Nursing

Choose your path to a nursing career.

M State’s Nursing Program

Nursing is a rewarding and challenging career that requires the ability to adapt to rapid changes in health care and technology. The Nursing program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College is designed to provide students with the opportunity to begin or advance their nursing careers. After applying to and being accepted at M State, students can apply to M State nursing on any or all campuses with a single application for each program.

Three Nursing Options at M State

Practical Nursing Program

The Practical Nursing diploma program is 40 credits and can be completed in two semesters by full-time students. Part-time program options may also be available.

The program prepares students to practice nursing under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN), providing direct patient care in nursing homes, clinics, hospitals and home- and community-based facilities. Students are eligible to take the National Council Licensing Exam-PN following graduation. M State's Practical Nursing program is offered each semester on the Moorhead campus. Students who complete the program and are licensed as practical nurses can continue their education at M State to become an RN through the Associate Degree in Nursing - Advanced Standing Option.

Associate Degree in Nursing Programs

The Associate Degree in Nursing - Generic Option is 64 credits and can be completed in two years. The program is designed for students who have no prior nursing experience. Its goal is to prepare nurses to be direct caregivers, patient advocates and health educators for clients, families and communities. Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensing Exam-RN following graduation. This program is offered on the M State campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls and Wadena.

Advancing Your Career

Graduates who earn an associate degree in nursing are eligible to apply for admission to baccalaureate nursing programs through articulation agreements with colleges throughout the Minnesota State system as well as other colleges and universities outside Minnesota. A bachelor’s degree offers nurses increased opportunities in management and community settings.

Preparing for Nursing

While all students are welcome to apply to M State’s nursing programs, acceptance is selective. There are specific criteria for each program.

Many students take general education courses at M State – including courses in mathematics, biology and chemistry – in preparation for application to the nursing program. Although not all of these courses are required for program applicants, they may improve an applicant’s eligibility.

High school students who plan to enroll in a nursing program will benefit from taking high school courses in biology, chemistry and mathematics.

We encourage prospective nursing students to schedule a visit at the campus of their choice. Arrange a campus visit by contacting M State at 877.450.3322 or going online to minnesota.edu/visit.
Success on licensure exam: Graduates of M State’s nursing program had some of Minnesota's highest pass rates on the National Council Licensure Examination-RN and National Council Licensure Examination-PN in 2014-2016.

Application Procedure
A complete nursing application packet must include an application to M State, a nursing program application and a TEAS (Test of Essential Academic Skills) entrance exam. Incomplete applications are not considered. The TEAS entrance exam benchmark for application to the nursing program is 58.6. Applicants with TEAS scores below 58.6 are not considered.

Clinical Partnerships
Through our excellent relationships with industry clinical partners, we provide students with clinical opportunities where they learn and practice nursing skills in welcoming and engaging environments.

Career Outlook
Demand for nurses and other health care workers is expected to grow in coming years in west central Minnesota and throughout the region. For the most current career outlook information, visit M State’s Career Coach website at mstate.emsicareercoach.com, then search for nurse.

Background Check Required
State law requires that students having direct contact with individuals in licensed institutions complete an annual background study with the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Students who do not pass the background check will not be allowed to participate in clinical activities and thus are not eligible for graduation. Students in some programs also are required to complete a national and/or federal criminal background study.

Other M State Health Care Programs
M State offers degrees, diplomas and certificates in a number of other health care fields, in addition to nursing. Those programs include:

- Cardiovascular Technologist – Invasive
- Dental Assisting
- Dental Hygienist
- Dialysis Technician
- Health Information Technology
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coding and Insurance
- Medical Laboratory Technician
- Medical Office Assistant
- Medical Receptionist
- Mental Health Behavioral Aide II
- Pharmacy Technician
- Phlebotomy Technician
- Radiologic Technology
- Surgical Technology

Learn More:
- Visit minnesota.edu/nursing
- Call 877.450.3322

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