

# GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN NURSING

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## Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)

### Program Accreditation

The Master of Science in Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle NW #530, Washington, DC 20036, tel. 202.887.6791.

### Program Overview

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 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 or 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 full-time or part-time study, while the administration and education tracks may be pursued on a part-time basis.

### Program Outcomes

Graduates of the MSN program will be able to:

1. Synthesize advanced theoretical, empirical, and ethical knowledge to influence nursing practice.
2. Demonstrate competence in a professional role in administration, education, or clinical practice.
3. Use research skills to identify practice and system problems, initiate change, and improve outcomes.
4. Assume leadership roles that contribute to social, cultural, economic, and political changes to improve health care delivery, health promotion and disease prevention, and to advance professional nursing.

## 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 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. Eight hours from the MBA are applied to the MSN requirements of Nurs. 625, Nurs. 640, and an elective.

### 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.

## Degree Requirements

1. 37–39 hours of graduate credits in nursing and/or related fields for administration and education tracks; 43 hours for FNP track.
2. A minimum of 24 hours of graduate credits earned in residence at Bellarmine.
3. Maintenance of a 3.0 GPA out of 4.0 overall grade point average throughout the program.
4. Completion of degree work within six (6) years from the time of entry.

### **Admission to the MSN Program**

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.
- For non-native English speakers, a total score of 83 or higher on the TOEFL (internet-based) with a minimum of 26 on the speaking section.
- 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.

Questions should be directed to Dr. Sherill Cronin, Director MSN Program, 502.452.8149 or 800.274.4723, e-mail [scronin@bellarmine.edu](mailto:scronin@bellarmine.edu). Application forms may be obtained by writing or calling:

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**Bellarmino University**  
**2001 Newburg Road**  
**Louisville, KY 40205**  
**Phone 502.452.8364**  
**[julieab@bellarmine.edu](mailto:julieab@bellarmine.edu)**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN NURSING****Curriculum Design****NURSING ADMINISTRATION****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.....	3
NURS 624 Intro. to Evidence-Based Practice.....	3
NURS 626 Outcomes Measurement and Evaluation.....	3

**Cognate Course**

PHIL 543 Bioethics.....	3
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**Specialty Courses**

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 System Management.....	3
NURS 640 Project.....	2
NURS 642 Thesis Option.....	2
Elective by Advisement.....	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37-39</b>

**NURSING EDUCATION****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.....	3
NURS 624 Intro. to Evidence-Based Practice.....	3
NURS 626 Outcomes Measurement and Evaluation.....	3

**Cognate Course**

PHIL 543 Bioethics.....	3
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**Specialty Courses**

NURS 606 Practicum I.....	2
NURS 607 Practicum II.....	2
NURS 609 Nursing Education.....	3
NURS 627 Educational Theories and Curriculum Development.....	3
NURS 628 Nurse Educator Role.....	3
NURS 629 Pathophysiologic Concepts for Clinical Decision Making.....	3
NURS 640 Project.....	2
NURS 642 Thesis Option.....	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37-39</b>