

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO
SCHOOL OF NURSING
MISSION, PHILOSOPHY, AND ORGANIZING FRAMEWORK
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Mission and Philosophy

Mission

The mission of the SON is to strive for excellence in the preparation of nursing graduates to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to advance the discipline of nursing.

The MSN Program strives for excellence in the preparation of advanced nursing graduates through the following goals:

- demonstrate excellence through practicum experiences with populations across the lifespan;
- demonstrate nursing judgment to guide nursing practice specializing in public health, and;
- demonstrate leadership through a commitment to professional practice, lifelong learning, and implementation of evidence-based practice.

Philosophy

The University of Arkansas SON faculty believes that master's prepared nurses specializing in the field of public health, use nursing knowledge to influence health policy, research, and professional practice in many academic and workplace settings. The program framework is based on the curricular elements and expected outcomes identified by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) the Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Education (<https://www.aacnnursing.org/AACN-Essentials>). The program emphasizes master's prepared nurses as public health nurse leaders, interprofessional team members, and scholars who advance the nursing profession.

Public Health Nurse Role

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN, 2022), a graduate degree will prepare the nursing graduate for a wide variety of specialty practice areas, including the public health nurse specialty. The AACN (2022) states the following:

Public health nurses focus on preserving the health and well-being of the public. These specialists are licensed professional nurses who participate in activities related to population health, health promotion, disease prevention and control, and community education. Though their responsibilities vary by role and location, master's- and doctorally-prepared public health nurses often manage clinics in various state and community settings (e.g., immunizations, well-child, health screenings), investigate communicable disease cases to determine sources and implement action necessary to curtail the spread of disease; analyze data to identify needs and service gaps for individuals, families, and communities; provide education regarding disease control and prevention as well as general preventive health care to individuals and groups; and implement programs that address environmental and population health risks. These nurses work collaboratively with community leaders, government officials, teachers, parents, and other providers in areas related to community and population health. (para. 19)