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. 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, 2015 to begin the FNP track in August 2015. The application will open on October 15, 2014.

- Complete the centralized application at www.nursingcas.org. There is a $60 application fee.
- 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, 2015. 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. 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 enrolled in the MSN Administration or Education track but decide to pursue admission to the FNP track, you must complete a change of track application.
- If you are enrolled as a non-degree student, but decide to pursue admission to the FNP track, you must apply through Nursing CAS.

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. A completed application at www.nursingcas.org. You must submit all official transcripts directly to Nursing CAS before they will verify your application and submit it to Bellarmine University. All final, official transcripts submitted to Nursing CAS are considered official and you do not need to supply those to Bellarmine University. However, any transcripts which include "In Progress" coursework or degree requirements at the time you submit the Nursing CAS application are not considered official. These final, official transcripts must be submitted directly from the college or university to Bellarmine University by July 31, 2015.
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 any transcript(s) or undergraduate degree(s) is from an international institution, you must provide an official copy of a third party course by course credential evaluation to Nursing CAS and Bellarmine University. The following organizations offer this service and information regarding processes and fees are 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).
6. Three professional references. Recommendations from friends, other students, or co-workers are not appropriate. The strongest recommendations are from Nurse Practitioners, managers, directors, professors or others in a supervisory capacity. 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:

Language Proficiency. All students are expected to have appropriate English-language proficiency to be admitted to the university. The language proficiency is required to ensure students are adequately prepared and well positioned to succeed. The Lansing School of Nursing and Health Sciences requires an official TOEFL iBT score for verification of language proficiency. Applicants who fall into any of the following categories should supply an official TOEFL iBT score: a) born outside the US, b) for whom English is a second language, c) have a degree or transcripts from a non-US institution. Applicants must earn a total score of 83 or higher and a speaking score of 26 or higher to meet the language proficiency requirement.

Financial Affidavit. All applicants must provide a financial affidavit certifying the ability to fund the cost of attending Bellarmine University for one academic year. Figures must be expressed in United States currency.

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

$780 per credit hour

Comprehensive fee

$40 per course

SUGGESTED PROGRAMS OF STUDY: FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACK

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 604 Transition to Advanced Practice (3)
NURS 624 Intro to Knowledge Translation (3)
NURS 629 Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)

Spring 1

NURS 600 Health Policy (1st 7 weeks) (2)
NURS 620 Quality and Safety (2nd 7 weeks) (2)
NURS 621 Informatics & Clinical Decision Making (3)

Summer 1

NURS 605 Clinical Prevention & Populations (2)
NURS 611 Advanced Physical Assessment (3)
PHIL 543 Bioethics (3)

Fall 2

NURS 650 Pharmacotherapeutics Adv. Practice (3)
NURS 652 Adv. Practice Nursing Child & Adolescent (3)
NURS 661 Practicum in Nursing Care Child and Adol. (1.5)

Spring 2

NURS 656 Adv. Practice Nursing OB & Women (2)
NURS 658 Adv. Practice Nursing Adult (3)
NURS 662 Practicum in Nursing Care Adult (2.5)

Summer 2

NURS 663 Comprehensive FNP Practicum (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.

One Year Option: The Family Nurse Practitioner track is typically completed over two years. However, we do offer a 15-month option on a very limited space-available basis. All applications are reviewed for admission to the two year program of study. If you are interested in pursuing the 15-month option and are invited for an interview, please express that interest to your interviewer.

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 1

NURS 611 Advanced Physical Assessment (3)
PHIL 543 Bioethics (3)

Fall 1

NURS 604 Transition to Advanced Practice (3)
NURS 624 Intro to Knowledge Translation (3)
NURS 629 Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)
NURS 650 Pharmacotherapeutics Adv. Practice (3)
NURS 652 Adv. Practice Nursing Child & Adolescent (3
NURS 661 Practicum in Nursing Care Child and Adol. (1.5)

Spring 1

NURS 600 Health Policy (1st 7 weeks) (2)
NURS 620 Quality and Safety (2nd 7 weeks) (2)
NURS 621 Informatics & Clinical Decision Making (3)
NURS 656 Adv. Practice Nursing OB & Women (2)
NURS 658 Adv. Practice Nursing Adult (3)
NURS 662 Practicum in Nursing Care Adult (2.5)

Summer 2

NURS 663 Comprehensive FNP Practicum (4)
NURS 605 Clinical Prevention & Populations (2)

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

ACCREDITATION

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURSING 600 Health Policy (2)

This course explores concepts and issues related to health policy making and political processes and the impact on the dynamics of the health care system. Legislative, regulatory and health care delivery issues are examined in health policy development and the impact these issues have on the health care system. Students will analyze the relationship of healthcare providers to policy making and develop strategies that address health disparities as a precursor to influencing policy formation.

NURSING 604 Fundamental Research Skills (3)

This course is designed to prepare students with knowledge and skills necessary in today's advanced practice roles. Historical, theoretical, and leadership aspects of these roles will be examined. Students will obtain knowledge about the structure and functioning of healthcare organizations in order to understand efficient, cost-effective changes in patient care delivery. Students will explore the leadership and communication dynamics necessary to lead collaborative inter-professional teams that promote healthy work environments for staff and quality outcomes for patients. Areas of skill development include scholarly writing, oral presentation, and computer-based skills.

NURSING 605 Clinical Prevention and Population Health (2)

The goal of this course is the implementation and evaluation of evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention interventions to diverse population groups. Students will synthesize global and social determinants of health, examine and interpret epidemiologic data, and incorporate patient-centered, culturally appropriate principles in the development of interventions.

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 620 Quality and Safety in Healthcare (2)

The goal of this course is to introduce the fundamentals of patient safety and quality improvement, including the evaluation of quality and quality measures. Practical issues involved in applying these principles in a variety of health care settings will also be discussed. (Prerequisite: NURS 624).

NURSING 621 Informatics and Clinical Decision Making (3)

This course focuses on the expanding role of informatics in the delivery of healthcare. Students will explore the appropriate use of current and emerging technologies, along with considerations for their safe integration into practice. Emphasis will be placed on the use of technology and informatics in the acquisition, organization, analysis and interpretation of data that serve as a foundation for clinical decision making and improvements in patient care. (Prerequisite: NURS 624).

NURSING 624 Introduction to Knowledge Translation: Evidence to Practice (3)

This course examines the process of critically appraising research in order to translate current evidence into practice. Students learn to formulate clinical questions in answerable format, search for and identify best evidence, and appraise that evidence for rigor and applicability to the practice setting. This course serves as the basis for scientific inquiry about human experiences to address important problems that require solutions and to expand the research and the evidence base for professional nursing practice. (Corequisite: NURS 604).

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 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. (Corequisite; NURS 629).

NURSING 652 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child and 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. (Corequisites; NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650; Must be enrolled concurrently in NURS 661).

NURSING 656 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care: Obstetrics and 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 health care behaviors pertinent to the reproductive health of women. (Corequisites; NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650, NURS 652, NURS 658. Must be enrolled concurrently in NURS 662).

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. (Corequisites: NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650, NURS 652; NURS 656. Must be enrolled concurrently in NURS 662).

NURSING 661 Practicum in Advanced Practice Nursing Care of the Child and 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. (90 hours equal 1 credit hour; seminar and clinical). (Corequisites: NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650. Must be enrolled concurrently in NURS 652).

NURSING 662 Practicum in Advanced Practice Nursing 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. (90 hours equal 1 credit hour; seminar and clinical). (Corequisites: NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650. Must be enrolled concurrently in NURS 656 & NURS 658).

NURSING 663 Comprehensive Family Nurse Practitioner Practicum (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. (90 hours equal 1 credit hour; seminar and clinical). (Prerequisites: NURS 661, NURS 662, and completion of all FNP track didactic courses).

PHILOSOPHY 543 Bioethics (3)

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

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