

From: [Kowalsky, Lisa](#)
To: [Reed, Katie](#)
Cc: [Anderson, Cindy](#); [Lorenz, Becky](#); [Miriti, Maria](#)
Subject: Proposal: MSN Nursing Science Track Revision
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:41:32 AM
Attachments: [MS Program Nursing Science Track Revision 112923 \(1\).pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Dear Katie,

Please find attached a proposal for the MSN Nursing Science Track revision. It was reviewed at GS/CAA and recommended for elevation to CAA. The percent change calculated at over 50% so this will likely need further review and approval through ODHE as well. Please let me know of any questions or concerns.

Best,
Lisa



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Lisa Clouser (Kowalsky)

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

TO: Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs

FROM: Graduate School Curriculum Services

DATE: **1/25/2024**

RE: Proposal to **Revise the Master of Science Program Nursing Science Specialty Track in the College of Nursing**

The **Department of Nursing Science** in the **College of Nursing** is proposing a **Master of Science Program Nursing Science Specialty Track**

The proposal was received by the Graduate School on **8/4/2023**. The combined GS/CAA subcommittee first reviewed the proposal on **11/16/2023** and requested revisions. Revisions were received on **12/15/2023**. GS/CAA conducted a second review of the proposal and supports its elevation to CAA for review.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF NURSING

College of Nursing

Newton Hall
1585 Neil Ave
Columbus, OH 43215

November 29, 2023

Dr. Maria Mariti
Academic Associate Dean
Graduate School
250 University Hall
230 North Oval Mall

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Dear Dr. Mariti:

Attached is the revised proposal from the College of Nursing to revise the Master of Science Program Nursing Science (MSNS) Specialty Track. The revisions are in response to the November 16th, 2023 combined Graduate School and Council on Academic Affairs (GS/CAA) curriculum subcommittee feedback.

Queries and responses indicated in red in the revised proposal are as follows:

1. There is some confusion surrounding changes to items such as learning goals, program objectives and assessment plans/strategies may change with the revision. Please add some clarifying text to outline how these items may or may not be impacted by the proposed changes.
We do not propose changes in learning goals, program objectives or assessment plans. A statement is included on page 1 in the revised proposal.
2. Are there anticipated enrollment changes? If so, what is the plan to support such changes within the program? Is there sufficient staff, faculty, and funding to support enrollment increases? Or will there be a need for additional funding sources?
Past enrollment in this specialty track has averaged 1 student/year and is expected to remain as such. There are no additional resources required as the curriculum represents existing courses taken by students in other College of Nursing academic programs. This statement is included in the revised proposal on page 3 under the header, "Transition Plans".
3. Are any of the new required or elective courses new? All courses are approved; no additional new courses proposed. If so, please provide syllabi for any new courses.
This was already included in the proposal on page 2... the font was changed to red for ease in locating this narrative.
4. Please include the percent change to the program.
Included on page 2.
5. Minor comments below
Are there data from other institutions with similar programs that motivated this revision? If so, please include comparative data points.
The motivation for the change is related to the need for enhanced foundational content for BS-PhD students in their education as nurse scientists. We were able to leverage existing courses in clinical research to meet the needs for students' successful transition to the PhD.

6. The last paragraph of the first proposal page lists NURS 8110 twice. Please fix.
Corrected.

Please let me know if you require any additional information for this revised proposal.

Sincerely,



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Copy:

- Dr. Kristy Browning, Assistant Dean for Graduate Clinical Programs
- Dr. Rita Pickler, MSNS and PhD Program Director
- Dr. Heather L. Tubbs Cooley, PhD, RN, FAAN
- Dr. Carolyn Gunther, Graduate Studies Committee Chair
- Dr. Karen Rose, Dean

Proposal to Revise the MS Program Nursing Science Specialty Track

Introduction and Background:

The College of Nursing offers multiple degree programs in Nursing, including a M.S. in Nursing program that has multiple specialization tracks (see Levels of Nursing Education figure below). Most specialty (specialization) tracks of the M.S. in Nursing program prepare graduates to take specific specialty certification examinations to obtain credentials as a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or as a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS). The Nursing Science specialty is offered in conjunction with the PhD program at the College of Nursing. Enrollment is intended exclusively for students who are pursuing the PhD as a post-baccalaureate student.

The PhD program at the College of Nursing prepares nurse scientists and scholars to be skilled researchers who will advance nursing science. There are various entry options into the PhD program including a post-baccalaureate option that requires credit hours consistent with University policy; 60 of those hours are PhD credits. Post-baccalaureate students in the PhD program can elect to take additional credits without earning a masters' degree or they can apply for a master's specialty entry, including the MS in Nursing Science (MSNS). The MSNS option does not lead to specialty certification as a NP or CNS. Rather, the MSNS provides a MS option for students whose primary goal is to become a nurse scientist.

The curriculum for the Nursing Science specialty track of the M.S. in Nursing program (MSNS) was reviewed due to most post-baccalaureate Ph.D. students opting for this specialty focus for coursework at the masters level to comprise a minimum 30 credits that would be necessary to obtain a master's degree if desired, as well as to meet the 80 credit minimum requirement for a doctoral degree. These post-baccalaureate Ph.D. students usually do not seek educational preparation to become NPs, CNSs, or CNLs. The Nursing Science specialty track is usually a default option for more foundational graduate coursework to support doctoral coursework and research without the requirement of extensive clinical practicum coursework. Less frequently, the Nursing Science curriculum also supports the ability for students to obtain a M.S. in Nursing degree, or, rarely, functions as an exit strategy from the Ph.D. in Nursing program. The Ph.D. program director is also the director of the Nursing Science specialty track for these described reasons.

The revised curriculum of the Nursing Science specialty track benefits from revisions in two areas: (1) enhancement of the research-oriented coursework included in the Master of Clinical Research (MCR) program and, (2) the nursing coursework which provides the unique foundational preparation for the PhD program. The revised curriculum appears to better serve the needs of students needing more research related courses rather than courses that are foundational to advanced nursing practice clinical role as a NP, CNS, or as a CNL. The proposed curricular redesign is expected to improve the quality and currency of the research-oriented coursework, as well as to align the required nursing coursework to meet the current standards for masters level nursing education. **As the revision is an enhancement of research oriented coursework and aligned with expected program outcomes to educate students for entry into PhD instruction as nurse scientists and scholars who will advance the nursing science, we do not propose changes in learning goals, program objectives or assessment plans.**

Specifically, requested specialty track revisions include (1) elimination of 6 courses (17 credits) formerly included in the master's program for APRN specialty tracks including NURS 7491 (3cr), NURS 7403 (3cr),

NURS 7483 (3cr), NURS 7780 (3cr), NURS 7781 (3cr) and NRSPRCT 8500 (2cr) **representing a 51% change to the specialty**. Courses added include NURS 8110 (3cr), an additional elective with cognate focus (3cr), MCR 7402 (3cr), MCR 7481 (3cr), NURS 8891.03 (3cr) and NURS 8891.04 (3cr). Total credits of 33 represent a 3 credit increase. MCR courses are delivered online asynchronously while the nursing classes are typically campus-based, consistent with the delivery mode of the PhD program. As there are existing MOUs with ODTI for the online courses included in the curriculum, no additional MOU is required (see appendix A: ODTI memo). Table 1 presents a summary of proposed Nursing Science specialty track revisions and credit changes. The proposed redesign of the Nursing Science specialty track would include a minimum total of 24 nursing and MCR coursework credits, a statistics/methods course (3 credits), and 3 elective courses (6 credits) for an overall total of 33 credits. **All courses are existing courses and no changes to the content of courses will be required for the proposed specialty track curriculum redesign.**

Table 1. Summary of Proposed Nursing Science Specialty Track Revisions and Credit Changes

Courses	Summary of Revisions	Net Credit Change
MCR 7405	Retained/ No Change	-----
MCR 7782	Retained/ No Change	-----
MCR 7404	Retained/ No Change	-----
Statistics	Retained with the option of a methods elective	-----
Elective	One additional elective added; total 2 electives with cognate focus	+3
NURS 7491	Eliminated: MS in Nursing advanced nursing practice core course	-3
NURS 7781	Eliminated: Competencies to be met in PhD level curriculum	-3
NURS 7403	Eliminated: MS in Nursing advanced nursing practice core course	-3
NURS 7780	Eliminated: MS in Nursing advanced nursing practice core course	-3
NRSPRCT 8500	Eliminated: MS in Nursing advanced nursing practice core course	-2
NURS 8110	Added: Foundational course for nursing science	+3
MCR 7402	Added: Foundational course for nursing science	+3
MCR 7481	Added: Foundational course for nursing science	+3
NURS 8891.03	Added: Foundational course for nursing science	+3
NURS 8891.04	Added: Foundational course for nursing science	+3
Net Credit Change		+3

Sample curriculum plans are included below. Courses in red indicate those that are unchanged. Courses in black are those that are eliminated (current, Table 2) and replaced (proposed, Table 3) with courses designed to provide a stronger foundation in nursing science. Please note that courses indicating a nursing prefix (NURS) in the current curriculum have been updated to the current MCR prefix.

Table 2 **SAMPLE FULL-TIME TRADITIONAL MS NURSING SCIENCE (Current)**

Year 1		
Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Session or Term
MCR (NURS) 7405 Management of Clinical and Preclinical Studies (3)	NURS 7403 Innovation Leadership in Advanced Nursing Practice (3)	MCR (NURS) 7404 Healthcare Project Management (3)
NURS 7491 Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (3)	NURS 7483 Quality Improvement and Informatics (3)	Elective (3)
NURS 7781 Responsible Conduct of Research (3)	NURS 7780 Evidence Based Nursing Scholarship (3)	
Statistics (3)	MCR (NURS) 7782 Research Design and Methods for Clinical and Preclinical Research (3)	
	NRSRPT 8500 - Nursing Policy for Doctoral Nursing Practice (2)	
Total Credit Hours: 12	Total Credit Hours: 14	Total Credit Hours: 6
Total Credit Hours: 30		

Table 3 **SAMPLE FULL-TIME TRADITIONAL MS NURSING SCIENCE (Proposed)**

Year 1		
Autumn Semester	Spring Semester	Summer Session or Term
MCR 7782 Clinical Research Design and Methods (3)	Statistics or Methods Elective (3)	NURS 8891.03 Critical and Sensitive Periods of Development (3)
Elective with cognate focus (can be in nursing) (3)	NURS 8110 Scholarly Writing for Nurse Scientists (3)	NURS 8891.04 Health Interventions across the Lifecourse (3)
Elective with cognate focus (can be in nursing) (3)	MCR 7405 Clinical Research Study and Site Management (3)	MCR 7404 Project Management for Healthcare and Clinical Research (3)
	MCR 7402 Economic Evaluation of Healthcare Interventions (3)	
	MCR 7481 Data Management and Informatics in Clinical Research (3)	
Total Credit Hours: 9	Total Credit Hours: 15	Total Credit Hours: 9
Total Credit Hours: 33		

Course titles and descriptions are detailed in table 4.

Table 4

Courses	Course Titles and Descriptions
MCR 7405	Clinical Research Study and Site Management Fundamental principles of clinical research operations from study site selection to study closure from the perspective of sponsors and clinical research sites including an introduction to database design, management, quality assurance, and reporting for site and sponsor operations
MCR 7782	Clinical Research Design and Methods Study of research design and methods used in clinical research. Measurement issues, bias and confounding, statistical considerations, evaluation of published clinical research designs, and protocol and proposal development.
MCR 7404	Project Management for Healthcare and Clinical Research Principles of project management and strategic planning in healthcare, clinical research, and regulatory settings.
NURS 8110	Scholarly Writing for Nurse Scientists Scholarly manuscript writing for refereed publications for nursing and research scientist audiences. Emphasis on writing style and process, with secondary emphasis on journal selection, author guidelines, peer review, and managing revisions
MCR 7402	Economic Evaluation of Healthcare Interventions Introduction to economic evaluation of healthcare interventions and services, including evaluating costs and health outcomes, using results to inform resource allocation, interpretation and evaluation of economic evaluations in the literature, and decision analysis in healthcare.
MCR 7481	Data Management and Informatics in Clinical Research Introduction to fundamental principles of clinical research data management and informatics to include the acquisition and management of data during clinical research studies, including source data, data entry, data quality assurance, reporting, and security.
NURS 8891.03	Critical and Sensitive Periods for Health Development Focus on the effects of social, psychological, biological, and behavioral factors that influence health status (health determinants) as they occur across the lifespan with a particular focus on critical and sensitive periods of health development. Examination of health outcomes under varying conditions and across populations.
NURS 8891.04	Interventions for Health Development This course will focus on the examination of interventions that disrupt adverse actions of health determinants or alter epigenetic, physiologic, or psychologic changes in order to produce healthier outcomes.
Statistics/Methods	3 credits
Elective/Cognate	6 credits

Faculty Feedback: Members of the PhD Subcommittee provided feedback regarding the need for a deeper understanding of knowledge, skills and abilities more uniquely suited to prepare students for PhD education. Feedback has been positive regarding proposed curricular changes. With unanimous approval by the PhD Subcommittee and unanimous approval by the Graduate Studies Committee on November 17, 2022 and by majority of voting eligible faculty on January 10, 2023 (91 yes, 1 no, 92 total).

Transition Plans

Currently, there is only 1 student enrolled in the MSNS to PhD program. The student will continue to progress on the original curriculum plan. Once the proposed Nursing Science specialty track revision is approved, the new specialty track curriculum requirements will be implemented going forward for newly-matriculated students. Past enrollment in this specialty track has averaged 1 student/year and is expected to remain as such. There are no additional resources required as the curriculum represents existing courses taken by student in other College of Nursing academic programs.

Appendix A: OTDI MOU

From: [Bane, Jacob](#)
To: [Anderson, Cindy](#); [Simmons, Jennifer](#)
Subject: Re: Program changes
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 4:13:45 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Cindy,

Thank you for looping us in. Jen and I both looked through the proposal and we do not feel a new MOU is needed. This can be treated like the rest of the MSN tracks and fall under that umbrella MOU.

Any new courses that need support, we can add those to the MSN tracking when it is time to add them.

Jacob



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Jacob Bane

Distance and Continuing Education Program Consultant

Office of Academic Affairs

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Pronouns: he/him/his

From: Anderson, Cindy <anderson.2765@osu.edu>

Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 3:43 PM

To: Bane, Jacob <bane.17@osu.edu>, Simmons, Jennifer <simmons.232@osu.edu>

Subject: Program changes

Jacob and Jen,

We have some changes to our MS in Nursing, nursing science track. This is a program to prepare post-baccalaureate students for the PhD program. Typically we have low enrollment (now with 1 student) but leverage the curriculum plan with courses from other programs so it is not a resource issue. There are many MCR courses in the curriculum. Do you think we will need an MOU for this program? I am including a draft proposal so you can see the detail.

Thanks!

Cindy

Cindy Anderson, PhD, RN, APRN-CNP, ANEF, FAHA, FNAP, FAAN

Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Educational Innovation
Martha S. Pitzer Center for Women, Children and Youth

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**THE OHIO STATE
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Curriculum Proposal Checklist

Title of Program:

Effective term:

College:

New/Establish:

Secondary Major Eligible:

Academic Unit:

Revise:

50% Revision:

Mark Up:

Program Contact:

Terminate:

Suspend:

Certificate Category*:

Degree/Credential:

Program of Study :

Title:

Code:

Program Focus*:

Credit hours to degree/credential:

Is this a change to the current total?

Yes No

Program offered only online?

Yes No

If yes, is there a signed MOU with ODEE?

Yes No

Campus(es) where offered:

Columbus

ATI

Lima

Mansfield

Marion

Newark

Rationale:

Student Curriculum Sheet Required:

Four Year (or appropriate) Plan:

Academic Unit Curriculum Committee approval date:

College Curriculum Committee approval date:

Graduate School Council approval date*:

Regional Campus approval date*:

Council on Academic Affairs approval date:

University Senate approval date*:

Board of Trustees approval date*:

ODHE approval date*:

*** If applicable**