



BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY
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Master of Science in Nursing Family Nurse Practitioner Track

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 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.

Priority Application Deadline: February 15. Applications completed after February 15 will be considered on a space available basis. The Family Nurse Practitioner Program begins each fall semester (August).

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Complete the application at www.nursingcas.org. There is a \$60 application fee. We do not require a supplemental application to Bellarmine University.
- 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. Applications completed after February 15 will be considered on a space available basis.
- It takes Nursing CAS 4-6 weeks to verify your application and submit it to the Office of Graduate Admission after you submit it to CAS. Therefore, you should complete and submit the application prior to February 15.
- Bellarmine University requires all FNP track applicants (including Bellarmine University alumni and current undergraduate students) to apply via Nursing CAS.
- 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 via 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 ACEN 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.
3. Minimum GPA of 3.0 is required
4. 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 should include your recommender's email address so that Nursing CAS can provide the recommender the electronic form.
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. 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.

6. Resume describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences
7. Active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states. We will verify your license via the Kentucky Board of Nursing.
8. 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.
9. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores (if requested).
10. 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).

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

In addition to meeting the requirements for admission, please 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.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- 43 credit hours.
- 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.
- Grades of B- or higher are required in FNP Specialty courses NURS 611, NURS 629, NURS 650, NURS 659, NURS 660.
- Degree requirements must be completed within six (6) years from time of entry.

TUITION

Family Nurse Practitioner

\$730 per credit hour (MSN Core courses: 18 credit hours)

\$800 per credit hour (FNP Specialty courses: 25 credit hours)

SUGGESTED PROGRAM OF STUDY

FNP students complete the MSN Core courses in the first year and the FNP Specialty courses in the second year. The MSN Core courses meet on Monday/Tuesday evenings in the first year. The FNP Specialty courses meet Monday and Tuesday for a full day in the second year. Students generally work 36 hours or less per week in the first year and work less than 12 hours per week in the second year.

Prior to entering the second year of FNP coursework, students must acquire one year of clinical practice experience as a Registered Nurse. Students may acquire the required year of clinical experience as a Registered Nurse during the first year of the program.

Practicum experiences are assigned by the department with opportunity for student input. Practicum hours in the second year are generally completed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday depending on the student's arranged clinical hours.

THE CURRICULUM

Fall 1

NURS 604	Transition to Advanced Practice (3)	MSN Core course
NURS 624	Intro to Knowledge Translation (3)	MSN Core course
NURS 600	Health Policy (2)	MSN Core course

Spring 1

NURS 620	Quality and Safety (2)	MSN Core Course
NURS 621	Informatics & Clinical Decision Making (3)	MSN Core Course
NURS 611	Advanced Physical Assessment (3)	FNP Specialty Course

Summer 1

NURS 605	Clinical Prevention & Populations (2)	MSN Core Course
NURS 629	Pathophysiologic Concepts (3)	FNP Specialty Course
NURS 650	Pharmacotherapeutics Adv. Practice (3)	FNP Specialty Course

Fall 2

NURS 659	Primary Care I (6)	FNP Specialty Course
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Spring 2

NURS 660	Primary Care II (6)	FNP Specialty Course
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Summer 2

NURS 663	Comprehensive FNP Practicum (4)	FNP Specialty Course
PHIL 543	Bioethics (3)	MSN Core Course

Clinical hours: Fall Semester 180 hours Pediatrics. Spring Semester 180 hours Adult/Internal Medicine. Summer 360 hours General Family Medicine.

ACCREDITATION

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
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202.887.6791

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 (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. (2.5 hours class per week and 22.5 hours of laboratory per semester)

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 659 Primary Care I (6 credit hours: 4 credit hours class & 2 credit hours practicum)

This is a didactic and practicum course that represents the knowledge necessary for the practice of primary health care of adults and children and includes principles of health promotion and disease prevention. Content focuses on pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of common health problems

of adults and children, 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 populations across the lifespan. In the clinical practicum, emphasis is upon the role of the advanced practice nursing student in the health promotion and disease prevention within populations across the lifespan. Students will provide advanced practice primary care to clients under the supervision of a preceptor. Clinical practica will focus upon comprehensive assessment and planning strategies to promote health and safety within populations across the lifespan, utilizing family and community resources. Clinical symposia will analyze specific health care needs across the lifespan. Clinical focus will be on population health including clinical hours in adult, women's health, and pediatrics. The responsibility of the Family Nurse Practitioner as the primary health care provider to the client across the lifespan and family will be explored and emphasized. (90 practicum hours equal 1 credit hour; seminar and clinical). (Nurs 659 must be taken and passed (including both the didactic and clinical components) prior to starting Nurs 660.)

Nursing 660 Primary Care II (6 credit hours: 4 credit hours class & 2 credit hours practicum)

This is a didactic and practicum course that represents the knowledge necessary for the practice of primary health care of adults and children and includes principles of health promotion and disease prevention. This course is a continuation course from Nurs 659 and continues with content focuses on pathophysiology, diagnosis and management of common health problems of adults and children, 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 populations across the lifespan. In the clinical practicum, emphasis is upon the role of the advanced practice nursing student in the health promotion and disease prevention within populations across the lifespan. Students will provide advanced practice primary care to clients under the supervision of a preceptor. Clinical practica will focus upon comprehensive assessment and planning strategies to promote health and safety within populations across the lifespan, utilizing family and community resources. Clinical symposia will analyze specific health care needs across the lifespan. Clinical focus will be on population health including clinical hours in adult, women's health, and pediatrics. The responsibility of the Family Nurse Practitioner as the primary health care provider to the client across the lifespan and family will be explored and emphasized. (90 practicum hours equal 1 credit hour; seminar and clinical) (Nurs 659 must be taken and passed (including both the didactic and clinical components) prior to starting Nurs 660.)

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 659, NURS 660, 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)

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. Bellarmino 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 Bellarmino Sexual Discrimination and Misconduct Policy in the Student and Employee Handbooks. Bellarmino University is an equal opportunity employer.

6/13/2016

