

**XAVIER UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HEALTH AND EDUCATION**  
**SCHOOL OF NURSING**  
*COLLABORATE, INNOVATE, EDUCATE*

**Master of Science in Nursing: Direct Entry as Second Degree**

**The MIDAS Program**

**Explanation for *Baccalaureate Equivalency* for Graduates of the Master of Science in Nursing: Direct Entry as Second Degree (the MIDAS program)**

The pre-licensure, *Master of Science in Nursing: Direct Entry as Second Degree* (MIDAS) program, which was launched in 2005, is one of three pre-licensure master's programs in Ohio approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing (OBN). This innovative program consists of 79 semester credit hours in upper division coursework; and 960 clinical contact hours, 60 hours more than the BSN program which has 900 clinical contact hours.

Upon completion of the MIDAS program, students will have earned a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree which assumes a *Baccalaureate Equivalent* degree. Xavier believes the MSN to be a higher degree than a BSN and provides academic achievement that is beyond a BSN. The student can use the MSN transcript as a BSN equivalent if the need arises. In 2004, the Office of Educator Preparation of the Ohio Department of Education declared that "a higher degree may be substituted (in this case a Master's degree), but not a lower degree for the education requirement" of a baccalaureate degree.

The MIDAS pre-licensure program has full approval from the OBN indicating achievement of state standards. The graduate program builds upon the baccalaureate program and in addition to CNL competencies, includes standards set forth in the Joint Position statement of AACN and American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) to guide and evaluate the program. All Xavier nursing programs are currently accredited by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The American Holistic Nurses Certification Corporation (AHNCC) re-endorsed the baccalaureate program in 2006 with the inclusion of the MIDAS program. Xavier's School of Nursing has been recognized nationally as a leader in holistic nursing education. Graduates are eligible to take the holistic nursing certification exam and those who choose to do so, pass it successfully. Xavier is one of 14 schools of nursing 2008 endorsed by the AHNCC and is considered one of two model curricula in the United States.

In addition to providing a career ladder into nursing for individuals with baccalaureate degrees in fields other than nursing, the MIDAS program prepares graduates to function in the Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) role which includes improved coordination of care through the use of communication and informatics. The CNL role resulted from a national initiative in 2004 guided by American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) to address fragmentation in health care delivery systems and long-term retention in nursing by increasing job satisfaction. The

AACN envisions the CNL as a champion of innovations that improve patient outcomes, ensure quality care and reduce health care costs. As outlined by curriculum criteria set forth by AACN, students in the MIDAS program are prepared as advanced generalists, at the master's level, who are able to design, implement, manage and evaluate client care within increasing complex healthcare systems.

Admission to the MIDAS program is competitive with special attention given to undergraduate grade point averages, GRE scores, pre-requisite course grades, references and the required personal essay on leadership skills and reason for wanting a career in nursing. Required prerequisite courses for full admission to the MIDAS program include Anatomy and Physiology lecture and lab, Microbiology lecture (no lab required) and undergraduate statistics or its equivalent.

### **MIDAS Program Curriculum Description**

Faculty believe core competencies of the BSN graduate identified in the *AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (1998) and core graduate competencies identified in *The Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing* (AACN, 1996) to be requisite skills to achieve program goals. The MIDAS curriculum is a unique reflection of both the BSN and MSN *Essentials*. Students are taught entry level nursing content consistent with *Baccalaureate Essentials* within a graduate program in which *Master's Essentials* are met, thus requiring innovative teaching strategies from faculty. The CNL core competencies consistent with AACN's *Essentials* include critical thinking, communication, assessment, nursing technology and resource management, health promotion, risk reduction and disease prevention, illness and disease management, information and health care technologies, ethics, human diversity, global health care, health care systems and policy, provider and manager of care, designer/manager/coordinator of care and a member of a profession.

The MIDAS curriculum is a full-time course of study including 27 courses covering 79 semester credit hours. In addition to the seven (7) MSN courses covering core MSN curriculum content, MIDAS students take an additional 18 courses designed to meet OBN and AACN's CNL curriculum content requirements followed by a capstone course and a final practicum course. MIDAS students take 17 courses the first three semesters (fall, spring and summer) that provide them with the content and competencies included in the *AACN Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice* (1998), OBN Rule 4723-5-13 content areas, graduate coursework in nursing theory (*NURS 501*) and research (*NURS 502*) included in the *Master's Essentials* (1996), and introductory content on the application of the CNL role (*NURS 550 & 560*). In addition to nursing theory and research, these courses include a course on the essentials of pathophysiology (*NURS 554*) and five nursing classroom theory courses (*NURS 552, 562, 564, 650, & 652*) and their related practicums (*NURS 553, 563, 565, 651, 653*). During the third semester taught during the summer, courses on advanced pharmacology (*NURS 654*) and advanced pathophysiology (*NURS 656*) are taught.

The last two semesters of the MIDAS program include remaining content and competencies included in OBN Rule 4723-5-13 and *AACN Essentials for Masters Education for Advanced Practice Nursing* with in-depth focus on the application of the CNL role in a variety of settings. The remaining courses include two MSN core courses i.e. *NURS 500* on ethics and *NURS 503* covering epidemiologic methods, and courses that contain content on community/public health

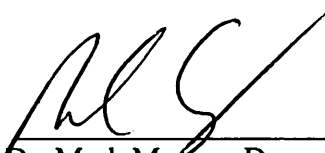
nursing (*NURS 752 & 753*) which incorporate public health policy and a related practicum, management concepts (*NURS 754*) including content on economics, resource management and risk management and advanced informatics (*NURS 854*) including data management systems. The four nursing perspective courses (*NURS 550, 560, 750 & 850*) sequentially placed over the five semester MIDAS program provide an organizing framework for the transition to professional nursing and the application of the role of the CNL. Two are taught during the first academic year and the remaining two during the last two semesters of the program in the second academic year. Through this sequencing of courses, CNL core competencies are acquired over the course of the MIDAS program from an introductory application in *NURS 550 Nursing Perspectives I* to a more complex level of integration.

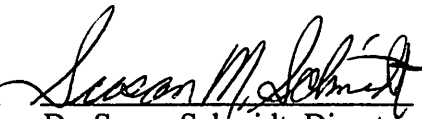
In order to immerse MIDAS students in the role of the CNL, they are required to take one four (4) credit practicum course, *NURS 851 Leadership Practicum*. In all MIDAS practicum courses, one (1) credit is equal to four (4) clock hours meaning for every semester credit hour the student spends four hours in a practicum setting. Within the MIDAS program, students enroll in seven practicum courses for 16 semester credits hours that equate to 960 clock hours in the practicum setting. Practicum course learning experiences for MIDAS students advance in complexity of knowledge and care delivery through their five semesters of full-time study.

A two (2) credit hour scholarly project, *NURS 852 Leadership for Quality*, provides a capstone course to the master's program for MIDAS students. The capstone courses requires a compilation and interpretation of knowledge gained from previous courses and practicums demonstrating the students ability to apply what has been learned in the program as advanced practice nursing leaders.

Approved October, 2010:

  
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