A master's degree in Nursing Leadership from Western Carolina University can take you to the next level. Our online program is designed to bring the benefits of modern technology and high quality, graduate-level instruction to professionals in a form that parallels your fast-paced working world.

The graduate nursing program is fully accredited at the national level and designed to fit in to the nurse's busy work schedule. Making the best use of the latest advances in educational technologies, the program provides flexible access to graduate education from any location, at any time.

Western Carolina University School of Nursing also offers master's degree programs in family nurse practitioner, nurse educator and nurse anesthesia.
Nurse Leadership Specialty Courses
These courses will prepare you for specific competencies required of nurse leaders/administrators.

- NSG 644 Healthcare Systems Management in Nursing Leadership
- NSG 645 Cultural Competence in Nursing Leadership
- NSG 646 Communication and Leadership in Nursing Administration (includes 40 contact hours of practicum experience with preceptor)
- NSG 647 Outcomes Measurement in Nursing Leadership
- NSG 648 Nursing Leadership in Health Care Organizations
- NSG 649 Financial Management in Nursing Leadership
- NSG 650 Legal and Health Policy Aspects of Nursing Leadership
- NSG 654 Nursing Informatics
- NSG 655 Ethics in Nursing Leadership
- NSG 656 Nursing Management of Human Resources

Nurse Leadership Practicum (180 contact hours)
You will have the opportunity to develop or enhance senior-level management and leadership competencies and to address issues that impact health care organizations. All courses except practicums are taught on-line, and practicum courses are arranged with a preceptor with an emphasis on medically underserved and culturally diverse populations.

Advanced Nursing Project or Thesis
Your scholarly project will examine a significant problem in nursing leadership. You may choose to do either an advanced nursing project or a traditional master's thesis.

- NSG 679 or NSG 699

Culminating Experiences
Your success will be measured by a comprehensive exam at the end of your coursework. An oral presentation of your project is required. An oral presentation and oral defense of your thesis is required. You will be required to submit your project or thesis for publication.

Application Process
1. Apply online at grad.wcu.edu. You will be asked to submit your transcripts, your GRE or MAT scores, three letters of recommendation, a personal statement, your resume and an application fee. Specific instructions on recommendations, personal statement and resume are available at the application website.
2. Applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview by the School of Nursing's Graduate Admissions Committee.

Admission Requirements
1. Registered Nurse: All applicants must hold an unencumbered license to practice as registered nurse.
2. Educational Background: Bachelor of Science in Nursing awarded by a school of nursing accredited by the National League for Nursing (NLN) or by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
3. One year work experience as a registered nurse within the past five years.
4. Interested in developing leadership skills.
5. Completion of Prerequisite Coursework: Introductory-level statistics course and a Nursing Research Course with an earned grade of C or better.
6. Satisfactory Performance on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Miller Analogy Test (MAT): GRE or MAT is waived if student holds a graduate degree.
7. Recommendations that document potential for academic success.