Degrees Offered

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Master of Science in Nursing Advanced Practice
- Master of Science in Nursing Executive Focus/MBA
- Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia

Introduction

The mission of the WVU School of Nursing is to lead in improving health in West Virginia and the broader society through excellence in student-centered educational programs, research and scholarship, the compassionate practice of nursing, and service to the public and the profession. This mission is responsive to changing healthcare needs and emerging national and state changes in technology and healthcare delivery and is enhanced by a supportive and open environment. The faculty’s educational effort is directed at providing high quality, student-centered programs of instruction at all levels which prepare superb professional nurses to meet basic healthcare needs; advance practiced nurses to address complex health needs; and enable doctorally educated nurses to advance nursing knowledge through research, to assist in the formulation of policies to improve health care, and to serve as faculty in higher degree programs. Unique characteristics of the state mandates that the healthcare needs of rural populations and vulnerable groups be a major focus of education, research, and service, including faculty practice.

The School of Nursing offers undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate certificate programs of study. The baccalaureate program (BSN) is available for high school graduates who aspire to a career in nursing (basic students) and to registered nurses (RN) who are licensed graduates of associate degree or diploma nursing programs seeking to continue their career development. In addition, a BS/BA to BSN program is available for the college graduate seeking a BSN.

The WVU School of Nursing and the John Chambers College of Business & Economics offer a dual master’s degree program to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to serve as a nurse leader. This blended degree program (totaling 64 credit hours) is done predominately online, and includes four 3-4 day residencies. Students take courses from both the MSN and MBA program concurrently. Graduates of the MSN (Executive Focus) and MBA program can work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practice, nonprofit organizations and public sectors.

The WVU School of Nursing offers a 46 credit hour Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree that provides the skills necessary to sit for advanced practice certification. The major areas of study are Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP). Courses are offered via web-based modalities using synchronous and asynchronous meeting patterns. The MSN program offers a curriculum that allows students to enroll on a part-time or full-time basis. It is a strong recommendation by the University and the School of Nursing that Graduate students limit their credit load if they are also involved in full-time work. Full-time work and studies may negatively affect the student’s ability to succeed academically.

Post-graduate nurse practitioner certificate programs for family nurse practitioner and pediatric nurse practitioner are available for those who already have an MSN.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) prepares advanced practice nurses who will practice at the highest level of professional nursing and will advance the application of nursing knowledge for the purpose of improving healthcare for diverse populations.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice in Nurse Anesthesia prepares registered nurses to become Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) through a rigorous, challenging curriculum based on the Standards of Accreditation from the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs (COA) and the DNP Essentials of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Only offered as a full-time program, students are required to take 87 credits over 3 years or 9 continuous semesters. The program is not yet accredited but is seeking accreditation through the COA. An accreditation decision is anticipated in Fall, 2019.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing (PhD) prepares nurse scholars/scientists for roles in research, teaching and service. The program prepares graduates who will contribute to the body of nursing knowledge, educate the next generation, and lead, ultimately impacting health policy, improving health, and reducing disparity.

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing/master's degree program in nursing/Doctor of Nursing Practice program at West Virginia University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.

Fees, Expenses, Housing, Transportation, and Immunization

Students enrolling at the Morgantown campus pay fees which are detailed at http://admissions.wvu.edu/pay. Special fees and deposits are also required. Students enrolling at other sites pay the fees shown in the catalog for that site. Fees are subject to change without
notice. Students’ expenses vary according to the course of study and individual needs. Information concerning financial assistance, application forms, and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form may be obtained from the financial aid website at https://financialaid.wvu.edu/students/professional-hsc/ or by contacting the HSC Financial Aid Office, PO Box 9810, Morgantown, WV 26506-9810; telephone (304) 293-3706 (toll free) or 1-800-344-WVU1.

The University Housing and Residence Life Office, telephone (304) 293-4491, provides information concerning university-owned housing. The Student Life Office in E. Moore Hall, telephone (304) 293-5611, provides information concerning privately owned, off-campus housing.

Students are expected to provide their own transportation, equipment, and instruments for the clinical courses. Some clinical experiences require travel in a multi-county area.

Proof of specific immunizations is required for all health sciences students. Students in the BSN, BA/BS to BSN, MSN Advanced Practice, DNP, and Post graduate certificate programs must undergo a criminal background check prior to clinical courses. Felony convictions and serious misdemeanors may preclude participation in the clinical courses. This could, in turn, prevent the completion of course requirements and completion of the nursing program.

Scholarships

The School of Nursing offers several scholarships. These scholarships are administered by the Health Science Center Financial Aid Office and require completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form in order to be considered for financial aid. Most School of Nursing scholarships are available only to students already admitted to the School of Nursing and are awarded each April for the following academic year. However, there are a limited number of scholarships for which students may apply before admission. Further information is provided on the School of Nursing website: https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/students/current-students/.

Additional Information

Visit the School of Nursing website at https://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/ (http://nursing.hsc.wvu.edu/). Call the WVU School of Nursing Office of Student and Alumni Services at 1-866-WVUNURS or (304) 293-1386. Write to WVU School of Nursing at PO Box 9600, Morgantown, WV 26506-9600

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Degree Designation Learning Outcomes

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING EXECUTIVE FOCUS/MBA

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing Executive Focus/MBA, the graduate will be prepared to:

- Synthesize theories, research findings, and broad-based perspectives for application in the advanced practice of nursing or nursing leadership:
  1. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations.
  2. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations.
  3. Utilize nursing and related science evidence to analyze, design, implement and evaluate nursing care delivery systems.

- Utilize systematic inquiry and refined analytical skills in the provision of health care services and leadership:
  1. Integrate organizational science and informatics to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes.
  2. Assume a leadership role in the management of human, fiscal, and physical healthcare resources.
  3. Critically appraise existing literature to identify best practices, apply knowledge to improve and facilitate systems of care in order to improve patient outcomes.
  4. Disseminate results through translational scholarship.
• Demonstrate safe, effective assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation skills in managing the care of individuals and groups while working in interprofessional collaborative relationships.

  1. Create a relationship with clients and healthcare organizations that builds and maintains a supportive and caring partnership.
  2. Analyze best practice evidence to implement effective quality improvement initiatives with measurable results.
  3. Advocates for patients, families, caregivers, communities and members of the healthcare team.

• Articulate viewpoints and positions in order to improve the quality of health care delivery and outcomes of successful care.

  1. Assume a leadership role in effectively implementing patient safety and quality improvement initiatives within the context of the interprofessional team using effective communication skills.
  2. Examine the effect of legal and regulatory processes on nursing practice, healthcare delivery, and outcomes.
  3. Use ethical decision making to promote the well-being of individuals, families, and health care professionals in local, national & international communities.

• Consults and collaborates in interdisciplinary and interagency endeavors to advance culturally sensitive health care to clients, families, groups, and communities:

  1. Synthesize broad ecological, global and social determinants of health; principles of genetics and genomics; and epidemiologic data to design and deliver evidence-based, culturally relevant clinical prevention interventions and strategies.

• Integrates prior and current learning as a basis for growth and accountability in enacting the role of advanced practice nurse or nurse leader:

  1. Advocate for patients, families, caregivers, communities, and members of the healthcare team.
  2. Use information and communication technologies to advance patient education, enhance accessibility of care, analyze practice patterns, and improve health care outcomes, including nurse sensitive outcomes.
  3. Value life-long learning and continued professional development.

• Assume a leadership role in advocacy, ethical issues, and health care policy development:

  1. Apply leadership skills and decision making in the provision of culturally responsive, high-quality nursing care, healthcare team coordination, and the oversight and accountability for care delivery and outcomes.
  2. Function as a leader and change agent in nursing and in health care delivery systems particularly to insure quality care for vulnerable and underserved populations.
  3. Demonstrates organizational and systems leadership that continually improves health outcomes and ensures patient safety.

• Integrates all the functional areas of business into management decisions in a global environment.

  1. Evaluate factors that influence the competitive behavior of the firm.
  2. Predict and anticipate company and market responses to external factors.
  3. Identify the risks and opportunities in global markets.

• Identify problems, collect appropriate data and analyze the data to make informed management decisions.

  1. Evaluate business reports to make meaningful decisions for the organization.
  3. Take real world problems and express them in quantitative terms.

• Make management decisions in an ethically sensitive and socially responsible manner.

  1. Negotiate and control information ethically to meet organizational needs.
  2. Understand how to use and acquire information in an ethically sensitive manner.
  3. Synthesize various ethical theories and design a corporate code of ethics.

• Be effective team members in a virtual environment.

  1. Demonstrate the ability to work together in a supportive and effective manner.

• Be an effective leader who influences people towards the attainment of organizational goals.

  1. Recommend actions for leader effectiveness in a scenario case and apply a theory or framework to propose and defend their recommendations.
2. Identify various leadership styles and their relative effectiveness, along with real-life examples.
3. Evaluate, in a case setting, the processes through which goals are set and accomplished in organizations.

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING ADVANCED PRACTICE (MSN)**

Upon completion of the Master of Science in Nursing Advanced Practice program, the graduate will be prepared to:

- Use disciplined reasoning from sciences and the humanities to:
  a. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations.
  b. Design nursing care for a clinical or community focused population based on biopsychosocial, public health, nursing and organizational sciences.
  c. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene, and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery.
  d. Analyze nursing history to expand thinking and provide a sense of professional heritage and identity.

- Incorporate current and emerging genetic/genomic evidence in providing advanced nursing care to individuals, families, and communities while accounting for patient values and clinical judgment through:
  a. Synthesizing broad ecological, global and social determinants of health; principles of genetics and genomics; and epidemiologic data to design and deliver evidence based, culturally relevant clinical prevention interventions and strategies.
  b. Designing patient-centered and culturally responsive strategies in the delivery of clinical prevention and health promotion interventions and/or services to individuals, families, communities, and aggregates/clinical populations.
  c. Integrating clinical prevention and population health concepts in the development of culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate health education, communication strategies, and interventions.

- Support quality improvement and patient safety by:
  a. Synthesizing broad ecological, global and social determinants of health; principles of genetics and genomics; and epidemiologic data to design and deliver evidence based, culturally relevant clinical prevention interventions and strategies.
  b. Designing patient-centered and culturally responsive strategies in the delivery of clinical prevention and health promotion interventions and/or services to individuals, families, communities, and aggregates/clinical populations.
  c. Integrating clinical prevention and population health concepts in the development of culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate health education, communication strategies, and interventions.

- Demonstrate organizational and systems leaderships that:
  a. Emphasizes clinical practice.
  b. Continually improves health outcomes.
  c. Ensures patient safety.

- Analyze and evaluate evidence to integrate scholarship into practice through:
  a. Integrating theory, evidence, clinical judgment, and interprofessional perspectives to improve practice and health outcomes for patient aggregates.
  b. Articulating to a variety of audiences the evidence base for practice decisions, including the credibility of sources of information and the relevance to the practice problem.
  c. Applying practice guidelines to improve practice.
  d. Participating, and leading when appropriate, in collaborative teams to improve care outcomes and support policy changes through knowledge generation, dissemination, and implementation.

- Demonstrate proficiency in the analysis and use of information systems and technology to sustain improvements and promote transparency using high reliability and just culture principles through:
  a. Analyzing current emerging technologies to support safe practice environments, and to optimize patient safety, cost-effectiveness, and health outcomes.
  b. Using information and communication technologies, resources, and principles of learning to teach patients and others.
  c. The use of current and emerging technologies in the care environment to support lifelong learning for self and others.

- Assume an advocacy role in healthcare policy by:
  a. The analysis of the influence of policy on the structure and financing of health care practice and health outcomes.
  b. Participation in the development and implementation of institutional, local, state, and federal policy.
  c. The examination of the effect of legal and regulatory processes on nursing practice, health care delivery, and outcomes.
  d. Interpreting research and bringing the nursing perspective for policy makers and stakeholders.
  e. Advocating for policies that improve the health of the public and the nursing profession.
• Collaborate with other professions to improve patient and population health outcomes by:
  a. Advocating for the value of the professional nurse as members, and leaders when indicated, of interprofessional healthcare teams.
  b. Using collaboration in the design, coordination, and evaluation of patient-centered care.
  c. Mentoring and coaching new and experienced nurses and other members of the healthcare team.
  d. Understanding other health professions scopes of practice to maximize contributions within the healthcare team.

• Plan, manage, and evaluate evidence-based clinical prevention and population care by:
  a. Evaluating the effectiveness of clinical prevention interventions that affect individual and population-based health outcomes.
  b. Delivering patient-centered and culturally responsive strategies in prevention and health promotion to individuals, families, communities, and aggregates/clinical populations.

• Ensure accountability for advanced practice based on refined assessment skills; advanced communication skills; and biophysical, genetic, genomic, psychosocial, sociopolitical, economic, ethical, and cultural principles through:
  a. Delivering safe, quality care to diverse populations in a variety of settings and roles.
  b. Conducting a comprehensive and systematic assessment as a foundation for decision making.
  c. Applying the best available evidence from nursing and other sciences as the foundation for practice.
  d. Using knowledge of illness and disease management to provide evidence-based care to populations, perform risk assessments, and design plans or programs of care.
  e. Incorporating core scientific and ethical principles in identifying potential and actual ethical issues arising from practice, in assisting patients and other healthcare providers to address such issues.

**DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE ONLINE PROGRAM**

Upon completion of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, the graduate will be prepared to:

• Use disciplined reasoning, science-based theories, and concepts from sciences and humanities to:
  a. Determine the nature and significance of health and health care delivery phenomena.
  b. Describe actions and advance strategies to improve healthcare delivery, to diverse populations.
  c. Develop, deliver, and evaluate theory-based health care.
  d. Analyze nursing history to expand thinking and provide a sense of professional heritage and identity.

• Demonstrate organizational and systems leadership that:
  a. Emphasizes clinical practice.
  b. Continually improves health outcomes.
  c. Ensures patient safety.

• Use analytical methods, evidence, and nursing science to:
  a. Critically appraise existing literature to identify and evaluate best practices and practice guidelines.
  b. Facilitate the evaluation of systems of care in order to improve patient outcomes.
  c. Serve as a practice specialist/consultant in collaborative knowledge generating research.
  d. Disseminate results through translational scholarship.

• Demonstrate proficiency and provide leadership for the integration of information systems/technology to:
  a. Support, monitor, and improve patient care, healthcare systems, clinical decision-making, nurse-sensitive outcomes, and academic settings.
  b. Support quality improvement and patient safety.

• Assume a leadership role in advocacy and health care policy development.

• Establish, participate, and lead interprofessional collaborations for improving patient, population, and systems outcomes.

• Develop, implement, and evaluate practice and healthcare delivery models for the purpose of quality improvement and improved patient outcomes considering:
  a. Safety and quality.
  b. Epidemiological, bio-statistical, environmental, and other appropriate scientific data.
  c. Culturally appropriate care.
  d. Values based professional practice and behaviors.
  e. Economies of care, business principles and health policy related to individual, aggregate, and population health.

• Ensure accountability for advanced practice based on refined assessment skills, advanced communication skills, biophysical, genetic, genomic, psychosocial, sociopolitical, economic, ethical, and cultural principles.

• Practice and provide services for populations with in the area of advanced nursing specialization.
DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE IN NURSE ANESTHESIA

Upon completion of the Nurse Anesthesia Major, the graduate will be prepared to:

1. Implement advanced knowledge in nurse anesthesia science, theory, and practice.
2. Evaluate, develop, implement, and lead organizational change to improve care delivery and quality.
3. Develop evidence-based interventions and implement solutions to address clinical problems.
4. Examine and evaluate technology and the utility of information systems and data to improve patient care.
5. Influence and participate in health policy development in the institution and region of practice.
6. Collaborate with the healthcare community, working with nursing, medical, surgical and anesthesia team members to promote patient advocacy and safety.
7. Demonstrate technical, professional, and cultural competence in nurse anesthesia practice by safely caring for patients across the lifespan and at all levels of acuity.
9. Participate in the clinical, administrative, and educational advancement of fellow CRNAs and other advanced practice practitioners.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD)

Upon completion of the PhD program, the graduate will be prepared to:

1. Rigorously test, generate, and extend knowledge to inform nursing science, practice, and policy.
2. Contribute to the development of knowledge and interventions to address health disparity and promote or improve health.
3. Assume collaborative leadership roles in academia, health organizations, research teams, and scholarly networks.
4. Demonstrate expertise within an area of study that incorporates nursing and trans disciplinary perspectives.

School of Nursing Academic Progression Standards

MSN EXECUTIVE FOCUS/MBA

In order to progress in the Master of Science in Nursing Executive Focus/MBA curriculum, a student must meet the following performance standards:

1. Achieve an overall academic Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 in all work attempted in the Master's Program.
2. Carry forward only one C grade in a nursing course. A second C in a nursing course will result in dismissal from the program.
3. Maintain a 3.0 GPA. A student who falls below 3.0 on 9 or more credit hours will be placed on academic probation and has one semester to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement.
4. Repeat only one nursing course and only one time.
5. Earn a letter grade (A, B, C) on all required courses. A grade of D or F in any course results in dismissal from the program.

MSN ADVANCED PRACTICE, POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE AND DNP

In order to progress in the MSN Advanced Practice, Post-Graduate Certificate, or DNP curriculum, a student must meet the following performance standards:

1. Achieve and maintain an overall academic Grade Point Average of at least:
   a. 3.0 in all work attempted in the MSN Advanced Practice or DNP program. A student who falls below 3.0 on nine or more credit hours will be placed on academic probation and has only one semester to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement. Failure to raise the cumulative GPA to 3.0 in one semester will result in dismissal from the program.
   b. Post-Graduate Certificate students are required to take fewer credits than those in the degree programs. Therefore, a GPA lower than 3.0 will not be grounds for probation or dismissal. However, students earning two C grades, a D or an F will be dismissed from the Post-Graduate Certificate Program.
2. Carry forward only one C grade in a nursing course. A second C in a nursing course will result in dismissal from the program.
3. Repeat only one nursing course and only one time.
4. Earn a letter grade (A, B, C) on all required courses. A grade of D or F in any course results in dismissal from the program.
5. If a student needs to withdraw from all courses in a semester, the student must meet with his or her advisor to request a Leave of Absence if he/she plans to return to course work.
6. Students at all times are expected to demonstrate professionalism, and respect for faculty, staff, preceptors, and student colleagues. If a student is dismissed from his or her clinical placement site for lack of professionalism or if the student's behavior compromises the school's relationship with the agency, the student is subject to failure in the course and subject to dismissal from the program.
DNP NURSE ANESTHESIA
To progress in the graduate curriculum, a nurse anesthesia program student must meet the following performance standards. Failure to meet the criteria below will result in dismissal from the program.

1. Achieve and maintain an overall academic Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 in all work attempted in the Graduate Practice Program. A student who falls below 3.0 on nine or more credit hours will be placed on academic probation and has only one semester to bring up the GPA to the 3.0 requirement. Failure to raise the cumulative GPA to 3.0 in one semester will result in dismissal from the program.

2. Carry forward only one C grade in a core nursing course. A second C in a core nursing course will result in dismissal from the program. An exception for Nurse Anesthesia students: A student earning below a B- grade in any anesthesia specialty course or clinical practicum must repeat the course. This means the student will fall out of progression with the current cohort and must wait until the course is offered in the next academic year.

3. Repeat only one nursing course and only one time.

4. Earn a letter grade (A, B, C) on all required courses. A grade of F in any course results in dismissal from the program.

5. If a student needs to withdraw from all courses in a semester, the student must meet with his or her faculty and academic advisors to request a Leave of Absence if he/she plans to return to course work.

6. Students at all times are expected to demonstrate professionalism and respect for faculty, staff, preceptors, and student colleagues. If a student is dismissed from his or her clinical placement site for lack of professionalism, or if the student's behavior compromises the school's relationship with the agency, the student is subject to failure in the course and subject to dismissal from the program.

7. Any student who has been dismissed from the West Virginia University School of Nursing will not be readmitted to the program.

PHD
To progress in the PhD curriculum, a student must meet the following performance standards:

1. Nursing course are taken in the sequence specified in the School of Nursing PhD Progression Plan. All prerequisites from preceding semesters must be completed prior to registration for new courses.

2. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to progress in the program and must achieve an overall academic GPA of 3.0 in all coursework applied to the PhD degree.

3. Students may carry forward one C grade in any course to be applied to the PhD degree. A second C will result in dismissal from the program.

4. Students with a grade of D or F in any course will be dismissed from the program.

5. The grade of "I" is given when the instructor believes that the coursework is unavoidably incomplete or that a supplementary examination is justifiable. Resolution of the grade of "I" will occur in the semester following its issuance and before any graduate degree can be awarded. If the "I" grade is not removed within the following semester, the grade of "I" is converted to an "F" (failure). When an "I" grade is replaced, the grade point average is recalculated on the basis of the new grade.

Accreditation
The School of Nursing has specialized accreditation through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The baccalaureate degree program in nursing, the master's degree program in nursing, and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at West Virginia University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, 655 K Street, NW, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20001, 202-887-6791.