# Course Planning

The MSN Program provides flexibility for students to set up a course planning trajectory for a total of 30 credits that aligns with their professional and research interests. Students may choose courses beyond 30 credits and they may choose electives outside of nursing (with approval of the Program Coordinator). There are a number of possible foci that provide the foundation for the MSN Program such as Research, Education, Leadership, Policy and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). Yet, you can choose courses flexibly between streams and you do not need to declare a particular stream or focus.

## THESIS

Focuses on the advancement of nursing knowledge and practice within a variety of specialty areas combining advanced leadership roles with an emphasis on skill development in research. The track offers a range of courses in the foundations of advanced nursing knowledge and practice, evidence and research appraisal, and research design and methodology.

Students consolidate their learning through a combination of core, focus and research courses.

Students complete the program with a **NURS 599 Thesis** (9 credits).

## NON-THESIS

Has a strong focus on advanced nursing leadership roles in various domains and offers a range of courses in foundations of advanced nursing knowledge and practice, evidence and research appraisal, and selected courses in specialty areas.

Students consolidate their learning through core, focus and research, as well as practicum and project options.

Students complete the program with a **NURS 595 Scholarly Practice Advancement Research Project (SPAR Project)** (3 credits).

To further meet the MSN Program requirements, student will complete one of the two tracks:

### CORE COURSES (Required):

- **NURS 511** Theoretical foundations of nursing practice
- **NURS 502** The ethics and politics of nursing
- **NURS 552** Methods in Nursing Science
- **NURS 504** Research and Evidence-Based Practice

**Students in this track complete 1 additional core course from the following two research method course options:**

- **NURS 549** Quantitative methods
- **NURS 548** Qualitative methods

### MSN Seminars assigned to N599 or N595:

Each winter term, the MSN Program hosts a seminar for MSN Students that focuses on various aspects of thesis or SPAR completion. These seminars are facilitated by the Program Coordinator in collaboration with additional faculty presenters. Scheduling information is distributed to students in the Graduate Student e-Newsletter. Participation is strongly encouraged.

### COMPLETION PROJECT:

- **NURS 599** Master’s Thesis (9 credits)

### MSN Seminars assigned to N599 or N595:

Each winter term, the MSN Program hosts a seminar for MSN Students that focuses on various aspects of thesis or SPAR completion. These seminars are facilitated by the Program Coordinator in collaboration with additional faculty presenters. Scheduling information is distributed to students in the Graduate Student e-Newsletter. Participation is strongly encouraged.

### COMPLETION PROJECT:

- **NURS 595** Scholarly Practice Advancement Research Project (SPAR) (3 credits)

## Continuous Registration

Students are required to maintain registration in NURS 599 (Thesis) or NURS 595 (SPAR) from the beginning of their program—even if they have not yet decided which completion project they will undertake. Students may switch between the two project options prior to completion of their project proposal, with the approval of their supervisor and the MSN Program Coordinator.
General Guidelines for Course Selection

It is strongly suggested that students review the information in this guide and plan a sequence of courses taking guidance and direction from their provisional advisor or supervisor. Please do not rely on past scheduling as an indicator of future scheduling. The Summer Session Schedule (April – August) is usually available by February, and the Winter Session Schedule (September – April) is usually available by April of each year.

MSN students are strongly advised to:
- Complete the four required core courses within the first year of the program.
- Begin planning their completion project (Thesis or SPAR) by the end of the first year of the program.
- In consultation with their supervisor, select the research methods/data analysis course in line with their thesis project, and complete this course within the second year of their program.
- Use a combination of focus and specialized domain courses to complement their core courses.

Students may also supplement their course selections with Directed Studies, Practicum Courses, non-nursing electives, and courses at other universities. Concentration on the completion project normally begins after having completed their four required core courses, but planning for it can, and should, start earlier.

Core Courses

Core Courses are required for all MSN students, and we strongly recommend that students complete these within the first year of their program.
- **NURS 502** (3 credits) Ethics & Politics of Nursing
- **NURS 504** (3 credits) Research & Evidence Based Practice
- **NURS 511** (3 credits) Theoretical Foundations of Nursing Practice
- **NURS 552** (3 credits) Methods in Nursing Science
  (Co-requisite: NURS 511, Recommended co-requisite NURS 504)

Focus Courses

Focus Courses are typically offered once in an academic year.
- **NURS 512** (3 credits) Leadership in Nursing
- **NURS 520** (3 credits) Administrative Leadership in Nursing (Prerequisite: NURS 512, Co-requisite: NURS 511)
- **NURS 530** (3 credits) Advanced Practice in Nursing (Co-requisite: NURS 511)
- **NURS 540** (3 credits) Educational Processes in Nursing (Co-requisite: NURS 511)
- **NURS 541** (3 credits) Clinical Nursing Education (Prerequisite: NURS 540, Co-requisite: NURS 511)

One focus course is typically taken within the first year of entering the MSN Program, but students can take more than one. Focus courses complement the required courses and provide the foundation for the professional and research focus of the student. Students are encouraged to discuss these with their Provisional Advisor for incorporation into their course planning trajectory.
Research Methods/Data Analysis Course

Research Methods/Data Analysis Courses are offered once every calendar year: One of these, or an equivalent, is required for students enrolled in NURS 599. They are optional for students enrolled in NURS 595.

- **NURS 548** (3 credits) Qualitative Methods & Analysis
- **NURS 549** (3 credits) Quantitative Research Methods and Analytic Strategies in Nursing and Health Sciences

MSN Students normally select the research course(s) based on the methodology for their thesis project. If other methods are required to support their thesis project, students may request to take a substitute course. This will require approval by the Supervisor and MSN Program Coordinator.

Specialized Domain Courses

Specialized Domain Courses are elective nursing courses that are offered on a rotating schedule. Not all specialized domain courses are offered every year.

- **NURS 586A / 586C / 586E / 586I** (3 credits each) Specialized Domains in Nursing

Directed Studies

Directed Studies (NURS 590) are individualized plans of study arranged between a student and faculty, and documented as a directed study contract. MSN Students are normally eligible for directed study once they have completed the required course work for the MSN program. Preparation for the Thesis or SPAR project is normally done as part of NURS 599 or 595 credits, and does not need to take the form of a Directed Study. In order to register for a Directed Study, send the request to academic.support@nursing.ubc.ca in an email including your name & student number. Once the MSN Program Coordinator has approved the request, the Student Support Office (SSO) will complete the required paperwork.

Practicum Courses

Practicum Courses (NURS 577) can be completed in particular focus areas. This course allows the student to set up an individualized learning plan with a preceptor under the supervision of a faculty member. For instructions on how to request a directed study practicum course on STS, refer to the NURS 577B Directed Graduate Practicums guidelines.

Non-nursing Electives at UBC

Non-nursing electives at UBC: Students may choose to take a maximum of 6 credits to be counted toward the requirements of the master’s degree (these should normally be at the graduate level, with course numbers > 500).

- When a student registers for a non-nursing course through the UBC SSC, the Student Tracking System (STS) sends a notification to the Program Coordinator and the student asking the Program Coordinator to approve this course. Once the program coordinator approves the course on the Student Tracking System (STS), both Program Coordinator and student receive notification.

- Permission is not required prior to registration; however, approval by the Program Coordinator is necessary to ensure this course will contribute to the student’s completion of program requirements.
Electives Outside of UBC Vancouver

Electives outside of UBC Vancouver (i.e., at other Universities and UBC Okanagan): Students may also choose to complete graduate level courses at other universities based on agreements between UBC and other universities (Western Dean’s Agreement, UBC/Toronto/McGill Agreement, etc.).

Students may also choose to complete courses through UBC Okanagan; however, the two institutions are considered academically separate. All non-UBC Vancouver electives must be approved by the Program Coordinator.

Reference: Going to another university as a visiting student

Registering for Transfer Credit Courses at Other Institutions

- Identify an appropriate course, and obtain a course description from the institution offering the course. This may include the course syllabus or contact information for course instructor/department.
- Send the request to academic.support@nursing.ubc.ca in an email including your name & student number. Once the MSN Program Coordinator has approved the request, the Student Support Office (SSO) will complete the required paperwork with the student & submit to G+PS
- G+PS must request the registration from the institution offering the course to ensure the student is not charged additional tuition fees, and the credits are approved to be transferred back to UBC.
- Once G+PS has completed the registration, they will directly notify the student.
- Once the student has completed the course they are required to order 2 copies of their official transcripts from the institution offering the course to the following departments:
  - One copy to G+PS: Attn: NURS SAS Clerk, 170-6371 Crescent Road, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 1Z2
  - One copy to the School of Nursing: Graduate Administrative Assistant, 2211 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6T 2B5
- Once the transcripts have been processed by G+PS, they will email the student directly, and add the transfer credits to the students UBC Academic Record

An important note on timelines:
We request that students submit requests to complete a course at an external institution at least 2 months prior to the start of the course. Approval by G+PS usually takes 4 – 6 weeks minimum. Making the request 2 months in advance gives the MSN Program Coordinator adequate time to review the request, and the SSO adequate time to complete the appropriate paperwork.

Having Transfer Credits Approved by G+PS upon Completion of Coursework: In general it takes 4 – 8 weeks from the time of receipt of official transcripts at G+PS to have transfer credits approved & added to the students UBC Academic Record. Please be mindful of this when nearing graduation.
MSN Program Advisor & Coordinator

The MSN Program Coordinator is a resource for all MSN students. This faculty member oversees curriculum development, student progression, and policies relating to the MSN Program.

Program Advisor & Coordinator Faculty Profile: Dr. Maura MacPhee

Provisional Advisors

All students are assigned a provisional advisor, and receive an e-mail with the name of their provisional advisor in May. The provisional advisor provides guidance to MSN students with regards to planning their course of study, and general guidance in getting started on their thesis or SPAR project. (Thus, the provisional advisor does not need to be expert in the student’s particular area of interest.) Even though advisor approval is not required for course registration, we recommend that you contact your provisional advisor to discuss your study plan.

Supervisors

Once students have identified the general topic they wish to pursue and are ready to decide more firmly on which completion project (NURS 599 or NURS 595) they plan to complete, they may identify a supervisor. Typically students connect with supervisors after first or second term.

After the student has found a faculty member who has agreed to serve as their supervisor, the student must officially notify the MSN program and program coordinator approval. Students will receive notification at each step.

- Send an email to academic.support@nursing.ubc.ca with your name, student number, and “Supervisor Notification” in the subject line.
- In the body of the email include the name, phone number, and email of your supervisor.
- Graduate Student Support will follow up with your supervisor and the MSN Program Coordinator to confirm their approval, and then update your student record.

Student Support Office

For non-academic advising, and guidance navigating UBC and the School of Nursing, MSN Students are encouraged to contact the Student Support Office for assistance.

The Student Support Office (SSO) is located in T248 in the UBC School of Nursing (Koerner Pavilion, UBC Hospital). It is open regular School of Nursing business hours (8:30am – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday).

The Graduate Support Team is also reachable via phone (604-822-7473) or email student.services@nursing.ubc.ca.
Academic Requests
Submit your request to academic.support@nursing.ubc.ca for the following:

- Adding a supervisor/chair
- Adding a committee member
- Request to complete a transfer course (Western Deans’ Agreement or other)
- Request to complete a directed study or practicum
- Request a leave of absence
- Request an extension to your program end date
- Submitting a Policy 85 Memorandum of Understanding
- Submitting progress reports
- Switching between thesis and SPAR
- Reporting thesis or SPAR proposal approval
- Requesting a thesis oral defense
- Submitting your thesis to cIRcle
- Submitting your SPAR to cIRcle
- Submitting your culminating project to CIRcle
- Switch from full-time to part-time student status

For detailed instructions, please visit Academic Request Instructions.

Student Wellbeing
University students often encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. With Early Alert, faculty members can connect you with advisors who offer students support and assistance getting back on track to success. Only specialized UBC advisors are able to access any concerns faculty identify, and Early Alert does not affect students’ academic record.

For more information, visit Early Alert.

For information about addressing mental or physical health concerns, including seeing a UBC counsellor or doctor, visit Student Services Health resources.
# Student Course Planning Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Courses</th>
<th>Semester I plan to take this course</th>
<th>Completed (Y/N)</th>
<th>Semester Completed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NURS 502</strong> (3 credits) Ethics and Politics of Nursing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration in NURS 599 or NURS 595 is required for every semester enrolled in the MSN Program</td>
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<td><strong>Additional Courses</strong> – Students may select from all research, focus, and specialized domain courses based on their individual study plan</td>
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<td>Research Courses</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 548</strong> (3 credits) Qualitative Research Methods</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 506</strong> (3 credits) Health Promotion</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 530</strong> (3 credits) Advanced Clinical Practice</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 560</strong> (3 credits) Health Policy</td>
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<td>Specialized Domain Courses - these courses are offered on a rotating bases, usually once every two years</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 586A</strong> History of Nursing and Health Care</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 586B</strong> Curriculum Development in Nursing</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 586C</strong> Healthy Infant and Child Development</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 586M</strong> Multidisciplinary Perspective in Adolescent Health</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 586V</strong> Violence in Families: Advanced Understandings and Responses</td>
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<td><strong>NURS 586I</strong> Health Informatics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NURS 590</strong> (3-6 credits) Directed Studies in Nursing</td>
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<td>Practicum Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NURS 577A</strong> (3 credits) Graduate Practicum in Nursing (CNS)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NURS 577B</strong> (3 credits) Graduate Practicum in Nursing (Education)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective Courses (Needs Approval)</td>
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UBC MSN