

BELLARMINE
UNIVERSITY
IN VERITATIS AMORE

Master of Science in Nursing

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, nursing administration, or advanced nursing practice. 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 a close liaison with the advisor throughout the program of studies. The family nurse practitioner (FNP) track is designed for both full-time and part-time study, while the administration and education tracks may be pursued on a part-time basis.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

Nursing Administration: The nursing administration track prepares professional nurses to function in management positions in a variety of healthcare 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 students with the opportunity to work 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.

Family Nurse Practitioner: 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.

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. Eight hours from the MBA are applied to the MSN requirements of NURS 625, NURS 640 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:

- BSN from a CCNE or NLNAC accredited nursing program
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 required
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores; successful applicants usually score at 450 or higher on each of the verbal and quantitative scores; and 4 on the analytic score. The GRE is waived for applicants with a GPA of 3.28 or higher.
- If your undergraduate degree is from an international institution, you were born outside the United States, or English is your second language, you will be required to take the TOEFLiBT (internet-based test) and receive a total score of 83 or higher and a 26 or higher on the speaking test. If you desire to request a TOEFL waiver, you must submit a written request to the Nursing Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee. The Nursing Admission, Progression and Graduation Committee reserves the right to require a TOEFL from any applicant.
- Three professional references (on form provided)
- Goal statement
- Resume describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences
- Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states
- An interview with graduate faculty members may also be required of applicants to the FNP track.
- Because enrollment is limited in the FNP track, meeting the minimum requirements may not assure admission to that track.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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

ACCREDITATION

Commission on Collegiate
Nursing Education
1 Dupont Circle NW #530
Washington, DC 20036-1126
202.887.6791

CONTACT INFORMATION

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THE CURRICULUM

Nursing Core Courses

- NURS 600** Health Policy (3)
- NURS 601** Fundamental Research Skills (1)
- NURS 602** Theories in Nursing (3)
- NURS 605** Clinical Practice Concepts (2-3)
- NURS 624** Introduction to Evidence Based Practice (3)
- NURS 626** Outcomes Measurements & Evaluation (3)

Cognate Course

- PHIL 543** Bioethics (3)

Nursing Administration

- NURS 608** Nursing Administration (3)
- NURS 618** Practicum I (2)
- NURS 619** Practicum II (2)
- NURS 625** Financial Aspects of Health Care (3)
- NURS 639** Health Systems Management (3)
- NURS 640** Project (2)
- NURS 642** Thesis Option (2)

GRADUATE ELECTIVE

Nursing Education

- NURS 606** Practicum I (2)
- NURS 607** Practicum II (2)
- NURS 609** Nursing Education (3)
- NURS 627** Educ. Theories & Curriculum Development (3)
- NURS 628** Role Development: Nurse Educator (3)
- NURS 629** Patho. Concepts for Clinical Decision Making (3)
- NURS 640** Project (2)
- NURS 642** Thesis Option (2)

Family Nurse Practitioner

- NURS 611** Adv. Physical Assessment & Clinical Reasoning (3)
- NURS 629** Patho. Concepts for Clinical Decision Making (3)
- NURS 650** Pharmacotherapeutics in Adv. Practice NURS (3)
- NURS 652** Adv. Practice Nurs in Primary Care of the Child (2)
- NURS 654** Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adolescent (1)
- NURS 656** Adv. Prac. Nurs in Prim. Care: Obst. & Women's Health (1)
- NURS 658** Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adult (3)
- NURS 660** Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Elder (1)
- NURS 661** Practicum Adv. Prac. Nurs Care of Child & Adolescent (2)
- NURS 662** Practicum in Adv. Practice Nursing Care of the Adult (2)
- NURS 663** Family Nurse Practitioner Preceptorship (4)

NURSING 600 Health Policy (3)

This course analyzes and projects trends in healthcare. 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.

NURSING 601 Fundamental Research Skills (1)

This lab will prepare the incoming student with the research skills needed for graduate education. Students will learn the basics of accessing scholarly sources, academic writing, and oral presentations. (To be taken concurrently with NURS 600 or NURS 602)

NURSING 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.

NURSING 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: NURS 602)

NURSING 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: NURS 609, 629);(Seminar and clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)

NURSING 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: NURS 609, 629) (Seminar and clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)

NURSING 608 Nursing Administration (3)

This course is designed to explore the concept of leadership in complex healthcare delivery systems. The content focuses on examining the characteristics of personal and professional leadership, change theory, decision-making, consumer relationships, and career planning and transitions. Work environments will be analyzed using professional standards.

NURSING 609 Nursing Education (3)

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 600 and 626)

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 a healthy adult. 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 618 Nursing Admin. 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. (Prerequisite: NURS 608) (Seminar and clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)

NURSING 619 - Nursing Admin. Practicum II (2)

This course enables the student to practice in an administrative role within a healthcare 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. (Prerequisite: NURS 618);(Seminar and clinical; 45 clinical hours equal 1 credit hour)

NURSING 623 Independent Study (3)

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

NURSING 624 Introduction to Evidence-Based Nursing Practice (3)

This course examines the process of evidence-based nursing practice. Emphasis is on obtaining and evaluating available evidence for its applicability to practice. (Prerequisite: NURS 601)

NURSING 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 healthcare in today's integrated healthcare delivery systems. The financial incentives and implications of various models of healthcare delivery and reimbursement are explored. Basic financial concepts and tools are applied to health care settings.

NURSING 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 healthcare and education settings are discussed, including program evaluation. Emphasis is on identifying, measuring, and analyzing outcomes. (Prerequisite: NURS 624)

NURSING 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. (Pre/corequisite: NURS 624)

NURSING 628 Role Development: Nurse Educator (3)

This course explores the professional roles, rights and responsibilities of the nurse educator. The nurse educator competencies in knowledge, skills, and values developed by the National League for Nursing (2004) guide nurse faculty role development. Teaching, scholarship, citizenship, and service will be examined, as well as faculty appointment, rank, and promotion and tenure.

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 639 Health Systems Management (3)

This course focuses on management of integrated delivery systems across the continuum of care. Emphasis is on understanding organizational structures and developing marketing and business plans. Other content areas include the role of management in decision-making, community and consumer relationships, staffing, care delivery systems, and managing quality and risk.

NURSING 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: NURS 606/607 or NURS 618/619.)

NURSING 641 Thesis Extension (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 2 credit hours are required. The project developed in Nursing 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: NURS 640.)

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.

NURSING 652 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Child (2)

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.

NURSING 654 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Adolescent (1)

This course prepares the advanced practice student for the primary care of the adolescent 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 adolescent population. This course has a major focus upon legal and ethical circumstances surrounding the care of the adolescent client, as well as the role of socio-economic factors affecting health within the family system and on the community at large.

NURSING 656 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care: Obstetrics and Women's Health (1)

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 healthcare behaviors pertinent to the reproductive health of women.

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.

NURSING 660 Advanced Practice Nursing in Primary Care of the Elder (1)

In this course, the Advanced Practice Nursing student obtains the knowledge necessary for the care of the elderly client. The course includes the principles of health promotion and disease prevention, assessment, planning, treatment options, and appropriate follow up for diverse elderly populations. The influence of family and community support systems is examined. Students are introduced to the managed care environment as it affects the elderly client.

NURSING 661 Practicum in the Advanced Practice Care of the Child and Adolescent (2)

In this course, the advanced practice nursing student places emphasis upon the 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.

NURSING 662 Practicum in the Advanced Practice Care of the Adult (2)

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 Nursing Practitioner as the primary health care provider to the adult and family will be emphasized and explored.

NURSING 663 Family Nursing Practitioner Preceptorship (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.

PHILOSOPHY 543 Bioethics (3)

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

Master of Science in Nursing Application

- This application is for: Fall of 2010 Spring of 2010 Summer of 2010
- I will be attending: Full-time Part-time
- I am applying for: Nursing Administration Nursing Education Family Nurse Practitioner
 Post Graduate Track MSN/MBA Program Dual Track (*indicate both*)
(*indicate track*)

PERSONAL DATA

Name _____
FAMILY NAME FIRST MIDDLE MAIDEN

Preferred Name _____ Social Security Number _____ Gender _____

Place of Birth _____ Date of Birth _____
CITY STATE/PROVINCE COUNTRY

Permanent Address _____
STREET ADDRESS

CITY COUNTY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE COUNTRY

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Number (____) _____ Extension _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____

GRE has been or will be taken _____ Score _____

Citizenship U.S. Permanent U.S. Resident Non U.S. Citizen

If you are not a U.S. citizen, what is your country of citizenship? _____

What is your current country of residence? _____

Are you Hispanic or Latino? Yes No

In addition, select one or more of the following racial categories to describe yourself:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American
 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander White

Current Employer _____ Present Position _____

Address of Employer _____
STREET ADDRESS CITY STATE/PROVINCE ZIP CODE

Will tuition be subsidized by your employer? Yes No

Will you be applying for aid with the veterans administration? Yes No

Where did you hear about Bellarmine's Graduate Programs in Nursing? _____

What factor had the most influence over your decision to apply for Graduate Admission here? _____

EDUCATIONAL DATA

Please list all colleges and/or universities you have attended.

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	DATES ATTENDED	DEGREE RECEIVED	GPA
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PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY ACITIVITES

NURSING EXPERIENCES	AGENCY	CITY/STATE	DATES
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REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE(S)	STATE	NUMBER
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BACKGROUND DATA

Have you ever been dismissed from a high school, college or university for disciplinary reasons, or been sanctioned by a disciplinary board? Yes No

If yes, from where? _____

A release will be mailed to you. You must sign and complete the form and mail it back to the Office of Admission at Bellarmine University one month prior to the first week of classes. This form will be mailed to your current Dean of Students asking for an explanation of the sanction and circumstances.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

If you answered yes to either of the last two questions, please explain on a separate sheet of paper how you were held accountable (i.e., outcomes, sanctions), when the incident occurred and any additional information you wish to provide. Please note that we may need to request additional information.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

I declare that the information provided on this form is true, correct and complete. Bellarmine University has my permission to verify information by obtaining documents as needed. I understand that providing false information may result in Bellarmine University revoking my status as an accepted or enrolled student. Also, I grant Bellarmine University or its appointee(s) permission to post my personal and academic information on Bellarmine's secured, password protected intranet and student portal.

Signature _____ Date _____

Bellarmino University admits qualified students of any age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, or national and 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, sex, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, or national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs. Bellarmine University is an Affirmative Action-Equal Opportunity employer.

RECOMMENDATION FORM

APPLICANT: Fill in your name and forward one copy to each respondent. Please provide a stamped, addressed envelope along with each form. **Three recommendations are required with your application.** Read the statement below and, if you choose, sign it where indicated. The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 entitles Nursing graduate students to have access to letters of evaluation in their records at the School. The applicant may waive the right of access to letters of evaluation in which case letters of evaluation will be considered confidential and will not be available to the student. If you wish to waive your right to access this letter of evaluation, please sign your name on the line below the following statement.

I, undersigned, hereby waive all rights or privileges provided by Public Law 93-380 to inspect or challenge the content and comments appearing in this letter of evaluation.

Name of Applicant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

RESPONDENT: Please complete the information requested. If you need additional sheets of paper please staple them to this form. Your comments will be held completely confidential if the applicant has signed the statement above. Please enclose this form and any attachments in an envelope addressed to the applicant. Please sign the back of the envelope, writing your signature across the seal of the envelope flap and return sealed envelope to the applicant.

Respondent's Name _____ Title _____

Institution/Agency _____

Address _____
STREET ADDRESS

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP CODE _____ COUNTRY _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Number (____) _____ Extension _____

Cell Phone (____) _____ Email Address _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Please rate the applicant in the areas indicated below by checking the appropriate responses; outstanding, above average, satisfactory, below average, or indicate “unable to comment.”

AREA	OUTSTANDING	ABOVE AVERAGE	SATISFACTORY	BELOW AVERAGE
Intellectual Ability				
Critical Thinking Ability				
Problem Solving Ability				
Knowledge of Proposed Study				
Quality of Oral Communication				
Quality of Written Communication				
Motivation and Energy				
Emotional Stability				
Self-Image				
Independence				
Creativity				
Leadership Ability				

How long have you known the applicant and in what capacity?

What do you consider to be the applicant’s strengths?

Do you know of any special circumstances in the applicant’s social or academic background or emotional makeup that should be considered in the evaluation of this applicant for graduate studies?

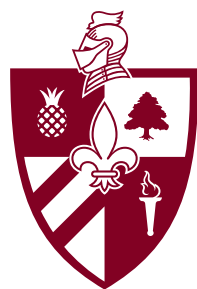
Additional Comments. (Please feel free to attach additional pages if necessary.)



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

To be admitted to Bellarmine University, each student must present the following:

- A \$25.00 non-refundable application fee, unless a Bellarmine graduate.
- A completed and signed application.
- An official transcript of all undergraduate and graduate course work. (Transcripts must be mailed directly from previous institutions to the Admission Office.)
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, if required.
- Three professional references (on form provided). References should be from faculty members, professional colleagues, or work supervisors who can evaluate your potential for success in a graduate program. Recommendations from friends, other students, or co-workers are usually not appropriate.
- A goal statement. The goal statement is your opportunity to tell us (as specifically as you can at this time) what you are planning to do with your career after you finish your master's degree. If you are applying for the nurse practitioner track 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.
- Resume describing relevant work, professional and volunteer experiences.
- Proof of active, unrestricted license to practice nursing in Kentucky and/or compact states.
- If your undergraduate degree is from an international institution or if English is your second language, TOEFLiBT (internet-based test) scores must be submitted. The Nursing Department reserves the right to require TOEFLiBT testing from any candidate. Information about the TOEFLiBT can be found at www.ets/TOEFL.
- **Mail the completed materials to:**
Bellarmine University
Office of Admission
2001 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky 40205



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