School of Nursing

Administration

Deanna C. Britt, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N., Ph.D.
Dean, School of Nursing
Professor of Nursing

Associate Dean, School of Nursing
Assistant Professor of Nursing

Sharon J. Kopis, R.N., B.S.N., M.S., Ed.D., CNE
Chair of DNP Program
Associate Professor of Nursing

Kimberly Little, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.N., Ph.D., CNE
Chair of MSN Program
Associate Professor of Nursing

FACULTY
All faculty are listed at the end of this catalog in the Faculty Roster. There are separate rosters for Full-Time and Part-Time faculty. The entire roster can also be viewed online at http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?action=faculty&PID=19959&CatID=21 where faculty can be searched for by Department.

PURPOSE
In accordance to the missions of the University and the School of Nursing, the purpose of the Nursing Graduate Programs is to prepare nursing leaders, nurse educators, and advanced practice nurses to transform the nursing profession through character development, leadership, and scholarship. Grounded in Biblical values, the Nursing Graduate Programs focus on the care of the whole person; body, mind, and spirit.

As a condition of Liberty’s Certificate of Approval from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education, the following disclaimer pertains to Liberty’s online programs in Nursing:

Nursing: State approval of a program to offer Alabama licensed nurses opportunities for advanced degrees does not indicate eligibility for approval to practice as an advanced practice nurse in Alabama. Applicants for approval in Alabama are required to meet the Alabama requirements for national certification, graduation from a specific-type program for the advanced practice approval, and completion of the appropriate application. Any program offering a pre-licensure track to Alabama students shall meet the requirements of the Alabama regulations for pre-licensure programs or the graduates may not be eligible to take the
Master of Science in Nursing (M.S.N.)

PURPOSE
Liberty University’s **Master of Science in Nursing** program is founded on a Christian worldview and designed to prepare competent men and women in the field of nursing education and nursing administration. The program prepares students as nurse educators and faculty members in schools of nursing, and nurse administration/leaders. Graduates are equipped with the critical thinking skills, leadership, and knowledge needed to promote the profession of nursing through clinical practice, teaching, research, program development and implementation, and scholarship.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES
The student will be able to:

1. Integrate research and scholarship into advanced nursing practice (AACN/CCNE I, IV, NLN 7, ANA-Admin. 10, 13, 15).
2. Influence nursing practice by integrating policy criteria and advocacy skills (AACN/CCNE VI, NLN 8, ANA-Admin. 16).
3. Employ quality improvement, safety standards, and outcomes management to support best practices in nursing (AACN/CCNE III, IX, NLN 6, ANA-Admin. 7).
4. Collaborate with members of interprofessional teams to promote culturally competent population health care and clinical prevention in a variety of settings (AACN/CCNE VII, VIII, ANA-Admin. 5b, 10, 11).
5. Utilize innovative health care technologies in a variety of practice settings (AACN/CCNE V, NLN1, ANA-Admin. 14).
6. Apply Christian Worldview and ethical decision making to Advanced Nursing Practice (LU mission, AACN/CCNE IX, NLN 6, ANA-Admin 12).
7. Demonstrate leadership in a variety of professional practice and educational settings (AACN/CCNE II, IX, NLN 5, 8, ANA-Admin. 3, 15).

Nursing Administration Concentration

The student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate consultation and collaboration with interdisciplinary teams to direct health care systems delivery of nursing services and professional practice (ANA-Admin. 5c, 11, 10).
2. Provide health care systems management utilizing the nursing process* to perform strategic planning, fiscal and resource management and evaluation of outcomes (ANA-Admin. 1-6, 14).
3. Utilize evidence to create a culture of safety and quality based on nursing values, advocacy, current nursing practice, legal ethical and regulatory compliance (ANA-Admin. 7, 8, 9, 12).

*Assessment, diagnosis/data analysis, outcomes identification, planning, implementation, and outcomes evaluation.
**Nurse Educator Concentration**

The student will be able to:

1. Design nursing curricula that reflects student learning needs, innovative teaching strategies, assessment and evaluation of learning outcomes that support a positive learning environment (NLN competencies 3 and 4).
2. Construct a learning environment based on educational theory and evidence-based practice which promotes individual learner needs (NLN competency 1).
3. Demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities in creating a learning environment that supports individual goals and diverse student needs (NLN competency 2).

**ACCREDITATION**
The Master of Science in Nursing program at Liberty University is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20036, 202-887-6791.

**CERTIFICATION**
The Master of Science in Nursing – Nurse Educator Concentration may meet the educational requirements of the National League of Nursing’s Nurse Educator Certification. The Nurse Administration concentration may meet the educational requirements of the American Nurse Credentialing Center’s Nurse Executive/Nurse Executive Advanced Certification.

**Note:** Certification and eligibility requirements are changed periodically by credentialing bodies and are out of the control of the academic institution. Credentialing bodies such as the National League of Nursing and the American Nurse Credentialing Center make the final determination to sit for any exams they may offer.

**PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION PROCEDURES**
All policies and procedures for admission to graduate programs as stated in this Catalog apply unless otherwise stated. The following criteria are established to encourage applications from qualified students who are highly motivated, self-directed, and academically competent to ensure selection of individuals who possess abilities that will enable them to successfully pursue graduate study in nursing. Each applicant must submit documentation to the Office of Graduate Admissions [gradadmissions@liberty.edu] that addresses the following criteria:

1. Graduate of a nationally accredited nursing program/school or its equivalent. Accrediting bodies include: Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
2. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) or a bachelor’s degree in another discipline. Non-B.S.N. applicants with an RN license may be admitted to the M.S.N. program but must satisfy requirements for the following undergraduate bridge courses: NURS 225, *Research in Nursing*; NURS 440, *Strategies for Community Health*; NURS 445 Population Health NURS 490, *Leadership/Management in Nursing* and NURS 491 *Nursing Management*. 
Bridge courses are not a prerequisite to admission into the M.S.N. program, but must be completed within the first year of admission to the M.S.N. program.

3. Introductory statistics course (math preferred) and an undergraduate course in health assessment are required. For those who did not complete these courses in their undergraduate programs, they may fulfill these requirements during the first two semesters of the M.S.N. program and must complete a graduate statistics course and an undergraduate nursing research course prior enrollment in NURS 500, Research; the undergraduate course for health assessment must be fulfilled prior to enrollment in NURS 505, Advanced Health/Physical Assessment.

4. Minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.00 on a scale of 4.00.

5. Nurses educated outside of the United States must submit the following documentation in order to be considered for admission:
   a. Proof of valid and current RN licensure based on review by the Commission on Graduates for Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) International [+1(215) 222-8454] (must hold a valid registered nurse license issued in one of the fifty States. See #6.)
   b. Pass the NCLEX Readiness Exam (offered by the CGFNS)
   c. Undergraduate transcript evaluation report from the World Education System (WES) or the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES). This evaluation is required to determine equivalency of the applicant’s nursing and baccalaureate degrees to nursing education programs offered by schools in the U.S.
   d. TOEFL Scores
      Note: TOEFL is not required for students who obtained a baccalaureate degree in the United States or Canada.

6. Current registered nurse license in good standing without any sanctions or restrictions, actual or pending issued in one of the fifty United States.


8. Must have one year of nursing practice as a registered nurse.

9. All students must be fully admitted into the MSN program to enroll in classes.

10. Nurse Educator: NURS 617, 618, 619, 620; and Nursing Administration: NURS 623, 624, 625, 626 require a practicum, which must be completed within the United States.

EVALUATION OF TRANSFER CREDITS
With approval from the School of Nursing Graduate Faculty Committee, students may transfer up to two graduate-level courses (total of six credit hours) from an appropriately accredited institution. In order to transfer credit hours, the student must have earned the minimum grade of B-, and the courses must have been completed within five years of the start date of the program. Students may receive transfer credit for graduate courses that were required for another completed master’s degree. No correspondence or life experience study will be accepted for credit in the M.S.N. program. Credits from a prior degree on the same academic level earned through Liberty University are considered transfer credits.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
The Master of Science in Nursing offers nurse educator and nurse administration
concentrations. With faculty guidance students develop a program of study and practicum that reflects their nursing education or administrative interests. Full and part-time options are available. Each student should obtain an up-to-date copy of the Graduate Nursing Student Handbook (available online at Liberty University’s M.S.N. website), for information about matriculation and progression in the M.S.N. program. The application information and forms are also available online.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION/INSURANCE PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS
Documentation that verifies professional malpractice insurance, current American Heart Association CPR card status, current physical examination, immunization status (i.e., measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), tuberculosis (TB) testing, Varicella titer or immunity, Hepatitis B), HIPAA and OSHA education verification and a Criminal Background Check must be submitted once students enroll in courses that include a practicum component. Additional requirements may be requested by the student-selected practicum facility sites. Students are responsible to assume all costs associated with practicum requirements.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
1. Satisfactory completion of all course and clinical requirements (minimum grade of B); total of 42 credit hours with a 3.00 or higher cumulative grade point average.
2. A minimum of 36 hours must be completed through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty.
3. A maximum of six (6) hours of transfer credit, including credit from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree.
4. Course repeat policy applied to one course only. Students will have the option to repeat one course if they earn a grade of C (or C+/C-). To successfully complete the program, students must earn a minimum grade of B for all graduate courses.
5. Students who receive more than one C+/C/C- are automatically dropped from the program. Any D (or D+/D-) grade or below results in dismissal from program without option to repeat course.
6. Degree must be completed within five years.
7. All Online students admitted on Academic Caution are required to enroll in and pass GRST 500 in their first semester.
8. Submit a Graduation Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS (DCP)
Degree Completion Plans for the Master of Science in Nursing program are available online from the Registrar’s webpage at http://www.liberty.edu/dcps.

Programs of Study

Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.)

PURPOSE
The purpose of the Liberty University School of Nursing’s Doctor of Nursing
Practice program is to prepare nurses for advanced nursing practice roles with a commitment to Christian ethical standards to transform healthcare through leadership and clinical practice.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program is a competitive process. The applicants who meet the admission requirements are not guaranteed acceptance. The program has two pathways, Post BSN DNP with Family Nurse Practitioner specialization and Post MSN DNP.

Admission standards for Post - BSN DNP include:

1. Complete a Graduate School Application form
2. Graduate of a nationally accredited school of nursing (National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission) (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
3. Earned Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing, or Master of Science Degree in Nursing (for students seeking DNP with Family Nurse Practitioner specialty certification).
4. Verification of unencumbered registered nurse license without sanctions actual, past or pending issued in the Commonwealth of Virginia. If licensed in advanced practice nursing specialty (must have encumbered license).
5. If student has an advanced practice certification: Verification of professional certification as an advanced practice nurse (Nurse Practitioner, Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist) *Nurse Leaders may hold national certification in Nursing Administration, not required but preferred.
6. GPA 3.25 or above in most current nursing program completed (BSN or MSN).
7. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions
8. Three letters of recommendation: Academic-professor, Professional-physician or nurse manager, Personal-pastor, colleague or friend.
9. Curriculum Vitae
10. Two years professional nursing experience.
11. Graduate biostatistics course.
12. Undergraduate statistics course.
13. Undergraduate Research Methods course.
14. Undergraduate health assessment course.
15. Writing Sample (not to exceed 3000) words – A document discussing introduction and world view, professional experience/ goals, and vision for professional practice including scholarly project.
16. TOEFL if applicable.
17. CPR Certification American Heart Association BLS for Health Care Providers with AED.
18. Interview with nursing faculty (in person, telephone or electronic).
20. Immunization/Physical Exam Form.

Admission standards for Post – MSN DNP include:

1. Complete a Graduate School Admission Application form.
2. Graduate of a nationally accredited school of nursing (National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).
3. Earned Master of Science Degree in Nursing, specialty in an advanced practice role-Family Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist, or Nurse Leader,
4. Verification of unencumbered registered nurse license without sanctions actual, past or pending issued in the state that practicum will occur (must be located within the United States).
5. Verification of unencumbered advanced practice nurse license without sanctions actual, past or pending issued in the state that practicum will occur (must be located within the United States) (Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialist)*Nurse leaders do not need to hold an advanced practice nurse license.
6. Verification of professional certification as an advanced practice nurse (Nurse Practitioner, Nurse, Clinical Nurse Specialist) *Nurse Leaders may hold national certification in Nursing Administration, not required but preferred.
7. GPA 3.25 or above in all previous graduate course work.
8. Official Transcripts from all post-secondary institutions.
10. Curriculum Vitae.
11. Two years professional nursing experience.
12. Graduate biostatistics course.
13. Graduate research methods course.
14. If advanced practice nurse must have a graduate level health assessment course, graduate level pathophysiology course and graduate level pharmacology course.
15. Writing Sample (not to exceed 3,000) words – A document discussing introduction world view, professional experience goals and vision for personal practice including scholarly project.
16. Verification of practicum hours from graduate program director.
17. TOEFL if applicable.
18. CPR Certification “American Heart Association BLS for Health Care Providers with AED"
19. Interview with nursing faculty (in person, telephone or electronic).
20. Background, drug and finger print screening
21. Immunization/Physical Exam Form

**Note:** All students enrolled in both pathways must also hold current American Heart Association CPR certification, and complete a background check, physical examination and immunizations, OSHA training and HIPPA training and/or other requirements as designed by specific practicum sites.

**PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**
The student will be able to:

1. Integrate nursing science, theory research and scholarship into advanced nursing practice.
2. Design effective health care environments to improve quality, cost-effectiveness and outcomes.
3. Apply evidence and clinical scholarship to support clinical/systems decision making, policy and advocacy.
4. Utilize information systems and technology to support decision-making and improve outcomes.
5. Extend knowledge of clinical prevention, population health, and policy through application of evidence and collaboration with stakeholders and professionals.
6. Apply evidence-based advanced clinical decision-making and culturally competent care to individuals, families and populations.
7. Integrate the Christian World view into the delivery of care of diverse populations.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POST – BSN DNP**

1. Complete 78 hours.
2. A minimum of 72 hours must be completed through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty.
3. A maximum of 6 hours of transfer credit, including credit from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree.
4. 3.0 GPA
5. No Grades lower than a B may be applied to the degree.
7. Successful completion of 1,232 Practicum hours.
8. Degree must be completed within 5 years.
9. Submit Graduation application at the beginning of the final semester.

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR POST – MSN DNP**

1. Complete 41 hours.
2. A minimum of 35 hours must be completed through Liberty University, not to include credits from a prior degree earned through Liberty.
3. A maximum of 6 hours of transfer credit, including credit from a degree on the same academic level previously earned through Liberty, may be applied to the degree.
4. 3.0 GPA.
5. No Grades lower than a B may be applied to the degree.
6. Successful completion of 560 Practicum hours.
7. Degree must be completed within 5 years.
8. Submit a Graduation Application to the Registrar’s Office at the beginning of the final semester.

*Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) requires all DNP students to complete at least 1,000 practicum hours post-BSN. Student must complete at least 560 DNP practicum hours, additional hours may be required to support the 1,000 hours post-BSN depending on the on the number of practicum hours considered from the MSN program.*

**Programs of Study**

Students who are interested in teaching nursing are encouraged to take the Nurse Educator Elective Sequence.

**DEGREE COMPLETION PLANS (DCP)**

Degree Completion Plans for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program are available online from the Registrar’s webpage at [http://www.liberty.edu/dcps](http://www.liberty.edu/dcps).