

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY  
IN VERITATIS AMORE

DONNA AND ALLAN LANSING SCHOOL OF NURSING & HEALTH SCIENCES

# Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Track

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing is to prepare nurses to improve nursing practice through the advancement of theories of nursing and research. The graduate of this program is prepared in nursing education, nursing administration, or advanced nursing practice. Consistent with Bellarmine's goal to prepare leaders for our society, graduate students in nursing will be able to effect change within healthcare.

The graduate program leading to the Master of Science in Nursing builds on the baccalaureate degree. The curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of students, while maintaining a sound academic program in nursing. Each student formulates his/her educational goals with a faculty advisor and maintains in contact with the advisor throughout the program of study.

The Family Nurse Practitioner Track prepares professional nurses to provide a wide range of preventive and acute healthcare services to individuals of all ages. NPs take health histories and provide complete physical examinations; diagnose and treat many common acute and chronic problems; interpret laboratory results and X-rays; prescribe and manage medications and other therapies; provide health teaching and supportive counseling with an emphasis on prevention of illness and health maintenance; and refer patients to other health professionals as needed. Students will complete selected clinical practica as part of this curriculum.

## APPLICATION INFORMATION

**Priority Application Deadline:** February 15, 2014 to begin the FNP track in August 2014.

- To be reviewed in the priority application pool, your **completed application and all supporting documents including official transcripts**, electronic references, personal statement, resume, and GRE (if required) must be complete at Nursing CAS by February 15, 2014. Applications completed after February 15, 2014 will be considered on a space available basis.
- We require all FNP track applicants (including Bellarmine alumni and current undergraduate students) to apply via the centralized application service, Nursing CAS.
- If you are enrolled as a non-degree student, but decide to pursue admission to the FNP track, you must apply through Nursing CAS.
- Complete the centralized application at [www.nursingcas.org](http://www.nursingcas.org). You will need a copy of all your previous transcripts to complete the Nursing CAS application. There is a \$60 application fee.
- Bellarmine University does not require a supplemental application. Application via Nursing CAS is sufficient for both the university and the Nursing Department.
- If you are admitted to the FNP track and you accept your position in the program, you must have all final, official transcripts submitted directly to Bellarmine University from your previous institutions. Nursing CAS provides your application and a transcript review, but it does not provide the official transcripts to Bellarmine.

## PROGRAM ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the Master's program requires approval by the MSN Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee. Admission of applicants is based upon the following criteria:

1. BSN from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited nursing program
2. Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate course work. Transcripts must be mailed directly from previous institution(s) to Nursing CAS.
3. Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required
4. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (if required). The GRE is waived for applicants with a GPA of 3.28 or higher. Nursing CAS will calculate your cumulative undergraduate GPA. You will have access to your GPA calculation on your Nursing CAS account. Please use this GPA calculation to determine if you should take the GRE. Successful applicants usually score above 149 on the verbal section, above 146 on the quantitative section, and above 4 on the analytic score. Please have your GRE score submitted directly to Bellarmine University using code 1056.
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. The Nursing Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee reserves the right to require a TOEFL score from any applicant.
6. Three professional references. Recommendations from friends, other students, or co-workers are not appropriate. Please use the electronic reference form at Nursing CAS. You will need to include your recommender's email address so that Nursing CAS can provide the recommender the electronic form.
7. Goal statement: The goal statement is your opportunity to tell us (as specifically as you can at this time) about your career plans after you finish your master's degree. Your goal statement should also include your understanding of the role of the nurse practitioner in the primary care of persons, families, and communities, and how you envision your career in this role (including where you would like to work). This statement provides us with a sample of your writing ability and helps faculty determine your fit with Bellarmine's offered program.
8. Resume describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences
9. Active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states. We will verify your license via the Kentucky Board of Nursing.
10. An interview with graduate faculty members. Please note: Because enrollment is limited in the FNP track, meeting the minimum requirements may not assure admission to that track.

## 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 Family Nurse Practitioner would be \$58,807.** 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.

## DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- 43 hours for FNP track.
- Minimum of 24 hours of graduate credits earned in residence at Bellarmine University.
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA out of 4.0 overall grade point average throughout the program.
- Degree requirements must be completed within six (6) years from time of entry.

## ADMISSION DEADLINES

The FNP track begins in August and the Priority Application Deadline is February 15. To be considered for an interview, your completed application including all supporting documents must be postmarked by February 15. Applications received after February 15 will be considered on a space available basis.

## TUITION AND FEES

**Family Nurse Practitioner Track**  
\$750 per credit hour

**Comprehensive fee**  
\$40 per course

## SUGGESTED PROGRAMS OF STUDY: FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACK

The MSN Family Nurse Practitioner track offers both a one year option and a two year option.

**One Year Option:** The one year option offers both the MSN core and FNP core courses Monday and Tuesday for a full day every week during the semester. Practicum hours are generally completed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday depending on the student's arranged clinical hours. Students in the one year option generally do not work or work less than 12 hours per week while enrolled.

Students pursuing the one year option must have at least one year of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse.

### THE CURRICULUM - 4 Semesters, Full-Time

#### Summer

**NURS 611** Adv. Physical Assessment & Clinical Reasoning (3)

#### Fall

- NURS 601** Fundamental Research Skills\* (1)
- NURS 624** Introduction to Evidence Based Practice (3)
- NURS 629** Patho. Concepts for Clinical Decision Making (3)
- NURS 650** Pharmacotherapeutics in Adv. Practice Nursing (3)
- NURS 652** Adv. Practice Nurs in Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent (3)
- NURS 661** Practicum Adv. Prac. Nurs Care of Child & Adolescent (1.5)

*\*Nurs 601 is taken during your first semester of study*

#### Spring

- NURS 600** Health Policy (3)
- NURS 602** Theories in Nursing (3)
- NURS 626** Outcomes Measurements & Evaluation (3)
- NURS 656** Adv. Prac. Nurs in Prim. Care: Obst. & Women's Health (2)
- NURS 658** Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adult (3)
- NURS 662** Practicum in Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adult (2.5)

#### Summer

- NURS 605** Clinical Practice Concepts (2)
- NURS 663** Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4)
- PHIL 543** Bioethics (3)

*Clinical hours: Fall Semester 135 hours Pediatrics. Spring Semester 225 hours Adult/Internal Medicine. Summer 360 hours General Family Medicine.*

**Two Year Option:** The two year option offers the MSN core courses in the first year and the FNP core courses in the second year. The MSN core courses meet on Monday/Tuesday evenings in the first year. The FNP core courses meet Monday and Tuesday for a full day in the second year. Practicum hours in the second year are generally completed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday depending on the student's arranged clinical hours. Students in the two year option generally work 36 hours or less per week in the first year and work less than 12 hours per week in the second year.

Students pursuing the two year option may earn the one year of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse during the first year of the program.

### THE CURRICULUM - Two Year

#### Fall 1

- NURS 601** Fundamental Research Skills\* (1)
  - NURS 624** Introduction to Evidence Based Practice (3)
  - NURS 629** Patho. Concepts for Clinical Decision Making (3)
- \*Nurs 601 is taken during your first semester of study*

#### Spring 1

- NURS 600** Health Policy (3)
- NURS 602** Theories in Nursing (3)
- NURS 626** Outcomes Measurements & Evaluation (3)

#### Summer 1

- NURS 605** Clinical Practice Concepts (2)
- NURS 611** Adv. Physical Assessment & Clinical Reasoning (3)
- PHIL 543** Bioethics (3)

#### Fall 2

- NURS 650** Pharmacotherapeutics in Adv. Practice Nursing (3)
- NURS 652** Adv. Practice Nurs in Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent (3)
- NURS 661** Practicum Adv. Prac. Nurs Care of Child & Adolescent (1.5)

#### Spring 2

- NURS 656** Adv. Prac. Nurs in Prim. Care: Obst. & Women's Health (2)
- NURS 658** Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adult (3)
- NURS 662** Practicum in Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adult (1.5)

#### Summer 2

- NURS 663** Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4)

*Clinical hours: Fall Semester 135 hours Pediatrics. Spring Semester 225 hours Adult/Internal Medicine. Summer 360 hours General Family Medicine.*

*Note: The Nursing Department has a relationship with a number of preceptors, however it is the student's responsibility to negotiate his or her individual placement.*

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **NURSING 600 Health Policy (3)**

This course analyzes and projects trends in healthcare. Actual cases of policy issues at the local, state, and federal level are used for analysis of the relationship of health care practitioners to policy making. Selected organizational, systems, legislative, ethical, and regulatory problems provide course content.

### **NURSING 601 Fundamental Research Skills (1)**

This lab will prepare the incoming student with the research skills needed for graduate education. Students will learn the basics of accessing scholarly sources, academic writing, and oral presentations. (To be taken prior to or concurrently with NURS 602 or 624).

### **NURSING 602 Theories in Nursing (3)**

Provides an introduction to the process of theory development. Middle range theories are explored in detail. Each student has the opportunity to select a middle range theory and develop a method whereby he/she could test this theory in practice.

### **NURSING 605 Clinical Practice Concepts (3)**

This course is designed to develop advanced nursing knowledge and skills. Focus is on health promotion and disease prevention concepts used in nursing practice in selected populations. Concepts will be explored with an emphasis on theory based nursing practice, critical thinking, and use of research in practice. Students will apply this knowledge in a 45-hour practicum. (Pre/corequisite: NURS 602)

### **NURSING 611 Advanced Physical Assessment & Clinical Reasoning (3)**

This course builds upon the baccalaureate nursing level physical assessment knowledge and skills required to perform a systematic examination of the adult and child. This course will present advanced practice nursing examination techniques via direct observation and demonstration, class lecture/discussions, supervised laboratory, and individual use of readings and audiovisual materials. The physical examination will be system focused with comprehensive application to advanced concepts of anatomy and physiology.

### **NURSING 623 Independent Study (3)**

May be selected by graduate nursing students. Consent by MSN program director required.

### **NURSING 624 Introduction to Evidence-Based Nursing Practice (3)**

This course examines the process of evidence-based nursing practice. Emphasis is on obtaining and evaluating available evidence for its applicability to practice. (Prerequisite: NURS 601)

### **NURSING 626 Outcomes Measurement & Evaluation (3)**

This course examines the process of evidence-based decision-making. Current methodologies used to evaluate practice changes in a variety of healthcare and education settings are discussed, including program evaluation. Emphasis is on identifying, measuring, and analyzing outcomes. (Prerequisite: NURS 624)

### **NURSING 629 Pathophysiologic Concepts for Clinical Decision Making (3)**

This course presents pathophysiologic concepts essential for critical thinking and clinical decision making. The emphasis is pathophysiology applied to health promotion, disease prevention, and disease management.

### **NURSING 640 Project (2)**

Promotes basic skills of research and scholarly writing by an in-depth exploration of a nursing topic or problem. Clinical project or research study is completed under the guidance of a faculty member. (Pre/corequisites: NURS 606/607 or NURS 618/619.)

### **NURSING 642 Thesis Option (2)**

This course is designed for the student who desires to complete a thesis. An additional 2 credit hours are required. The project developed in Nursing 640 is expanded to a formal thesis under the direction of a thesis committee. After final presentation and approval by thesis committee, thesis is submitted for binding and microfilming. (Pre/corequisite: NURS 640.)

### **NURSING 650 Pharmacotherapeutics in Advanced Practice (3)**

This course will provide Advanced Practice Nursing students with the concepts and tools necessary to understand the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of agents used in the treatment of conditions commonly encountered in primary care. The course will specifically address drug classification, indication, non-labeled use (if any), predicted and possible adverse effects, titration and maintenance of drugs as appropriate for health maintenance.

### **NURSING 652 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child & Adolescent (3)**

This course prepares the advanced practice student for the primary care of the pediatric client. The course content includes principles of normal physiology and development, pathophysiology, health promotion and disease prevention. Family and community systems are included as the student learns to conduct diagnosis and management of common health problems in the pediatric population. This course has a major focus upon the socio-economic factors affecting health within the family system and on the community at large, as well as the legal and ethical circumstances surrounding the care of the adolescent client. (Effective Fall 2010).

**NURSING 656 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care: Obstetrics & Women's Health (2)**

This is a didactic course that presents the Advanced Practice Nursing student the required knowledge for the primary care of the obstetric client, as well as general issues of health related to the reproductive system of the female client. Reproductive topics as they concern the male client are included in this class. Principles of health promotion and disease prevention are emphasized. The pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of common women's health problems are explored, including analysis of ethical and legal situations pertaining to reproduction. This course also explores the effect of cultural and socioeconomic factors on healthcare behaviors pertinent to the reproductive health of women.

**NURSING 658 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adult (3)**

This is a didactic course that presents the knowledge necessary for the practice of primary health care of adults. This course includes principles of health promotion and disease prevention. The content focuses on pathophysiology, diagnosis, and management of common health problems of adults, emphasizing the importance of the family and community in the delivery of primary care services. This course also explores the impact of cultural and socioeconomic factors affecting the health care behaviors of adults.

**NURSING 661 Practicum in the Advanced Practice Care of the Child & Adolescent (1.5)**

In this course, the advanced practice nursing student places emphasis upon health promotion and disease prevention within the pediatric and adolescent client population. A developmental approach is used in both assessment and planning for health care needs. Students will provide advanced practice primary nursing care to pediatric and adolescent clients under the supervision of a preceptor. Clinical practica will focus upon comprehensive assessment and age appropriate planning of strategies to promote health and safety of this age group in collaboration with their families. Clinical symposia will analyze specific health care needs within the pediatric and adolescent populations. (Pre/Co-requisites: NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650, NURS 652).

**NURSING 662 Practicum in the Advanced Practice Care of the Adult (2.5)**

In this clinical practicum, emphasis is upon the role of the advanced practice nursing student in the health promotion and disease prevention within adult populations, including the elderly client. A developmental approach is used in both assessment and planning for health care needs. Students will provide advanced practice primary nursing care to adult clients under the supervision of a preceptor. Clinical practica will focus

upon comprehensive assessment and planning of strategies to promote health and safety within this population, utilizing family and community resources. Clinical symposia will analyze specific health care needs within Adult populations. The responsibility of the Family Nurse Practitioner as the primary health care provider to the adult and family will be emphasized and explored. (Prerequisite: NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650; Pre/Co-requisites: NURS 656, NURS 658).

**NURSING 663 Family Nursing Practitioner Preceptorship (4)**

In this clinical practicum, the advanced practice nursing student will provide comprehensive care to clients and their families across the lifespan. The student will complete clinical hours under the supervision of a clinical preceptor. Students will provide primary care to a variety of clients in both urban and rural environments. The objective of this practicum is the integration of theory, knowledge, and skills from all previous courses. (Prerequisite: Completion of all FNP track didactic courses, and NURS 661, 662).

**PHILOSOPHY 543 Bioethics (3)**

This course applies philosophical ethical principles to the field of healthcare and its delivery. Intended for graduate students with experience in the healthcare arena, the course focuses on practical problems confronting health care providers and utilizes the professional expertise and interests of the students.

## **TECHNICAL STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE AT THE MASTER'S LEVEL**

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).

The master's degree program curriculum is designed to provide the education necessary for the advanced practice of nursing. Students build on the fundamental principles of nursing, acquire skills of critical judgment based on education and experience, and develop an ability to use principles and skills wisely in decision-making and problem solving pertaining to their roles as nurse educators or nurse administrators or advanced nurse practitioners. Students in the Master of Science programs 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.
- Use and interpret information from diagnostic maneuvers (e.g., sphygmomanometer, otoscope, ophthalmoscope, etc.), and other diagnostic representations of physiological phenomena during the course of conducting a comprehensive physical assessment of a client.
- Accurately elicit information, including a medical history and other information required to adequately and effectively evaluate a client's condition.
- Synthesize information, problem solve and think critically to judge which theory and/or strategy of assessment and intervention is most appropriate.
- Exercise proper judgment, and accurately complete responsibilities attendant to the advanced practice role in a timely manner.
- 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.
- Function effectively under stress and adapt to changing environments inherent in the classroom and practice setting.

Upon admission, a candidate who discloses a disability and requests accommodation will be referred to Disability Services (Disability Services, Bellarmine Allen 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.

### **ACCREDITATION**

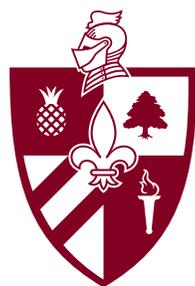
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