



### The Passion

Jesuit education and the education of professional nurses at Gonzaga University go hand-in-hand. Both focus on serving others with excellence, knowledge, skill, sensitivity, and ethical integrity. Both center on care for the whole person, not only as a physical being, but also as an intellectual and spiritual individual. Both are dedicated to social justice for all people. Nurses pursue this dedication through the delivery of health care.

Professional nurses strive to promote, maintain, and restore the health of others. As nurses are the health care providers who most directly help individuals during illness, the practice of nursing is active and complex. It requires a well-developed sense of self and the ability to accept and appreciate differences in others. Professional nursing values independent decision-making as well as collaboration with others, whether they are clients or other health care professionals.

### The Program

Because nursing is built on a solid foundation in the basic and behavioral sciences and is informed by ethical principles, the professional nurse must be broadly educated. The ability to think critically and communicate well is just as essential to the profession as competence in the science of nursing. Thus, Gonzaga's Nursing program incorporates liberal learning as well as technical expertise. The combination of a liberal arts foundation and professional study gives students the best of both worlds: a strong academic background combined with a state-of-the-art scientific specialty.

The Department of Nursing offers several options for students with various educational backgrounds, from the incoming freshmen with no previous nursing experience, to the transfer student who may already have an associate degree, to a professional nurse seeking to complete graduate work.

For the incoming freshman or transfer student, the Department of Nursing offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.).

Freshman applicants must indicate nursing as their desired major on the Application for Admission. Students will be notified of admission to the University, followed by notification of admission to the Nursing Program. Students interested in Nursing must have a strong academic record including science and math courses, above-average scores on standardized tests, and an understanding of the field of nursing.

During the first two years at Gonzaga, students complete the GU core courses and the nursing prerequisites. Toward the end of the freshman

year, students have an opportunity to request an 8- or 9-semester program. A 9-semester program allows students the opportunity to study abroad for a semester, to study a foreign language, complete a minor, or repeat a course if necessary.

Once students begin upper division coursework, they rotate through a variety of clinical experiences in acute care and community health settings. The program also prepares students to take the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) after graduation—a requirement for licensure as a registered nurse.

Continuation to the upper division B.S.N. program is contingent upon successful completion of the first two years of college coursework. More specifically, students are expected to earn above a 2.9 GPA with a minimum grade of "C" in all prerequisite courses with the exception of Biology 101 and Chemistry 101 and their respective labs. The minimum acceptable grade in these courses is a "C-." Prerequisite nursing courses can only be repeated once.

Two clinical cohorts begin each year at the upper division—one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. There are often spots available in the spring cohort for transfer students or students who elect to change their major to nursing after the freshman admission process is completed.

Two nursing cohorts begin each year: one in the fall semester and one in the spring. There are often spots available to transfer students in the spring semester cohort, while fall semester offers very few transfer opportunities for nursing students.

*Photo Credits: Alan Bisson, Dean Davis, Eric Galey, Craig Hill, Lauren Intinarelli, Jennifer Raudebaugh, Amy Sinisterra, and Allen Hubbard.*

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### Transfer Students

Transfer students who apply for admission to Gonzaga University as a nursing major will only be accepted if they are “major ready,” which means that they have successfully completed the nursing prerequisites, required lower division nursing courses, and statistics. They must have completed these courses at the time of application or they must be completed by the end of the term in which the application is submitted. Admission to the University does not guarantee admission to the upper-division nursing major. To be eligible for the upper-division nursing major, transfer students must:

- Meet all Gonzaga University admission requirements for transfer students
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.9 on a 4.0 scale
- Maintain a C or better in all nursing prerequisite courses
- Meet algebra proficiency requirements at the community college level, either through proficiency testing or completion of an intermediate algebra course

### Nursing Prerequisite Courses

The following courses are a combination of the Gonzaga Core Curriculum and the required prerequisites for admission to the upper-division nursing program. The courses designated with an asterisk are required for admission to the nursing program.

- English 101 - English Composition
- English 102 - Literary Genres
- Philosophy 101 - Critical Thinking
- Philosophy 201 - Philosophy of Human Nature
- Philosophy 301 – Ethics
- Religious Studies 100-level course
- Religious Studies 200-level course
- Religious Studies 300-level course
- Speech 101
- Biology 101/L - Diversity of Life\*
- Biology 170/L – Microbiology\*
- Chemistry 101/L - General Chemistry\*
- Human Physiology 244 – Nutrition\*
- Human Physiology 241/L - Anatomy/Physiology I\*

- Human Physiology 242/L - Anatomy/Physiology II\*
- Psychology 101 - General Psychology\*
- Sociology 101 – Sociology\*
- Statistics\*
- Nursing 200 – Professional Nursing in a Complex Adaptive System\* (this course is typically offered to transfer students after being admitted to the nursing major and prior to the start of the first semester of upper nursing courses)
- Nursing 210 – Growth & Development\*

### Graduate Programs

Gonzaga’s Nursing Department offers a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree for individuals with a current R.N. license and a baccalaureate degree. Students with an associate degree in nursing and an R.N. license may apply for the accelerated R.N.-M.S.N. program and complete the ten “bridge” courses (30 credits) that prepare them for masters-level courses. There are four options available for students pursuing a master’s degree:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Nurse Educator
- Health Systems Leader

In addition, a Post-Master’s Certificate in Nursing (P.M.C.N.) is offered for nurses with a master’s degree in nursing and a current R.N. license. Finally, Gonzaga offers the C.R.N.A. (Nurse Anesthetist) program through the School of Education.

Please contact the Department of Nursing for more information about graduate programs.

### The Potential

As our country faces a shortage of nursing professionals, the demand for Gonzaga nursing graduates continually increases. A wide variety of career opportunities await Gonzaga B.S.N. graduates in hospitals, public health departments, community clinics, home health care agencies, private medical practices, and schools of nursing. Many students choose to continue their education and pursue M.S.N. degrees at institutions across the nation.

### The People

Gonzaga prides itself on the close relationships that exist between students and their professors. All students in the nursing program will have an advisor who works specifically with them and is familiar with their particular program requirements. Advisors ensure that nursing students are fully engaged in a liberal and humanistic education that prepares them for the nursing profession.

#### Faculty:

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