

# College of Nursing

**M. Louise Fitzpatrick, Ed.D.,** Dean

**Rose M. O'Driscoll, M.S.N.,** Assistant Dean for Administration

**M. Frances Keen, DNSc,** Assistant Dean and Director of Undergraduate Program

**Office:** St. Mary's Hall, first floor, tel. 610/519-4900

**Website:** [www.nursing.villanova.edu](http://www.nursing.villanova.edu)

**Course descriptions:** [www.catalog.villanova.edu/courses/nur.html](http://www.catalog.villanova.edu/courses/nur.html)

## Faculty

**Professors:** Fitzpatrick, Sharts-Hopko

**Associate Professors:** Beletz, Brown, Cantrell, Copel,

Haynor, Keen, Ott, Pickett, Smeltzer, Weingarten, Zamerowski,

**Assistant Professors:** Bradley, Costello, Crumlish, DeSilets, Dowdell,

Erickson, Fetter, Frain, Hinkle, Keech, McGinn, McGovern,

O'Driscoll, Pizzi, Schiller, Smith,

Sullivan, Todd, Willens, Zawacki

Clinical Associate Professor: Capriotti

**Clinical Assistant Professors:** Bruderle, McKenna, Wimmer

**Adjunct Professor:** Wildgust

*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 generic BSN program, a BSN completion program for registered nurses, an accelerated BSN program for second degree students, an MSN program, a PhD program and a Continuing Education Program.

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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 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) for professional registered nurses. This license is transferable within the United States nationally by state. The undergraduate and graduate programs are both fully accredited by the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The Nurse Anesthesia concentration in the graduate program 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  
600 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Suite 100 West  
Washington, DC 20024-2571  
202/651-7000  
1-800-284-CERT (2378)  
[www.nursingworld.org/ancc/](http://www.nursingworld.org/ancc/)

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](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/nursing@pados.dos.state.pa.us)

Commission on Collegiate Nursing  
Education  
One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone: (202) 463-6930  
Fax: (202) 785-8320  
[www.aacn.nche.edu/  
Accreditation/index.htm](http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Accreditation/index.htm)

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/](http://www.aana.com/)

National League for Nursing Accreditation  
Commission  
61 Broadway  
New York, NY 10006  
Phone: (212) 363-5555 x153  
Fax: (212) 812-0390  
[www.nlnac.org/index.html](http://www.nlnac.org/index.html)

## Mission

The College of Nursing 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 academic programs in the College of Nursing are directed to interpretation of 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 College of Nursing educates individuals for service to a diverse society which includes 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 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 College views itself as an important locus of education, research and organizational leadership within nursing's professional and educational communities. It views with great seriousness its prominent role with the constellation of collegiate nursing programs under Catholic auspices.

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, registered nurses who were prepared in hospital or junior college programs and who have not yet attained the baccalaureate, college graduates with degrees in other disciplines who have made a later decision to study nursing, and mature adults who are studying for their first college degree.

The Graduate Program awards the master's degree in nursing (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 as administrators of nursing and health services, case managers, clinical teachers, faculty, nurse practitioners, and nurse anesthetists. The Graduate Program also awards the Doctor of Philosophy degree in nursing (PhD) to

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individuals who are prepared as teacher-scholars for academic careers in higher education.

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 critique of papers and ideas relevant to current issues or trends in 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.

## Degrees and Programs

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## Degree Requirements

### Bachelor of Science in Nursing Curriculum (136 credits)

#### FRESHMAN

<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>credits</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>	<i>credits</i>
CHM 1131	3	CHM 1134	3
CHM 1103	1	CHM 1108	1
CHS 1000	3	CHS 1001	3
NUR 1101	2	NUR 1103	2

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PSY 1000 or SOC 1000	3	SOC 1000 or PSY 1000	3
THL 1050 or PHI 1050	3	PHI 1050 or THL 1050	3
		ENG 1050	3
<b>SOPHOMORE</b>			
BIO 1205	4	BIO 1206	4
BIO 1181	3	NTR 2120	3
NUR 2104	2	NUR 2106	2
NUR 2105	1	NUR 2107	2
PSY 2200	3	MAT 1250	3
Elective	3	Soc. Studies Elective*	3
*Must be selected from the areas of History, Political Science, or Economics in consultation with the student's major adviser.			
<b>JUNIOR</b>			
NUR 3112	6	NUR 3116	6
NUR 3113	6	NUR 3117	6
NUR 3108	3	NUR 3110	3
NUR 3030	3	PHI 2115	3
<b>SENIOR</b>			
NUR 4101	6	NUR 4102	6
NUR 4103	6	NUR 4107	6
NUR 4130	2	NUR 4110	5
THL Elective**	3		

\*\*2000 level or above is recommended

## Program Requirements

Entrance physical examination, selected diagnostic tests, as well as designated immunizations, are required of all nursing students. Additional health screening tests may be required by the various agencies utilized for clinical experience in nursing courses.

Students are required to be certified in Basic Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation prior to enrolling in NUR 2106 and 2107. Continuing re-certification is the responsibility of the student throughout the remainder of the program.

All materials concerning health examinations, diagnostic tests, immunizations, health screening and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation are course requirements for the following courses: 2107, 3113 (Spring Semester Offering) and 4103. They must be on file in the College of Nursing by the end of the Spring final examination period or prior to the first day of class in the *first semester* of enrollment.

All junior and senior 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.

Registered nurse students must furnish evidence of malpractice liability insurance.

## 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 his/her adviser prior to each registration period and if he/she is experiencing any academic difficulty. Each student must take responsibility to meet with his/her adviser on an ongoing basis. Advisers are available during posted office hours or by appointment.

### Academic Grievance Procedure

If a student has a grievance within a nursing course, he/she is 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, and Dean 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.
- 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 2.5 in order to advance to junior level courses.
- Students must successfully complete, in sequence, courses in the nursing major as indicated in the curriculum plan.
- The College of Nursing reserves the right to place on probation or withdraw any student whose performance is deemed unsatisfactory.

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- ❑ Students whose primary language is not English will be encouraged to bring translation dictionaries to their examinations and be given untimed tests.
- ❑ International students, who are in the generic and 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:
  - a. 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 junior year (or its equivalent) at the student's expense.
  - b. 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 the NCLEX-RN examination.

## 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.

**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.

In circumstances involving those students who have entered Villanova University through the Academic Advancement Program, satisfactory progress of the student will be determined by the Academic Standing Committee and/or Dean of the College in which the student is matriculated. In the event that, due to poor high school preparation, additional time is necessary for the student to complete the requirements towards graduation, the student will be viewed as being in a five-year program. Satisfactory progress will be viewed accordingly.

## 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 2.5 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.

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**Adult Students/Second Career Applicants.** The College of Nursing welcomes applications from adults who wish to begin preparing for a career in nursing. These include individuals who possess undergraduate and/or graduate degrees in other fields as well as those adults entering college for the first time. Part-time study is possible during the introductory level of the program. Full-time study is required during the clinical portion of the program. All applicants must meet the entrance requirements for admission to the University. In addition, the College offers an accelerated curriculum 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.

**Registered Nurse Applicants.** Graduates from diploma and associate degree nursing programs are eligible for admission. Requirements for admission include: transcripts from all academic institutions and proof of registered professional nurse licensure. Applicants should apply for admission through the Office of Admissions of the University.

Through a series of nursing examinations and clinical validation, a registered nurse student may demonstrate current nursing knowledge earning 45 credits in nursing. Specific policies and procedures may be obtained through the College of Nursing. Credit by examination is available through the College of Arts and Sciences for non-nursing courses. See the section on Registered Nurses, below.

## 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 Assistant Dean and Program Director of the Undergraduate Program or Assistant Dean for Administration 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 Dean of the College of Nursing.

## International Studies

The College of Nursing, in conjunction with the Office of International Studies, is pleased to offer a variety of opportunities for a Nursing major to study in an overseas university during her/his 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 freshman course of study; any freshman who is interested should contact the Director of the Undergraduate Nursing Program or

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his/her academic adviser as early as possible. 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 International Studies. 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 International Studies in the Villanova University section of this *Catalog* or contact the Office of International Studies, St. Augustine Center, Room 415, (phone 610-519-6412).

### **Withdrawal from a Course (WX)**

Until the final day for authorized withdrawal from courses, approximately three and a half weeks following mid-term break (for exact date, see the academic calendar @ <http://www3.villanova.edu/calendar/>), students may withdraw from a course without penalty and will receive the grade of "WX". After that date, students seeking withdrawals from courses without penalty ("WX") must present to the Dean a written request with valid reasons for the request, such as serious personal or medical problems, and recommendations from the instructor of the course. The Dean of the College is the final authority for granting or refusing the exception on the basis of the documentation and recommendations submitted. Students who do not have a justifiable cause to withdraw from a course without academic penalty may still withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Withdraw from a course may alter a student's degree completion date.

## **BSN Program for Registered Nurse Students**

Registered nurse students achieve advanced standing in the undergraduate program through transfer of applicable college credits and through successful completion of required validation exams in nursing and optional challenge exams in selected liberal education courses. Each of these mechanisms is described below.

### **Requirements**

All registered nurse students are expected to have the following on file prior to enrollment in Nursing 3000 and 3005:

- Entrance Health Examination and Laboratory Studies.
- Current CPR Certification including resuscitation and choking measures for infant, child, and adult with one person and two-person rescue procedures, and review of an Automated External Defibrillator.
- Current Pennsylvania R.N. License.
- Current Malpractice Insurance Certificate.

## Transfer of Liberal Education Course Credit

Up to 64 credits in applicable liberal education courses may be transferred from accredited colleges or universities. A grade of 'C' or better must have been earned, and courses must be evaluated as equivalent to appropriate Villanova courses.

## Credit by Examination (Liberal Education Courses)

Selected liberal education courses may be challenged through the University's Credit by Examination Program. RN students may challenge up to 12 credits in liberal education in accord with the policies and procedures of that program. Information is available from faculty advisers.

## Advisement

RN students are assigned a faculty adviser when admitted to the College and are expected to consult with the adviser on a regular basis.

## Excelsior Validation Exams in Nursing

Four of the five tests are owned and administered by Excelsior College. Within the immediate area, these tests are offered at 6 different colleges. There are six test sessions each year, scheduled between October and August. Registration materials and study guides are available from Excelsior College (Tel. 518/464-8631; Address: 7 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-5159, [www.excelsior.edu](http://www.excelsior.edu)).

The four required Excelsior exams are:

- Professional Strategies in Nursing (#426)
- Maternal-Child Nursing, Baccalaureate (#457)
- Adult Nursing (#554)
- Health Restoration, Area II (#477)

The passing score for each of these exams is a standard score of 45. Each exam may be repeated once, if necessary. All four Excelsior exams must be passed to earn 27 credits in nursing at Villanova. The exams are NOT required for admission to the College, however. Scores are valid for 5 years.

The fifth exam is incorporated within the first required nursing course at Villanova (NUR 3000) and is entitled Clinical Validation Exam. It assesses foundational clinical nursing skills and is designed and implemented by Villanova Nursing faculty. It may be repeated once if necessary, and must be passed to earn 20 additional credits in nursing and to progress in the program.

## COURSE/CREDIT REQUIREMENTS (136 credits)

Physical Sciences/Math	(25 crs)	Nursing	(71 crs)
Anatomy & Physiology	(6-8 crs)	Excelsior Exams and/or	
Organic/Biochemistry	(3-4 crs)	AAS Nursing Credit Transfer	(27 crs)
Microbiology	(3-4 crs)	NUR 3110*	(3 crs)
Nutrition	(3 crs)	NUR 3000/3005	(4 crs)
Statistics	(3 crs)	Clinical Validation Exam	(20 crs)

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Electives	(3 crs)	NUR 4102	(6 crs)
NUR 4107	(5 crs)		
NUR 4110	(6 crs)		
Humanities	(21 crs)	Social/Behavioral Sciences	(12 crs)
English/Literature	(3 crs)	General Psychology	(3 crs)
Philosophy-Health		Developmental Psychology	(3 crs)
Care Ethics	(3 crs)	Introductory Sociology	(3 crs)
Religious Studies	(6 crs)	Elective	(3 crs)
Humanities Elective	(9 crs)		
Free Electives	(6 crs)		

*NOTE:* BSN candidates take NUR 3110; MSN candidates may take NUR 8904 after completing a course in statistics .

## 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:

- Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Alfred I. DuPont for Children, Wilmington, DE
- Belmont Center for Comprehensive Treatment, Philadelphia, PA
- Broomall Presbyterian Village, Broomall, PA
- The Bryn Mawr Hospital, Bryn Mawr, PA
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
- Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Chester, PA
- Delaware County Memorial Hospital, Drexel Hill, PA
- Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA
- Graduate Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
- Holy Redeemer Nazareth Visiting Nurse Agency, Philadelphia, PA
- Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Jefferson Home Health, Bryn Mawr, Pa
- Lankenau Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
- Learning Resource Center, College of Nursing
- Little Flower Manor, Darby, PA
- Main Line Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Paoli, PA
- Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital, Darby, PA
- Mercy Hospital of Philadelphia, PA
- Montgomery Hospital, Norristown, PA
- Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA
- Presbyterian Hospital Home Health, Philadelphia, PA
- St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA

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St. Ignatius Nursing Home, Philadelphia, PA  
St. Joseph's Villa, Flourtown, PA  
Saunders' House, Wynnewood, PA  
Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA  
Veterans Administration Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA  
Visiting Nurse Association, Philadelphia, PA

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

## **Health and Wellness Concentration**

The Health and Wellness Concentration encompasses an understanding of the concepts of healthy living and nutrition and the knowledge of the changing health care system. The knowledge obtained in this concentration can be applied to studies in the areas of social sciences, business and psychology. Requirements for the minor include NUR 2200, NTR 2120 and NUR 7080. Students then choose one of the following courses to complete the requirement: NUR 4800, NUR 4802, NUR 7040, NUR 7081, NUR 7082, NTR 7120. The concentration requirement is 12 credits and is open to all non-nursing majors. Students must have junior status to take the 7000 level courses.

