



Nursing

Professional nurses strive to promote, maintain, and restore the physical, intellectual, and spiritual health of others. The Nursing Department at Gonzaga University seeks to develop thoughtful and reflective nurses who approach patient care with knowledge, skill, sensitivity, and ethical integrity. Nursing coursework and clinical experiences build on the University Core Curriculum and Jesuit traditions that support the development of the whole person and encourage students to become servant leaders within their communities.

THE PROGRAM

Nursing is built on a solid foundation in health and behavioral sciences and is informed by ethical principles. The ability to think critically and communicate well is just as essential to the profession as competence in the science of nursing. Gonzaga's nursing program incorporates a liberal arts foundation and professional study to help students become highly adaptive and effective caregivers.

Students learn to promote health, to care for patients with acute and chronic illnesses, and to support patients and their families from conception through the end of life. The pre-licensure **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)** offered at Gonzaga builds on the curricular themes of servant leadership, social justice, community, and reflective practice. The concept of **Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS)** serves as the organizing framework for the curriculum. One application of this concept is that students initially care for individuals with more predictable healthcare needs. As they progress in the program, they learn to care for individuals, families, and populations with increasingly more complex healthcare needs in intricate organizational settings.

Upon completion of the program, graduates are able to assume a generalist role in nursing with their practice grounded in the key principles and processes of nursing:

- safe, competent, and ethical care
- effective communication
- leadership
- professionalism

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department offers **first-year admission** for students seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. **Students must apply directly to the program at the time they apply for admission to Gonzaga University.** Admission is competitive and will be granted to students with a strong academic record (particularly in the areas of math and science), above-average standardized test scores, and a demonstrated understanding of the field of nursing. Students are encouraged to apply by November 15th through Early Action.

Due to constraints on availability of clinical placements, it may take nine semesters to complete the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program. The Nursing faculty tries to accommodate student requests to complete the program in eight semesters, but the eight semester time frame is not guaranteed. **Students apply for their preferred time frame (eight or nine semester) placement during the second semester of their freshman year** and are notified of their placement by the end of that same academic year. If demand for completion in eight semesters exceeds available clinical placements, students will be placed based on their ranked grade point average in nursing prerequisite courses and progression in the program. Students who are major-ready by the end of their sophomore year but are placed in the nine-semester time frame for the program may take a leave of absence in the fall semester of their junior year. The nine-semester time frame is supported by financial aid in the same way as the eight-semester time frame and it provides students with **opportunities to pursue a minor or to participate in a study abroad program**. Due to the limited amount of nursing practicum space available, **no nursing spots are available for transfer applicants at this time.**

The first two years of study focus on completion of the University Core Curriculum and lower-division nursing courses and prerequisites. Continuation to the upper-division BSN coursework is contingent upon successful completion with at

least a 3.0 GPA and a minimum "C" grade in all prerequisites of the lower-division coursework. Students are expected to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA with a minimum "C" grade in all prerequisite courses. In addition, students may only repeat two prerequisite courses in which a grade of C- or below was earned and still progress to the upper-division nursing courses.

Students in upper-division coursework rotate through a variety of clinical experiences in acute care and community health settings. Upon graduation, students are well prepared to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), a requirement for licensure as a registered nurse. The Department boasted an exam pass rate of 96% for 2015 and 89% for 2016, well above the national average for BSN programs.

NURSING PREREQUISITE COURSES

The following courses are a combination of the Gonzaga University Core Curriculum and the prerequisites required to begin upper-division nursing coursework:

- Biology 105/L - Information Flow in Biological Systems and Lab
- Biology 170/L - Microbiology and Lab
- Chemistry 101/L - General Chemistry and Lab
- Christian and Catholic Traditions
- Communication and Speech
- Fine Arts
- History
- Human Physiology 241/L - Anatomy/Physiology I and Lab
- Human Physiology 242/L - Anatomy/Physiology II and Lab
- Human Physiology 244 - Nutrition
- Literature
- Math 121 - Statistics
- Nursing 100 - Introduction to Nursing
- Nursing 210 - Growth & Development
- Nursing 251 - Social Determinants of Health
- Philosophy 301 - Ethics
- Philosophy 455 - Health Care Ethics
- Psychology 101 - General Psychology
- Sociology 101 - Introduction to Sociology
- World Comparative Religion
- Writing

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES

Once students begin their upper division nursing courses, they also complete a series of practicum or clinical courses that introduce them to professional nursing practice in a variety of healthcare settings. Some experiences include: pediatric nursing in local grade schools and at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center Children's Hospital; geriatric nursing in long-term care and assisted living facilities; medical-surgical nursing at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center (PSHMC) and Providence Holy Family Hospital on Dedicated Education Units (DEU) for Gonzaga nursing students; psychiatric-mental health nursing at Eastern State Hospital and several local community agencies; maternal-child nursing at PSHMC; and community health nursing at a variety of health care agencies. The practicum experiences culminate with a senior practicum where students spend 4 weeks working closely with an RN preceptor in an area of nursing that is of particular interest to them. This experience facilitates the students' transition to the role of professional nurse.



GU ARMY NURSING

Students with exceptional backgrounds in leadership, academics, and athletics who are interested in nursing have a unique opportunity to serve the United States in the Army Nurse Corps and are encouraged to explore Gonzaga's nationally ranked Army ROTC program. The Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program is designed to develop competent, confident, and adaptive leaders with the basic military and leadership foundations necessary not only to lead small units in the Contemporary Operating Environment, but also to evolve into the Army's future senior leaders. The ROTC program prepares students for leadership positions within the Army Nurse Corps. Students simultaneously earn their BSN and a commission as an Army Second Lieutenant. Four-year, three-year, and two-year scholarships are available to ROTC Cadets and guarantee full tuition and fees, on-campus room and board, a monthly stipend, and book allowance.

Upon graduation, Army nurses begin their careers on a medical-surgical unit in order to gain further nursing skills and experience. Army nurses have the opportunity to apply for specialty courses, including ICU, ER, OR, OB/GYN, Psychiatric and Mental Health Care, and Public Health Nursing. In addition to the specialty courses listed, Army Nurse Corps officers can apply for a graduate education program including Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Practitioner, or Certified Nurse Anesthetist. During the time they are in these programs, Army Nurses receive full tuition stipends as well as their full salary and all active duty benefits.

Students interested in Army ROTC should contact LTC Alan Westfield at westfield@gonzaga.edu or (509) 313-6517.



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Students with an associate degree in nursing and an RN license may apply for the accelerated **RN to MSN program** and complete the five “bridge” courses (15 credits) that prepare them for master’s level courses. There is one option available for students pursuing the accelerated RN to MSN degree:

- Health Systems Leader

The Department also offers a **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)** degree and a **Second Master’s degree** for individuals with a current RN license and a baccalaureate degree. The Second Master’s degree in Nursing program is designed for the registered nurse who already possesses a master’s degree with a major in nursing, but desires preparation to function in a new role or specialty area. Students pursuing either the MSN or the Second Master’s degree may choose from three different degree options:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Health Systems Leader

Nurses with a master’s degree in nursing who are practicing as nurse practitioners or health system leaders/nurse administrators are eligible to apply for admission to the **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program**. This program prepares nurses to be leaders and change agents in today’s complex health care system and to use the knowledge and skills gained in the DNP program to initiate improvements in nursing practice and the health care system.

Finally, Gonzaga offers a **Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program** that focuses on clinical

anesthesia and leadership. The DNAP program is designed for registered nurses with bachelor’s degrees who wish to assume leadership roles within the profession of nurse anesthesia. In addition to preparing students to be competent, skilled nurse anesthesia practitioners, it is the mission of the program to nurture and develop innovative, creative leaders for the advancement of the profession.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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 BSN graduates in hospitals, public health departments, community clinics, home health care agencies, and private medical practices. Many students choose to continue their education and pursue MSN, DNP, or DNAP degrees at Gonzaga or other institutions across the nation in order to assume advanced nursing roles.



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