**Nursing M.S.N.**

*Mission: Equipping nurse leaders and educators for a life of leadership and service by providing a challenging program of study, guided professional development, and integrated faith based learning within a dynamic and supportive learning environment.*

**Master of Science in Nursing Educational Leadership**

**MSN Description**
The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing Degree is to offer a dual track program for the bachelor's prepared registered nurse. The program prepares the student for the role of both Nurse Educator and Nurse Leader. Graduates are equipped to expertly teach the patient, family, nurse, and community regarding health, as well as perform in academic roles. Graduates are also equipped to assume leadership roles in healthcare management, program development, and quality improvement processes. Students complete a quantitative or qualitative research thesis project that addresses the healthcare related needs of a select population or needs related to professional nursing practice. All courses are offered in an online or hybrid format except for practicum courses. The Program consists of 40-45 units that can be completed in a minimum of six semesters.

**Program Goals**
1. Demonstrate advanced performance in critical thinking and clinical reasoning in the role of the nurse leader and educator through a faith-based nursing education.
2. Promote character development and spirituality through the integration of truth, virtue and service.
3. Develop professionalism as a patient advocate, nurse educator, and leader.
4. Synthesize evidence-based practice to promote optimal outcomes in select groups and populations.
5. Advocate for policy changes that enhance the care of diverse patients in complex healthcare systems.
6. Evaluate the use of technologies, as a nurse leader and educator, to improve and enhance healthcare outcomes.

**Program Learning Outcomes**
1. Advocate for health policy changes that enhance population health and promote professional nursing practice.
2. Utilize emerging technologies to provide credible health information to clients, nurses, and students.
3. Perform assessments focusing on physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of culturally diverse individuals.
4. Develop curriculum/teaching plan.
5. Support legal and ethical guidelines in all aspects of nursing practice.
6. Develop a thesis project using research, critical thinking, and evidence-based practice principles.
7. Prepare to assume a senior leadership/management position and/or the role of educator in a health care agency or college setting.
8. Integrate faith and lifelong learning in personal and professional life.

**Application Information**
Applications and information about graduate program admission may be obtained from the Graduate and Nursing Admissions Office:
- Phone: (714) 966-5499 main or (877) 669-8872 toll free
- Email: admissions@vanguard.edu
- For deadlines and to apply: http://www.vanguard.edu/admissions/graduate/how-to-apply

**Application Checklist**
All application documents must be submitted in one envelope and sent to:
The Graduate and Professional Studies Admission Office
55 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

You may also apply on-line and send the documents under separate cover:
1. $45 application fee
2. Completed admission application
3. Two professional reference forms and letters
4. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities including nursing program
5. Copy of California Registered Nurse (RN) license. License must be current and clear.
6. Evidence of all required immunizations/titers and physical exam report
7. Copy of Basic Life Support (BLS) certificate.
8. Statement of Purpose (250 words)
9. Professional resume
10. Background check and immunization tracker system (contracted by the university)

**Admission Requirements for MSN program**
1. A clear and current license to practice as a RN in the State of California. A current copy of the license must be submitted in the admission packet.
2. An earned baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university. The baccalaureate degree can be in Nursing or in another discipline.
3. One year of experience as a RN in the last 5 years.
4. A minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all baccalaureate course work.
5. Completion of a college level elementary statistics course.
6. Completion of the Vanguard University application to Graduate Nursing.
7. Official transcripts from each college/university, school of nursing attended.
8. Two professional letters of recommendation are required for MSN applicants except for prospective students who are graduates from the Vanguard RN to BSN program. For Vanguard graduates, only one letter of recommendation is required. No personal letters of recommendation will be accepted.
9. A copy of the candidate's professional resume.
10. A 250 word typed Statement of Purpose.
11. Evidence of all required immunizations and report of a current physical exam (within one year of program application).
12. A copy of a basic life support certification (BLS).
13. An interview with the MSN Coordinator or Director of Nursing.
14. All documents must be submitted in one envelope and sent to the Graduate Admission Office prior to scheduling an admission interview.
15. Background check and immunization tracker system

Note: Graduates of foreign schools must have their transcripts evaluated prior to the beginning of the admission process. A list of acceptable agencies can be obtained from the Vanguard University Registrar’s Office. Candidates, for whom English is a second language, must also be evaluated via TOEFL.

Transfer of Credits
Students transferring from an accredited graduate program may transfer a maximum of six (6) semester unit hours when the courses transferred are equivalent and have direct applicability to the student's program design. A transfer request must be approved by the Director of the Nursing Program prior to admission.

Academic Policies
Credit Hour Policy
See Credit Hour Policy section in University Policies.

Academic Probation
Students admitted to the graduate program with Regular Standing who later receive a cumulative or current grade point average below 3.0 will be changed to Probationary Standing. Students with such standing must obtain both a cumulative and current grade point average of 3.0 or greater the following semester. If after one semester of Probationary Standing the student is not able to obtain a grade point average of a B (3.0) he/she may be dismissed from the graduate program. The likelihood of dismissal significantly increases if the student has received one or more grades of "C" or below.

Malpractice Insurance
Each student must have basic malpractice insurance ($1 million/$3 million) before the beginning of the first practicum. This will occur during the third semester of the MSN program. Malpractice insurance is renewed yearly.

Professional/Clinical Probation
Students admitted to the graduate program with Regular Standing, who later do not maintain satisfactory clinical or professional performance in departmental or practicum related activities, may be placed on Probationary Standing. The student must meet with their advisor to discuss the requirements necessary to achieve satisfactory clinical performance and to regain Regular Standing.

Grading
Grading System
The Grading System is outlined in each MSN syllabus. The student is responsible for reviewing this information.

Grade Change Policy
See Grade Change Policy in University Policies.

Grade Appeals
See Grade Appeals section in University Policies.

Incomplete Work
An "Incomplete" grade is the way the institution agrees to respond to a student who has been prevented from completing some or all of the requirements in one or more courses due to circumstances which were beyond the student's ability to prevent or foresee, and who has requested additional time to complete the course requirements. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain a “Petition for Incomplete Grade in a Graduate Course” form from the program office and to contact the course professor(s) as early as possible. Petitions are approved by the professor. The professor is under no obligation to assign an incomplete grade. Examples of acceptable grounds for granting an incomplete grade include: personal or family illness of more than brief duration, serious personal or family crisis, or an unplanned increase in job responsibilities. Unacceptable grounds include heavy or difficult class load, heavy work schedule, or computer problems.

All incomplete work for full-semester courses (16 weeks) is due 6 weeks from the last day of that semester. Incomplete work for accelerated courses (5-8 weeks) is due 30 days from the last day of that module. Failure to complete and submit the required work on time will result in a grade of "F".

Leave of Absence Policy
Students who find it necessary to interrupt the regular sequence of enrollment are required to file notice of an official leave of absence to ensure proper communication between the student and the Graduate Nursing Office. The forms for this purpose are available in the Graduate Nursing Office. Students taking a leave of absence are not regarded as having permanently withdrawn from the University and need not apply for readmission through the Graduate Admissions Office. Time spent on leave of absence is counted in the five-year time limit for graduate course work. Students who interrupt their program and do not file a leave of absence will be required to reapply and will be subject to all new academic regulations in effect in the Catalog at the time enrollment is resumed. If the request for a leave of absence is denied, the student will be required to reapply.

Any student granted a leave during the add/drop period (as outlined in the University Catalog) for the semester will be dropped from any classes that the student is enrolled in. If the leave is granted after 75% of the semester (or class) the student may, with faculty approval, receive an Incomplete for one or more courses. A student who is not deemed appropriate, a grade of "W" will be issued. No refund of charges will be made for courses in which an Incomplete is given. No credit is earned for any course in which a “W” is issued. Refunds, if any, will be granted based
upon the University’s refund policy as found in the University course catalog.

Medical Leave of Absence Policy
The University recognizes that students may experience a physical or mental health medical situation that significantly limits their ability to function successfully or safely in their role as students. In such situations, students should consider requesting a medical leave, which permits students to take a break from University life and their studies, so that they may receive treatment and later return to the University with the opportunity to achieve their academic and co-curricular goals.

A request for a medical leave of absence must be made with the Disability Services Office. Each medical leave request is individualized, and handled on a case-by-case basis, based on the needs of the student. Upon exit and reinstatement to the University, the student must have adequate medical documentation from a licensed health care or mental health care provider. A medical leave can be granted for up to two consecutive semesters.

Compassionate Leave of Absence Policy
A compassionate leave of absence request may be made and considered for compelling reasons for students who find it necessary to interrupt their studies temporarily. A compassionate leave may be taken for circumstances related to the care of a seriously ill parent, child or spouse, financial or academic difficulties, or other situations that may prevent the student from continuing in classes. A request for a compassionate leave of absence must be made with the Disability Services Office. Each compassionate leave request is individualized, and handled on a case-by-case basis, based on the needs of the student.

Military Leave of Absence Policy
See Military Leave of Absence Policy in Graduate Studies section.

Student Load
A full time academic load at the graduate level is nine (9) unit hours or more per semester, pending specific program requirements.

Time Limit for Program Completion
All academic work for the Master of Science degree must be completed within five (5) years from the date of official admission into the Graduate program. Time spent on leave is calculated into that five (5) year limit. Any exceptions to the limit must be approved by the Director of the Program.

Graduation Requirements
Students pursuing the Master of Science in Nursing degree from Vanguard University are required to satisfy the following graduation requirements:

1. Successful completion of the 40-45 units of course work included in the MSN program, with a minimum grade of “B” (3.0) GPA in all required course work, and within the allowed five (5) years limit.
2. Completion of the thesis project.
3. Submission of the bound thesis project report and project defense.
4. Settlement of all financial obligations to Vanguard University.
5. Completion of all Vanguard University forms necessary for graduation.

Application for Graduation
An application for graduation must be obtained from and filed with the Registrar’s Office during the first week of the student’s final semester in which the degree will be granted. Students who have filed an application for graduation and do not complete their requirements by the projected date of completion are required to file again in a later semester.

Requirements
MSN Curriculum Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Units</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Semester</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS-610</td>
<td>Theoretical Frameworks of Education</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-617</td>
<td>Use of Technology in Healthcare and Nursing Education</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-630</td>
<td>Curriculum and Program Development</td>
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<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-516</td>
<td>Research Methodologies and Project Development I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-621</td>
<td>Strategies of Simulation Learning and Instruction</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-635</td>
<td>Class/Course Preparation, Planning, and Competency Evaluation</td>
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<td><strong>Units</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Third Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSG-613</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSG-618</td>
<td>Adv Concepts in Pathophysiology</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSG-622</td>
<td>Adv Concepts in Pharmacology</td>
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<td><strong>Fourth Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-501</td>
<td>Theoretical Frameworks of Leadership</td>
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<td>NURS-625</td>
<td>Thesis Development II</td>
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<td>NURS-651</td>
<td>Advanced Education Practicum (55 hours practice and 5 hours seminar)</td>
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<td><strong>Fifth Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS-506</td>
<td>Diversity, Social and Global Issues in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (online)</td>
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<td>NURS-531</td>
<td>Assessing, Planning, and Managing Budget Resources</td>
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<td>NURS-536</td>
<td>Gerontology Care For today and the Future</td>
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<td>NURS-510</td>
<td>Spirituality &amp; Care in Prof Nursing</td>
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<td>NURS-526</td>
<td>Policies Affecting Health Delivery And Fiscal Systems (online)</td>
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<td>NURS-653</td>
<td>Leadership Practicum in Healthcare (55 hours practice and 5 hours seminar)</td>
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<td>NURS-642</td>
<td>Thesis Development III, Final Written Report and Defense (individual meetings with faculty and on campus seminars)</td>
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<td>Units</td>
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