College of Nursing

Graduate Program
To learn more about the graduate offerings in Nursing, and to find out specifics on applying to any program see the department website: http://www.montana.edu/nursing/prospective/index.html. Read the following for a brief explanation of the programs offered:

Masters of Nursing (MN)
The Masters of Nursing (MN) graduate degree program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Students are prepared to take certification examinations as a Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL). MN graduate students are educated to be leaders at the bedside with a broad range of opportunities to influence health practices.

Associate Degree Registered Nurse (ADRN) to Masters of Nursing
The ADRN to Masters option offers a unique opportunity for licensed registered nurses prepared with an associate degree in nursing from an accredited institution to be provisionally accepted, acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to meet the Baccalaureate Essentials through two bridge courses, and then matriculate into the Masters of Nursing program.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree program is fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and focuses on educating nurses to the highest standards of the profession to care for people living in Montana and beyond and lead change in health care systems. Two areas of specialty are available for the DNP degree seeking student at MSU: Family or Psychiatric / Mental Health.

Non Degree Options
The Certificate in Nursing Education is available to graduate nursing students and nurses with a BSN or greater.

Program Synopsis
Students are admitted for either a Master in Nursing degree (MN) with a focus on Nursing Leadership or Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree (DNP). For the DNP degree, students select a specialty area to be prepared as a Family or Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Each student completes courses in advanced health assessment, advanced pathophysiology, advanced pharmacotherapeutics, evidenced based practice, ethics, leadership, and finance and budgeting of health care systems. Remaining courses are determined by specialty. The graduate student’s experience culminates in a professional or scholarly project and paper.

The graduate program curriculum is taught by College of Nursing faculty who are recognized nationally for their broad and wide-ranging expertise, scholarship, and dedication to providing quality nursing education. Rich clinical opportunities exist in Montana for nurses seeking to expand their professional practice and outreach. Students experience an educational preparation that positions them well for exciting opportunities to practice and lead in rural and frontier areas of Montana and beyond.

Graduate courses are offered primarily through asynchronous distance delivery with occasional synchronous teleconference and video conference used to supplement content. Travel to the Bozeman campus is required at the beginning of Fall semester. A variety of teaching methods (http://www.montana.edu/nursing/graduate/teaching_methods.html) are used in the graduate programs.

Degree Offered
ADRN to MN Distance Graduate Education (MN)
Degree (http://www.montana.edu/nursing/graduate/adrntomn.html)
A track to a Masters in Nursing (MN) degree has been designed for experienced Associate Degree-prepared Registered Nurses (ADRNs).

Master of Nursing (MN) Graduate Degree (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/nursing/clinical-nurse-leader/)
The focus of the MN degree is to prepare graduates with advanced leadership skills to be applied in the healthcare delivery system across a wide range of settings. Graduates of this program are also eligible to sit for the Clinical Nurse Leader certification. The professional roles of the CNL include clinician, outcomes manager, client advocate, educator, information manager, team manager, systems analyst/risk anticipator, and reflect the need for lifelong learning.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Graduate Degree (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/nursing/dnp/)
The DNP prepares advanced practice nurses who demonstrate clinical expertise, judgment, scholarship, and leadership to provide the highest level of nursing practice in the primary health care setting.

Online Certificate Program (Non-Degree Option) (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/nursing/online-certificate-nursing-education/)
The Certificate in Nursing Education program consists of four theory courses (total of 10 credits) that prepare students for careers in nursing education. These courses are open to all graduate nursing students and also to nurses with a minimum of a BSN who are interested in taking such coursework for personal enrichment or professional advancement.