fulfill the required public health practicum for the DrPH student. Demonstrating competency in leadership and systems skills and policy development/program planning skills is the intended outcome for the student.

Prerequisite: PUBH 551 and 651.

**PUBH 770: Scientific Writing in Public Health****One Hour: 1 Credit**

This Special Studies course will allow students, under guidance of a graduate faculty, to gain the knowledge needed to frame public health research papers.

**PUBH 801: Advanced Social and Behavioral Health****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

The purpose of this course is to help doctoral students acquire advanced knowledge of and facility with the various principles, theories and models and their application in planning and developing community health promotion and disease prevention programs. Implications for implementation and evaluation are discussed briefly. Prerequisites: PUBH 502, or its equivalent.

**PUBH 805: Advanced Health Policy & Management****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This course will provide an in-depth examination of the politics of health, including campaigns and elections, lobbying and interest groups, the media and public opinion. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of skills for full participation in health policymaking. Pre-requisites: PUBH 503, or its equivalent.

**PUBH 806: Advanced Epidemiological Methods****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

In this course, students with sound knowledge of epidemiologic principles will gain expanded knowledge in determining appropriate methodologies essential for the design, conduction, analysis and dissemination of an epidemiologic issue that is pertinent to the community and addresses health disparities. Prerequisites: PUBH 500 or its equivalent.

**PUBH 808: Advanced Environmental Health****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This is an advanced course to examine environmental agents and their impact. The course will focus on environmental epidemiology and assessment, the causes of environmental health problems, and approaches to controlling these problems, including safety and health policies. Pre-requisites: PUBH 506, or its equivalent.

**PUBH 810: Adv. Statistical Methods in Public Health****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

This course focuses on regression analysis for continuous and discrete data. Regression topics include simple and multiple linear regression; inference and model diagnostics. The course also covers sampling design. Prerequisites: PUBH 501, or its equivalent.

**PUBH 812: Advanced Critical Health Issues****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

The course will allow students to review the concepts, definitions and methods for health disparities research, the political, social, cultural, economic and health service causes for health disparities, and the relevant evidence-based strategies for eliminating them.

**PUBH 997: Dissertation Guidance****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

Provides the DrPH student with continuous faculty supervision until the dissertation is approved by the departmental committee. The grade automatically becomes "S." No other grade is permitted. **Note: This course is taken after Dissertation Seminar.**

**PUBH 998: Dissertation Seminar****Six hours: 6 Credits**

This course is intended to assist doctoral students to transition from the structured classroom course work to dissertation. The course will review specific program requirements for the completion of the dissertation from proposal to final document, with emphasis on the components and development of the proposal and formatting requirements for the dissertation. The course also addresses key issues such as the management of time and resolving competing demands, and committee formation.. The grade for this course is "CS" while the dissertation is still in progress. When the dissertation is accepted or completed, a Pass or Fail grade is awarded. **Note: Once a student begins the dissertation process, this course is taken first.**

**PUBH 999: Research****Three Hour: 3 Credits**

This course will examine special topics in the field of public health. The specific course content and faculty will vary each semester. Student evaluation will be based on assigned projects. Topics will vary from semester to semester to address contemporary population issues.

**Additional Public Health Courses with Alternate HEGIS designations****PHEP 603: Environmental and Occupational Assessment****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course explores the design and analysis methods unique to environmental and occupational health assessment and epidemiology. Case studies will be used to demonstrate the process of assessment, methods of interpretation, and the application of epidemiologic principles.

**PHEP 604: Environmental and Occupational Health Policy****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course examines and explores the historical and legal foundations of programs and policies aimed at protecting the public's health in their communities and work environments. Students will explore the politics, economics, and ethics of environmental and occupational health policy development and how these issues impact and influence environmental equity, property rights, workers' compensation, and federal and state responsibilities.

**PHHP 604: Managing Health Services Organizations****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course reviews the current US organizational structures at the federal, state and local levels that are responsible for providing optimal health services to underserved populations. A major emphasis is on navigating the health delivery system with the objective of reducing racial health disparities.

**PHBH 703: Translation and Dissemination of Community Health Research****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is a comprehensive review of technology transfer models. Students will be introduced to the application of such models to narrow the gap between research and practice. This elective course is intended for DrPH students who have a base knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences and research methods.

**PHBH 704: Community Health Program Implementation, Planning, & Evaluation****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is an in-depth exploration of the theories, methods and tools used in the planning, implementation and evaluation of community-based public health programs. It is intended for students who already have a base knowledge in the social and behavioral sciences and research methods.

**PHHP 705: Strategic Leadership in Health Policy****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course focuses on skills required for guiding and influencing others to bring about fundamental change in the vision and mission of healthcare organizations. Through learner-centered education and training, students learn coaching, self-assessment, delegation, maintaining goal clarity, and risk-taking.

**PHHP 707: Health Policy and Economics****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will teach how economists think about health care. Students will learn about strategic financial planning and management, payment methodologies, cost allocation and risk-sharing strategies, as well as the economic effects of healthcare policies and proposals for reform.

## **NURSING PROGRAM**

### **NURS 601: Context of Healthcare System**

#### **Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course provides an overview of the national health care systems, using a systems framework and a problem-solving perspective. The structure, organization, and process of health care are introduced. Challenges presented to delivery of nursing care within changing systems are emphasized.

### **NURS 603: Principles of Leadership and Management in Nursing (Core course)**

#### **Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course introduces the theory and principles of leadership and management in nursing administration. It provides a comprehensive exploration of leadership theories and principles, as well as innovative leadership techniques. Content includes systems thinking, values and ethics, human resource utilization, legal issues, decision-making, organizational culture and climate, communication skills, succession planning, theories of change and change leadership, creation of learning communities, professional accountability, and leadership within professional nursing organizations. The course also emphasizes relationship building and team building.

### **NURS 605: Practicum: Administration Theory & Budget (Nursing Administration Concentration)**

#### **Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This practicum focuses on the development of management skills assumed by professional nurses, including delegation of responsibilities, networking, and facilitation of groups, conflict resolution, leadership, case management, and collaboration. Concepts addressed include organizational structure, change, managing quality and performance, workplace diversity, budgeting and resource allocation, and delivery systems. Students will spend a minimum of 120 hours in a clinical setting with a master's prepared level preceptor functioning at an administrative level.

### **NURS 606: Healthcare Law & Policy (Core course)**

#### **Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course provides an introduction to legislative, legal, ethical, economic, and political issues related to health policy that affect advanced nursing practice. Discussion will include an analysis of political viewpoints, changed agents and leadership that affect current state and national legislation. The effect of national economics on healthcare delivery systems will be addressed. The advanced nursing role will be discussed with attention to the importance of collaboration, resource procurement, and conflict resolution of health policy. Legal aspects include an overview of health care standards and regulations, and laws affecting health care providers and an understanding of negligence, liability, and malpractice for the nurse professional. Methods for identifying and controlling risk exposure in order to reduce errors and increase patient safety are discussed.

### **NURS 608: Health Economics and Nursing: Critical Professional Issues (Nursing Administration)**

#### **Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course presents an overview of economic issues relevant to nursing and health care and their implications for nursing practice. Topics covered include: basic economic concepts such as supply, demand, and pricing mechanisms; nursing labor market demand, supply, and salary determination; strengthening the economic base for clinical and advanced practice nursing roles; changing health care reimbursement systems; managed care; techniques for cost-benefit analysis; global competition; health promotion and wellness; impact of information technology on health care; and nursing's contribution to national health goals.

**NURS 610: Leadership for Nurse Managers (Capstone; Required for all students enrolled in program)****Four Hours: 4 Credits**

Research focused pursuit of a special topic clinical or theoretical inquiry that results in a scholarly production. Close collaboration with advisor, instructor and approval by the Director of graduate programs and/or department chair required.

**NURS 612: Healthcare Information Management (Core course)****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course will focus on driving forces in nursing practice and education that have led to the development and use of technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Information technology (IT) and its influence on rapid growth of information, patient safety, consumer demands for quality and cost-effective care, information management, managing care environments, disease management, and research will be explored in considerable depth. The use of computers and hand-held technology such as the personal digital assistant (PDA) in clinical teaching will be emphasized.

**NURS 614: Curriculum Design & Assessment of Nursing Education (Nursing Education)****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

Theories and principles of curriculum development as they apply to nursing education. Planning, implementing and evaluation of undergraduate academic and other health related education programs are explored.

**NURS 615: Strategies for Teaching Nursing (Nurse Education Concentration)****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course offers students a variety of teaching methods, strategies, and technology to achieve educational objectives in the cognitive, psychomotor and psychomotor domains. Numerous nurse educator competencies, philosophy of nursing education, adult learning principles and theory, critical thinking skills, transfer of learning, learner-centered environments, and evidence-based teaching strategies will be explored. Learning styles and the need for variety and individualized instruction, and early learner problem detection will be explored to challenge and enhance the teacher-learner process.

**NURS 616: Practicum in Nursing Education (Nursing Education)****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This is a practicum experience in the role of a nurse faculty in a college-level program. The learner will establish and maintain a relationship with an identified experience faculty member who will serve in the role of preceptor. A minimum of 10 hours will be spent in lectures and clinical teaching/supervision. The student will establish a learning contract and expected outcomes in collaboration with the preceptor and MSU faculty. Hours spent in prep time are negotiated with preceptor. The student prepares a learning contract with the preceptor that is approved by the preceptor and submitted to the MSU faculty. Working students are encouraged to be creative and arranging their work and practicum time, e.g. practicum placement in weekend and evening programs.

**NURS 617: Financial Management for Nurse Managers and Executives (Nursing Administration)****Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course introduces issues that affect financial management with today's aggressive health care reform. The fundamental theories and relationships guiding financial decision making as they apply to the management of health care organizations are introduced. The focus is on the key managerial issues related to maintaining and expanding health care organizations' assets. Financial management func-

tions, third-party reimbursement, determination of costs and charges, analysis of financial positions, working capital management, budgeting, and capital expenditure analysis are discussed using case studies. Concepts related to budget analysis; FTE allocation; and justification of new programs, roles, and departments within a variety of health care settings are also addressed.

**NURS 618: Epidemiology & Health Promotion (Core course)**

**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course introduces the epidemiologic concepts and tools needed for public health/community nursing practice. Methods to examine the distribution and determinants of public health issues and to evaluate interventions and outcomes will be explored. Significant sources of epidemiologic data will be described. This course includes 135 hours of clinical practice.

**NURS 619: Nursing Research & Statistical Methods (Core course)**

**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

Addresses the process of systematic inquiry that generates and tests theory; develops the knowledge base for nursing science, and evaluates the application of nursing science to clinical practice, and educational activities. The focus is an in-depth analysis of all phases of the research process designed to prepare the student to apply research findings in practice, critique select articles from literature, write a proposal development for conducting research, and implement a research project.

**NURS 620: Evidence-Based Practice (Core course)**

**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is designed to provide the attendee with an understanding of the importance of evidence for the advancement of nursing practice, improvement of varied outcomes, and the advancement of the Discipline of Nursing. Emphasis is placed on the interplay of research principles, appraisal of evidence, and Evidence Based Practice. The course will focus on the current urgency of evidence application to practice, and will provide a hands on illustration of how to appraise, summarize and translate evidence to support recommendations for quality clinical practice. Students will utilize an evidence hierarchy and grading schema to review, analyze, and synthesize clinical evidence, and develop a PICO (clinical problem) that is applicable to an Evidence Based Practice (EBP) approach and problem. Students will explore EBP models to determine which model is most appropriate to an identified problem.

**NURS 621: Advanced Health Assessment (Core course)**

**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course is core/foundational designed to develop students advanced psychomotor and cognitive skills in health assessment that are consistent with the role of nurses prepared at the masters level. Students will refine skill for assessing physical and mental health, promotion and restoration of health across the lifespan with special attention to cultural variations. Nursing theories, principles and techniques, from the physical and behavioral sciences are utilized to obtain assessment data and make preliminary clinical diagnoses of health problems commonly encountered in healthcare settings.

**NURS 622: Advanced Concepts of Pathophysiology (Core course)**

**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course builds on basic undergraduate pathophysiology. The systems approach will be used to explore diseases and disease processes of all body organs. Mechanisms of diseases and how they are manifested serve as an important foundation for clinical assessment, decision-making, and disease management. Students will encounter a variety pathophysiologic alterations across the lifespan for which they will be able to assess, interpret, and treat.

**NURS 623: Advanced Concepts of Pharmacology (Core course)**

**Three Hours: 3 Credits**

This course provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills necessary to develop an understanding of pharmacological principles and responses to drugs at the cellular levels of human functioning. Knowledge necessary to analyze the relationships between pharmacological agents, physiology, and treatment of common diseases will be emphasized. An understanding of the legal requirement for prescriptive authority by advanced practice nurses is an important aspect of the course.