



**VILLANOVA**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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**M. Louise Fitzpatrick**  
**College of Nursing**

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**Graduate Nursing Program Handbook**  
**Master of Science in Nursing**  
**Post-Graduate APRN Certificate**  
**Doctor of Nursing Practice – Nurse Anesthesia**

**2022-2023**

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**

**M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING  
GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM HANDBOOK  
2022-2023**

While this Handbook was prepared based on the best information available at the time of publication, all information, including statements of fees, course offerings, admissions, and graduation requirements, are subject to change without notice or obligation.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

August 2022

An Equal Opportunity Educational Institution

**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**  
**M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING**  
**GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM**

**2022 – 2023**

The Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing and Master's Degree in Nursing and Post-Graduate APRN Certificate and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). The Nurse Anesthesia track in the graduate program is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. The Continuing Education Program is accredited as a provider of Continuing Education in Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, Commission on Accreditation.

**Contact Information:**

American Nurses Credentialing Center  
655 K Street, NW, Suite 750  
Washington, DC 20024-2571  
Phone: 202-463-6930  
FAX: 202-785-8320  
[www.aacnnursing.org](http://www.aacnnursing.org)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs State Board of Nursing  
P. O. Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649  
Phone: 717-783-7142  
FAX: 717-783-0822  
[www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/nurbd/mainpage.htm](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bpoa/nurbd/mainpage.htm)  
[nursing@pados.dos.state.pa.us](mailto:nursing@pados.dos.state.pa.us)

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education  
655 K Street, NW, Suite 750 Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 202-887-6791  
FAX: 202-887-8476  
<https://www.aacnnursing.org/CCNE>

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs  
222 South Prospect Avenue  
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001 Phone: 847-692-7050  
FAX: 847-692-6968  
[www.coacrna.org](http://www.coacrna.org)

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Dear Graduate Nursing Student:

Welcome to the Graduate Nursing Program at Villanova University! We believe that your educational experiences throughout your program will be both challenging and rewarding. You will enjoy and benefit from the scholarly focus, group work, and active involvement of students, all of which are integral to the program. We are proud of our faculty, our students, our alumni, and our program, and we are pleased to have you join our "family."

This Graduate Nursing Program Handbook has been prepared by the faculty, with input from students, to clarify policies, procedures, and important calendar dates. The Handbook also appraises you of the variety of services, organizations, and activities that are available at Villanova University and facilitate your progression through our program.

The Graduate Nursing Program Handbook is available online. You may obtain clarification and new information from your Faculty Advisor or the Associate Dean, Graduate Program. In addition, all graduate students are responsible for the regulations listed in the Villanova University Office of the Provost <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/resources.html>

Again, we welcome you to the Graduate Nursing Program. We hope this Handbook will be helpful to you and that your educational experience will be a positive one.

Sincerely,

Marguerite K. Schlag, Ed.D., R.N.  
Associate Dean of Graduate Program  
M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing

## **VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Villanova University is a Catholic Augustinian community of higher education, committed to excellence and distinction in the discovery, dissemination and application of knowledge. Inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the University is grounded in the wisdom of the Catholic intellectual tradition and advances a deeper understanding of the relationship between faith and reason. Villanova emphasizes and celebrates the liberal arts and sciences as foundational to all academic programs. The University community welcomes and respects members of all faiths who seek to nurture a concern for the common good and who share an enthusiasm for the challenge of responsible and productive citizenship in order to build a just and peaceful world.

### **Enduring Commitments**

In pursuit of this mission, we commit ourselves to academic excellence, to our values and traditions, and to our students, alumni and the global community.

#### **To foster academic excellence, we:**

- Create a diverse community of scholars, united and dedicated to the highest academic standards;
- Emphasize the liberal arts and sciences as our foundation and foster in our students active engagement, critical thinking, life-long learning and moral reflection;
- Concern ourselves with developing and nurturing the whole person, allowing students, faculty and staff to grow intellectually, emotionally, spiritually, culturally, socially and physically in an environment that supports individual differences and insists that mutual love and respect should animate every aspect of university life;
- Encourage interdisciplinary research, teaching and scholarship;
- Affirm the intrinsic good of learning, contemplation and the search for truth in undergraduate and graduate education;
- Support a curriculum that encourages both a global perspective and an informed respect for the differences among peoples and cultures.

#### **To honor our values and tradition, we:**

- Believe that the dialogue between faith and reason drives the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, and fosters St. Augustine's vision of learning as a community ethos governed by love;
- Seek to understand, enrich and teach the Catholic intellectual tradition through our curricula, scholarship and activities in ways that engage religious, intellectual and cultural traditions in a vigorous and respectful pursuit of truth and wisdom in every area of humanity;
- Provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to seek guidance from Catholic intellectual and moral traditions, while always welcoming people from all faiths, cultures and traditions to contribute their gifts and talents to our mission;

- Respect and encourage the freedom proposed by St. Augustine, which makes civil discussion and inquiry possible and productive:
- Look to the Order of St. Augustine to preserve our Augustinian character, by showing appropriate preference to Augustinians in faculty and staff appointments, and by welcoming their presence and influence in our university community.

**To serve our students, alumni and global community, we:**

- Encourage students, faculty and staff to engage in service experiences and research, both locally and globally, so they learn from others, provide public service to the community and help create a more sustainable world;
- Commit to the common good, and apply the knowledge and skills of our students and faculty to better the human condition;
- Encourage our students and faculty to pursue virtue by integrating love and knowledge, and by committing themselves to research and education for justice, with a special concern for the poor and compassion for the suffering;
- Respect a worldview that recognizes that all creation is sacred and that fosters responsible stewardship of the environment;
- Include our alumni as an integral part of the Villanova community;
- Value highly our relationship with neighboring communities, especially Radnor Township and the City of Philadelphia.

## M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING

### HISTORY

Villanova University first responded to society's need for baccalaureate-prepared nurses in 1932 when it offered a program of studies for nurses, leading to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education. This commitment was subsequently expanded in 1953 to create the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing that now offers a generic BSN program, a MSN program, a Post-Graduate APRN Certificate program, a PhD program, a DNP program and a Continuing Education program.

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College holds the belief that professional nursing provides a significant service to society through its concern for the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health. Baccalaureate education prepares individuals for professional nursing practice in a variety of health settings and for continuous personal and educational growth, including entrance into graduate education in nursing. A liberal education is integrated with the ideals, knowledge, and skills of professional nursing practice under the direction of well-qualified faculty.

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is approved by the State Board of Nurse Examiners of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and upon completion of the undergraduate program, graduates are eligible to take the State Board Examination for licensure as professional registered nurses. The undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate certificate and doctor of nursing practice programs are fully accredited by CCNE. The graduate nurse anesthesia program is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, cognizant of the diverse learning needs of individuals engaging in nursing practice, education and the administration of nursing and health care services, addresses these concerns through its program in Continuing Education accredited by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, Commission on Accreditation. A wide variety of workshops, seminars, conferences, and short courses are offered by experts in the field. Through this program, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing collaborates with health practitioners and agencies in advancing and maintaining the quality of health care for people.

## M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing (FCN) is a tangible expression of Villanova University's mission, tradition, and commitment to human service. As a major college of nursing under Catholic auspices, it carries responsibility for the education of nurses within the framework of Christian beliefs and values and the heritage of the Order of St. Augustine. True to its mission, the FCN welcomes students from all religious traditions and backgrounds.

The FCN interprets nursing as a healing ministry emanated by love and demonstrated through service and the care of others. As a healing art, an applied science, and a practice discipline, nursing as taught at Villanova University emphasizes concern for spiritual health as well as that of mind and body. It is person-centered and as such is holistic, individualized, coordinated, evidence-based, just, and developmentally appropriate. Foundational to person-centered care is respect for diversity in its multitude of forms: differences, preferences, values, needs, resources, and the determinants of health unique to the individual, family and community. Our curricula reflect the integration of these elements and their application in clinical practice and concern for others. This includes but is not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status. The FCN educates individuals for service to a diverse global society including all sectors and strata of the population. Our graduates are prepared to assume roles in a variety of settings including population health, acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, and care from the beginning to the end-of-life. Principles of improvement science including quality and safety in care delivery are core values used to create a culture of safety.

The FCN, consistent with the mission of Villanova University, assumes responsibility for the education of individuals who will be prepared to provide a vital service to society and who are clinically competent, compassionate, ethically motivated, and are able to work with other professions to address the healthcare needs of patients and populations. The FCN is committed to providing high quality education in the liberal arts and sciences and expert preparation in the knowledge and clinical skills of professional nursing to individuals, families and communities who must be prepared and empowered to confront the health care demands of a diverse, complex, and technologically advanced society.

The College views itself as an important locus of education, scholarship, research, and organizational leadership within and beyond nursing's professional, scientific, and educational communities. This nursing scholarship informs science, enhances clinical practice, influences policy, and impacts best practices for educating nurses as clinicians, scholars, and leaders.

(Updated June 2022)

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing awards the baccalaureate in nursing (BSN) and provides basic preparation in nursing to those who are studying for the first professional degree in the field. Such students include high school graduates with no prior college experience, registered nurses who have not yet attained the baccalaureate, college graduates with degrees in other disciplines who have made a decision to study nursing, and adults who are studying for their first college degree.

The Graduate Program administers the master's degree in nursing (MSN) and Post-Graduate APRN Certificate programs. These programs provide preparation and leadership development in selected areas of advanced nursing practice and education, development of research skills, and knowledge of health policy. In addition, course options prepare individuals for positions as educators and nurse practitioners.

The Graduate Program administers the doctor of philosophy degree in nursing (PhD), which is designed to prepare nurses as educators and researchers for academic careers in higher education. The Doctoral Program at Villanova is unique in that it focuses on the application of advanced nursing knowledge and scholarly inquiry that address professional and practice concerns related to the learning process.

The Graduate Program administers the doctor of nursing practice – nurse anesthesia degree (DNP-NA) which is designed to prepare nurses with a sound base of theoretical knowledge and clinical experience in the practice of nurse anesthesia and professional leadership.

The Graduate Program administers the post-master's doctor of nursing practice degree (DNP), which is designed to prepare APRNs, including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Nurse-Midwives and Nurse Administrators with advanced knowledge in evidence-based practice, organization leadership, and financial acumen to lead innovation in nursing practice and healthcare. The emphasis of the DNP program is on broad "systems thinking" in order to facilitate the design and implementation of models of patient care and clinical practice.

The Program in Continuing Education is committed to providing quality programs that enhance the professional growth and update the knowledge base of nurses, other health care professionals, and the public on topics related to health care.

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's emphasis on education in values and ethical principles is a pervasive and central theme and emanates from the Catholic and Augustinian tradition of the University. The faculty are expected to serve as role models and mentors for the professional development of students in the exercise of their academic responsibilities.

## M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING

### PHILOSOPHY

The Philosophy of the FCN is in accord with the Philosophy of Villanova University as stated in its Mission Statement. Rooted in the Catholic and Augustinian heritage of the university, the FCN is welcoming and respectful of those from all faith traditions. We recognize human beings as unique and created by God. The faculty believes that human beings are endowed with intellect, free will, and inherent dignity across their life span. Human beings have the potential to direct, integrate, and adapt to their total environment to meet their needs.

The faculty believe that health is a state of physiological, psychological, social, and spiritual well-being and not merely the absence of disease. Human beings do not assume a fixed position of health but have the potential for moving between wellness and illness in multiple dimensions. The faculty believes that health care is a right, and they respect individuals' decisions related to their health care.

Nursing is a dynamic profession. Its focus is person-centered care which assists individuals, families, and communities locally and globally at all points in the life cycle to maintain, restore and promote health, while providing safe, equitable, trauma-informed, quality care. The nurse, as an accountable agent of health care, uses the nursing process to fulfill various functions of nursing: health promotion, health teaching, health counseling, and managing and providing safe nursing care. The nurse cultivates a just culture addressing structural racism and other forms of discrimination and reflecting civility and respect.

Person and population centered care uses the nursing process to assess, diagnose, plan, implement, and evaluate both the need for nursing care and the outcomes of nursing interventions. The faculty understands that the nursing profession is ever changing. Nurses are actively involved in the planning, implementation, and development of changes that predict or respond to continually evolving health needs enhanced by communication technologies and informatics processes. Through evidence-based practice, nurses act as catalysts in stimulating deliberate and conscious planning for the improvement of society's health. As change agents and leaders, nurses serve and emerge with other health disciplines as intentional interprofessional partners in leading and shaping health policy for a diverse, inclusive, multicultural society and in functioning as advocates for health and well-being.

The faculty and students comprise a community of learners with the teacher as the facilitator and the students engaged in their own learning. The faculty believe that education provides students with opportunities to develop critical thinking so that they can use sound clinical judgment in nursing practice. Students and faculty are engaged in a technology enhanced classroom and clinical environment. This type of intellectual development can best be attained in a teaching-learning environment that promotes sharing of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and scholarship which generates new knowledge.

Through its Baccalaureate, Masters and Doctoral programs, the FCN educates nurses who are prepared to practice safe, quality nursing care and demonstrate leadership across healthcare systems. The faculty believes these educational programs are integral to the ongoing process of continuing professional education and development. Core professional values include altruism,

autonomy, excellence, caring, ethics, respect, communication, collaboration, and shared accountability. The FCN prepares graduates to commit to ongoing self-reflection, lifelong learning and a spirit of inquiry fostering compassion, humility, inclusivity, resilience, and the promotion of nursing excellence.

(Updated June 2022)

## M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING GOALS

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, Villanova University's goals are deemed to be congruent with Villanova University's Strategic Plan, "[Rooted and Restless](#)" and with the University's mission and strategic initiatives. The goals provide a framework for the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing's Strategic Plan.

FCN Goals:

1. To serve the health needs of society through the development of competent pre-licensure and post-licensure nurses by integrating theoretical principles and evidence-based practice.
2. To develop intellectual curiosity of nursing knowledge for the expansion of scholarly productivity with the FCN and the profession.
3. To integrate, apply, and promote established and emerging principles in nursing for the delivery of quality and safe care.
4. To provide leadership to the profession in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the areas of ethics, human values, spiritual, and social dimensions of health care.
5. To maintain the economic viability of the FCN with a sustainable and cost-effective program inclusive of extramural funding for all students, faculty, and the University.
6. To participate in the goals of the university in the areas of academic integrity, student life, technology, and service to the internal and external communities.
7. To communicate a spirit of collaboration, community, and respect within the context of Catholic, Augustinian values.
8. To proactively coordinate and foster professionalism and professional identity formation among students and faculty through academic, co-curricular, and interprofessional activities.
9. To translate the evolving role of nurses in the global health communities inclusive of population health principles with outcomes focused on social determinants of health.

(Updated June 2022)

## THE GRADUATE NURSING PROGRAM

Villanova University M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Graduate Nursing Program was established in 1980 with a five-year grant from the federal government. The focus of the program was the preparation of leaders in nursing education and nursing administration. Since that time, the Graduate Program has made numerous changes in response to advances in health care and demands for innovative health care models. In 1993, Villanova was the first in the country to offer a designated graduate track in Case Management. Between 1995 and 1998 three new advanced practice master's degree and post-master's certificate tracks were established for nurse practitioners: adult, pediatric and geriatric. In 1998, the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing established a track for the preparation of nurse anesthetists. This track transitioned to a DNP-NA track in January 2019. In 2004 the PhD program was initiated to prepare teacher-scholars with the expertise to meet societal health expectations and the demands of educating subsequent generations of nurses. In 2008 the Health Care Administration track was revised in response to the changing needs for preparing nurse managers. In 2012 the DNP program was initiated as a practice focused doctoral program designed to prepare Post-Master's Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) and Nurse Administrators to lead innovation in nursing practice and healthcare.

Faculty who teach in the Graduate Program are appropriately prepared and professionally accomplished. The Graduate Program is recognized for its flexibility and individualized approach to program planning. Graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon or evening, except for some practica and advanced practice courses. Students have an option to study on a full-time or part-time basis. Online courses are offered each semester to enhance the academic learning experience for busy professionals.

Graduate students in the program have diverse backgrounds and styles of learning. The faculty believe that graduate students must assume responsibility for identifying their own educational goals and be active participants in their own learning. That learning includes information gathering and the utilization, reordering and synthesis of knowledge as essential elements of leadership and scholarly inquiry. Graduate study fosters collegiality in the student-teacher relationship. Further, the faculty believe that students pursuing a graduate degree in nursing should be given the opportunity to study the sociopolitical, multicultural, economic, and technological forces that will affect their roles as leaders in nursing education, administration, and advanced nursing practice.

Students select electives from a variety of disciplines outside or within the College. Students complete an independent project in an individually- selected area of interest, under the advisement of a faculty member. This project may take the form of a research project if the student chooses. The program emphasizes extensive use of faculty advisors for course and professional planning, and it promotes collegial interactions among students and between students and faculty.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the Master's degree and Post-Graduate Certificate Nurse Educator and Nurse Practitioner tracks in the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing at Villanova University are to:

- Develop nurse educators and nurse practitioners with the expertise to improve health outcomes for individuals, populations, and systems.
- Effectively use research and technology to generate new questions and new knowledge.
- Provide a foundation for doctoral study.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the Master's degree or Post-Graduate Certificate, graduates of the Nurse Educator and Nurse Practitioner tracks will be able to:

1. Apply nursing science that is grounded in education, sciences and humanities with critical analysis of relevance to nursing and health care practice.
2. Translate and integrate relevant scholarship into nursing education and practice.
3. Use analytic methods to evaluate relevant scholarship to promote safe, quality nursing and health care practice.
4. Integrate nursing knowledge, reflective of social determinants of health, in interprofessional teams to improve health care outcomes for patients, families, communities and populations.
5. Promote equitable restorative and preventive nursing and health care for individuals, families, communities, and populations, recognizing individual uniqueness and delivery congruent with the Judeo-Christian humanistic tradition.
6. Apply principles of organizational science and leadership to effect responsible change in health systems and health policy.
7. Implement effective evidence-based strategies in nursing practice, education, and research to promote safe, quality, cost-effective, and accessible health care.
8. Evaluate the use of information and communication technologies to support patient care.
9. Demonstrate a commitment to ethics and integrity consistent with the highest standards of professional nursing.
10. Contribute to the profession through promoting self-care, mentoring others, maintaining competence by continued personal and professional growth, and advocating for equity in nursing and society.

Revised 2022

## STATEMENT ON EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE IN NURSING

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing endorses the fundamental premise that all nursing practice reflects standards derived from the best current scientific evidence. Nurses need to know how to access high quality, evidence-based sources of information to support nursing practice. Quality improvement requires continual evaluation of patient data for evidence of best clinical practices in specific settings.

## GRADUATE PROGRAM CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing has incorporated professional nursing standards and guidelines into the Master's, DNP-NA and Post-Graduate APRN Certificate nursing curricula. Documents utilized for this purpose include but are not limited to:

- Adult-Gerontological Acute Care and Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Competencies (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, 2016)
- Standards for Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 6th ed. (National Task Force on Quality Nurse Practitioner Education, 2022)
- ANA Code of Ethics (2015)
- Scope of Practice for Academic Nurse Educators and Academic Clinical Nurse Educators, 3rd ed. (NLN, 2019)
- Genetics and Genomics Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice (International Society of Nurses in Genetics, Inc. & the ANA, 2016)
- Home Health Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 2nd ed. (ANA, 2014)
- Nurse Practitioner Core Competencies with Curriculum Content (National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, 2017)
- Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 4th ed. (ANA, 2021)
- Pediatric Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice (ANA, NAPNAP, SPN, 2016)
- Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 2nd ed. (American Psychiatric Nurses Association, ANA, ISPN 2015)
- Scope and Standards for Nurse Anesthesia Practice (AANA, 2013)
- Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners (AANP, 2019)
- Standards for Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Program (Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs, 2018)
- Standards for Professional Nursing Practice in the Care of Women and Newborns (AWHONN, 2009)
- The Essentials: Core Competencies for Professional Nursing Practice (AACN, 2021)
- The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Practice Nursing (AACN, 2006)
- The Scope of Practice for Academic Nurse Educators, 3rd ed. (NLN, 2019)

(Updated June 2022)

## NURSE EDUCATOR TRACK

### MSN AND CERTIFICATE IN NURSING EDUCATION

The Nursing Education track offers nurses the opportunity to combine their clinical experience with preparation for teaching nursing practice. The curriculum prepares nurses to assume leadership roles as dynamic educators in academic settings, staff development, continuing education, and community education programs. Students select an area of interest for the clinical practicum: adult-gerontology, parent-child health, community health or psychiatric/mental health. Students also select an academic or clinical setting for their teaching practicum. To develop as a nursing educator, you will create curricula, plan programs, and teach with master teacher clinicians in a clinical and academic setting to begin the nurse educator role. Graduates can progress from this concentration to our [PhD program](#) and find their course of study expedited.

#### Program Objectives:

Upon completion of the program the graduates are able to:

1. Integrate foundational and advanced specialty knowledge and experience in a broadly based clinical practice area into the educator role.
2. Use diverse sources of evidence to inform the development, application, evaluation, and dissemination of nursing knowledge in nursing curricula and nursing programs.
3. Translate theories from education, related sciences, and other disciplines for theoretical and clinical nursing education.
4. Utilize a variety of teaching strategies, informational and educational resources to facilitate classroom and clinical learning by providing safe high-quality care while enhancing student and staff development.
5. Conceptualize the educator's personal philosophy of teaching and professional role.
6. Propose strategies for nurse educators to formulate interprofessional relationships, optimize positive client outcomes and demonstrates professional nursing values.
7. Provide leadership in the university, health agency or community settings to cultivate lifelong learning and professional identity.
8. Analyze issues in nursing and higher education that focus on population health and influence person centered care and the development of the discipline of nursing.

(Updated June 2022)

## NURSE EDUCATOR

### **CORE COURSES**

NUR 8964	Clinical Ethics: Theory and Practice	3
NUR 8904	Nursing Research: The Practice Connection	3
NUR 8902	Development of Nursing Science	3
NUR 8906	Leadership Strategies in Nursing	3

### **SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8615	Issues Across the Life Span	3
	OR	
NUR 8863	Health Promotion of the Growing Child	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
_____	Select one of the following: **	3
NUR 8921	Practicum in Adult/Gerontology Health Nursing **	
NUR 8923	Practicum in Community Health Nursing**	
NUR 8927	Practicum in Parent-Child Health Nursing**	
NUR 8929	Practicum in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing**	
_____	Elective	3

### **EDUCATION COURSES**

NUR 9517	Structure and Philosophy of Higher Education	3
NUR 8950	Curriculum in Nursing Education	3
NUR 8951	Principles of Measurement and Evaluation in Nursing	3
NUR 8952	Teaching Strategies in Nursing	3
NUR 8954	Practicum in Teaching of Nursing**	3

**\*\* Application due October 1 or February 1**

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## NURSE EDUCATOR CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Nurse Educator Certificate is awarded after completion of 12 credits. Minimum time for program completion is one year. Students have five years to complete requirements for the Certificate from first enrollment.

### **CORE COURSES - 9 credits**

NUR 8950	Curriculum in Nursing Education	3 cr.
NUR 8951	Principles of Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation in Nursing	3 cr.
NUR 8952	Teaching Strategies in Nursing	3 cr.

### **ELECTIVES – 3 credits from the following:**

NUR 9517	Structure and Philosophy of Higher Education	3 cr.
NUR 8954	Practicum in Teaching Nursing	3 cr.
NUR 9004	Advanced Study in Nursing	3 cr.
NUR 8920	Clinical Simulation in Healthcare Education	3 cr.
NUR 8980	Creative Teaching Strategies in Nursing: Using the Humanities	3 cr.

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACKS

### COMPETENCIES FOR AGNP, FNP & PNP NURSE PRACTITIONERS

#### MSN AND POST-GRADUATE APRN CERTIFICATE

These tracks prepare primary care practitioners to perform acts of medical diagnosis or prescription of medical, therapeutic, or corrective measures for clients in primary care settings independently and in collaboration with or under the direction of a licensed physician. At the completion of this track, the graduate is able to:

1. Integrate advanced knowledge and experience in delivering safe, effective, quality care to clients in primary care.
2. Demonstrate competence in managing the health/illness status of clients in primary care.
3. Manage and negotiate within health care delivery systems on behalf of clients in primary care.
4. Monitor and ensure quality health care for clients in primary care.
5. Incorporate an understanding of family systems and dynamics in planning and providing primary health care for clients.
6. Demonstrate leadership and competence in implementing the role of the primary care nurse practitioner.
7. Engage in counseling, communication, collaboration, and teaching in a manner that reflects caring, advocacy, ethics, and professional standards.
8. Conceptualize one's individual role as a primary care nurse practitioner and one's personal philosophy of primary care practice.

## **PRIMARY CARE ADULT- GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

### **CORE COURSES**

NUR 8964	Clinical Ethics: Theory and Practice	3
NUR 8904	Nursing Research: The Practice Connection	3
NUR 8902	Development of Nursing Science	3
NUR 8906	Leadership Strategies in Nursing	3

### **SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8615	Issues Across the Life Span	3
_____	Elective	3

### **CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8509	Clinical Management in Adulthood I	3
NUR 8510	Practicum in Adulthood I (120 hours)	2
NUR 8511	Clinical Management in Adulthood II	3
NUR 8512	Practicum in Adulthood II (305 hours)	4
NUR 8513	Clinical Management in Adulthood III	3
NUR 8514	Practicum in Adulthood III Primary Care II (305 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

**POST-GRADUATE APRN CERTIFICATE**  
**PRIMARY CARE ADULT – GERONTOLOGY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

**SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8615	Issues Across the Life Span	3

**CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8509	Clinical Management in Adulthood I	3
NUR 8510	Practicum in Adulthood I (120 hours)	2
NUR 8511	Clinical Management in Adulthood II	3
NUR 8512	Practicum in Adulthood II (305 hours)	4
NUR 8513	Clinical Management in Adulthood III	3
NUR 8514	Practicum in Adulthood III Primary Care II (305 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## **PRIMARY CARE PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER**

### **CORE COURSES**

NUR 8964	Clinical Ethics: Theory and Practice	3
NUR 8904	Nursing Research: The Practice Connection	3
NUR 8902	Development of Nursing Science	3
NUR 8906	Leadership Strategies in Nursing	3

### **SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8863	Health Promotions of the Growing Child	3
_____	Elective	3

### **CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8809	Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care I	2
NUR 8810	Practicum in Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care I (130 hours)	2
NUR 8811	Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care II	3
NUR 8812	Practicum: Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care II (240 hours)	4
NUR 8813	Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care III	2
NUR 8814	Practicum in Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care III (240 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

**POST-GRADUATE APRN CERTIFICATE**  
**PRIMARY CARE PEDIATRIC NURSE PRACTITIONER**

**SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8863	Health Promotions of the Growing Child	3

**CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8809	Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care I	2
NUR 8810	Practicum in Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care I (130 hours)	2
NUR 8811	Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care II	3
NUR 8812	Practicum: Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care II (240 hours)	4
NUR 8813	Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care III	2
NUR 8814	Practicum in Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care III (240 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## PRIMARY CARE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER

### **CORE COURSES**

NUR 8964	Clinical Ethics: Theory and Practice	3
NUR 8904	Nursing Research: The Practice Connection	3
NUR 8902	Development of Nursing Science	3
NUR 8906	Leadership Strategies in Nursing	3

### **SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8615	Issues Across the Life Span	3
_____	Elective	3

### **CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8609	Clinical Management in Family Care I	3
NUR 8610	Practicum In Family Care I (120 hours)	2
NUR 8611	Clinical Management in Family Care II	3
NUR 8612	Practicum in Family Care II (305 hours)	4
NUR 8613	Clinical Management in Family Care III	3
NUR 8614	Practicum in Family Care III (305 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

**POST-GRADUATE APRN CERTIFICATE**  
**PRIMARY CARE FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

**SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8615	Issues Across the Life Span	3

**CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8609	Clinical Management in Family Care I	3
NUR 8610	Practicum In Family Care I (120 hours)	2
NUR 8611	Clinical Management in Family Care II	3
NUR 8612	Practicum in Family Care II (305 hours)	4
NUR 8613	Clinical Management in Family Care III	3
NUR 8614	Practicum in Family Care III (305 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## PSYCHIATRIC-MENTAL HEALTH (PMH-NP) NURSE PRACTITIONER TRACK

The Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMH-NP) graduate program prepares students to provide specialized primary mental health care to patients across the lifespan from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic groups who are experiencing psychiatric and mental health problems. The curriculum prepares students to assess, diagnose, and provide comprehensive care in a variety of settings, including emergency rooms, outpatient, telemedicine, behavioral health clinics, extended care facilities, and residential treatment sites. Focus is on the evidence-based treatment modalities of Family Systems Theory, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Brief Solution Focused Therapy with particular emphasis placed on holistic patient care.

### Program Objectives:

Upon completion of the program all graduates will be able to:

1. Integrate foundational and advanced knowledge of the psycho-pathophysiology of complex mental health problems in the clinical management of clients/patients in a variety of mental health settings.
2. Communicate effectively with the client/patient, family and the interdisciplinary health care team regarding client/patient mental health issues and management plan.
3. Apply appropriate therapeutic and behavioral interventions for mental illness management for diverse populations and specific clients/patients across the lifespan.
4. Evaluate evidence for opportunities for innovation and change in clinical practice.
5. Apply appropriate client/patient education, health promotion and disease prevention strategies to optimize safe and quality care outcomes for mental health issues.
6. Implement strategies to foster and maintain therapeutic relationships with clients/patients, families and/or groups.
7. Apply appropriate referral and consultation strategies in managing mental health issues across the lifespan.
8. Assess best practices for the use of advanced information and communication technologies to support client/patient and team communication.
9. Model professional and ethical behaviors in practice and leadership role.
10. Advocate for practice environments that are supportive of practitioners' professional development and well-being.

(Updated June 2022)

## **PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH NURSE PRACTITIONER**

### **CORE COURSES**

NUR 8964	Clinical Ethics: Theory and Practice	3
NUR 8904	Nursing Research: The Practice Connection	3
NUR 8902	Development of Nursing Science	3
NUR 8906	Leadership Strategies in Nursing	3

### **SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8400	Lifespan Psychotherapeutic Clinical Modalities	2
NUR 8401	Psychiatric Mental Health Issues & Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan Part I	2
NUR 8402	Psychiatric Mental Health Issues & Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan Part II	2

### **CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8409	Management in Psych-Mental Health I	3
NUR 8410	PMH-NP Practicum I (120 hours)	2
NUR 8411	Management in Psych-Mental Health II	3
NUR 8412	PMH-NP Practicum II (305 hours)	4
NUR 8413	Management in Psych-Mental Health III	3
NUR 8414	PMH-NP Practicum III (305 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

**POST-GRADUATE APRN CERTIFICATE**  
**PSYCHIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

**SUPPORT COURSES**

NUR 8903	Advanced Pharmacology	3
NUR 8901	Advanced Pathophysiology	3
NUR 8910	Advanced Physical Assessment	4
NUR 8400	Lifespan Psychotherapeutic Clinical Modalities	2
NUR 8401	Psychiatric Mental Health Issues & Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan Part I	2
NUR 8402	Psychiatric Mental Health Issues & Psychopharmacology Across the Lifespan Part II	2

**CLINICAL COURSES**

NUR 8409	Management in Psych-Mental Health I	3
NUR 8410	PMH-NP Practicum I (120 hours)	2
NUR 8411	Management in Psych-Mental Health II	3
NUR 8412	PMH-NP Practicum II (305 hours)	4
NUR 8413	Management in Psych-Mental Health III	3
NUR 8414	PMH-NP Practicum III (305 hours)	4

Course descriptions can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## NURSE ANESTHESIA TRACK

Villanova University M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and Crozer-Chester Medical Center jointly offer this track in a unique partnership. The Nurse Anesthesia DNP is an integral part of the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and has embraced the College's philosophy as its own.

It is the purpose of the nurse anesthesia track to provide the local community and beyond with competent nurse anesthetists. The faculty also believe that the doctorally prepared nurse anesthetists will lead activities that support and enhance the profession of nurse anesthesia.

### COMPETENCIES FOR NURSE ANESTHETISTS – DNP PROGRAM

This program prepares nurses with a sound base of theoretical knowledge and clinical experience in the practice of nurse anesthesia and professional leadership. Doctorally prepared nurse anesthetists will be able to lead activities that support and enhance the profession of nurse anesthesia. At the completion of the program the graduate will be able to:

1. Integrate scholarship and clinical experience based upon evidence to support best practice of nurse anesthesia.
2. Manage the complexities of anesthesia care from preoperative assessment through the post-anesthesia period using all available technology.
3. Analyze issues and trends in health care for their impact on the practice of nurse anesthesia.
4. Implement the role of the nurse anesthetist to ensure continuity of care and safe effective practice.
5. Implement quality improvement initiatives that conform to AANA's Professional Practice Standards.
6. Analyze the broad context or system within which nurse anesthesia is practiced.

Complete information about the DNP-NA track can be found at:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/nursing/academic-programs/graduate/doctor-nursing-practice/nurse-anesthesia-track.html>

Course descriptions for the following Program Plan can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course\\_catalog.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/nursing/programs/graduate/course_catalog.html)

## NURSE ANESTHESIA - DNP PROGRAM PLAN

Spring semester		Summer semester		Fall semester
Semester		Course #	CR	Course Title
<b>SP Year 1</b>	NA courses	none	0	
	DNP courses	NUR 8904	3	Nursing Research
		NUR 9405	1	Innovation in Nursing
		NUR 9406	3	Transformational Leadership
		NUR 8903	3	Advanced Pharmacology
	Clinical	none	0	
<b>SU Year 1</b>	NA courses	none	0	
	DNP courses	NUR 8910	4	Physical Assessment
		NUR 9407	3	Quality Improvement
		NUR 9412	3	Ethics and the law
	Clinical	None	0	
<b>Fall Year 1</b>	NA courses	NUR 9420	2	Introduction to NA
		NUR 9421	2	Foundational Science of NA I
		NUR 9422	2	Fundamentals of NA practice I
	DNP courses	NUR 8901	3	Advanced Pathophysiology
	Clinical	NUR 9101	1	Clinical Practicum I
<b>SP Year 2</b>	NA courses	NUR 9423	2	Foundational Science of NA II
		NUR 9424	2	Advanced Dimensions in NA I
	DNP courses	NUR 9408	3	Evidenced Based Practice
		NUR 9400	1	DNP project seminar Introduction
	Clinical	NUR 9102	1	Clinical Practicum II
<b>SU Year 2</b>	NA courses	NUR 9425	2	Advanced Dimensions in NA II
		NUR 9426	2	Foundational Science of NA III
	DNP course	NUR 9401	2	DNP project seminar I
	Clinical	NUR 9103	1	Clinical Practicum III
<b>Fall Year 2</b>	NA courses	NUR 9427	3	Case studies in NA
	DNP course	NUR 9402	2	DNP project seminar II
	Clinical	NUR 9104	1	Clinical Practicum IV
<b>SP Year 3</b>	NA courses	NUR 9428	3	Advanced Dimensions in NA III
	DNP courses	NUR 9410	3	Health Care Finance
		NUR 9403	2	DNP project seminar III
	Clinical	NUR 9105	1	Clinical Practicum V
<b>SU Year 3</b>	NA courses	NUR 9429	1	Advanced Dimensions in NA IV
	DNP courses	NUR 9404	1	DNP project seminar IV
		NUR 9409	3	Health Policy
	Clinical	NUR 9106	1	Clinical Practicum VI
<b>Fall Year 3</b>	NA course	NUR 9430	3	Advanced Dimensions in NA V
	DNP courses	NUR 9411	3	Epidemiology
		<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	

## ADMISSION

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

To be eligible for admission to degree status, potential candidates must complete the online application, submit application fee, and provide evidence of:

- A baccalaureate degree in nursing from a CCNE, ACEN or CNEA accredited program or its equivalent;
- Licensure as a Registered Nurse (USA);
- A GPA of 3.0;
- A minimum of one year of recent clinical practice experience or (for Education candidates, a minimum of one year of recent health care employment; for Nurse Practitioners, a minimum of two years recent clinical practice; for Nurse Anesthetists, a minimum of one year critical care experience in an ICU setting). Clinical requirement can be fulfilled while taking core courses;
- ACLS certifications for nurse anesthetists;
- Applicants to the DNP Nurse Anesthesia program who earned a GPA of less than 3.40 must submit GRE test results. Applicants who earned a cumulative BSN Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.40 or greater on a 4.0 scale are not required to submit GRE test results.
- GRE scores are not required for Post-Graduate, MSN or APRN Certificate applicants.
- TOEFL or IELTS examination required for international students;
- Satisfactory completion of a statistics course, which includes both descriptive and inferential statistics;
- Satisfactory academic record;
- Satisfactory report on Criminal Background Check, Child Abuse Clearance, and Urine Drug Screening;
- Three references from professional nurses including one letter from immediate supervisor (for nurse anesthetists the letters may be from physicians or other health care professionals);
- A Personal Goal Statement identifying career goals that are congruent with the purposes of the program and indicate appropriate communication and writing skills (for Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Anesthetists, an essay regarding goals and conceptualization of the role of the nurse anesthetist/nurse practitioner in clinical practice);
- For Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Anesthetists – “B” or better in undergraduate Sciences;
- Transcripts from **ALL** schools attended
- Successful participation in admission interview (nurse anesthetists only).

## **International Students Admission**

International students may enroll in selected masters and post master's certificate programs. Application should be submitted approximately one year prior to the desired date of enrollment. All admission requirements for the graduate program must be met for the program selected in addition to the following:

1. Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended including international universities are required. English translations of transcripts are also required. All transcripts from institutions outside the U. S. must be evaluated by WES ICAP: International Credential Advantage Package <http://www.wes.org/students/icap.asp> or any other NACES member: <https://www.naces.org/members>. Applications will not be reviewed until Villanova College of Nursing receives the official copy of the report. All application materials become the property of the University. Failure to submit transcripts from all educational institutions may be grounds for cancellation of admission.
2. Each applicant must document the ability to speak, read and write English as evidenced by satisfactory scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Test information can be obtained at: [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org) and [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org). Students whose native language is English are exempt. For those whose native language is not English, the minimum acceptable scores are:
  - ❖ Internet-based TOEFL - 83 overall and 25 in Speaking section
  - ❖ IELTS – 6.5 overall and 7.0 in speaking
3. International students applying to a clinical program must have RN licensure in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the time of application. For information on how to become licensed in Pennsylvania contact the PA State Board of Nursing at: [www.dos.state.pa.us/nurse](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/nurse)
4. International students must present evidence of adequate financial resources to meet the expenses of full-time study, living and travel expenses to and from the Villanova campus.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR POST-GRADUATE CERTIFICATE TRACKS**

### **NURSE PRACTITIONER**

- Transcript from a CNEA, ACEN or CCNE accredited Graduate Nursing Program;
- Current license to practice as a registered nurse;
- Graduate GPA of 3.00 or better;
- Documentation of two years of recent clinical experience;
- Three letters of reference, one of which is from an immediate supervisor who can attest to clinical practice skills;
- Completion of an essay regarding goals and conceptualization of the nurse practitioner role;

### **NURSE EDUCATOR**

- Transcript from an accredited post- baccalaureate or higher degree college or university;
- Current license to practice as a registered nurse;
- Documentation of one year of recent clinical experience;
- Two letters of reference;
- Current resume;
- Completion of an essay regarding goals and conceptualization of the nurse educator role.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Each student is assigned an academic advisor upon admission. The academic advisor is a resource for program planning and for academic concerns.

Grades are recorded at the end of each fall, spring and summer semester and an official report can be found in MyNOVA. Any inaccuracy must be reported in writing to the Registrar's Office immediately. Grades are a part of your permanent record, and no changes in grades can be made other than those accompanied by an official "Change of Grade" form. Your work is graded according to the following scale:

Grade	Description	Quality Points Per Credit
<b>A</b>	Outstanding	4.00
<b>A-</b>		3.67
<b>B+</b>		3.33
<b>B</b>	Good	3.00
<b>B-</b>		2.67
<b>C+</b>		2.33
<b>C</b>	Passing	2.00
<b>F</b>	Failure	0.00
<b>WX</b>	Approved Withdrawal	-----
<b>N</b>	Incomplete	-----
<b>AU</b>	Audit	-----

NOTE: A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 ("B") or above is required to graduate from the Master of Science in Nursing, Post-Graduate APRN Certificate and DNP-NA programs.

The faculty teaching in the Graduate Nursing Program use the following scale of numerical equivalents for all approved letter grades:

A	95-100	B-	80-82
A-	90-94	C+	77-79
B+	87-89	C	73-76
B	83-86	F	<73

The grades of "C" and "C+" are considered passing for some graduate courses and are acceptable grades in a course, allowing for progression to the next course(s).

You are not required to repeat courses in which the grade of "F" has been received unless the courses are required by the Graduate Nursing Program. The decision regarding repetition of a course in which an "F" has been received rests with the Associate Dean of the Graduate Nursing Program and your advisor. Courses in which an "F" has been achieved

remain on the transcript (even if the course is repeated) and are included in the overall cumulative average.

An "N" (incomplete) grade indicates that the professor is not prepared to give a definite grade for the course because all of the assigned course requirements have not been completed. An "N" grade automatically becomes an "F" grade if the work is not completed within the following time frame designated by the Office of the Registrar:

<u>Semester/ Term</u>	<u>Deadline for Removing "N" Grade</u>
Fall	Last Friday in January
Spring	Last Friday in June
Summer	30 days after last class

### **GRADUATE STUDENT GRADING POLICY**

Graduate students are required to maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 and cannot be approved for graduation unless this average has been maintained. Students whose GPA falls below 3.0 in any semester are notified by letter that they are on academic probation and have one additional semester to bring their GPA up to a 3.0. If they fail to do so, they may be dismissed from the university. Students who succeed in raising their GPA above 3.0 for one or more semesters after being on academic probation, but who in a later semester fall below a 3.0 GPA for a second time will be dismissed from the university. In some cases, if a student has fallen so far below a 3.0 GPA at the end of a semester that their chances of rising above a GPA of 3.0 in one additional semester of work is impossible, may be immediately dismissed from the university before being placed on probation. Students are not required to repeat courses in which the grade of C or C+ has been received unless a grade of B or better is specifically required by their graduate track.

#### **Nurse Practitioner Grading Policy:**

In all Nurse Practitioner tracks a grade of B or better is considered a passing grade in the following courses: all nurse practitioner specialty theory and clinical courses, NUR 8910 Advanced Physical Assessment, NUR 8901 Advanced Pathophysiology and NUR 8903 Advanced Pharmacology. Students must obtain a B (83) grade in each course to continue with the specialty sequence of courses. Students who achieve a grade of B- or C+ may repeat the course the next time it is offered, but may not progress in the interim. The student must satisfactorily complete all course objectives and prerequisites of one level to advance to the next level. This option will be offered only once during the program. If a student again fails to achieve a B grade in the same or any other nurse practitioner specialty course, he/she will be dismissed from the program.

A grade of B- or below is considered as failing in the following courses: all specialty level theory and clinical nurse practitioner courses, NUR 8910 Advanced Physical Assessment, NUR 8901 Advanced Pathophysiology and NUR 8903 Advanced Pharmacology. The

student receiving a grade of B- in these courses may be dismissed from the nurse practitioner track.

### **Nurse Anesthesia Grading Policy:**

In the Nurse Anesthesia track a grade of B (83) or better is considered a passing grade in NUR 8910 Advanced Physical Assessment, NUR 8901 Advanced Pathophysiology and NUR 8903 Advanced Pharmacology and in all 9000 level nurse anesthesia didactic and clinical courses. A student receiving a grade of “C” in these courses may be dismissed from the Nurse Anesthesia program. Students who achieve a grade of “B-” or “C+” may repeat the course the next time it is offered but may not progress in the interim. The student must satisfactorily complete all course objectives and prerequisites of one level to advance to the next level. This option will be offered only once during the program. If a student again fails to achieve a “B” grade in the same or any other anesthesia course, he/she will be dismissed from the program.

## **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

### **Academic Advisor**

All full-time and part-time students are assigned an Academic Advisor when they are admitted to the Graduate Program. The Academic Advisor assists the student in developing a plan of study and helps to ensure all departmental rules and regulations are followed.

## **REGISTRATION**

### **General Registration Regulations**

Students must consult their Academic Advisor each semester to choose courses for registration. Consultation via email is acceptable. Students are advised to register during the online registration period and well in advance of the first week of classes. After meeting with their Academic Advisor, students may register on-line through NOVASIS ([www.novasis.villanova.edu](http://www.novasis.villanova.edu)) using the PIN provided by their Academic Advisor. Information on registering online will be provide each semester and can be found on MyNova at the College of Nursing website under “[Nursing Graduate Student Registration.](#)”

### **Change in Registration**

A change in course registration whether through Drop/Add or through course withdrawal requires the approval of the Academic Advisor. Drop/Add permits changes in registration through the first week of the semester only. Course withdrawal (WX) permits a course to be

dropped after the first week of class through the WX deadline (typically 3 weeks after midterms, but it is the student's responsibility to be aware of all deadlines). Dropping a course after the Drop/Add period will not result in a tuition refund. Students are referred to the Bursar's office for tuition refund policies. No refunds are given after the fourth week of class even if the student withdraws.

<http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/finance/bursar/refunds/schedule.html>

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If you plan to be absent from the University for two consecutive semesters (exclusive of summer terms), you must submit a letter to the Associate Dean of the Graduate Nursing Program requesting a Leave of Absence. Upon approval by the Associate Dean, you will be granted a Leave of Absence for the year. If you fail to return to the University at the end of that year, a letter will be sent to you by the Associate Dean of the Graduate Program indicating that, if written permission from the Associate Dean of the Graduate Program for an extension of the Leave of Absence for one additional year is not granted, you will be terminated from the program. According to Villanova University policy, Leaves of Absence may not be granted for more than two years. Any student who has been terminated from the program may re-apply for admission to the program according to the admission policies.

## WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE (WX)

To WX from a course, students must complete the following:

1. meet with their Advisor first to discuss the plan to withdraw from the course,
2. revise the program plan as necessary,
3. after receiving Advisor approval, the student will complete the online Course Withdrawal Form:

<https://mynova.villanova.edu/launch-task/all/course-withdrawal-form-wx?terms=course%20withdraw&roles=>

The Registrar will use the date of the student's email as the effective date of course withdrawal. Once the registrar's office enters the WX, both the student and course faculty are auto-notified by email. Failure to complete this process will result in an "F" grade for each course in questions.

Until the final day for authorized withdrawal from courses listed in the academic calendar at: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/calendar.html>, students may withdraw from a course without penalty and will receive the grade of "WX". After that date, students seeking withdrawals from courses without penalty ("WX") must present to the Associate Dean Graduate Program a written request with valid reasons for the request, such as serious personal or medical problems, and recommendations from the instructor of the course. The

Associate Dean of the Graduate Program is the final authority for granting or refusing the exception based on the documentation and recommendations submitted. Students who do not have a justifiable cause to withdraw from a course without academic penalty may still withdraw from the course and receive a grade of “W” which is calculated as an “F”. Withdraw from a course may alter a student’s degree completion date.

## **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY**

Complete withdrawal from the University should not be confused with changes in registration status. Requests for complete withdrawal from the University must be made by letter to the Associate Dean of the Graduate Program. If students have completely withdrawn from a program, they may not resume their studies unless they have been formally re-admitted. Students who withdraw without approval will receive an F grade in any courses in which they are enrolled unless a grade of WX has been pre-approved.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES**

The Graduate Program uses a variety of instructional strategies. These strategies include, but are not limited to, a combination of lecture, readings, research analysis, in-class activities, online or hybrid modalities, and open discussion to explore concepts. Student preparation, engagement and sharing their unique personal and professional experiences enrich class discussion and enhance the learning experience and overall academic outcomes.

### **Guidelines for On-line and Zoom Classes**

The following guidelines are intended to ensure a positive learning environment for all participants:

- Discussion is extremely important to learning. We may disagree with other students and faculty, but courtesy and respect are always an expectation.
- Cameras are to be enabled during all Zoom class sessions. If your camera is non-functional, please inform the faculty.
- Keep audio on mute until you want to speak.
- Consider using a headset with external mic for best hearing and speaking capabilities.
- Students are expected to attend all classes. If there is a need to be absent, inform the faculty prior to class meeting time.
- Class participants need to use appropriate technology, and everyone needs to be heard clearly by others in the class.
- Close unneeded applications on your computer to optimize the video quality.

- Class participants are encouraged not to monopolize the discussion nor interrupt other students or faculty. Any appropriate interruption should be done with the utmost courtesy.
- Settings used for online classes need to be conducive to learning and as distraction-free as possible from visual distractions and/or background noise.

### **Independent Study**

Independent Study is intended to provide an in-depth learning experience for graduate students outside of the normal classroom experience. Students wishing to pursue an Independent Study must identify a willing faculty sponsor, and in conjunction with the sponsor complete the form [\*NUR 9002 Independent Study Proposal\*](#). This form must be approved by both the Associate Dean Graduate Program prior to registration. Independent studies are to be completed within one semester. Only under extenuating circumstances will an extension of no more than one semester be granted. A comprehensive report is due at the completion of the Independent Study for review by the faculty sponsor.

## **ACADEMIC PROGRESSION**

Students are expected to complete all course work during the semester in which the course is taken. Faculty may permit students an extension of time to complete all required course work. All grades are permanent except for N (Incomplete) and NG (No grade reported), which are temporary grades and must be replaced with grades submitted by the instructor. If a change is not submitted, the N or NG automatically becomes an NF. Students must submit all work to instructors by the last Friday in January (Fall semester) or June (Spring semester) or 30 days after last class (Summer semester). IP (In Progress) grade is for graduate theses or research courses only.

Master's and Post-Graduate APRN Certificate and DNP-NA students' academic progression will be reviewed by the Associate Dean Graduate Program at the end of each semester. Students assessed as not making satisfactory academic progress will be notified by the Associate Dean and asked to provide the faculty for the course(s) with a plan for timely completion of course requirements. Students are expected to carry out the plan to complete the required course work.

The following circumstances may constitute failure to make satisfactory academic progress: semester Grade Point Average below 3.0; earning two or more grades of N and/or IP in a semester; carrying an IP for more than one semester beyond the semester the course was originally taken; a persistent pattern of failure to make progress in course work; or a pattern of failure to communicate with or respond to communication from the academic advisor, course instructors or the Associate Dean.

Students failing to make satisfactory academic progress will be reviewed at Academic Standing and Records Committee meeting held at the end of each semester. This review may result in probation and/or dismissal from the graduate program.

### **Dismissal**

The Academic Standing and Records Committee will take action to dismiss any student from the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Graduate Program who fails to meet the academic requirements. The Committee's action will take place as soon as practical after semester grade reports are received following the end of an academic term. The Academic Standing and Records Committee will determine the effective date of dismissal. It is understood that dismissal from the graduate program includes termination of any assistantship/scholarships held by the student in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

### **Appeal Process**

If a student feels that special circumstances are involved in the poor performance, the student may appeal a dismissal by making a written petition to the Academic Standing and Records Committee. An appeal will be successful only if evidence is presented to show that unusual circumstances were responsible for the student's poor performance and a reasonable chance exists for the student to successfully complete the program.

## **TIME TO COMPLETE DEGREE**

Students in the Master's and Post-Graduate APRN Certificate and DNP-NA programs must complete their degree requirements within a five-year period from the first semester of enrollment.

## **TRANSFER OF CREDIT**

Villanova University permits graduate students to transfer a maximum of six (6) credits, provided they were completed prior to admission to Villanova University. Courses may be transferred either as elective requirements or in lieu of required courses. Those transferred in lieu of required courses must have been taken within 5 years of admission to Villanova University. The following information must be provided to initiate the transfer of credit process:

- Requests for transfer credit must be made at the time of application.
- Students accepted into a graduate degree program may receive transfer credit for up to a maximum of 6 credits (usually 2 courses) taken at another accredited higher education institution.
- The courses must be graduate-level and must have been taken within the past five years of admission. A graduate course used to complete an applicant's undergraduate degree at another institution may not be transferred and used to complete a graduate degree at Villanova.

- Only courses with grades of B or better will be considered.
- Only applicants accepted as matriculated students may be approved for transfer of credits.
- Transfer credits are not accepted from a non-degree certificate program.
- When requesting transfer credits, the applicant should submit the following materials to the director of the graduate program: 1. The relevant official transcripts (regardless of whether a degree was earned), and 2. Course descriptions and syllabi.
- Students already enrolled in a graduate program at Villanova University who wish to take a graduate course at another institution for credit toward the graduate degree here must obtain written approval from the Graduate Program Director before the course is taken. No transfer credit will be approved for requests received after the course has been taken.
- This policy does not apply to graduate courses taken at Villanova University by Villanova undergraduates.

In accordance with Villanova University policy, students actively enrolled in Villanova University are not permitted to take courses at other colleges or universities for transfer of credit toward a Villanova degree.

## **POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to know and comply with all University policies related to academic dishonesty and plagiarism. The Villanova University Code of Academic Integrity is available at the following web site:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/resources/student/policies/integrity.html>

### **Graduate Program Clinical Responsibilities**

All graduate students are expected to provide patients with safe, quality care. Students are assigned by faculty to a clinical site and preceptor and are expected to practice at a level commensurate with their level in the curriculum. Students in more advanced stages of the curriculum are expected to be able to practice safely with decreasing levels of preceptor supervision.

A graduate student may be dismissed or prevented from returning to the clinical setting at any time during a clinical course. Dismissal may result if the level of clinical performance/behavior does not meet the acceptable standards of practice, course objectives,

or College and/or facility policies. Some examples of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to:

1. Emotional or physical misconduct by the student towards patients, staff members, fellow students, preceptors and/or faculty members. Examples include, but are not limited to, threats to emotional and/or physical well-being, or the use of intimidation.
2. Coming to clinical under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
3. Actions or behaviors that demonstrate persistent disregard for patients, colleagues, or religious, ethnic, and cultural practices.
4. Breach of confidentiality.
5. Unsafe or unprofessional practice such as:
  - a. Failure to demonstrate use of the nursing process and sound clinical reasoning
  - b. Lack of preparation for clinical
  - c. Failure to seek supervision when necessary
  - d. Failure to document appropriately
  - e. Failure to communicate effectively or inappropriate communication with patients, staff, preceptor and/or faculty
  - f. Failure to attend assigned clinical site without prior notification and permission of preceptor and/or faculty
  - g. Leaving the clinical site without prior notification and permission of preceptor
  - h. Sleeping in the clinical area
  - i. Disregard for clinical faculty and/or preceptor instructions
6. Unsafe medication administration such as failure to practice in a manner consistent with student role and scope of nursing practice.

Violation of this policy may range from additional written paperwork, immediate course failure and/or dismissal from the graduate nursing program. If a student is precluded from a clinical site by the clinical agency, the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing has no obligation to provide an alternative clinical site/experience.

### **Code of Conduct**

All graduate students are expected to adhere to the Villanova University Code of Student Conduct for successful completion of a graduate program of study at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. The rationale for this Code of Conduct is drawn directly from the University's Mission Statement. Violations of these regulations may result in the full range of disciplinary sanctions, as set forth in this Code.

<https://studenthandbook.villanova.edu/code-of-student-conduct>

## **Nurse Practitioner Attendance Policy**

Attendance at all classes, seminars, labs and clinical components of graduate course work is required and expected. Faculty must be notified in advance of any anticipated absence from any course session.

The Nurse Practitioner faculty have an attendance policy for the Adult/Gerontology Primary Care, Pediatric Primary Care and Family Nurse Practitioner tracks. A student who misses more than 15% of the required class meetings may be unable to continue in the course. The student will be required to meet with her/his Academic Advisor to discuss revision of track progression and graduation date. The outcome of this discussion will be sent to the Associate Dean of the Graduate Program. In spring & fall semesters: 15% of a course equates to 2 classes. In summer semester: 15% of a course equates to 1 class.

The courses that relate to this policy are:

NUR 8910 Advanced Physical Assessment

NUR 8509 Clinical Management in Adulthood I

NUR 8510 Practicum: Clinical Management in Adulthood I

NUR 8509 Clinical Management in Adulthood II

NUR 8510 Practicum: Clinical Management Adulthood II

NUR 8513 Clinical Management in Adulthood III

NUR 8514 Practicum: Clinical Management Adulthood III

NUR 8609 Clinical Management in Family Care I

NUR 8610 Practicum: Clinical Management in Family Care I

NUR 8611 Clinical Management in Family Care II

NUR 8612 Practicum: Clinical Management in Family Care II

NUR 8613 Clinical Management in Family Care III

NUR 8614 Practicum: Clinical Management in Family Care III

NUR 8809 Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care I

NUR 8810 Practicum: Pediatric Primary Care I

NUR 8811 Clinical Management in Pediatric Primary Care II

NUR 8812 Practicum: Pediatric Primary Care II

NUR 8813 Clinical Management Pediatric Primary Care II

NUR 8814 Practicum: Pediatric Primary Care II

The course NUR 8910 is a full day course, offered once per week, as lecture and lab practicum (Note: attendance at all lab sessions is mandatory). All other courses are scheduled for a full day once per week: morning is lecture for odd numbered courses (09, 11, 13) and afternoon is seminar for even numbered courses (10, 12, 14). Schedule adjustments may be made by faculty and posted based on class and content needs.

## **Grade Appeals and Complaints Against Faculty**

If a student has a grievance within a nursing course, he/she is advised to speak with the faculty teaching the course. If the problem is not resolved at this level, it may be taken to the Program Director and Dean in that order. The complete grievance procedure policy may be found at: [Grade Appeals](#)

## **Substance Abuse Policy**

Applicants who voluntarily disclose a history of substance abuse must provide documentation that they have been in a Voluntary Recovery Program (VRP) for no less than three years and have been drug and/or alcohol free for that period of time. Once admitted to the program, these students will be subjected to random testing for illegal substances without prior notification throughout their stay in the program.

Students who are involved in substance abuse while in the program will be evaluated for possible termination from the program. Students seeking readmission will be expected to enter a Voluntary Recovery Program (VRP) at their own expense. The candidate will be considered for readmission contingent upon the following:

- a. The candidate provides documentation that he/she has been in VRP for no less than three years and has been drug and or alcohol free for that period of time.
- b. The candidate agrees that the University can notify all clinical agencies to which the candidate is assigned regarding the VRP and drug and /or alcohol-free status.
- c. The candidate will agree to random testing for illegal substances without prior notification throughout his/her stay in the program.

Readmission is not automatic. Readmission decisions are at the discretion of the Program Director. It is conceivable that students may be required to repeat courses taken prior to rehabilitation in order to update knowledge and skills.

## **Social Media Policy**

Social media are powerful social and professional communication tools that may significantly impact your personal reputation, the reputation of Villanova University, the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, faculty, staff, employees and your fellow students. The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing recognizes that students may routinely be utilizing social media and has instituted this Policy to remind students of their responsibilities as nursing students.

The definition of “social media” is media for social interaction, using highly accessible and scalable communication techniques. The goal of social media is to use web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue. Outlets within social media include but are not limited to online social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Wikipedia, Second Life, Instagram, Flickr, blogs, Foursquare, podcasts,

discussion forums, RSS feeds, Allnurses.com, video sharing such as YouTube, iTunes, interactive geo-location, online collaborative information and publishing systems that are accessible to internal and external audiences (i.e., Wikis).

When using social media, students must conduct themselves in accordance with University policy. These policies include, but are not limited to, the policies contained within the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Handbook, the Student Handbook and the Code of Student Conduct. In addition, students should understand that clinical agencies may take independent disciplinary action against students for violating agency policies. These actions may affect the completion of your placement or course, your course grade and, potentially, your successful completion of your nursing degree.

Students and their personal social media accounts may not in any way represent themselves as sanctioned by Villanova University, and are not permitted use of the University's intellectual property (logos, wordmarks, badges, symbols or any materials protected by copyright or trademark laws) to identify themselves or hold themselves out as officially recognized and/or supported by the University.

Fitzpatrick College of Nursing students may not discuss or distribute sensitive, confidential, or proprietary information about Villanova University, its students, faculty, clinical agencies, clinical agency employees or patients.

- HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Federal guidelines protect confidential patient information. Disclosures by any means of patient information are a federal offense and may subject students to substantial monetary fines and/or criminal penalties in addition to University disciplinary action.
- FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). Student educational records or any personal information about a student which is disclosed without the permission of the student is a federal violation and subject to disciplinary action.

### **Social Media Tips**

- Protect patient information in all forms of communication. No photos, videos or other forms of recording or disclosing patient information.
- Posting confidential information about students, employees or alumni of Villanova University and/or Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is prohibited.
- Think twice before posting. If hesitant, don't post!
- It is a violation of University policy and contrary to the Mission of the University to defame anyone's character, embarrass, harass, abuse or use obscenity or profanity when using social media.
- Social media is public information and students should have no expectation of privacy in the information they post in these forums.

- It is inappropriate to “friend” patients or their family members on social networking sites.
- Maintain your professional image on all media sites. University personnel, corporate administrators, employers and law enforcement agencies are utilizing media for formal and information background checks and searches.

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing expects its students to be thoughtful about how they present themselves and to respect their audience, peers, faculty, the University, and all clinical agencies. Students need to remember that content contributed on all social media platforms becomes immediately searchable by the public at large and forwarded to others without your knowledge or consent. Once your message is sent, or you post information, this information forever leaves your control.

Students are reminded that all University Policies are applicable to students’ conduct on social media and, any conduct which violates University Policy, may subject the student(s) to University disciplinary action, up to and including, expulsion.

### **Criminal Background Check, FBI Fingerprinting, PA Child Abuse Clearance and 10-Panel Drug Screen**

Comprehensive Criminal Background Check and Fingerprinting: All students matriculating in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing programs are required to complete a Comprehensive Criminal Background Check and Fingerprinting deemed satisfactory, in the sole judgement of the College of Nursing, as a condition of their acceptance into the nursing program. Current policies and regulations of health care facilities and regulatory bodies require that the Comprehensive Criminal Background Check and Fingerprinting be completed again, prior to starting any clinical practicum course, to ensure patient safety. Students in the Nurse Anesthesia Program are required to complete the Comprehensive Criminal Background Check and Fingerprinting annually. The Comprehensive Check includes a PA statewide background check, ten-panel drug screen, PA Child Abuse History Clearance, FBI Fingerprint search, and OIG/GSA searches. The College of Nursing utilizes an online compliance tracking service called Complio, a product of American Databank. The Complio website can be found at <http://www.villanovabackgroundcheck.com/>.

### **Student Records**

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing maintains individual files on all students. Students may have access to their records for review upon request and records must be reviewed in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. Documents may not be removed from the files. Requests to review files should be made to the Associate Dean Graduate Program.

### **Course and Faculty Evaluations**

At the end of each course, Course and Teacher Survey (CATS) are distributed to students who complete this anonymous evaluation on the course and the faculty. The results of these evaluations are reviewed by the Associate Dean Graduate Program, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, and the Dean. Except for Clinical Courses, all other CATS are completed online.

### **Undergraduates in Graduate Courses**

Qualified undergraduate students (juniors or seniors with a 3.00 cumulative average and a sufficient background in the subject) may be admitted to certain graduate courses with the permission of their academic advisor, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Program, and Associate Dean, Graduate Program. Permission forms for this purpose are available at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Student Resources website.

### **Change of Name and/or Address**

Changes in name or address can only be done by the Registrar's Office. Student's requesting to change name and/or address on their official records must submit the appropriate form to change name and/or address. The form can be found at:

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/enroll/registrar/forms/info\\_change/jcr\\_content/pagecontent/download/file.res/name\\_change.pdf](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/enroll/registrar/forms/info_change/jcr_content/pagecontent/download/file.res/name_change.pdf)

After you have made the formal change with the Registrar, please notify the Graduate Office of the change as well.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Each graduate student is provided a Villanova University email address. Villanova University's official means of communication is the university email system. Students must use their student email address for all Villanova University and Fitzpatrick College of Nursing business. It is expected that students will check their university email account every day to look for important announcements and information. Professional communication is the expectation of all students, faculty and members of the University community and is essential for academic success.

NOVA Alert delivers important emergency alerts, weather notifications ( snow policy <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/resources/policies/snow-policy.html>) and updates to any mobile device or email you choose to register. When an incident or emergency occurs, authorized senders will notify you using NOVA Alert. Please note that students must register for the NOVA Alert System on NOVASIS. **Sign Up for Nova Alert at:** [https://novasis.villanova.edu/pls/bannerprd/bvgknova.P\\_ShowAlertDests](https://novasis.villanova.edu/pls/bannerprd/bvgknova.P_ShowAlertDests)

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

For information on financial assistance or to discuss specific issues or concerns contact:

Office of Financial Assistance  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor Kennedy Building  
Phone: 610-519-4010  
Fax: 610-519-7599  
Email: [finaid@villanova.edu](mailto:finaid@villanova.edu)

### **Types of Financial Support**

Financial support opportunities available to students including Graduate Assistantships, Tuition Scholarships, and various scholarships are competitive awards based on academic merit. Students are notified via email when these scholarships become available. Awards are typically offered in March/April for the Fall semester and in early January for the Spring semester.

### **Assistantships and Scholarships**

Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Scholarships may be available each academic year. Students must be enrolled full-time (a minimum of 6 credits) each semester and are provided a tuition waiver in exchange for a required number of hours work each week within the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. Graduate Assistantships and Tuition Scholarships are generally awarded to cover one academic year of study. If the student meets the required academic and performance these assistantships and scholarships are frequently renewed to cover additional semesters of study. All awards are made by the Associate Dean, Graduate Program. Detailed information about these positions can be obtained from the Graduate Program Office.

### **Application for Need-based Financial Aid**

Villanova University  
Office of Financial Assistance  
800 Lancaster Avenue  
Villanova, PA 19085-1685.

Once aid eligibility is determined, each applicant will receive a notice of aid eligibility from the Office of Financial Assistance. If you receive any credit against your tuition charge that is not reflected on your award letter, your aid may be reduced.

### **Nurse Educational Funds, Inc.**

Any registered nurse who is a U.S. citizen residing and practicing in any of the 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska who is pursuing either the master's in nursing or a doctoral

degree is eligible to apply for funding. For information, please write or call: Nurses Educational Funds, Inc., 555 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 399-1428.

**Students Who are Veterans or are Using Veterans Administration (VA) Benefits**

Villanova University is dedicated to assisting veterans and their dependents as they reach personal, professional, and academic goals from their admission to graduation and beyond. The Office of Veterans and Military Service Members (205 Kennedy Hall) is a source of support for these students and for the Villanova University community. For more information, contact Michael D. Brown, Director at: [michaeld.brown@villanova.edu](mailto:michaeld.brown@villanova.edu). Phone: 610-519-4488

**TUITION AND FEES\***

Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$50
Tuition*	
MSN/APRN Certificate	\$995/credit
DNP-NA	\$1,300/credit
General University Fees*	\$50/semester
Nurse Anesthetist Technology Fee*	\$18,800 (Paid over 6 semesters)
Nurse Practitioner Lab Fee *	\$375 x 4 semesters

\* Subject to change at the discretion of the University Administration.

**REFUNDS**

Official withdrawal (i.e., Drop or Authorized Withdrawal) from courses within the dates designated entitles the student to a refund according to the Academic Calendar. Tuition refunds are based on the TOTAL TUITION exclusive of fees. Non-attendance of class does not constitute official withdrawal. Regulations concerning refunds for the summer sessions may be found in the Summer Sessions Catalog.

Students will be permitted to receive a transcript or certification of credits only when their financial accounts are completely paid.

Students are liable for tuition charges, for each course as follows:

<b>Segment of Semester</b>	<b>Refund</b>
Up to first week	80%
Up to second week	60%
Up to third week	40%

Up to fourth week	20%
Beyond fourth week	No Refund

## **UNIVERSITY SUPPORT SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### **The Library**

All Nursing holdings are housed in Falvey Library, a University facility. The hours vary during school holidays, exam periods and the summer term, and you are advised to call the Library (610-519-4292) for a recorded message about hours, policies, etc. The Graduate Assistant to the Graduate Nursing Program arranges for group orientations each semester. You will be notified of the day and time.

<https://library.villanova.edu/about-falvey/contact-us>

### **Writing Center**

The Villanova Writing Center provides a comfortable atmosphere for your one-to-one session with a qualified tutor. Bring your paper, assignment, and an open mind and we'll do our best to help you improve your writing.

Services available:

- Aid students in a collaborative effort of creating their "ideal texts" and producing their best quality work.
- We are NOT a "fix-it shop" and seek to "produce better writers, not better texts."
- We encourage multiple, independent visits for all types of students, in all stages of their writing.
- We cater to individual student needs and rely on the effective relationship of peer tutoring. All are welcome.

[http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/writingcenter.html?mail=alan.pichanick@villanova.edu&xsl=bio\\_long](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/writingcenter.html?mail=alan.pichanick@villanova.edu&xsl=bio_long)

## **TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

### **IDs and Passwords**

Email/Information Technology Resources

(Email, Access to campus servers and the University's online resources.)

To access Villanova's information resources on the Internet and in the University computer you will be required to know your ID and password.

All students, faculty and staff are automatically issued an ID and password. A letter with this information will be sent to your home. If you do not know the ID and password, contact the Computer Support Center at (610) 519-7777.

**myNOVA** is Villanova University's single sign-on, web portal that provides personalized access to web services (email, Banner web, WebCT/Blackboard).

**myNOVA** is available via the Villanova Homepage  
(<http://www1.villanova.edu/main.html>)

OR directly at <https://mynova.villanova.edu/>.

You can customize **myNOVA** so that the information and tools you need and want are available when you log in. Internet Explorer 7 is the preferred browser. Netscape, Firefox and Mozilla are also supported.

**myNOVA** General Info:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/accounts/mynovaaccount.html>

**myNOVA** Frequently Asked Questions

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/accounts/mynovaaccount/mynovafaq.html>

You will also find many useful links to academic materials, forms, applications, catalogs and other resources on the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Student Resources and Materials homepage:

<https://villanova.sharepoint.com/sites/nur/studentmaterials/default.aspx>

### **Villanova's Email System**

All students, faculty & staff are given an email account. This information will be sent to you along with your ID and Password once you are accepted and a Banner Student ID is generated for you. If you do not know your email address, contact the Computer Support Center at (610) 519-7777.

Email addresses are generated using the following convention:

firstname.lastname@villanova.edu

Villanova Email is accessible from any computer that has an Internet connection and a web browser. Access your email through myNOVA or the following url address:

<http://webmail.villanova.edu>

### **I.D. Card (WILDCARD)**

Students must obtain University-issued Villanova Student Identification Card (Wildcard) which is required for numerous campus services, including printing/photocopying,

gymnasium, and Library. Replacement ID cards can be obtained for \$30.00 from the Wildcard Office, Dougherty Hall, 610-519-4179. The Wildcard also serves as a debit card for purchases on campus and with some community merchants who offer a VU discount. The University Bookstore offers a 5% discount when the Wildcard is used to pay for purchases. Money can be added to a student's Wildcard account at the Wildcard Office in Dougherty Hall and through the Wildcard Services website using a Mastercard, Visa, or Discover card, or through ACH or e-check transfers. Wildcard is used to pay for purchases. For more information visit the [Wildcard Services website:](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/wildcard.html)  
<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/wildcard.html>

### **Student Computer and Print Labs on Campus**

#### ***Public computing Sites on Campus:***

- Tolentine Room B2 and Room B4 (Open 24 hours a day – 7 days a week)
- Multimedia Lab Room B6 (Open Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM)
- Bartley Hall Room B3 and Room B6 (Open 24 hours a day – 7 days a week)
- Mendel Room G8 (Open 24 hours a day – 7 days a week)
- Connelly Center: Cyber Café (Open 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM)
- Falvey Library (Open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5:00 PM)

#### ***Student Print Locations on Campus:***

Driscoll Hall 207, Mendel 85, Tolentine 2 & 4, Falvey Library and Bartley Print Center.

Locations on campus designated as common printing areas have been equipped with new Xerox printers. In addition to the printer, each location will have a print release station. By utilizing your Wildcard, you simply swipe your card at the print release station to print your document (s). Scan to email (PDF and JPG) is available for Villanova students.

#### ***Getting Support***

UNIT supports all Villanova faculty, staff and students. Any computer related problems can be handled over the phone, in person, or via web.

UNIT Home Page: <http://www.villanova.edu/villanova/unit.html>

Technology Support Services Team

Web Address: <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/helpsupport.html>

Self-Service Help Desk (SSHD): <https://easyvista.villanova.edu>

Submit computer related problems via the web in the Incident Management system in SSHD. You can utilize the SSHD Knowledge Base to search for incidents and solutions related to your particular problem or issue.

The TechZone is located in Vasey 101 and is open M-Th from 9-7 and 9-5 on Fridays  
Phone: 610-519-7777

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/unit/student-services/TechZone.html>

### **The Counseling Center**

The Counseling Center is designed to help any student, graduate or undergraduate, explore personal concerns and difficult decisions. Except in emergencies, appointments are required, and can be scheduled either by telephone (610- 519-4050) or by going to the Counseling Center (Room 206 in Health Services Building). Students may request a specific counselor or use the counselors available for the following services:

#### ***Individual Counseling for Personal Development***

Counseling assists one to define problem areas, provides emotional support during difficult periods, offers an outsider's perspective on family difficulties, helps people to change self-defeating habits and attitudes, and increases awareness of alternative, productive behaviors. Such services are available through the Center. On-line at:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/university/student-life/health-services/counseling-center.html>

### **Health Insurance**

All students need health insurance throughout their term of enrollment at Villanova. Health insurance is mandatory for all domestic, undergraduate matriculated students, all international students, and all law school students. College of Professional Studies (part-time students), undergraduate and graduate students taking three or more credit hours, and Ph. D thesis continuation students must purchase their own insurance.

For more information regarding the school sponsored plan, and the enrollment/waiver process, please visit the website [www.firststudent.com](http://www.firststudent.com).

### **Learning Resource Center**

The Simulation and Learning Resource Center (LRC) in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing provides realistic and well-equipped clinical simulations labs for undergraduate and graduate nursing students to practice new skills or to carry out simulation activities in health assessment, adult/gerontology health, maternal/child health, critical care, community health, community health, leadership and anesthesia procedures in real-life care environments. These experiences include mannequin-based “standardized patient”

experiences. Students participate in lab/simulation activities in many clinical courses in the graduate nursing curriculum.

The Learning Resource Center is located on the lower level of Driscoll Hall. Weekday, weekend and evening hours are posted on bulletin boards in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and in the LRC.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **Learning Support Services**

Learning Support Services (LSS) offers students a variety of academic support services that are designed to help students maximize their academic success. Students of all abilities, including successful students who want to enhance their academic skills and students who are struggling, are encouraged to use the services of LSS. To obtain accommodations, students must register with the Learning Support Office by submitting current documentation. To ensure confidentiality, students must complete a Request for Accommodation Form each semester at Villanova in order to receive accommodations during that semester. Nothing can be shared with the professors without permission. Call 610-519-5636 or email the office for an appointment. For additional information, see the website at <https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/provost/learningsupport.html>

### **Office of Disabilities Services**

The Office of Disability Services collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The ODS provides Villanova University students with physical disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact Gregory Hannah, advisor to students with disabilities at 610-519-3209 or visit the Office on the second floor of the Connelly Center.

[https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/be\\_empowered/disability\\_services.html](https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/be_empowered/disability_services.html)

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Campus Activities**

A variety of activities and organizations that offer social, counseling, scholarly, and collegial opportunities are available to students in the University and in the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

## **Athletic Facilities**

All students at Villanova are eligible to take advantage of the weight rooms, pools and other athletic facilities that are available on campus. Please call the athletics office (610-519-4090) for information on the location, availability and times of operation of various facilities.

## **Campus Ministry**

Campus Ministry coordinates a variety of programs on the campus and in the community, including liturgical, community and educational programs. The Campus Ministry center is located on the ground floor of St. Rita's Hall. Appointments can be made in person or by telephone (610-519-4080).

## **Special Olympics**

The Office of Student Activities sponsors the Special Olympics program every year. Volunteers include undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff. Several first aid stations are established for this day-long program, and nurses are warmly welcomed as volunteers. Volunteers also may serve as "huggers" who accompany the children through the day. For further information about the Special Olympics, contact the Office of Student Activities (610- 519-7244).

## **Villanova Theatre**

The Villanova Theatre offers a variety of plays during the academic year and the summer. Volunteers are welcome "behind the scenes." All auditions are open, and times are posted on campus and published in The Villanovan, the University newspaper. The schedule of performances is published in The Villanovan and are available in the Connelly Center and from the theatre office. Ticket prices are very reasonable, and student discounts, season subscription and group rates are available. The Villanova Theatre is located in the John and Joan Mullen Center for the Performing Arts. Contact the Theatre Department (610-519-4897) or the box office (610-519-7474) for more information.

<http://villanovatheatre.org/>

## **Connelly Center**

The Connelly Center is located on the main campus. It houses a cafeteria (which serves hot and cold food at reasonable prices), an ice cream shop, a candy counter, an electronic banking machine, an art gallery, formal and informal lounges, a movie theater, etc. The hours of the Connelly Center and all dining areas can be obtained at:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/services/connellycenter/hours.html>

## **Campus Dining**

A variety of locations are available for dining during day and evening classes:

- The Recovery Room Located on Driscoll Hall 2nd Floor.
- Dougherty Hall on Main Campus

- Cafe Nova-Located in Dougherty Hall
- The Curley Exchange in Bartley Hall
- For a complete list of dining options and operating hours visit:  
<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/services/dining.html>

## **Security**

For regular business involving the Public Safety Department, you may contact an officer 24 hours a day at 610-519-6979. Office personnel may also be reached at this number from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For emergency calls requiring a campus security officer, telephone 610-519-4444 (dial 94444 if using a campus phone) any time day or night. An escort service is available for students leaving the buildings late. Call Public Safety at 610-519-6979.

## **M. LOUISE FITZPATRICK COLLEGE OF NURSING ACTIVITIES**

### **Graduate Nurse Network**

The Graduate Nursing Network (GNN) is the graduate student organization in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing, and all students who are enrolled in the Graduate Nursing Program are members of the GNN. This organization plans social and educational programs during the year, sponsors a reception for all students who have graduated during the year, and manages the election or appointment of student representatives to the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and University committees. The Graduate Nurse Network also distributes a newsletter to all members at least once each year; this contains articles about nursing, life as a graduate student, career notes about alumni and some of the activities occurring in the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

You are encouraged to become active in this dynamic nursing organization through which you will have an opportunity to network with other students about employment opportunities, exchange ideas about courses, etc. For further information about the Graduate Nurse Network, contact any of the Network officers or the Network faculty advisor.

### **Sigma Theta Tau International, Alpha Nu Chapter**

Alpha Nu is the Villanova Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international nursing honor society. Sigma Theta Tau recognizes superior academic achievement, leadership abilities, scholarly accomplishments, and commitment to the ideals of the nursing profession. Alpha Nu Chapter was founded in 1966 and continues to be a dynamic organization with over 500 active members.

Alpha Nu Chapter sponsors several educational programs during the year and co-sponsors the annual Distinguished Lectureship with the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. The Chapter also offers an annual scholarship for advanced study in nursing (master's or doctoral

program) and an annual research grant to its members. The Chapter has served as a mentor for new chapters in the region and has provided leadership to Sigma Theta Tau chapters in the Eastern Pennsylvania area.

If you are already a member of Sigma Theta Tau, you may consider a dual membership or a transfer of your current membership to the Alpha Nu Chapter. For further information about Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Nu Chapter (e.g., membership criteria and procedures, transfer or dual membership), contact any of the officers or committee chairs.

Alpha Nu, the Villanova Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau has a scholarship available for graduate students who are active members. For information concerning this scholarship, contact the Chairperson of the Chapter's Scholarship Committee, c/o the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing.

### **Annual Distinguished Lectureship**

The Annual Distinguished Lectureship was initiated in 1978 on the twentieth anniversary of the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and has been co-sponsored with Alpha Nu for several years. Each year an outstanding nurse leader is invited to present a timely issue in nursing for the students, faculty, alumni and friends of the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing. The Annual Distinguished Lectureship is presented every Fall and is listed in the College of Nursing's Continuing Education brochure, the Alpha Nu newsletter and the Graduate Nurse Network newsletter. There also is a general mailing about this event, and notices are placed on the web. This professional program is offered at no cost to participants.

### **Naratil Family Health and Human Values Series**

The Naratil Family Health and Human Values series has been developed by the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing to promote knowledge and understanding of ethics and values in health care and health care delivery. The series is offered each year with local, national and international experts serving as presenters or panelists. Generally, there are several programs throughout the academic year. They are offered in the evening and faculty, students and members of the professional community are invited to attend.

### **Continuing Education Program**

The Continuing Education Program of the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing offers a variety of conferences, workshops and seminars on pertinent areas in nursing taught by the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing faculty as well as other local and national experts. The offerings, related to various nursing issues, clinical practice, health care administration and nursing education, are listed in the brochure, which is published regularly and is available through the Continuing Education office.

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Continuing Education Program is accredited as a provider of Continuing Education in Nursing by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation, and contact hours are awarded for participation in

these courses. The Continuing Education office is located in Driscoll Hall and can be contacted easily (610- 519-4931).

### **Faculty Development**

The Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Research Committee sponsors Faculty Research Forums each year, and graduate students are invited to attend. These forums are opportunities for faculty members to share and receive feedback on their research activities, and they are very informal in nature. Notices about scheduled Faculty Research Forums are posted on the web. You are welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion.

### **The Nursing Alumni Network**

The Nursing Alumni Network was founded in 1985 and is a member club of the Villanova University Alumni Association. The basic purposes of the Network are to further the interests of both Villanova University and the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing and to facilitate the professional networking and engagement of its members. The Network may sponsor or co-sponsor events during the year as well as sponsor gatherings at some professional conferences. All alumni from the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing are encouraged to participate. For further information or to host your own event for alumni, contact Ann McKenzie, MSN, RN, Director of College Relations, at [ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu](mailto:ann.mckenzie@villanova.edu).

## **GRADUATION**

### **Application Procedure**

You must complete an application for graduation during the semester in which you plan to graduate. This application is available online.

In [MyNova](#), search for “Prospective Graduate Form,” choose the term you will be completing your degree requirements in the drop-down menu and submit the form.

<b><u>Graduation Date</u></b>	<b><u>Submit Application Between</u></b>
September 1	February 1 – June 15
December 31	March 1 – September 15
May 31	August 25 – January 31

A \$100.00 late fee will be charged to the account of anyone who applies for graduation after the deadline has passed. The late fee is non-refundable and non-transferable to another term. To avoid a late fee, students are urged to apply before the deadline listed above.

In addition to completing an application for graduation, you must complete (1) a Graduate Nursing Program Exit Survey, and (2) a Villanova University Graduate Student Survey which will be shared with you via email.

## **Graduation Ceremonies**

Villanova University conducts graduation ceremonies once each year, in the spring semester. All students who have graduated officially in September or December are invited to participate in the following May Commencement. Information about Commencement (date, time, place) and procedures for obtaining academic attire will be mailed to all eligible candidates. If you completed the program in September or December, you are responsible for notifying the Graduate Program Office of any change of address before March 1st to ensure that commencement information reaches you. The faculty encourage you to attend this joyous occasion since it is an opportunity to see classmates and colleagues and to celebrate this happy event with family, friends and faculty.

## **Baccalaureate Mass**

In keeping with its religious tradition, a Baccalaureate Mass is held in conjunction with commencement activities. All graduates, families and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

## **PARKING POLICIES**

All students and employees of Villanova University who wish to park their cars on campus property must purchase a parking permit from the Villanova University Department of Public Safety. Cars parked on campus property without a parking permit are subject to being ticketed and/or towed. A parking permit does not guarantee a parking space; however, the number of permits issued is limited to increase the probability of the holder finding a parking space. Parking is permitted only in areas designated for parking use. Parking in loading zones, handicap spaces, fire zones or at building exits is prohibited whether or not "no parking" signs are posted.

### **Evening Parking Permits**

Graduate nursing students are considered "evening students" since their classes generally begin after 4:30 p.m. Students may purchase evening parking permits. Evening permits are valid after 4:30 p.m. each school day and will be honored during school vacations, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. for students who wish to use the Library or other University facilities. An evening permit is not valid for parking in any lot from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on regular class days except by special request.

### **Daytime Parking for Evening Students**

If you have purchased an evening permit and wish to come to campus occasionally before 4:30pm to use the library or meet with other students, you must park in the Ithan Garage. The rates can be found at:

<https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/parking/extendedhours/parking-permit-prices.html>

### **Purchasing a Parking Permit**

Parking permits are available for sale via the parking portal. The Parking office is open weekdays Monday-Friday 8-4pm (610)519-6989.

Access the Parking Portal at:

<https://villanovauniversity.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal>

**GRADUATE PROGRAM**  
**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Fitzpatrick College of Nursing	(610) 519-4900
Learning Resource Center	(610) 519-4925
Snow Closing	(610) 519-4505
Business Office (Bursar)	(610) 519-4258
Counseling Center	(610) 519-4050
Falvey Library (recorded message)	(610) 519-4292
Instructional Media Services	(610) 519-4467
Inter-Library Loans	(610) 519-4274
Reference	(610) 519-4273
Reserve Room	(610) 519-4278
Financial Assistance	(610) 519-3305
Office of Public Safety	(610) 519-6979
For Emergency only	(610) 519-4444
Office of the Registrar	(610) 519-4030

(Transcripts and registration information available online)