



BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

DONNA AND ALLAN LANSING SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Office of Admission
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205
Admission: 502-452-8364
1-800-274-4723 x8364

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Accreditation:

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
1 Dupont Circle NW #530
Washington, DC 20036-1126
202/887-6791

Revised 6/05

The Purpose

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 or nursing administration. Consistent with Bellarmine's goal to prepare leaders for our society, graduate students in nursing will be able to effect change within health care.

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 a close liaison with the advisor throughout the program of studies. The program is designed for part-time study. A plan is also available for full-time study.

Degree Requirements

1. 37-39 hours of graduate credits in Nursing and/or related fields.
2. Minimum of 24 hours of graduate credits earned in residence at Bellarmine.
3. Maintain a 3.0 GPA out of 4.0 overall grade point average throughout the program.
4. Degree requirements must be completed within six (6) years from time of entry.

Admission to the MSN Program

Admission to the master's program requires approval by the MSN Admission, Progression, and Graduation Committee. The criteria below must be met for unconditional admission. An applicant who lacks one or more of the criteria may be considered for admission with probationary or conditional status.

1. Be a registered nurse and hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
2. File a Graduate Admissions Application form with application fee.
3. Submit official college transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate degrees and credits from accredited institutions.
4. Submit statement on application form outlining how a MSN degree will help meet your professional goals.
5. Satisfactorily complete GRE and submit official record of scores.* (Students applying for the MSN/MBA program take the GMAT instead of the GRE.)
6. Students for whom English is a second language must also submit official report of TOEFL scores.

* GRE must be completed by the end of the first semester enrolled.

Questions should be directed to Dr. Sherill Cronin, Director MSN Program, 502-452-8149 or 1-800-274-4723, e-mail scronin@bellarmine.edu.
or to Julie Armstrong-Binnix, Recruiter, 502-452-8364 or 800-274-4723 x8364 or email julieab@bellarmine.edu

Alternate Entry Options

RN with a non-Nursing Bachelor's Degree

Registered nurses with a bachelor's degree in an area other than nursing may be admitted to the MSN program after satisfactorily completing six nursing "bridge" courses. The six courses are:

Nur. 301	Dynamics of Professional Nursing
Nur. 311	Health Assessment
Nur. 313	Pharmacology
Nur. 410	Nursing Process in the Community
Nur. 431	Complex Health Problems
Nur. 435	Nursing Leadership and Management

RN Entry Option

This track is designed for registered nurses whose original preparation in nursing was received in accredited diploma or associate degree programs and who have identified the master of science degree as their educational goal. This accelerated path bypasses the BSN degree. Applicants in this entry option must complete prerequisite courses (listed below), in addition to the six nursing "bridge" courses, prior to progression to the graduate level.

Prerequisites:

English	6 hrs	(must include 3 hrs of English Comp)
Math and Natural Sciences	15 hrs	(may include Nutrition and must include Anatomy and Physiology and Microbiology)
Social Sciences	6 hrs	
Arts and Humanities	9 hrs	(must include 3 hrs of Philosophy)
Lower level nursing	28 hrs	
Healthcare Econ/Finance	3 hrs	
Electives	9 hrs	(at least 6 hrs at the upper level)

Total 76

Progression to the MSN-level courses requires:

1. GPA of 2.75 or greater in undergraduate prerequisite and nursing bridge courses
2. Completion of the GRE

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 research 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 and research experiences in clinical and classroom 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 is comprised of degrees that offer professional nurses a unique opportunity to prepare for leadership, management, and health policy roles in health care organizations. Students will complete requirements of the MSN nursing administration track and complete the MBA program. Twelve hours from the MBA are applied to the MSN requirements of Nurs. 625, Math. 600, Nurs. 640, and an elective.

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner: The graduate programs of Bellarmine University, Donna & Allan Lansing School of Nursing and Indiana University School of Nursing at Indianapolis have partnered to offer the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner major for students in the Louisville-southeastern Indiana area. This partnership makes it possible for students to complete requirements for the major without traveling to Indianapolis. Students have the option of completing nine credits of graduate courses and the prerequisite statistics course at Bellarmine University. Indiana University will offer the remainder of the courses on V-TEL on the Indiana University Southeast campus or through the World Wide Web. Local resources will be utilized for clinical placement during the clinical courses for the major. There are 43 total credit hours. Interested nurses should contact Dr. Sherill Cronin at Bellarmine, (502) 452-8149 or 1-800-274-4723, Indiana University, (317) 274-4632.

Master of Science Degree in Nursing Curriculum Design

Each track of the MSN program requires 15 credit hours of Nursing Core Courses, as well as 7 hours of Cognate Courses.

Nursing Core Courses

Nursing 600, Health Policy	3 c.h.
Nursing 602, Theories in Nursing	3 c.h.
Nursing 603, Research Methods	3 c.h.
Nursing 605, Clinical Practice Concepts	3 c.h.
Nursing 626, Outcomes Measurements and Evaluation	3 c.h.

Cognate Courses

Math 600, Applied Statistics	4 c.h.
Humanities 543, Bioethics	3 c.h.

Nursing Administration

Nursing 608, Nursing Administration	3 c.h.
Nursing 618, Practicum I	2 c.h.
Nursing 619, Practicum II	2 c.h.
Nursing 625, Financial Aspects of Health Care	3 c.h.
Nursing 640, Project	2 c.h.
Elective	3 c.h.
Nursing 642, Thesis Option	2 c.h.

Nursing Education

Nursing 606, Practicum I	2 c.h.
Nursing 607, Practicum II	2 c.h.
Nursing 609, Nursing Education	3 c.h.
Nursing 627, Educational Theories and Curriculum Development	3 c.h.
Nursing 629, Pathophysiologic Concepts for Clinical Decision Making	3 c.h.
Nursing 640, Project	2 c.h.
Nursing 642, Thesis Option	2 c.h.

Please write a brief account of your career goals:

What do you expect to gain from this educational experience?

Signature

By signing this form I certify that the information above is complete and true.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Requirements for Admission

To be admitted on a permanent basis to Bellarmine University, each student must present the following information:

- A \$25.00 non-refundable application fee, unless a Bellarmine alumna.
- A completed and signed application to the Graduate Programs in Nursing.
- An official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate course work.
- Official scores on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Evidence of professional liability insurance, completed health record, criminal check, and HIPAA training

Students may be conditionally accepted if they have not yet completed the GRE or submitted proof of insurance, health requirements, criminal check, or HIPAA training. However, these must be submitted prior to the second semester of class work.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Bellarmino University, in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972, has by action of its board of trustees established a policy of treating all students and student applicants equally without regard to ethnic and national background, sex, religion, age, or disability.

Mail to: Office of Admission:
Bellarmine University
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205
Office: (502) 452-8131
or (800) 274-4723 x8131
Fax: 502/452-8002

Master of Science in Nursing

Course Descriptions

Nur. 600 Health Policy (3)

This course analyzes and projects trends in health care. 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. *(Prerequisite: graduate standing)*

Nur. 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. *(Prerequisite: graduate standing)*

Nur. 603 Research Methods (3)

An introduction to the basic methods of research. The content focuses on analyzing and evaluating research. Published research in student's area of concentration will be critically analyzed. *(Pre/corequisites: Math 600, Nur 602)*

Nur. 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: Nur 602)*

Nur. 606 Nursing Education Practicum I (2)

This course is designed to provide guided experiences in developing skills in nursing education. The focus is on didactic instruction and measurement of learning outcomes. Students assess and define their learning needs, select appropriate experiences, and participate in selected learning activities directed by a mentor/preceptor and a graduate faculty member. *(Prerequisite: Nur. 609, 629) (Seminar & clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)*

Nur. 607 Nursing Education Practicum II (2)

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to work closely with a nurse educator in the clinical setting. The focus is on clinical instruction and evaluation of student's performance. Students work on designated and/or self-designed projects during the practicum. *(Prerequisite: Nur. 609, 629) (Seminar & clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)*

Nur. 608 Healthcare Administration (3)

This course is designed to explore leadership skills necessary to manage change in complex health care delivery systems. The content focuses on examining individual strengths necessary to collaborate effectively within and across health care disciplines. Management strategies and organizational theories are explored for application to health care. *(Pre/corequisite: Nur. 625)*

Nur. 609 Nursing Education

This course explores the professional and leadership roles and responsibilities of the nurse educator. The work of the nurse educator within the academic and/or health agency/facility and among various learner/student populations is explored. Accreditation standards, statutory regulations, legal aspects and ethical issues effecting nursing education are examined. *(Prerequisite: Nurs. 627. Pre/corequisite: Nurs. 626.)* **(3)**

Nur 618 Nursing 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. *(Prerequisites: Nur 608) (Seminar & clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)*

Nur 619 Nursing Administration Practicum II (2)

This course enables the student to practice in an administrative role within a health care delivery system. The student provides leadership to a group with the purpose of implementing and evaluating a specific change within the selected health care system. *(Prerequisites: Nur 618) (Seminar & clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)*

Nur. 623 Independent Study (3)

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

Nur. 625 Financial Aspects of Health Care (3)

This course enables the student to gain a broader understanding of the changing issues affecting the financing of health care in today's integrated health care delivery systems. The financial incentives and implications of various models of health care delivery and reimbursement are explored. Basic financial concepts and tools are applied to health care settings.

Nur. 626 Outcomes Measurement and Evaluation (3)

This course examines the process of evidence-based decision-making. Current methodologies used to evaluate practice changes in a variety of health care and education settings are discussed, including program evaluation, outcomes research, and CQI techniques. Emphasis is on obtaining and evaluating available evidence and identifying, measuring, and analyzing outcomes. (Prerequisite: N603)

Nur. 627 Educational Theories and Curriculum Development (3)

This course examines nursing education in various settings and discusses educational theories, curriculum development, and evaluation of student learning and performance. Emphasis is placed on historical beginnings, foundations of higher education, theoretical perspectives, curriculum components and design. (Prerequisite: Nur. 603)

Nur. 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. (Prerequisite: Graduate standing or by permission.)

Nur. 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/corequisite: Nur. 606/607 or Nur. 618/619.)

Nur. 641 Thesis Extension (1)

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

Nur. 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 Nur. 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: Nur. 640.)

Cognate Courses

Hum. 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. (Prerequisite: Graduate standing)

Math 600 Applied Statistics (4)

Basic statistical principles and use of computer software packages in statistical analysis. Topics include descriptive statistics and graphical techniques of data presentation, sampling, hypothesis testing, regression and correlation, analysis of variance and covariance. (Prerequisite: Graduate standing)

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

Authorization to Obtain Information

I expressly authorize, without reservation, Bellarmine University, its representatives, employees or agents to contact and obtain information regarding me from all public agencies, licensing authorities and educational institutions. I hereby waive all rights and claims I may have regarding Bellarmine University, its representatives, employees, or agents gathering and using such information and all other persons, corporations or organizations for furnishing such information about me.

Date of Birth: _____ SSN: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____