

NURSING

Program of Study

The School of Nursing offers a variety of program plans for graduate study:

- a. The Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) to Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)
- b. The Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) for those with an MSN
- c. Individualized plans of study leading to an MSN, for nurse practitioners of various specialties who hold a baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing or other appropriate health-related field, and wish to become advanced practice nurses with an MSN. In addition, an option for the MSN for the nurse who seeks graduate education but is not interested in the nurse practitioner role will be tailored to an individual's experience and needs. Students in the RN to BSN program may proceed into the MSN program if eligible. The graduate program, initiated in 1992, offers a flexible program for full-time and part-time study. The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, the Registered Nurse Studies program (RN to BSN), and the MSN program of The University of Maine School of Nursing are accredited by the CCNE (Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education).

The curriculum provides a theoretical and clinical base that enables graduates to engage in advanced professional practice, either through the role of the nurse practitioner or the nurse in an advanced practice role. The family nurse practitioner is a primary care provider educated to integrate theory, research, and clinical knowledge in promoting health and assessing and managing common health problems across the lifespan. Graduate options for practitioners prepare the nurse for various credentialing examinations, under the guidelines of the specialty organization (e.g. FNP). This program contains a focus on health issues specific to rural and other underserved populations. Students seeking an advanced degree in nursing with a focused educator, administrator, or leadership role are encouraged to inquire about the individualized option.

Clinical Facilities

Clinical sites are located in many rural areas throughout the state. Our primary concern is to insure that each student has the opportunity for an appropriate clinical experience with a qualified preceptor. Education, administration, or other individualized options will have an appropriate field experience.

Students

There are clinical placements for approximately 10 new students per year. Enrollment in clinical courses is limited by availability of clinical sites/clinical faculty. Up to 20 students may be enrolled in support courses (e.g. Pharmacology, Research, Theory Development). Non-matriculated students may take these support courses, with permission of the instructor. Prospective applicants may wish to take support courses as a way of determining aptitude and interest in the graduate nursing program.

Financial Aid

Students are eligible for Department of Health and Human Services Advanced Education Nurse Traineeships when they enter their clinical courses. Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield also generously funds one outstanding graduate student annually, in the student's final year. Students who elect to do a thesis are qualified to compete for the University Graduate Research Assistant awards.

Applying

Those interested in applying are encouraged to call the School of Nursing for further information. Prerequisites for admission include a grade of B or better in an undergraduate physical assessment course, undergraduate research course, and undergraduate statistics course; and undergraduate GPA of 3.0; satisfactory GRE or MAT scores; current licensure as a registered nurse in Maine. At least two years of experience as an RN are required prior to entry into clinical courses. Applications should be submitted directly to The Graduate School.

Correspondence

The Graduate School
 University of Maine
 5755 Stodder Hall Room 42
 Orono, ME 04469-5755
 207-581-3291
graduate@maine.edu

University of Maine
 School of Nursing
 5724 Dunn Hall
 Orono, ME 04469-5724
 207-581-2528
ursula.pritham@umit.maine.edu

Graduate Faculty

Nancy Fishwick, Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve, 1993), Assistant Professor and Interim Director. Domestic violence, rural health, primary health care.

Catherine Berardelli, Ph.D.(Adelphi U., 1994), Associate Professor and RN Studies Coordinator. Women's health, preterm labor, weight reduction via gastric bypass.

Elizabeth Bicknell, M.S.N. (Boston U., 1982), Associate Professor. Nursing administration, gerontology and community health.

Mary Reagan Brakey, D.N.Sc. (Widener, 1999), Associate Professor. Oncology, cancer education, role socialization.

Judy Kuhns-Hastings, Ph.D. (Wayne State, 2000), Associate Professor. Health promotion, health maintenance.

Ursula A. Pritham, Ph.D. (University of Maine, 2009), Assistant Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator. Women's health, maternal/newborn nursing, primary care, community health.

Patricia Poirier, Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts, Boston 2005), Assistant Professor, Oncology, Fatigue and Policy.

Ann Sossong, Ph.D. (Catholic U. of America, 2002), Associate Professor. Health Policy, ethics in health care, core competencies in nursing.

Emeritus Faculty

Carol Wood, Ed.D. (Maine, 1992), Associate Professor. Postdate pregnancy, gestational age assessment, osteoporosis.