NURSING

www.gonzaga.edu/nursing

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.

The Department offers a direct admission, four-year curriculum for students seeking a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.). Students must apply directly to the program at the time they apply for admission to Gonzaga University. Admission is highly 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.

Due to the limited amount of nursing practicum space available, no nursing spots will be available for transfer applicants in the near future.

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 B.S.N. coursework is contingent upon successful completion of the lower-division coursework. Students are expected to maintain at least a 2.9 GPA with a minimum “C” grade in all prerequisites (excluding Biology 105 and Chemistry 101 and their respective labs—a C- is accepted in those courses). In addition, students may only repeat one prerequisite course 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 traditionally boasts exam pass rates between 95 to 100 percent.

THE PASSION

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.

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:

- English 101 - English Composition
- English 102 - Literary Genres
- Philosophy 101 - Critical Thinking
- Philosophy 201 - Philosophy of Human Nature
- Philosophy 301 - Ethics
- Religious Studies 100
- Religious Studies 200
- Religious Studies 300
- Speech 101
- Biology 105/L - Information Flow in Biological Systems and Lab
- Biology 170/L - Microbiology and Lab
- Chemistry 101/L - General Chemistry and Lab
- Human Physiology 244 - Nutrition
- Human Physiology 241/L - Anatomy/Physiology I and Lab
- Human Physiology 242/L - Anatomy/Physiology II and Lab
- Psychology 101 - General Psychology
- Sociology 101 - Introduction to Sociology
- Math 121 - Statistics
- Nursing 200 - Professional Nursing in a Complex Adaptive System
- Nursing 210 - Growth & Development

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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 B.S.N. 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 basic 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 in programs 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 Dr. Alan Westfield, Senior Military Instructor and Enrollment Officer, at 509-313-6517 or westfield@gonzaga.edu.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Students with an associate degree in nursing and an R.N. license may apply for the accelerated R.N. to M.S.N. program and complete the ten “bridge” courses (30 credits) that prepare them for master’s level courses. There are two options available for students pursuing the accelerated R.N. to M.S.N. degree:

- Nurse Educator
- Health Systems Leader

The Department also offers a Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.) degree and a Second Master’s degree for individuals with a current R.N. 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 M.S.N. or the Second Master’s degree may choose from four different degree options:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Family Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse Educator
- 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 (D.N.P.) 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 D.N.P. program to initiate improvements in nursing practice and the health care system. 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, and private medical practices. Many students choose to continue their education and pursue M.S.N. or D.N.P. degrees at Gonzaga or other institutions across the nation.
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