



BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY  
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# Master of Science in Nursing Education and Administration

The purpose of the Master of Science in Nursing is to prepare nurses to identify and address gaps in healthcare delivery and design through advanced nursing knowledge and higher level leadership skills for improving health outcomes. The graduate of this program is prepared in nursing education, nursing administration, or advanced practice nursing. Consistent with Bellarmine's goal to prepare leaders for our society, graduate students in nursing will be able to lead change, promote health, and elevate nursing care in various roles and settings.

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 identifies educational goals with a faculty advisor and maintains a close liaison with the advisor throughout the program of studies.

## **AREAS OF CONCENTRATION**

**Nursing Administration:** The nursing administration track prepares professional nurses to function in management positions in a variety of health care settings. Students focus on financial and economic aspects of health care, human and resource management, and organizational leadership. Selected clinical, administrative, and evidence-based practice experiences provide the student with the opportunity to function as a nurse administrator. Practica must be completed in nursing administration.

**Nursing Education:** The nursing education track prepares professional nurses to function as beginning nurse educators. This may be in the area of staff development, health education, or preparation of nursing students. Selected teaching, clinical, and evidence-based practice experiences in various settings provide the student with the opportunity to function as a nurse educator. Practica must be completed in nursing education.

**MSN/MBA Program:** The MSN/MBA program offers professional nurses a unique opportunity to

prepare for leadership, management, and health policy roles in health care organizations. Students complete requirements of both the MSN nursing administration track and the MBA program. Nine hours from the MBA are applied to the MSN requirements of NURS 625, NURS 639, and an elective.

## **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. A complete and signed application at [www.bellarmino.edu/applynow](http://www.bellarmino.edu/applynow)
2. Submit a non-refundable application fee of \$40 (Bellarmine University alumna/e use promo code BUALUMFREE).
3. BSN from a CCNE or ACEN accredited nursing program.
4. Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required
5. 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. This statement provides us with a sample of your writing ability and helps faculty determine your fit with Bellarmine's offered program.
6. Three professional references. The strongest recommendations are from managers, directors, professors or others in a supervisory capacity. Recommendations from friends, other students, or co-workers are not appropriate.
7. Resume describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences.
8. Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact state.
9. Final official transcript(s) from each college or university attended should be submitted directly from the previous institution(s) to the Office of Graduate Admission and not be marked "Issued to Student".
10. 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 University International Programs Office. All transcripts and academic records will be credentialed and authenticated by the university. To expedite the admissions process, applicants are encouraged to submit their credentials for document authentication and a course by course evaluation to World Education Services at <http://www.wes.org>; AACRAO International Education Services at <http://ies.aacrao.org/>; ECE at <https://www.ece.org/> or another NACES recognized service provider (see <http://www.naces.org/>). Please note, the fees for these services vary and reports must document that the credentials are authentic, indicate the U.S. equivalency for the credential (i.e., four year undergraduate degree or masters degree), and GPA. Credential transcripts and third party credential reports must be forwarded by mail to: Bellarmine University, Office of Graduate Admission, 2001 Newburg Road, Louisville, KY 40205.
11. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (if requested).

## **INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS**

**Please complete the items above and submit the following:**

**Financial Affidavit.** All applicants must provide credible evidence (e.g. a bank statement, letter on bank stationary 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.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

- 37-39 hours of graduate credits in nursing and/or related fields for administration and education tracks.
- 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**

We review applications to the Education and Administration tracks throughout the year. We suggest applying 2-3 months prior to the semester within which you would like to begin.

## **TUITION**

\$730 per credit hour

## **SUGGESTED PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

The MSN Administration and Education track courses are delivered in a combination of weeknight(s) and weekend class meetings. Core MSN courses are held on weeknights and generally meet seven times during the semester, usually on Monday/Tuesday evenings. The specialty Administration and Education courses generally meet three weekends per semester. The typical student who is also working full time will enroll in two courses a semester. The number of credit hours may vary based on student needs. Consultation with an academic advisor is required.

## **THE CURRICULUM: NURSING ADMINISTRATION**

### **Fall 1**

- NURS 604 Transition to Advanced Practice (3)
- NURS 624 Intro to Knowledge Translation (3)

### **Spring 1**

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

### **Summer 1**

- NURS605 Clinical Prevention & Populations (3)
- NURS 608 Nursing Administration (3)

### **Fall 2**

- NURS 625 Financial Aspects of Health Care (3)
- ELECTIVE Elective (3)

### **Spring 2**

- NURS 639 Health Systems Management (3)
- NURS 618 Healthcare Administration Practicum (2)

**Summer 2**

- NURS 635      Nursing Administration Project (4)  
PHIL 543      Bioethics (3)

**THE CURRICULUM: NURSING EDUCATION****Fall 1**

- NURS 604      Transition to Advanced Practice (3)  
NURS 624      Intro to Knowledge Translation (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 (3)  
PHIL 543      Bioethics (3)

**Fall 2**

- NURS 630      Pathophysiology/ Pharmacology (3)  
NURS 627      Leadership, Ed. Theory & Curriculum (4)

**Spring 2**

- NURS 609      Teaching/ Learning in Health Professions (4)  
NURS 611      Adv. Physical Assessment (3)

**Summer 2**

- NURS 636      Advanced Health Education Project (4)

**ACCREDITATION**

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education

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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 Transition to Advanced Practice (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 (3)**

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 608 Healthcare Administration (3)**

This course focuses on leadership skills necessary to be an effective member and leader of interprofessional teams that manage and coordinate care within today's evolving healthcare systems. Principles of effective communication, collaboration, relationship building and management, conflict

negotiation, and ethical core values will be examined. The model of transformational leadership will be explored in depth including development of leader abilities to engage and motivate staff and teams.

#### **Nursing 609 Teaching and Learning in Health Professions Education (4)**

This course examines the work of the advanced health professions educator in academic and clinical settings. Content focuses on educational needs assessment, course planning and development, teaching methodologies, evaluation of learning, and legal and ethical issues related to health professions education. Students will complete 45 practicum hours. (Corequisite: NURS 630)

#### **Nursing 611 Advanced Physical Assessment and 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. (2.5 hours class per week and 22.5 hours laboratory per semester)

#### **Nursing 618 Healthcare Administration Practicum I (2)**

This course enables the student to demonstrate skills in analyzing specific problems in health care delivery systems. Students examine a problem from multiple perspectives, (e.g., financial, policy, legal, ethical) and provide an in-depth analysis with specific recommendations for change or improvement. (Seminar and clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour.) (Corequisites: NURS 608, NURS 625, and NURS 639)

#### **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 625 Financial Aspects of Health Care (3)**

This course focuses on essential principles of finance and accounting important for today's leaders functioning in an environment of rapid and fundamental changes in the financing of healthcare. The financial incentives and implications of various models of health care delivery and reimbursement are explored. Students will perform a variety of financial analyses, including budgeting, cost/benefit analysis, forecasting, and variance analysis.

### **Nursing 627 Leadership, Educational Theories and Curriculum in Health Professions (4)**

This course examines the work of the advanced health professions educator including curriculum development and revision, learning theories, program assessment, historical foundations of health professions education and interprofessional learning in both academic and clinical settings. Students will complete a 45 hour practicum. (Seminar & Clinical; 45 hours clinical) (Corequisite: NURS 630)

### **Nursing 630 Pathophysiology & Pharmacology for Advanced Nursing Practice: Educator Focus (3)**

This course explores the scientific complexity and integration of pathophysiologic and pharmacologic interventions for selected acute and chronic health conditions. Application of content to health promotion, disease prevention, and disease management is emphasized.

### **Nursing 635 Nursing Administration Project (4)**

This course serves as a capstone experience for nursing administration students. The student implements the project developed in the first practicum course, which addresses a specific issue in a health care delivery system. The student leads an inter-professional team through a change process demonstrating transformational leadership skills. The project will be written in a scholarly format that includes statistical analysis of outcomes data. (Seminar & clinical; 90 hours clinical) (Corequisites: NURS 608, NURS 618, NURS 625, and NURS 639)

### **Nursing 636 Advanced Health Professions Education Project (4)**

This course serves as a capstone experience for health professions education students. It is designed to provide the advanced health professions education student an opportunity to strengthen care delivery skills, including patient and staff learning needs assessment, under the guidance of a preceptor in the clinical setting. The student will work on a designated and/or self-designed capstone project during the



practicum and be required to produce a scholarly paper that includes statistical analysis of outcomes data. (Seminar & clinical; 90 hours clinical) (Corequisites: NURS 609, NURS 611, NURS 627, and NURS 630)

### **Nursing 639 Health Systems Management (3)**

This course focuses on organizational and systems leadership necessary to promote safe, high quality patient care in today's rapidly evolving healthcare systems. Students will be prepared in assessing organizations, identifying system issues, and facilitating system wide changes in practice delivery. Content includes evaluation of delivery models and work designs, strategic management, marketing, and human resource management. Theoretical understandings important in organizational dynamics will be explored, including organization and management theory, chaos and complexity theories, and systems thinking.

### **Nursing 641 Thesis Extention (1)**

May be taken if thesis is not completed in NURS 642. May be repeated one time.

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

This course is designed for the student who desires to complete a thesis. An additional two credit hours are required. The project developed as part of Nurs 635 or Nurs 636 is expanded to a formal thesis under the direction of a thesis committee. After final presentation and approval by the thesis committee, the thesis is submitted for binding and microfilming.

### **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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*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**