



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 diverse 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

DISTINCT OPPORTUNITIES

- The Nursing Program is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
- The nursing faculty have diverse practice and educational backgrounds.
- The small class sizes allow the faculty to provide individual attention, with a focus on **Cura Personalis**, or care of the whole person. Themes of social justice and the development of a strong sense of ethical decision making are emphasized.
- Gonzaga BSN graduates are highly recruited both regionally and nationally.
- 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), and a demonstrated understanding of the field of nursing.
- The application deadline is December 1st.

CURRICULUM

Students will be placed in either a Fall or Spring start for their junior year of upper-division BSN degree.

- **The Spring start is desirable for students who wish to study abroad for a semester, complete a minor, or spread the credit load over nine semesters.**
- The nine-semester (Spring start) timeframe is supported by financial aid in the same way as the eight-semester (Fall start) option.
- The first two years of study focus on completion of the University's 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 lower-division prerequisite 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.

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 (PSHMC) Children's Hospital.
- Geriatric nursing in long-term care and assisted living facilities.
- Medical-surgical nursing at PSHMC, Providence Holy Family Hospital, and MultiCare Valley Hospital.
- Psychiatric-mental health nursing at Eastern State Hospital and several local community agencies.
- Maternal-child nursing at PSHMC and other hospitals.
- Community health nursing at a variety of community-based 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.

CAREER OUTCOMES

As the 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.



SUCCESS RATE

95%

(May 2022 Graduates)

SUCCESS RATE

85%

(December 2022 Graduates)

AVERAGE SALARY

\$81,128

(Average BSN Salary in Spokane, WA,
May 2022- Indeed.com)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Students with an associate degree in nursing and an RN license may apply for the accelerated RN to Master of Science in Nursing (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: Nursing Leadership in Healthcare (NLH).

The Department also offers an MSN degree for individuals with a current RN license and baccalaureate degree.

- The Second Master’s degree in Nursing 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
 - Nursing Leadership in Healthcare

Nurses with a bachelor’s degree or a master’s degree in nursing are eligible to apply for admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

- The post-master’s degree option is designed for individuals who are practicing as nurse practitioners or health system leaders/nurse administrators.
- The DNP 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 specialty of nurse anesthesia.



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