

## **MSN Admissions Application – Personal Statement Instructions**

One of the most important aspects of the admissions process for the Master of Science in Nursing at WNMU is the ability to communicate in writing that the applicant meets the requirements for potential success in the Community & Rural/Frontier Health degree program. Achievement of this goal is accomplished through the submission of an Admissions Essay that is styled as a Personal Statement. It is of utmost importance that all materials be written exclusively by the applicant. Any indication that another individual has assisted with or written the essay provides grounds for rejection of the applicant or dismissal from the MSN program.

The Admissions Essay should be three to four typewritten pages, double spaced, and using Times New Roman font at 12-point pitch. Applicants should use the bolded questions below as headings for the responses included within the submission. The applicant's essay will aid the admissions committee of the School of Nursing in assessing the applicant's qualifications for the Master of Science in Nursing for Rural/Frontier Health program and for advanced nursing practice. Some specifics used for scoring the essay include: 1) the ability to think critically, 2) writing and language skills as they relate to clarity of self-expression and demonstration of self-reflection, 3) responsiveness and sensitivity to diversity within rural and frontier settings, 4) commitment to service and improving rural public health, and 5) the ability to function creatively, responsibly, and independently.

Applicants should address the following areas in the written Personal Statement/Essay:

1. **Please explain your motivation for seeking a Master of Science in Nursing** and discuss your personal vision of how you plan to use the degree upon completion. What personal and professional strengths do you bring to the profession? What areas of growth and learning do you hope to achieve while completing the program?
2. **Describe how your personal values and ethics have influenced your interactions** with people from diverse backgrounds. Examples could include differences in race/ethnicity, culture, spiritual tradition or beliefs, age, (dis)ability, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Please provide at least two detailed examples of how you have put your values and ethics into action:
  - a. Example 1: Provide one detailed example to describe an interaction that you have experienced with a person or group of people who are different from you. Reflect on what you learned from this experience. Discuss what you learned from the experience and how this connects to the values of professional nursing such as advocacy, collaboration, education, and/or leadership.
  - b. Example 2: Provide one detailed example to describe how your own personal values and ethics influence your interactions with other people. Reflect on your experience. Discuss what you learned and how this applies to one or more professional nursing values such as advocacy, dignity of human beings, integrity, professional competency, service to others, and/or Social Determinants of Health (SDOHs).
3. Reflect on your ability to be successful as a self-directed learner in an online master's program.
4. Graduate study requires a significant investment of time and energy. Examples of time and energy requirements for the online master's program include reading and integrating large volumes of material, community involvement and scholarly work, and course participation and written assignments. Please discuss why you are prepared to attend graduate school at this time in your life and describe the plans that you are making to adjust your personal and professional life to complete the MSN degree successfully.