

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY
IN VERITATIS AMORE

DONNA AND ALLAN LANSING SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

Doctor of Nursing Practice

On October 25, 2004, the members of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) endorsed the Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing which was brought forward by the Task Force on the Practice Doctorate. AACN member institutions voted to move the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master's degree to the doctorate level by the year 2015.

AACN's position statement calls for educating Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) and other nurses seeking top clinical roles in Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) programs. The changing demands of this nation's complex health care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure high quality patient outcomes. The practice doctorate is designed for nurses seeking a terminal degree in nursing practice, and offers an alternative to research focused doctoral programs (i.e. PhD programs).

The Doctor of Nursing Practice at Bellarmine is a post-master's program. You may select one of two DNP tracks: one designed for the advanced practice nurse, focused on the healthcare of individuals, and one designed for those interested in leadership at the system and/or organizational level. Total credit hours for the program range from 33 to 36 hours, depending on the track you select.

The curriculum consists of core courses, which all students take, and specialty-specific courses. Core content includes topics such as research and evidence-based practice, quality improvement and patient safety, clinical informatics, advanced statistics, health care economics and financing, and domestic and global health policy. In addition, all students complete a practice immersion and residency experience which will culminate with portfolio development and a capstone project.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Advanced Practice Nursing Focus: The Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) focus prepares APNs to function more effectively in the increasingly complex health care system. Given the expansion of scientific knowledge required for safe nursing practice and the growing focus on the quality of patient care delivery and outcomes, this track will provide students with the specialized knowledge and skills needed by today's practitioner. Students in this track will use their existing understanding of the practice context to document practice trends, identify potential systemic changes, and make improvements in the care of particular patient populations in the systems within which they practice.

Advanced Leadership Focus: The Advanced Leadership focus prepares students for advanced specialty practice at the population, organizational, and/or system level. Given the increasingly complex health care environment, this track will provide students with the specialized knowledge and skills needed by today's nursing leaders. Students in this track will use their existing understanding of the practice leadership context to identify aggregate health or system needs, work with diverse stakeholders for inter- or intra-organizational achievement of health-related goals, and design patient-centered care delivery systems.

PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the DNP program requires approval by the Graduate Nursing Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee. Admission of applicants is based upon the following criteria:

1. Complete and sign the application.
2. Submit a non-refundable application fee of \$25 (unless a Bellarmine University alumna/e).
3. MSN from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited nursing program
4. Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA for graduate work is required
5. If your undergraduate degree is from an international institution, you were born outside the United States, or English is your second language, you will be required to submit an official TOEFLiBT (internet-based test) score and receive a total score of 83 or higher and a 26 or higher on the speaking test. We will also consider an equivalent score on the IELTS or MELAB tests. If you desire to request a TOEFL waiver, you must submit a written request to the Nursing Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee. The Nursing Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee reserves the right to require a TOEFL from any applicant.
6. Final official transcript(s) from each college or university attended should be mailed to the Office of Graduate Admission and not be marked "Issued to Student".
7. If any transcript(s) or undergraduate degrees(s) are from an international institution you must provide an official copy of a third party course by course credential evaluation. The following organizations offer this service and information regarding processes and fees available at: www.aacrao.org, www.wes.org, and www.ece.org. The Office of Graduate Admission reserves the right to request a certified copy of the original transcript(s).
8. Three professional references (on form provided) addressing academic skills including oral and written communication, as well as clinical competence, from individuals who hold a masters or doctoral degree
9. Goal statement – See the Goal Statement questions to the right.
10. Current CV or resume, describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences
11. Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states
12. Completed verification of post-baccalaureate clinical and practice hours form
13. Graduate level statistics course within 5 years of projected program start date
14. Mail your completed and signed application to:
Bellarmine University, Office of Graduate Admission
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205

After initial review of applications, applicants may be contacted for an interview with graduate faculty members. Because enrollment is limited in the DNP track, meeting the minimum requirements may not assure admission. DNP students will be required to have ready access to a computer, printer and Internet service provider that has high speed DSL or broadband Internet access and should possess moderate information technology skills.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission, please submit the following:

U.S. law requires financial statements from a bank or other financial institution certifying the student's ability to fund the cost of attendance for one academic year minus the amount of any scholarship dollars received. Figures should be in U.S. dollars and must be certified as an official document by the bank or financial institution. A sponsor may be used if the sponsor attaches a signed affidavit stating that he/she will financially support the student until completion of a degree at Bellarmine University. If a sponsor is used, the sponsor's bank statement should accompany the letter. **The amount that would need to be shown for the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program would be \$29,486.00.** This amount includes tuition and fees associated with the program and an average cost for living expenses, books, supplies, health insurance, transportation and personal expenses.

GOAL STATEMENT

Your goal statement should include responses to the following:

- What are your professional goals and how will the DNP help you attain them? (Limit 250 words)
- What strengths do you possess that would contribute to your success in the program and to a community of interprofessional scholars? (Limit 250 words)
- Identify one or two topics/areas that you would like to explore as part of the DNP program (e.g., quality improvement initiative, evidence-based practice guideline, new model care, policy analysis) and your preliminary plans for approaching them. (Limit 500 words)

APPLICATION DEADLINES, TUITION & FEES

The DNP program begins in August. The priority application deadline is April 1. Applications received after April 1 will be considered on a space available basis.

Tuition: \$700 per credit hour

Comprehensive fee: \$35 per course

DNP OUTCOMES

- Use epidemiologic and other scientific findings from nursing and other clinical disciplines, as well as organizational, political, and economic sciences, to develop practice initiatives that will improve the quality of care delivery.
- Provide organizational and systems leadership to develop care delivery models that are fiscally responsible and demonstrate sensitivity to diverse organizational cultures and patient populations.
- Engage in clinical scholarship to evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based efforts in the planning and practice of health care program delivery to individuals and communities.
- Use healthcare informatics and technology to improve patient safety and clinical outcomes.
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals, consumers, and other stakeholders to influence health policy and health promotion/disease prevention endeavors at the local, state, federal, and/or international levels that improve patient and population health outcomes.

ACCREDITATION

Southern Association of Colleges
and Schools (SACS)
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
404.679.4500 • fax: 404.679.4556

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Sherill Cronin, Professor and Norton Healthcare
Chair, Graduate Studies in Nursing
502.272.8149, 800.274.4723 or
scronin@bellarmine.edu

Julie Armstrong-Binnix,
Graduate Admission Officer
502.272.8364, 800.274.4723 x.8364
julieab@bellarmine.edu

TECHNICAL STANDARDS AT THE POST MASTER'S LEVEL (DNP)

Each student must be able to meet the basic technical standards of performance necessary for the practice of nursing (provided at the time of application) for admission and progression in the program of study.

The post-master's degree program curriculum is designed to provide the education necessary for nurses to assume a role as nurse educators or nurse administrators. Students in the post-master's degree program are expected to fulfill the following technical standards:

- Acquire information from demonstrations and experiences in the basic and applied sciences, including but not limited to information conveyed through lecture, group seminar, small group activities and physical demonstrations.
- Acquire information from written documents and computer-information systems (including literature searches and data retrieval), and identify information presented in images from paper, video, transparencies and slides.
- Synthesize information, problem solve and think critically to judge which theory and/or strategy of assessment and intervention is most appropriate.
- Use intellectual ability, exercise proper judgment, timely and accurately complete responsibilities attendant to the advanced practice role.
- Maintain effective, mature, and sensitive relationships with clients, students, faculty, staff and other professionals under all circumstances.
- Communicate effectively and efficiently with faculty, colleagues, preceptors and all members of the health care team during practicum and other learning experiences.
- Possess emotional stability to function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in the classroom and practice setting.

Upon admission, a candidate in any nursing program who discloses a disability and requests accommodation will be referred to Disability Services (Bellarmine Office Building, 502.272.8480). The University will provide reasonable accommodations, but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of a program or provide auxiliary aids that present an undue burden to the University. To matriculate or continue in the curriculum, the candidate must be able to perform all the essential functions outlined in the Technical Standards either with or without accommodation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DNP Core Didactic Courses - 21 credit hours

- NURS 804** Healthcare Informatics
- NURS 806** National and Global Health Policy and Law
- NURS 808** Advanced Statistics for Health Sciences
- NURS 810** Methods for Evidence-based Practice in Healthcare
- NURS 812** Quality Improvement and Patient Safety
- NURS 814** Clinical Program Development, Implementation, & Eval.
- NURS 816** Managerial Epidemiology

DNP Core Clinical Courses - 6 credit hours

- NURS 891** Practice Immersions (2) - 1 cr hr each
- & NURS 892** (with clinical practice hours)
- NURS 895** Residency - 4 cr hrs (with clinical practice hours)

Specialty Track Courses - 6 to 9 credit hours

APN (Focus on Care of Individuals)

- NURS 625** Healthcare Finance
- NURS 639** Health Systems

Leadership (Focus on Systems/Organizations)

- NURS 841** Selected Topics in Advanced Nursing
(with clinical practice hours)
- NURS 861** Advanced Leadership and Management of
Organizations and Systems
- NURS 863** Advanced Health Care Economics and Finance

Total - 33 to 36 credit hours

Practice Immersion and residency experience will culminate with portfolio development as a capstone evaluation. Portfolio to include case analyses, evidence-based system change project (that addresses quality, safety, access, and/or cost issues) and log of practice experiences.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURSING 804 Healthcare Informatics

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills related to informatics, technology and patient care technology. It provides the learner the opportunity to integrate nursing science, computer science and information science into nursing practice. Learning activities focus on the application of new knowledge, management of individual and aggregate level information and assessment of the efficacy of patient care technology.

NURSING 806 National & Global Health Policy & Law

This course will focus on the priorities, issues and strategies for health policy development and law affecting health policy on a domestic and international basis. The course provides a structured introduction to health issues in the United States and international context. Students will use a conceptual framework to analyze these issues as well as relevant literature of transcultural health care, political, economic, international theories and law to guide clinical practice on a global level.

NURSING 808 Adv. Statistics for the Health Sciences

This course explores the statistical methodologies of ANOVA, repeated measures analysis of variances, correlation analysis, and multiple linear regression. The use of statistical software links theory with practice. This course is formulated for the Doctor of Nursing Practice student and focuses upon statistics used in analysis of healthcare issues.

NURSING 810 Methods for Evidence-based Practice in Healthcare

This course provides students with the skills and competencies needed to establish a clinical scholarship trajectory for the highest level of evidence-based practice. Concepts of critical appraisal, generation, analysis, and synthesis of evidence are included. Emphasis will be placed on strategies to translate evidence into practice, tools useful for promoting evidence-based practices in health care settings, and the evaluation of evidence-based systems of care that will improve patient outcomes.

NURSING 812 Quality Improvement & Patient Safety

This course focuses on the role of the DNP-prepared nurse in quality improvement and patient safety initiatives. The emphasis is on developing the scientific knowledge base, skills, and competencies needed to assess organizational culture, gather safety and quality information, analyze data and translate findings into evidence-based systems changes.

NURSING 814 Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation

This course provides an overview of program development concepts intrinsic to the clinical nursing doctorate, as well as a foundation for further study of evidence-based-practices, and exploration of systems solutions to population-specific health issues. Emphasis is placed on systems theories, sound fiscal responsibility, and political awareness.

NURSING 816 Managerial Epidemiology

This course addresses managerial decision-making in the context of population health care, and how it is impacted by the application of public health methods and research results. Course content includes the history and methods of epidemiology, national and international public health challenges, the application of epidemiologic methods to quality assurance, and the application of selected biostatistics to patterns of disease incidence, transmission, risk, and prevalence.

NURSING 841 Selected Topics in Advanced Nursing

This course offers the DNP student the opportunity to explore contemporary issues in health care delivery that affect the process and/or outcomes of care for a selected population group. In order to successfully complete the objectives of this course, the student is expected to complete a minimum of

200 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to the topic of interest. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester.

NURSING 861 Advanced Leadership and Management of Organizations and Systems

This course examines organization and systems theory related to decision-making to establish efficient work processes and safe clinical care. Students will explore leadership qualities necessary to envision, facilitate, and sustain organization-wide changes that promote excellence in complex health care organizations. Leadership strategies that promote inter and intra-professional dynamics needed to create innovative and adaptable care delivery models will be examined.

NURSING 863 Adv. Health Care Economics & Finance

This course will present basic economic concepts, principles, and theories that drive health policy and the health care system in the public and private sectors. A basic economic framework will be used to analyze the structure, conduct, and performance of the markets for consumers, insurers, physicians, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and long term care services. In addition, the course will introduce the student to managerial aspects of financial analysis. Basic financial concepts and tools will be used in a variety of health care settings.

NURSING 891 Practice Immersion I

This is the first of a three-course series that provides the DNP student with mentored opportunities to identify, develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate an independent, analytic scholarly project focusing on problems of practice within specific populations. Each course builds on the knowledge and practice expertise of the DNP student, culminating in the completion of the scholarly project. The range of projects will be varied as they relate to the unique clinical practices of the DNP student, e.g., quality improvement, analyzing policy, designing and using databases, designing and evaluating new models of care, collaboration with researchers to answer clinical questions, program development, implementation and evaluation. To complete the objectives of this course successfully, the DNP student works with a faculty mentor to refine the design of the scholarly project. Students must successfully complete an oral defense of the project prior to implementation. The student will be required to submit individual objectives and is expected to complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to their topic of interest.

NURSING 892 Practice Immersion II

In this second course of a three-course series, the DNP student begins implementing the scholarly project, after successfully completing an oral defense of the project. To meet the objectives of this course successfully, the student is expected to

complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to their topic of interest. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester.

NURSING 895 Residency

In this capstone course, the DNP student completes implementation of the evidence-based scholarly project specific to a population of interest within a clinical setting and evaluates its impact on health care outcomes. Students will disseminate their findings through an oral presentation and a manuscript suitable for a peer-reviewed publication. Students will apply knowledge and skills obtained in the didactic and integrative courses in order to address the ethical, legal, financial and organizational aspects of the scholarly project. The DNP student will discuss his/her topic of interest, the development of the project and how it addressed the needs of a selected population; and evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the project. In order to successfully complete the objectives of this course, the student is expected to complete a minimum of 200 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to the topic of interest. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester.

Doctor of Nursing Practice Application

I am applying for: Fall of 20 _____ Spring 20 _____ Summer 20 _____

I am applying for pre-requisite graduate statistics for: APN Track Leadership Track

I will be attending: Full-time Part-time

I am applying for: APN Track Leadership Track

PERSONAL DATA

Name _____
FIRST MIDDLE MAIDEN LAST

Preferred Name _____ Social Security Number _____ Gender _____

Place of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____
CITY STATE/PROVINCE COUNTRY

Permanent Address _____
STREET ADDRESS

CITY COUNTY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Number (____) _____ Extension _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____

Citizenship U.S. Permanent U.S. Resident Non U.S. Citizen

If you are not a U.S. citizen, what is your country of citizenship? _____

What is your current country of residence? _____

Is English your first language? Yes No

Are you Hispanic or Latino? Yes No

In addition, select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself:

American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

Current Employer _____ Present Position _____

Address of Employer _____
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE

Will tuition be subsidized by your employer? Yes No

Will you be applying for aid with the Veterans Administration? Yes No

Where did you hear about Bellarmine's Graduate Programs in Nursing? _____

What factor had the most influence over your decision to apply for Graduate Admission here? _____

EDUCATIONAL DATA

Please list all colleges and/or universities you have attended.

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	DATES ATTENDED	DEGREE RECEIVED	GPA

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY ACITIVITES

NURSING EXPERIENCES	AGENCY	CITY/STATE	DATES

REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE(S)	STATE	NUMBER

BACKGROUND DATA

Have you ever been dismissed from a high school, college or university for disciplinary reasons, or been sanctioned by a disciplinary board? Yes No

If yes, from where? _____

A release will be mailed to you. You must sign and complete the form and mail it back to the Office of Admission at Bellarmine University one month prior to the first week of classes. This form will be mailed to your current Dean of Students asking for an explanation of the sanction and circumstances.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

If you answered yes to either of the last two questions, please explain on a separate sheet of paper how you were held accountable (i.e., outcomes, sanctions), when the incident occurred and any additional information you wish to provide. Please note that we may need to request additional information.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

I declare that the information provided on this form is true, correct and complete. Bellarmine University has my permission to verify information by obtaining documents as needed. I understand that providing false information may result in Bellarmine University revoking my status as an accepted or enrolled student. Also, I grant Bellarmine University or its appointee(s) permission to post my personal and academic information on Bellarmine's secured, password protected intranet and student portal.

Signature _____ Date _____

Bellarmino University admits qualified students of any age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, or national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs. Bellarmine University is an Affirmative Action-Equal Opportunity employer.

RECOMMENDATION FORM: Doctor of Nursing Practice

APPLICANT: Fill in your name and forward one copy to each respondent. Please provide a stamped, addressed envelope along with each form. **Three recommendations are required with your application.** Read the statement below and, if you choose, sign it where indicated. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 entitled Nursing graduate students to have access to letters of evaluation in their records at the School. The applicant may waive the right of access to letters of evaluation in which case letters of evaluation will be considered confidential and will not be available to the student. If you wish to waive your right to access this letter of evaluation, please sign your name on the line below the following statement.

I, undersigned, hereby waive all rights or privileges provided by Public Law 93-380 to inspect or challenge the content and comments appearing in this letter of evaluation.

Name of Applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

RESPONDENT: Please complete the information requested. If you need additional sheets of paper please staple them to this form. Your comments will be held completely confidential if the applicant has signed the statement above. Please enclose this form and any attachments in an envelope addressed to the applicant. Please sign the back of the envelope, writing your signature across the seal of the envelope flap and return sealed envelope to the applicant.

Respondent's Name _____ Title _____

Institution/Agency _____

Address _____
STREET ADDRESS

CITY COUNTY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Number (____) _____ Extension _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Please rate the applicant in the areas indicated below by checking the appropriate responses; outstanding, above average, satisfactory, below average, or indicate “unable to comment.”

AREA	OUTSTANDING	ABOVE AVERAGE	SATISFACTORY	BELOW AVERAGE
Intellectual Ability				
Critical Thinking Ability				
Problem Solving Ability				
Knowledge of Proposed Study				
Quality of Oral Communication				
Quality of Written Communication				
Motivation and Energy				
Emotional Stability				
Self-Image				
Independence				
Creativity				
Leadership Ability				

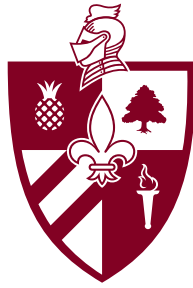
How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

What do you consider to be the applicant’s strengths?

Do you know of any special circumstances in the applicant’s social or academic background or emotional makeup that should be considered in the evaluation of this applicant for graduate studies?

Additional Comments. (Please feel free to attach additional pages if necessary.)





**BELLARMINE
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Verification of Post-Baccalaureate Clinical and Practice Hours

APPLICANT: Bellarmine University requires verification of your post-baccalaureate clinical and practicum hours. Please fill in your name and social security number, and forward this form to the program director(s) of all post-baccalaureate programs you have attended. Please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the form. The program director(s) should mail this completed form back to you for inclusion in your application packet. Please allow sufficient time for the program director(s) to complete and return this form to you.

Name _____
FIRST MIDDLE MAIDEN LAST

Preferred Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Name of University _____ University Phone _____

Program Title _____

University Address _____
STREET ADDRESS

CITY COUNTY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Type of Degree Received Master of Science in Nursing Program Post-Master's Certificate Program

Area of Concentration _____

Date of Program Completion _____ Total Number of Clinical Practice Hours in Program _____
CLOCK HOURS

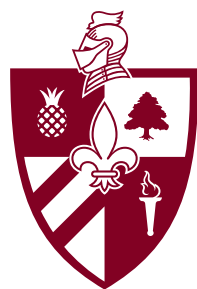
PROGRAM DIRECTOR VERIFICATION

Your signature on this form attests that the above named individual has completed the program indicated on this document.

Printed Director Name _____

Director Signature _____ Date _____





BELLARMINE
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2001 Newburg Road | Louisville, KY 40205 | www.bellarmino.edu