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

RN to MSN degree

Explanation for *Baccalaureate Equivalency* for Graduates of the RN to MSN degree

A RN to MSN course of study was established at Xavier University in 2001 for eligible experienced RN's who do not earn a BSN but are required to take baccalaureate bridge courses prior to entering the masters program. Upon completion of the RN to MSN 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 RN to MSN option is available for registered nurses who hold an associate of science degree or diploma in nursing and who have a minimum of two years of full-time experience as a registered nurse, show evidence of being goal directed, and demonstrate leadership in nursing. Applicants must complete a portfolio through which they identify their goals and potential roles as leaders with advanced nursing knowledge. This portfolio is evaluated to determine the applicant's potential for success in the program. It is expected students have foundational knowledge in the arts and sciences and health assessment as dictated by state boards of nursing. In addition, once admitted to the program students must demonstrate through previous course work, credit by examination or successful completion of bridge courses, 16 semester hours of baccalaureate credit before beginning graduate courses.

Nine (9) of these 16 semester hours are in philosophy, theology, and statistics designed to enhance the Xavier mission. The remaining five (5) semester hours of baccalaureate nursing bridge courses required are in Professional Development (includes writing skills) and Community/Health and Culture to further prepare these students for the master's program. Students typically take two courses per semester and complete the program in one calendar year.

All Xavier nursing programs are currently accredited by the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education. Xavier is one of 14 schools of nursing endorsed by the American Holistic Nurses Certification Corporation (AHNCC). 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 also approved by the Commission on Nurse Certification for preparing advanced generalists in the role of Clinical Nurse Leaders, a new national role for nursing since 2004 when presented by American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

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