

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY
IN VERITATIS AMORE

Doctor of Nursing Practice

The Doctor of Nursing Practice at Bellarmine is available as a post-masters' program or as a BSN-DNP. 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). 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 35 to 38 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 a scholarly DNP project.

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.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Leadership Focus: The Advanced Practice Nursing (ANP) Clinical Leadership focus prepares ANPs 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.

Executive Leadership Focus: The Executive 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 post-master's DNP program requires approval by the Graduate Nursing Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee. Admission of applicants is based upon the following criteria:

1. A complete and signed application at www.bellarmino.edu/applynow
2. Submit a non-refundable application fee of \$40 (Bellarmine University alumna/e should use promo code BUALUMFREE)
3. MSN from a CCNE or ACEN accredited nursing program
4. Minimum 3.5 cumulative GPA for graduate work is required
5. Final official transcript(s) from each college or university attended should be mailed to the Office of Graduate Admission and should not be marked "Issued to Student." If any transcript(s) or undergraduate degree(s) is from an international institution, you must provide an official copy to be evaluated by the Bellarmine International Programs Office. The Office of Graduate Admission reserves the right to request a certified copy of the original transcript(s).
6. 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
7. Goal statement
8. Current CV or resume, describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences

9. Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states
10. Completed verification of post-baccalaureate clinical and practice hours form
11. Individuals who hold ANCC Certification Nurse Executive – Advanced should submit documentation in order to be awarded 500 practice hours credit.
12. Graduate level statistics course within 5 years of projected program start date. Applicants who do not meet this criterion may be admitted conditionally and complete the course as part of their program of study.
13. Additional information is required from international applicants.

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

1. A complete and signed application at www.bellarmino.edu/applynow
2. Submit a non-refundable application fee of \$40 (Bellarmine University alumna/e should use promo code BUALUMFREE)
3. BSN from a CCNE or ACEN accredited nursing program
4. Official transcripts of all previous undergraduate and graduate course work. (Transcripts must be mailed directly from previous institution(s) to the Admission Office.)
5. Minimum required GPA of 3.0 for undergraduate work and 3.5 for any graduate work
6. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (if requested).
7. 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
8. Goal statement
9. Current CV or resume describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences
10. Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states
11. Additional information is required from international applicants.

After initial review of applications, applicants may be contacted for an interview with graduate faculty members. Please be aware that, depending upon the size of the applicant pool, meeting the minimum requirements may not assure admission.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

Please complete the items under Procedure for Admission and submit the following:

Financial Affidavit. All applicants must provide credible evidence (e.g. a bank statement, letter on bank stationery attesting to the availability of funds, etc.) of the ability to fund the cost of attending Bellarmine University for one academic year. If funds are provided by another person on behalf of the student, an affidavit must accompany the financial information.

Proof of Passport. Scan of passport ID page must show validity for 6 months post completion of the program.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Language proficiency is required to ensure that international students within the department of nursing are able to communicate with diverse populations. The department of nursing accepts one of the following as evidence of required language proficiency for students for whom English is a second language or who have a degree from an international institution:

- TOEFL-iBT (internet-based test) and receive a total score of 83 or higher AND a score of 26 or higher on the speaking test OR
- IELTS (International English Language Testing System) and receive a total band score of 7 or higher AND a speaking band score of 8 or higher OR
- Successful completion of Language training at an approved center. Bellarmine University recognizes the following standards and centers: English Language Services level 112 (<http://www.els.edu/en>); Interlink Level 5 (<http://interlink.edu/>); Intensive English Program at Indiana University Level 6 (<http://iep.indiana.edu/>); and other centers may be approved at the discretion of the Admissions, Progression & Graduation Committee of the Department of Nursing.

International students who are exempt from language proficiency requirements are the following:

- Students who are citizens of or have completed a degree from a TOEFL exempt country.
- Students who have a secondary or high school diploma earned in TOEFL exempt countries.
- International students who have completed at least one year of full time university study or its equivalent (i.e., a minimum of 24 earned credit hours or its equivalent and earned a 2.0 GPA) in a TOEFL exempt country.

Only official score reports will be accepted.

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 DEADLINE

The DNP program begins each fall semester (August). The priority application deadline is April 1. Applications received after April 1 will be considered on a space available basis.

TUITION

Tuition: \$800 per credit hour

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, RN-BC, Professor and Chair, Graduate Studies in Nursing

502.272.8149, 800.274.4723 x8149 or scronin@bellarmine.edu

Julie Armstrong-Binnix, Graduate Admission Officer

502.272.8364, 800.274.4723 x8364 or julieab@bellarmine.edu

THE CURRICULUM

Post-MSN Advanced Practice Nursing Clinical Leadership: 35 credit hours

Fall I

NURS 801 Foundations of Scholarship
NURS 812 Quality Improvement/Patient Safety

Spring I

NURS 810 Methods for Evidence-based Practice in Healthcare
NURS 639 Health Systems Management

Summer I

NURS 804 Healthcare Informatics
NURS 891 Practice Immersion I

Fall II

NURS 808 Advanced Statistics
NURS 625 Healthcare Finance

Spring II

NURS 806 Domestic and Global Health Policy and Law
NURS 814 Clinical Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation

Summer II

NURS 802 Foundations of Grant Writing
NURS 816 Epidemiology
NURS 892 Practice Immersion II

Fall III

NURS 893 Practice Immersion III

Spring III

NURS 895 Residency

Post-MSN Executive Leadership: 35-38 credit hours

Fall I

NURS 801 Foundations of Scholarship
NURS 812 Quality Improvement/Patient Safety

Spring I

NURS 810 Methods for Evidence-based Practice in Healthcare
NURS 863 Advanced Health Care Economics and Finance

Summer I

NURS 804 Healthcare Informatics
NURS 841 Selected Topics (This course is waived for students who hold ANCC certification as Nurse Executive – Advanced)

Fall II

NURS 808 Advanced Statistics
NURS 861 Advanced Mgmt. of Organizations and Systems

Spring II

NURS 806 Domestic and Global Health Policy and Law
NURS 814 Clinical Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation

Summer II

NURS 802 Foundations of Grant Writing
NURS 816 Epidemiology
NURS 891 Practice Immersion I

Fall III

NURS 892 Practice Immersion II

Spring III

NURS 893 Practice Immersion III
NURS 895 Residency

BSN - DNP Leadership: 72 credit hours

Fall I

NURS 801 Foundations of Scholarship
NURS 624 Intro to Knowledge Translation

Spring I

NURS 621 Informatics and Clinical Decision Making
NURS 639 Health Systems Management

Summer I

NURS 605 Clinical Prevention & Populations
PHIL 543 Bioethics

Fall II

NURS 625 Financial Aspects of Health Care
NURS 812 Quality Improvement & Patient Safety

Spring II

NURS 806 National and Global Health Policy and Law
NURS 808 Advanced Statistics

Summer II

NURS 804 Healthcare Informatics
NURS 608 Healthcare Administration

Fall III

NURS 618 Healthcare Administration Practicum

NURS 810 Methods Evidence Based Practice

Spring III

NURS 814 Program Development, Implementation and Evaluation

NURS 635 Nursing Administration Project

Summer III

NURS 802 Foundations of Grant Writing

NURS 816 Managerial Epidemiology

ELECTIVE

Fall IV

NURS 861 Advanced Mgmt. of Organizations and Systems

NURS 841 Selected Topics

Spring IV

NURS 863 Advanced Health Care Economics and Finance

NURS 841 Selected Topics

Summer IV

NURS 891 Practice Immersion I

NURS 892 Practice Immersion II

Fall V

NURS 893 Practice Immersion III

Summer V

NURS 895 Residency

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NURSING 801 Foundations of Scholarship (1)

Students will explore the advanced practice doctorate and update research, scholarly writing, and presentation skills that are needed for success in the DNP program.

NURSING 802 Foundations of Grant Writing (1)

This course prepares the DNP student to participate in the processes of professional program or research grant writing and identification of potential funding sources.

NURSING 804 Healthcare Informatics (3)

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 and Global Health Policy and Law (3)

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 (3)

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 (3)

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 (3)

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 (3)

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 (3)

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. (Prerequisite: Nurs. 808)

NURSING 841 Selected Topics in Advanced Nursing (3)

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. Students who did not have an administrative focus in their MSN program will complete a leadership portfolio as part of the course requirements and may be expected to spend a portion of the clinical hours in leadership experiences. Each student will be required to submit individual objectives at the beginning of the semester. (Directed study and clinical; 100 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour).

NURSING 861 Advanced Leadership and Management of Organizations and Systems (3)

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 (3)

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 (1)

This is the first of a four-course series that provides the DNP student with mentored opportunities to identify, develop, implement, evaluate and disseminate an independent, analytic evidence-based scholarly project focusing on problems of practice within specific populations and to demonstrate achievement of the *DNP Essentials*. 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. The student is 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. (Prerequisites: NURS 801, NURS 802 and permission of instructor).

Nursing 892 Practice Immersion II (2)

In this second course of a four-course series, the DNP student continues to investigate their topic of interest and develop their scholarly project. To complete the objectives of this course the DNP student works with a faculty mentor to refine the design of the scholarly project, successfully complete an oral defense of the project, and complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to their topic of interest. (Pre/corequisite: NURS 891).

Nursing 893 Practice Immersion III (1)

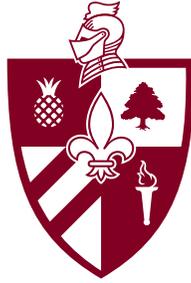
In this third course of a four-course series, the DNP student begins implementing the scholarly project. To meet the objectives of this course successfully, the student is expected to complete a minimum of 100 hours of supervised practice in a clinical area related to their topic of interest. (Pre/co-requisite: NURS 892).

Nursing 895 Residency (2)

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 two manuscripts 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 100 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. (Pre/co-requisite: NURS 893.)

Bellarmino University admits qualified students of any age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, and national or 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, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs. Bellarmine University will not tolerate any form of sexual misconduct, which includes, but is not limited to, sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, sexual exploitation, rape or retaliation arising out of any of the above acts, as more fully defined in the Bellarmine Sexual Discrimination and Misconduct Policy in the Student and Employee Handbooks. Bellarmine University is an equal opportunity employer.

6/13/2016



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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 _____

