

## Master's Program in Nursing Science

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### ■ Master of Science in Nursing

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#### Program Educational Objectives

As Japan has falling birthrates and an aging society, there is a greater variety of and increased demand for medical care due to long-term and complex health problems of the patients with multiple diseases and disabilities. This master's degree program shall train highly specialized professionals, including midwives, and serve as one stage to train researchers. With a broad and deep academic knowledge that can contribute to solving such issues based on scientific evidence in nursing science.

<b>Graduate Profile</b>	The desired students shall explore nursing based on a firm ethical view and scientific evidence with interdisciplinary and international perspectives and have attitude to improve themselves as researchers. In addition, such students shall potentially become nurses with specialized knowledge/skills/practical ability as the basis of nursing research/practices and educators of nursing science to support education of nursing science.
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## Diploma Policy

The degree of Master of Science in Nursing is commenced to those who have fulfilled the requirements for the completion of the Master's programs, as set out in the Graduate School Regulations of the University of Tsukuba and related university regulations, and who are deemed to have the following competences.

	Competences	Evaluation perspectives
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	1. Knowledge application competence: Ability to contribute to society with advanced knowledge	① Can you apply knowledge gained through research and other activities in society? ② Can you identify new problems based on broad knowledge, even in other fields of expertise?
	2. Management competence: Ability to appropriately address challenges from broad standpoints	① Can you take on significant tasks with systematic planning? ② Can you understand and solve problems from multiple perspectives?
	3. Communication competence: Ability to accurately and clearly communicate expert knowledge	① Are you capable of efficient communication for research purposes? ② Can you discuss research or research-specific knowledge with experts from your field and other fields?
	4. Teamwork competence: Ability to work with a team and actively contribute to the achievement of goals	① Do you have experience cooperatively and actively working on challenges as part of a team? ② Have you helped promote projects and activities other than your research?
	5. Internationality competence: Willingness to contribute to international society	① Are you aware of contributing to international society and participating in international activities? ② Have you obtained the linguistic skills necessary for international information collection and action?
	6. Ability to explore based on scientific evidence: Ability to explore, research and put into practice nursing based on scientific evidence	① Can you explore the problems of nursing science based on scientific evidence? ② Can you draft a practical training and research plan based on scientific evidence?
	7. Ability to put into practice in area of expertise: Ability to put nursing into practice in area of expertise: an ability to acquire knowledge and skills in the area of expertise of nursing science and educate/research put such knowledge and skills into practice for nursing	① Can you acquire knowledge in the area of expertise as the basis of nursing science? ② Can you apply scientific evidence to education/research/practices for nursing?

	Competences	Evaluation perspectives
<b>Knowledge and Skills</b>	8. Interdiscipline of nursing: Ability to scientifically put nursing into practice from an interdisciplinary viewpoint	① Can you understand nursing science based on relevance with other academic areas? ② Can you conduct education/research/practices based on scientific evidence from an interdisciplinary viewpoint?
	9. Sensitivity and ethical view of nursing: Ability to research and put into practice nursing science based on rich sensitivity/firm ethical view	① Can you draft a research plan that considers research ethics for research tasks and appropriately implements such a plan? ② Can you put nursing into practice with ethical sensitivity?
	10. Ability to research and put into practice to aim at international applicability: an ability to use international research outcomes to students' research/practices and intend to study and put such findings into practice for nursing	Can you research/put into practice nursing by using research both inside and outside Japan?
<b>Guidelines for Assessing Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Each knowledge and competence outlined in the “Degree Conferment Policy” is evaluated using the following indicators and methods.</p> <p>[Assessment by Numerical Indicators]</p> <p>Numerical indicators are established for each competence item across all courses and student learning activities to conduct objective evaluations. Achievement target benchmark values are set for each knowledge and competence item to quantitatively measure students' attainment levels.</p> <p>[Assessment Process]</p> <p>« Annual Assessment »</p> <p>Once a year, supervisory faculty and the Academic Affairs Committee collaborate to confirm and evaluate each student's competence attainment level. The assessment is conducted from the following perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achievement status of numerical indicators in each course</li> <li>- Attainment level against established benchmark values</li> <li>- Demonstration of knowledge and competences in research activities</li> </ul> <p>« Final Assessment »</p> <p>During the dissertation examination, the Dissertation Review Committee confirms that all competences have achieved the benchmark values. The committee comprehensively evaluates quantitative assessment results based on numerical indicators and the manifestation of knowledge and competences in the dissertation to determine the final level of achievement.</p>	

<p><b>Evaluation Criteria for Degree Theses/ Dissertations</b></p>	<p>(Evaluation criteria)</p> <p>&lt;Master's thesis&gt;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The contents of research contribute to nursing science.</li> <li>2. The research is conducted by making use of appropriate methods by clearly setting its meaning and purpose.</li> <li>3. The previous research is sufficiently considered.</li> <li>4. The research generally has a consistency, and the thesis is written with appropriate form and writing style.</li> <li>5. There is no ethical problem upon implementation of research or publication of its results.</li> </ol> <p>&lt;Research outcomes concerning specific issues&gt;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The contents of the research for specific theme shall contribute to high level nursing practices.</li> <li>2. The research is conducted by making use of appropriate methods by clearly setting its meaning and purpose for nursing practices.</li> <li>3. The previous research and application to practices is sufficiently considered</li> <li>4. The research generally has a consistency, and the thesis is written with appropriate form and writing style.</li> <li>5. There is no ethical problem upon implementation of research or publication of its results.</li> </ol> <p>(Procedures for evaluation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the spring term of the second year, the research progress of each student shall be evaluated through oral examination regarding research plan by one faculty member. The faculty member of nursing science master's degree program with different specialized research shall evaluate such research plan.</li> <li>- For the students who are expected to acquire more credits required for studying the course for more than two years and completion of the course, examination and the final examination for the master's thesis shall be performed.</li> <li>- The examination committee for master's thesis shall be composed of one chief examiner and two or more sub examiners, which examines level of completion of research for each student through public presentation and subsequent oral examination. The faculty member of nursing science master's degree program with different specialized research shall evaluate such research plan.</li> </ul>
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**Curriculum Policy**

The curriculum shall aim at cultivating interdisciplinary and international perspective in the area of nursing science for the students and develop an ability to explore nursing based on firm ethical view and scientific evidence and distinguished specialized knowledge/skills/practical ability as the basis of research/practices of nursing necessary to take up highly specialized occupation in the area of nursing science. In addition, by students' studying abroad in the universities that have academic exchange agreement and revitalization of academic exchange relating to education/research, the environment shall be provided where students may engage in education/research activities on global level.

<b>Curriculum Design Framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The subjects as the basis of Major Subjects and promote rich humanity with a broad knowledge that corresponds to diversified needs due to progress in medical technology and changes in disease structure and scientific thinking shall be set as Foundation Subjects for Major.</li> <li>- Students shall be recommended that students take Graduate General Education Courses, Interdisciplinary Foundation Courses and Degree Programs' Common Courses in order to cultivate basic knowledge and a broad perspective of the relevant area and generic competences centered on students' major.</li> <li>- " Introduction to Academic Integrity" as Graduate General Education Course (1 credit) shall be a compulsory subject.</li> <li>- The following training courses shall be set in accordance with the career path after completion of the master's degree course. ① research basic course to develop research basic ability to go on to the doctoral program, ② course to train midwives with research basic ability and highly practical ability.</li> </ul> <p>[Research basic course]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through "Topics in Nursing Science", "Research Methods in Nursing Science" as Foundation Subjects for Major for Major, Major Subjects, practical training as Major Subjects (common) and "Research in Nursing Science", an ability to explore nursing based on scientific evidence shall be acquired.</li> <li>- Through "Research Methods in Nursing Science", "Health Statistics", Foundation Subjects for Major , practical training as Major Subjects (common) and "Research in Nursing Science", an ability to research/educate nursing with specialized knowledge and skills as the basis of nursing science.</li> <li>- Through "Topics in Nursing Science" as Foundation Subjects for Major, Graduate General Education Courses, specialized subjects relating to other area of expertise and "Research in Nursing Science" as Major Subjects (common), an ability to scientifically analyze nursing from interdisciplinary perspective shall be acquired.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Curriculum Design Framework</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through eAPRIN, ethical educational course in clinical study, Foundation Subjects for Major and “Research in Nursing Science” as Major Subjects (common) etc., research ability for nursing science based on rich sensitivity and firm ethical view shall be acquired.</li> <li>- Through learning “Global Health Nursing” as a specialized basic subject and special lectures by the lecturers of the universities with academic exchange agreement etc., an ability to intend for global nursing research shall be acquired. In addition, through “Research Methods in Nursing Science” as Major Subjects, criticism of the previous research in Major Subjects of each student's area of expertise and “Research in Nursing Science” as Major Subjects (common), an ability to make use of the nursing research outcomes on global level for students' own research.</li> </ul> <p>[Course to train midwives]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Through “Topics in Nursing Science”, “Research Methods in Nursing Science” and “Midwifery Practicum I/II” as Foundation Subjects for Major, Major Subjects, practical training as Major Subjects (common and “Research in Nursing Science” etc. as Major Subjects (common)., an ability to explore midwifery based on scientific evidence.</li> <li>- Through “Research Methods in Nursing Science”, “Health Statistics” and “Nursing Education” as Foundation Subjects for Major, Major Subjects, practical training and “Research in Nursing Science” etc. as Major Subjects (common) other than 31 credits necessary for acquisition of national nursing qualification, abilities for practical midwifery and research shall be acquired by integrating specialization of midwifery with the basis of nursing science.</li> <li>- Through “Topics in Nursing Science”, Graduate General Education Course and “Research in Nursing Science” as Major Subjects (common), an ability to scientifically analyze midwifery from interdisciplinary perspective.</li> <li>- Through eAPRIN, ethical educational course in clinical study, “Bioethics in Midwifery” as Foundation Subjects for Major necessary for acquisition of national midwife qualification, Major Subjects, practical training and “Research in Nursing Science” etc. as Major Subjects (common), practical ability for midwifery based on rich sensitivity and firm ethical view as a midwife shall be acquired.</li> <li>- Through “Global Health Nursing” as Foundation Subjects for Major and special lectures etc. by the lecturers at the universities with academic exchange agreement, an ability to intend for international midwifery practice shall be acquired. In addition, through “Research Methods in Nursing Science” as Foundation Subjects for Major, criticism of the previous research in Major Subjects and “Research in Nursing Science” as Major Subjects (common), an ability to make use of the findings of midwifery research on global level for midwifery practice.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Foundation Subjects for Major to be taken for acquisition of master's degree shall be 8 or more credits including "Topics in Nursing Science" (2 credits) (Graduate General Education Courses and the subjects of other major may be included).</li> <li>- The Major Subjects to be taken for acquisition of master's degree shall be 8 or more subjects including "Topics" of each student's own major (2 credits) and "Seminars" (2 credits).</li> <li>- The Major Subjects (common) to be taken for acquisition of master's degree shall be 6 or more subjects including either "Internship" (2 credits) or "Clinical Practicum in Nursing Science" (2 credits) other than "Research in Nursing Science" (4 credits).</li> <li>- The number of credits necessary for completion of master's degree course shall be 30 or more; however, in the case where students desire to meet the requirements for a midwife, 61 or more including 31 credits as requirements to take examination of national qualification.</li> <li>- " Research in Nursing Science" shall be a compulsory subject that provides instruction for preparing research outcomes concerning the master's thesis or specific theme in each research group. The students aiming at the career path corresponding to the course to train midwives may receive the examination concerning the research outcomes relating to a specific theme instead of a master's thesis. The research outcomes relating to a particular theme need to be the ones to certify the acquisition of the ability to conduct advanced nursing practice.</li> <li>- In April of the first year, by determining the supervisor and sub supervisors in each student's area of expertise, the system to have the students receive master's thesis instruction shall be organized. In April of the second year, the research plan document shall be examined by designating one faculty member from other specialized research area as an examiner and necessary suggestion shall be provided. Regarding the research tasks targeting human beings, such research shall be started after obtaining consent for such research plan document from appropriate ethics committee.</li> <li>- In December of the second year, by holding the presentation for research outcomes concerning master's thesis or specific theme, going through preliminary examination of the thesis by the thesis examination committee, a pass or a failure shall be judged by the examination of the thesis and final examination which is performed in the following January.</li> <li>- One credit of "Introduction to Academic Integrity" from Graduate General Education Courses and more than one credit from Inter-disciplinary Foundation Courses shall be the compulsory subject for completing the master's degree course.</li> </ul>
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**Admission Policy**

<p><b>Desired Student Profile</b></p>	<p>The desired students shall have fundamental knowledge relating to nursing science, motivation to explore nursing on global level based on firm ethical view and scientific evidence and aim at becoming educators that play a role as instructors for nursing, researchers, and midwives.</p>
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<p><b>Student Selection Process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The entrance examination shall be performed in August. In the case where there are insufficient number of applicants in the examination of August, the examination shall be implemented again in the following February.</li> <li>- The number of students to be accepted shall be 15 (including applicant for special selection of international students and working individuals).</li> <li>- The applicants for special selection of working individuals shall fall under any of the following items with work experience of approximately three or more years (the total of the years is available): ① the person who has graduated from university (four-year universities) or is expected to do so by March of the previous fiscal year of entrance, ② the person who has been awarded the degree, or is expected to be done so by March of the previous fiscal year of entrance, ③ the person who has taken 16-year course in school education abroad or is expected to do so by March of the previous fiscal year of entrance, ④ the person who has been judged as having equivalent academic abilities or more to the one who has graduated from university by the examination for application requirements implemented by Graduated School of Tsukuba University, who has reached 22 years old or the one who is expected to do so by March of the previous fiscal year of entrance.</li> <li>- By general examination, academic abilities and personality shall be evaluated by written examination of specialized subject (basic assignments relating to nursing science) and English and oral examination. The purpose of examination of specialized subjects is to evaluate the examinees by their basic knowledge for nursing in a broad range. The purpose of examination of English is to evaluate their ability to read in English in university students' level. By oral examination, the following shall be evaluated: whether the examinees have an ability to complete the course in two years, or whether they have aptitude, qualification, future possibility and clear sense of purpose in the area of nursing science as a practitioner.</li> <li>- By special selection of working individuals, academic abilities and personality shall be evaluated by written examination of specialized subject (basic assignments relating to nursing science), essay and English and oral examination. The contents of specialized subjects shall be the same with the ones of general examination. The purpose of examination of English is to evaluate their ability to read in English in university students' level. The purpose of examination of essay shall be to evaluate an ability to logically state the idea relating to medical care. The purpose of oral examination and the examination hours shall be same with the ones of general examination.</li> <li>- For the examinees of international students, the following shall be considered: the questions shall be in English and preparation of such questions shall be devised etc.</li> </ul>
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**Learning Support Framework**

<b>Academic Support</b>	<p>The following initiatives are implemented to support effective learning among graduate students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Individual support for research supervision and thesis/dissertation writing (one-on-one meetings).</li> <li>- Presentation guidance, such as rehearsal sessions before conference presentations inside and outside the university.</li> <li>- English writing support.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities for Peer Interaction</b>	<p>The following systems and frameworks exist to enhance peer effects, which foster learning motivation and improve research quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seminars in each specialized field.</li> <li>- Classes that integrate special lectures and exercises across different fields, enabling student discussions.</li> <li>- Collaborative activities at research proposal presentations and thesis/dissertation presentation sessions.</li> <li>- Student tutor system.</li> </ul>
<b>Opportunities for Student-Faculty Interaction</b>	<p>The following activities are conducted to enhance learning motivation and research quality through dialogue and supervision with faculty members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of research supervision systems and regular individual meetings.</li> <li>- Study groups and research meetings organized by faculty.</li> <li>- Social gatherings within academic fields, held once or twice a year, such as group meals.</li> <li>- Research project in collaboration with faculty members.</li> </ul>

**Approaches to Assuring and Enhancing Educational Quality**

The following activities are carried out to assess and enhance the quality of education:

- Faculty Development (FD) activities
- Analysis of student surveys and providing feedback
- Regular review of the curriculum

At meetings of the Curriculum Committee for the Nursing Science Degree Program, student learning outcomes are evaluated, and the validity of the curriculum and the appropriateness of instruction are reviewed.

In addition, an Academic Affairs Committee has been established to ensure continuous monitoring and improvement of all educational activities, thereby guaranteeing the quality of education and strengthening the structure necessary to achieve the objectives of the degree program.