



# A GUIDE TO KENT STATE'S NURSING PROGRAMS

FOR FUTURE GRADUATE STUDENTS



# How to Navigate this Resource

---



There is no time like the present to advance your career and improve outcomes for your patients with a graduate degree in nursing.

Kent State University, located in northeast Ohio, offers both in-person and online nursing programs that are specifically designed to position you to meet the growing demands of healthcare worldwide.

In this resource, you will find an overview of the demand for nurses, the many choices for your career path and how to begin that journey

— **let's get started.**





# Table of Contents

**4**

**Nursing — A Critical Field With Purpose and Meaning**

**5**

**What is the Job Outlook for Nurses with Advanced Degrees?**

**6**

**Exploring Different Types of Advanced Nursing Positions: Which is Right for You?**

**7**

**An Inside Look at Kent State's Graduate Nursing Programs**

**12**

**3 Professionals Who Chose a Graduate Nursing Degree at Kent State**

**14**

**Join a Community of Nursing Leaders at Kent State University**

# Nursing — A Critical Field With Purpose and Meaning

**The decade ahead will test the nation’s nearly 4 million nurses in new and complex ways. Nurses live and work at the intersection of health, education and communities. Nurses work in a wide array of settings and practice at a range of professional levels. They are often the first and most frequent line of contact with people of all backgrounds and experiences seeking care and they represent the largest of the healthcare professions.**

## **—The Future of Nursing 2020-2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity**

Nurses are on the front line in hospitals, physicians’ offices, homes, care facilities, clinics, schools and more. Nurses also comprise the largest component of the healthcare workforce — [“they are the primary providers of hospital patient care, and deliver most of the nation’s long-term care.”](#)

Further, [a biannual Gallup poll reports](#) that nurses are consistently rated as the most trusted among the professions, with 85 percent of Americans rating nurses’ honesty and ethics as “high” and “very high” in the most recent survey.

That said, the pandemic exposed and exacerbated many issues in the U.S. healthcare system, including the [financial expense of care](#) that results in inequality of service and an acceleration of the nursing shortage due to a [record number of nurses burnt out, furloughed or laid off](#).

**For the healthcare system to be successful post-COVID, there is a need to support nurses and find new solutions.**

But there is opportunity for positive change. Nurses on the front lines have the opportunity to level up, provide care more efficiently and teach the next generation of nursing leaders.

Now is the right time for new and emerging professionals in the nursing field to guide the way and provide greater advocacy for patients and fellow nurses.



# What is the Job Outlook fo Nurses with Advanced Degrees?

Even before COVID-19, there was a projected nurse shortage.

According to [the American Association of Colleges of Nurses](#), even though enrollment in nurses programs has risen 5.1 percent, that rise will not meet the demand for needed RNs and APRNs.

In fact, [lack of educators is one cause for the nurse shortage](#). A total of [1.1 million new RNs will be needed in 2022](#), and nursing leaders with advanced degrees must be available to train them.

To put the demand for nurses with graduate degrees into numbers, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projects that from 2018-2028 the need for nurse practitioners will increase by 28 percent. Clinical nurse specialists, advanced nurses who hold a master's or doctoral degree in a specialized area of nursing practice, have experienced a [31 percent job growth increase in the last 10 years](#) — making them one of the most sought-after nurses in the field today.

## **Nurse Practitioners are also ranked as the #2 of the 100 Best Jobs of 2022.**

The advanced work comes with personal and professional benefits. In terms of salary alone, RNs earned [a median wage of \\$71,730 in 2018](#). Different nursing positions with advanced degrees can increase your salary by more than \$30,000 dollars: [Nurse practitioners with an MSN or DNP \(\\$107,030\)](#), while clinical nurse specialists, who fall under the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse category, make an [average of \\$106,000 per year](#).

**READ A PHD SUCCESS STORY**



# Exploring Different Types of Advanced Nursing Positions: Which is Right for You?

There is no one way to be a nurse. You can build on our hands-on experience to forge a new path that complements your strengths.

Here are a few of the different types of nursing positions available to graduates of various advanced nursing degree programs.

## Nurse Scientist

Ready to take a step back from the day-to-day care of patients? Do you love breaking down a complex problem and finding a solution?

The career of a nurse scientist may be your passion. Nurse scientists or research nurses advance the field of nursing practice by running studies on illness, treatment, pharmaceuticals and healthcare methods. This career requires grant writing, conducting scientific studies, analyzing data, and publishing results.

A **Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D.)** prepares you for this role.

## Nurse Educator

If you enjoy working through a difficult case with a colleague or giving advice, a position as a mentor and nurse educator could be a good fit. Nurse educators are particularly in demand to train the next generation of RNs.

With a **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)**, you'll be ready to teach classes in an academic setting or lead training in professional practices.

## Chief Nursing Officer

You can stay in a similar clinical setting but advance to a leadership role. As Chief Nursing Officer, you'll have the responsibility of leading the nurses in a practice. The job requires managing finances, arranging schedules, and implementing new technology. You will be in a unique position to optimize nursing procedures and to advocate for both patients and nurses.

A **Master of Science in Nursing/Master of Business Administration dual degree** (MSN/MBA dual degree program) gives you the training to strengthen your medical experience with critical business development skills.

## Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

If you most enjoy working with patients but want to offer more comprehensive solutions, licensure as an APRN is a good fit. You can earn your MSN and specialize as a Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist. Then you can advance further with a **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)**, which hones your skills and practice in your chosen area.

The [number of nurses with a DNP is growing](#), but still only around 1 percent of nurses obtain this degree, which gives them the edge in advancement and leadership opportunities.

# An Inside Look at Kent State's Graduate Nursing Programs

---

**The mission of Kent State University College of Nursing is to discover, create, apply and share nursing knowledge, as well as to foster ethical and humanitarian values in addressing health care needs of Ohio and the global community. The College of Nursing applies professional nursing standards and competencies across a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare students to reach their full potential. Students engage in diverse learning environments to foster critical thinking and attain excellence in providing care for diverse populations and advancing knowledge.**

**—Mission Statement, Kent State University College of Nursing**

Your next step to your best career starts with Kent State University.

[The College of Nursing](#) offers a variety of respected graduate nursing degrees, and no matter which program you enroll in, you will have access to expert faculty, over 350 clinical partners and a supportive network of alumni.

We invite you to learn for yourself why Kent State has been twice designated by the National League for Nurses as a Center of Excellence in Nursing Education (2013-2017 and 2017-2022) — [reach out to our enrollment advisors with your questions.](#)

## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

The Master of Science in Nursing is your gateway to several different professional paths. Many concentrations will advance your work in a practice setting and allow you to apply for your APRN license.

### Online Programs

Three MSN concentrations are available fully online. [If you live in an eligible state](#), you can still work with Kent State faculty and complete your coursework remotely around your schedule.

#### Online concentrations include:

- [Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist](#)
- [Women's Health Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Nurse Educator](#)
- [Nursing Administration and Health Systems Leadership](#)

### In-Person/Online Hybrid Programs

Some of our concentrations require residency in Ohio. Many courses can still be taken online, and both full-time and part-time schedules are available to help you balance your school with other obligations.

#### Concentrations include:

- [Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Family Nurse Practitioner \(FNP\)](#)
- [Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner](#)

Students interested in Nursing Administration can also take advantage of Kent State University's Top Ranked [Ambassador Crawford College of Business and Entrepreneurship](#) by enrolling in this unique Dual MSN/MBA program. Students can double count courses to apply towards both degrees.

#### Online MSN MBA dual degree program:

- [Dual MSN MBA program](#)

#### Required Courses for all MSN candidates:

- Advanced Nursing Informatics
- Health Policy and Advanced Nursing Practice
- Theoretical Basis for Nursing Practice
- Methods of Inquiry
- 23-35 Credit Hours in your chosen concentration

**REQUEST MORE INFORMATION**

**APPLY NOW**



## Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

There are two paths through the Kent State DNP program, the terminal degree that places you in an elite group of nurses in terms of knowledge of practice, leadership skills and technological ability. With a DNP, you will be ready to be a scholar and leader in your clinical setting.

### Required Courses:

- Clinical Analytics
- Doctoral Nursing Practice Practicum
- Doctor of Nursing Practice Seminar
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Application of Evidence Based Practice
- Advanced Leadership in Healthcare
- Organizational Systems
- Quality Improvement in Healthcare Delivery
- Population Health
- Healthcare Finance and Economic Policy

## BSN to DNP

The BSN to DNP path is suitable for those RNs who do not yet have an advanced degree but are eager to accelerate their career path. Structured as two 2-year stages, you focus on your concentration, earn your MSN and can sit for your ARNP licensure after the 2nd year.

### Concentrations include:

- Adult Gerontology Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Adult Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Pediatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Women's Health Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

## MSN to DNP

The Post-MSN DNP program was created for those who already have an advanced degree and want to improve their skills for their practice. The MSN to DNP path is completely online.

**REQUEST MORE INFORMATION**

**APPLY NOW**

## Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (Ph.D.)

The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing has a rigorous, state-of-the-science curriculum for those with advanced degrees who are ready to dedicate their lives to advancing research in the field of nursing—whether that be as a professor in academia, researching for hospitals and health systems or working in another consulting or leadership role.

The Ph.D. nursing program is in person and builds relationships between faculty and fellow graduate students.

### Required Courses:

- History and Philosophy of Nursing Science
- Scientific Writing
- Research Design Fundamentals
- Advanced Statistics
- Theory Construction and Development in Nursing
- Advanced Statistics II
- Advanced Qualitative Methods for Health Sciences
- Leadership for Nursing Science
- Advanced Statistics III

- Advanced Quantitative Methods for Health Sciences
- Research in Nursing
- Seminar: Emerging Issues in Nursing Science and Research
- Proposal Development

### Research Opportunities

As part of a Ph.D. program, it is vital to work with a faculty mentor who will guide you in your research interests.

### Faculty interests include:

- Self-management of acute and chronic disease
- Wellness across family systems
- Care systems and outcomes
- Global and cultural health
- Emerging methodologies
- End of life care

We invite you to [meet our faculty mentors](#), [explore their areas of expertise](#) and consider the [Kent State research institutes and initiatives](#).

**REQUEST MORE INFORMATION**

**APPLY NOW**



## Kent State Nursing Program Requirements

Kent State has a centralized location for all graduate program applications. Basic qualifications for admission include:

- BSN degree from an accredited program
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- English language proficiency

Additional items needed for nursing programs vary by degree. Please explore the [graduate student admission page](#) and [international student admissions page](#) for details. Transfer students should contact [the Office of Student Services](#) directly.



### 3 Professionals Who Chose a Graduate Nursing Degree at Kent State

If you're still wondering if Kent State is right for you, or if you can balance an advanced degree with your life, meet three nurses who made the choice.



**Heather M. Bevan, [MSN '20, RN](#)**, long wanted to be a nurse to help vulnerable patients with compassion. She loved her role as a float nurse but felt limited.

**“I knew that progressing into a more diagnostic and health management facet of the nursing profession would hone my critical thinking skills so I could better serve as an advocate for my patients and their families.”**

[Read more](#) about her motivation, her family support and her appreciation for Kent state.



**Latonya Fore,** [MSN, APRN, CBN, CSOWM, CCM, and current DNP candidate](#), has a drive to “always be learning.” The DNP program at Kent State has not disappointed.

**“The DNP program was put together like a perfect puzzle. It has absolutely provided me with new skills I would have never learned or discovered had I not decided to continue my education.”**

[Read more](#) about her dedication to underrepresented groups in nursing and how she balances her responsibilities.



**Mary Ritter,** [MSN '16, RN, FNP-BC](#) decided to become a nurse to provide compassionate care to people in need, have financial stability, and enjoy a flexible schedule. She chose to advance her career so that her knowledge would be strengthened and that she could prove to herself and her teenage daughters that anything was possible with support.

[Read more](#) about why she returned to Kent State and what she has gained for her time here.

# Join a Community of Nursing Leaders at Kent State University

---

There is no better time to advance your career, become a stronger advocate for your patients and fellow nurses and guide the direction of the nursing field through leadership and research.

Whether you choose a career of working in a practice, teaching or conducting studies, the nursing professionals at Kent State are ready to help you develop the skills needed to become a phenomenal nurse.

If you're interested in learning more about joining the nursing community at Kent State, [we encourage you to get in contact with us!](#)

Reach out to our  
enrollment specialists:

**REQUEST MORE  
INFORMATION**

Register for a  
live webinar:

**EXPLORE WEBINARS**

Explore other  
graduate resources:

**VISIT RESOURCE  
LIBRARY**

Ready to begin?

**APPLY NOW**





LINNEA E. HENDERSON HALL  
NURSING