

Fitzpatrick College of Nursing

College of Nursing Directory

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Office: Driscoll Hall, tel. 610-519-4900

Website: <https://www1.villanova.edu/university/nursing.html>

Course descriptions: www.catalog.villanova.edu/courses/nur.html

The health care of a complex and technologically advanced society requires professional nurses who are liberally educated, clinically competent, compassionate and ethically motivated. In responding to these objectives, the College of Nursing is a tangible expression of Villanova's mission, values and commitment to human service.

History

Villanova University first responded to society's need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses in 1932 when it offered a program of study leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education. This commitment was expanded in 1953 to create a College of Nursing that now offers a 4 year BSN program, a BSN program for second degree students, an MSN program, a PhD program, a Doctor of Nursing Practice program and a Continuing Education Program.

Baccalaureate nursing education prepares individuals for professional nursing practice in a variety of health-care settings and for continuous personal and educational growth, including entrance into graduate education in nursing. A liberal education is integrated with the ideals, knowledge, and skills of professional nursing practice under the direction of well-qualified faculty.

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is approved by the State Board of Nursing of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Upon completion of the undergraduate program, graduates are eligible to take the licensing examination (NCLEX-RN) for professional registered nurses. This license is transferable within the United States nationally by state. The BSN, MSN, and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The Nurse Anesthesia Doctor of Nursing Practice is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. The Continuing Education Program is accredited as a provider of Continuing Education in Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, Commission on Accreditation.

Contact Information:

American Nurses
Credentialing Center
8515 Georgia Avenue,
#400 Silver Spring, MD

Commission on Collegiate
Nursing Education
655 K Street NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20001

20910
1-800-284-CERT (2378)
www.nursingworld.org/ancc/

Phone: (202) 887-6791
Fax: (202) 887-8476
www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Department of State Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 2649 Harrisburg, PA
17105-2649
Phone: (717) 783-7142
Fax: (717) 783-0822
<http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/nursing@pados.dos.state.pa.us>

Council on Accreditation of
Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
222 South Prospect Avenue
Park Ridge, Illinois
60068-4001
Phone: (847) 692-7050
Fax: (847) 692-6968
www.aana.com/

Academic Mission

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) is a tangible expression of Villanova University's mission, tradition, and commitment to human service. As a major school of nursing under Catholic auspices, it carries responsibility for the education of nurses within the framework of Christian beliefs and values and the heritage of the Order of St. Augustine. The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing interprets nursing as a healing ministry emanated by love and demonstrated through service and the care of others. As a healing art as well as an applied science and practice discipline, nursing as taught at Villanova University emphasizes the concern for spiritual health as well as that of mind and body. Curricula reflect the integration of these elements and their application in clinical practice, and concern for others regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing educates individuals for service to a diverse society including all sectors and strata of the population; as such, graduates are prepared to assume roles in all settings where health care is delivered.

Within this context, nursing draws its worth and spirit from motives based on love of one's fellow men and women who are made in the image and likeness of God. As a social service to the community, nursing responds to the needs of the sick, poor and disabled, and promotes wellness as the pre-eminent goal of nursing care. The practice of nursing within a Christian environment requires that those who nurse recognize and respect the needs of each person and that they teach while they nurse in order to assist their patients and the community to achieve the highest possible level of wellness of body, mind, and spirit.

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, consistent with the mission of Villanova University, assumes responsibility for the education of individuals who will be prepared to provide a vital service to society and who are liberally educated, clinically competent, compassionate, and ethically motivated. The college is committed to providing high quality education in the liberal arts and sciences and expert preparation in the knowledge and clinical skills of professional nursing to qualified individuals who must be prepared and empowered to confront the health care demands of a complex and technologically advanced society.

The FCN views itself as an important locus of education, scholarship, and organizational leadership within Nursing's professional and educational communities. It views with great seriousness its prominent role within the constellation of collegiate nursing programs under Catholic auspices.

The FCN awards the baccalaureate in nursing (BSN) and provides basic preparation in nursing to those who are studying for the first professional degree in the field. Such students include high school graduates with no prior college experience, college graduates with degrees in other disciplines who have made a decision to study nursing, and adults who are studying for their first college degree.

The Graduate Program awards the master's degree in nursing (MSN), and post-MSN Certificates and provides preparation and leadership development in selected areas of advanced nursing practice, development of research skills, and knowledge of health policy. In addition, course options prepare individuals for positions as educators, nurse practitioners, and nurse anesthetists.

The Graduate Program administers the Doctor of Philosophy degree in nursing (Ph.D.), which is designed to prepare nurses as educators and researchers for academic careers in higher education. The Ph.D. Program at Villanova is unique in that it focuses on the application of advanced nursing knowledge and scholarly inquiry that address professional and practice concerns related to the learning process.

The Graduate Program administers the post-baccalaureate Doctor of Practice – Nurse Anesthesia (DNP-NA) track which is designed to prepare nurses with a sound base of theoretical knowledge and clinical experience in the practice of nurse anesthesia and professional leadership. The Graduate Program also administers the post-masters Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Program which is designed to prepare advanced practice registered nurses, including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Nurse Midwives and Nursing Leaders with advanced knowledge in evidence-based practice, organizational leadership and financial acumen to lead innovation in nursing practice and healthcare.

The Program in Continuing Education is committed to providing quality programs that enhance the professional growth and update the knowledge base of nurses, other health care professionals, and the public on topics related to health care.

The College of Nursing's emphasis on education in values and ethical principles is a pervasive and central theme and emanates from the Catholic and Augustinian tradition of the University. The faculty are expected to serve as role models and mentors for the professional development of students in the exercise of their academic responsibilities.

Academic Policies and Information

Unless otherwise noted, the College of Nursing follows the general university academic policies and regulations listed in the University section of this *Catalog*.

It is the responsibility of the student to know and comply with all academic policies and regulations of the University and of the College of Nursing and to abide by the professional standards established by the College. Such policies may change without prior notice.

Note: if a student withdraws from the College of Nursing and is readmitted at a later date, the requirements in effect at time of readmission will be applied. Policies and regulations specific to Nursing students include the following:

Academic Advising

Every student entering the College of Nursing is assigned a faculty adviser. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their adviser prior to each registration period and if they are experiencing any academic difficulty. Each student must take responsibility to meet with their adviser on an ongoing basis. Advisers are available during posted office hours or by appointment. If the student experiences difficulty in contacting their advisor, there is a Student Success and Retention Advisor available to see a student during regular office hours.

Academic Grievance Procedure

If a student has a grievance within a nursing course, they are advised to speak with the individual teaching the course. If the problem is not resolved at this level, it may be taken to the Course Leader, Program Director, Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Program in that order.

Academic Policies

Students are expected to abide by the policies and professional standards established by the College of Nursing. The College of Nursing reserves the right to change program requirements without prior notice to reflect advances in the professional field. If a student withdraws from the College of Nursing and is readmitted at a later date, the requirements in effect at the time of readmission will be applied.

A grade of "C" or better must be attained in all nursing courses for progress in the nursing major.

Students must achieve an examination average of 73% or better in all nursing theory courses that are paired with a lab or clinical course or have clinical as a component of the course. The course numbers are: NUR 2204, NUR 2206, NUR 3114, NUR 3118, NUR 3120, NUR4104, NUR 4108, and NUR 4112.

The student must also achieve a 73% or better in the overall course grade. Only one nursing course may be repeated in the curriculum prior to dismissal from the program.

A required course may be repeated once prior to dismissal from the program.

Students must complete, in sequence, the required lower division courses, with a Q.P.A. of 2.0 in order to advance to junior level courses with a clinical component. Students who receive less than a "C" in BIO 1205, BIO 1206 or NTR 2120 will be required to repeat the course(s) before advancing to the Junior level nursing courses. Students must successfully complete, in sequence, courses in the nursing major as indicated in the curriculum plan. Students who study on a part-time basis are required to successfully complete the theory class prior to enrolling in the associated practicum course.

The College of Nursing reserves the right to place on probation or withdraw any student whose performance is deemed unsatisfactory.

Students for whom English is not the primary language or not the language spoken in the home will be encouraged to bring translation dictionaries to their examinations and be given extended time on tests.

Extended time is equivalent to time and one half of the usual testing time. Students are expected to self-identify to the course faculty.

International students, who are in the BSN program or RN completion program but who are not expatriates residing permanently or working in the United States and will not sit for NCLEX but return to their countries, may have the progression policies suspended, on a case by case basis, by action of the Dean of the College of Nursing and upon formal recommendation of the Program Director.

Preparation for Registered Licensing Examination

For the purpose of continuously preparing nursing students in the baccalaureate program leading to initial licensure as registered nurses for the comprehensive licensing examination (NCLEX-RN), standardized tests developed for this purpose will be administered and evaluated as part of the final course grades beginning in the sophomore year (or its equivalent) at the student's expense.

All senior nursing students (or the equivalent) are required to demonstrate successful achievement on a designated predictive NCLEX-RN readiness assessment examination prior to graduation. This examination, in combination with any required remediation, must be successfully completed as a prerequisite to certification by the College as part of the application process for state licensure.

Academic Probation and Dismissal

Probation

A student is placed on academic probation in the College of Nursing when:

- A required course is failed.
- A grade less than C is earned in science or nursing courses.
- The QPA is below 2.0 in any given semester.

"Students who are on probation for earning less than a C in a science or nursing course must complete a mandatory plan of study as determined by the Academic Standing and Records Committee. Students who do not complete this plan will remain on academic probation."

Dismissal

Students are usually permitted two semesters of probationary status prior to dismissal from the program. A dismissal from the College may be appealed in writing. Detailed instructions for appeal are outlined in the dismissal letter.

Admission

Regular Students

All applicants for full-time or part-time study must meet the entrance requirements for admission to the University as listed in this *Catalog*.

Transfer Students

Transfer students with a 3.0 Q.P.A. are considered for admission to the College of Nursing on a limited basis. Please see the section on *Transfer Students* in the general University section of this *Catalog*. Further inquiries should be directed to the College of Nursing.

Second Degree Applicants

The College of Nursing welcomes applications from prospective students who wish to begin preparing for a career in nursing. These include individuals who possess undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in other fields. Part-time study is possible during the introductory level of the program when pre-requisites are being completed. Full-time study is required during the clinical portion of the program. All applicants must meet the entrance requirements for admission to the University. This track offers a 14-month and 23-month option for individuals with a bachelor's degree in another discipline. Applicants must demonstrate superior academic achievement in prior course work to be eligible for this program. Further inquiries should be directed to the College of Nursing.

Admission to Closed Sections of Courses

Students will not be permitted to enroll in closed sections. Exceptions to this rule will be made only by the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Program and only when a student must enroll in the specific section in order to complete requirements which are necessary for progression in the program.

Graduate Course Registration for Undergraduate Students

A junior or senior with a 3.00 cumulative quality point average wishing to enroll in a graduate course must have the written approval of the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Program before submitting a request to the Associate Dean of the Graduate Program. A student who wishes to take NUR 8904 Research in Nursing requires a GPA of 3.5.

International Studies

The College of Nursing, in conjunction with the Office of Education Abroad, is pleased to offer a variety of opportunities for Nursing students to study in an overseas university during their course of studies.

The College of Nursing has established a year-long study abroad program with the University of Manchester, Manchester, England. Students in this program spend their entire sophomore year in England. The courses transfer to Villanova as the sophomore year of the nursing curriculum and students graduate on time with their classmates.

The program requires some changes in the first-year course of study; any first-year who is interested should contact the Associate Dean of the Undergraduate Nursing Program or their academic adviser as early as possible. Nursing students may participate in international opportunities offered by the College of Nursing as elective experiences. A nursing major may also participate in any of the summer or semester study abroad programs approved by the University and administered by the Office of Education Abroad. However, since these are not nursing programs, students who participate need to change their course of study and may graduate later than their graduation class. Interested students should see the detailed discussion of International Studies in the Villanova University section of this *Catalog* or contact the Office of Education Abroad, Middleton Hall, second floor, (phone 610-519-6412).

Facilities for Instruction and Practice

The University assumes full responsibility for providing the instruction throughout the entire program. (Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the various facilities utilized for the practice of nursing.) Community based practice of nursing will most likely require individual means of transportation for agency and home visiting. During the professional portion of the curriculum, theory and laboratory are directed by faculty members. Among the agencies used for student experience are the following:

- Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health, Abington, PA
- Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Alfred I. DuPont for Children, Wilmington, DE
- Bryn Mawr Hospital – Mainline Health System, Bryn Mawr, PA
- Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- Holy Redeemer Home Care and Hospice Services, Philadelphia, PA
- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Home Care and Hospice – Mainline Health System, Radnor, PA
- Lankenau Hospital – Mainline Health System, Wynnewood, PA
- Clinical Simulation and Learning Resource Center, Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Mercy Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
- Paoli Hospital – Mainline Health System, Paoli, PA
- Penn Care at Home, Philadelphia, PA
- Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
- Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA
- St. Mary’s Hospital, Langhorne, PA
- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Selected school systems, day-care centers, community health centers, senior citizen centers, and industries are also used.

Curriculum

Degrees and Programs

The College awards the baccalaureate degree in nursing (BSN) and provides basic preparation in nursing to those who are studying for the first professional degree in the field. Such students include high school graduates with no prior college experience, college graduates with degrees in other disciplines who made a later decision to study nursing, and adults who are studying for their first college degree.

The Graduate Program awards the master’s degree (MSN) and provides preparation and leadership development in selected areas of advanced nursing practice, development of research skills and knowledge of health policy. In addition, course options prepare individuals for positions such as clinical teachers, faculty, nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists. The Graduate Program also awards the doctoral degree in nursing (PhD) to individuals who are prepared as teacher-scholars for academic careers in higher education and the Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP) for nurse administrators and advanced practice nurses such as nurse practitioners, registered nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists and certified nurse midwives.

The Program in Continuing Education is committed to providing short courses, conferences, workshops and symposia for nurses, other health professionals and the public-at-large on topics related to health

care. Some of these programs are developed to update the knowledge of practicing nurses while others provide an academic arena for the sharing and critiquing of papers and ideas relevant to current issues or trends in health care.

Program Requirements

Entrance physical examination, selected diagnostic tests, as well as designated immunizations, are required of all nursing students. Additional or repeated health screening tests are required prior to entry into clinical experiences. Students are required to be certified in Basic Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation prior to enrolling in NUR 2207. Continuing re-certification is the responsibility of the student throughout the remainder of the program. As a prerequisite to entry into the nursing program, all students are required to have criminal background checks that comply with the Older Adults Protective Services Act and Child Protective Services Law, as well as urine drug screening, child abuse clearance and FBI fingerprinting.

All nursing students are required to participate in a battery of standardized tests to assess nursing knowledge prior to graduation. The cost is assumed by the students. Permission to take the NCLEX Licensure exam may be delayed based upon a student's academic record and performance on the standardized tests.

Degrees

Fitzpatrick College of Nursing