

# **Course Catalog Graduate Program in Nursing 2016-17**

## **School of Nursing and Health Sciences**

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences (SNHS) was established in July 1989, underscoring Simmons's commitment to the preparation of students for positions of leadership in health care. The School brings together the College's health-related programs in nutrition, physical therapy, and primary health care nursing. In 2001, the School was realigned to include the undergraduate programs in nursing, physical therapy and nutrition. In 2008, the name was changed to the School of Health Sciences and in January 2011 the name was changed again to the School of Nursing and Health Sciences (SNHS) to reflect the growth and expansion in the Nursing program.

The School's goal is to prepare individuals for clinical and administrative leadership positions in a rapidly changing health care environment. Its programs are committed to educating students to be sensitive to human needs in terms of access and quality of health care, and to also understand the organizational, institutional, and policy constraints that dominate the health care system. Because it incorporates both clinical and administrative preparation in one organization, the School is uniquely positioned to respond to the critical need for well-prepared health care professionals, to enhance the opportunities for interdisciplinary and interprofessional cooperation, and to expand the resources available to faculty, graduate students, and the health care community.

SNHS students benefit from the College's location in Boston. The city has one of the world's largest medical centers, with more than seventy hospitals, dozens of health centers and clinics, and hundreds of other health care-related organizations. These countless resources, combined with Boston's equally distinguished high technology and research institutions, provide excellent learning experiences and career opportunities for students in health-related programs. At 300 The Fenway, Simmons is located in the heart of the Longwood Medical Area, neighbor to the Harvard medical, dental, and public health schools and in close proximity to noted medical institutions such as Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Children's Hospital.

## **The Nursing Department at Simmons College**

Simmons College has provided higher education programs for nurses since its beginning in 1902 and for nurse practitioners since 1978. In 2007 the Department celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first graduating nursing class at Simmons. In response to a growing interest in nursing and the development of a direct entry program and accelerated baccalaureate program, enrollments in nursing have increased significantly, reflecting the commitment of the faculty and administration to the advancement of professional education. Continued feedback from graduates and employers speaks to the rigor and success of the program. The Nursing Department consists of baccalaureate (generalist/pre-licensure), master's (specialist) degree granting curricula, and several post-masters certificate programs including a Doctorate of Nursing Practice

The graduate programs focus on preparing nurses for the advanced practice role as Family Nurse Practitioners. Upon certification as a Family Nurse Practitioner, graduates are prepared to deliver primary health care to clients and families across the life span.

Pre-licensure programs include the following:

- The traditional baccalaureate program for women 18-22 years of age(admission via the Office of Undergraduate Admission)
- Dix Scholars programs: an 18- month program for individuals with a previous BA/BS who wish to follow an accelerated pace, and a two or three year option for those without a baccalaureate degree or those desiring a part-time program(admission via the Office of Undergraduate Admission)
- The RN-MS program for Registered Nurses(R.N. s) nurses without a baccalaureate degree
- The 5 Year BS- MS program: pre-licensure curriculum
- The Direct Entry Program: pre-licensure curriculum for individuals with a BA/BS in a discipline other than nursing

The master's programs include the following:

- The traditional master's program for nurses with a baccalaureate in nursing (BSN)or related field
- The RN-MS program for registered nurses(R.N.s) without a baccalaureate degree
- The Direct Entry Program for individuals with a bachelor's degree in another discipline other than nursing
- The 5 Year BS- MS program
- Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Family Health, Oncology, and Health Profession Educations for nurses with a master's degree in nursing
- MS completion program for nurse practitioners without a master's degree in nursing
- Dual degree program in maternal-child health with the Harvard School of Public Health.
- Post-Master's Doctorate in Nursing Practice

Nursing at Simmons has consistently been proactive in its curriculum development and has sought partnerships with other health care and higher education institutions to provide the highest quality nursing education.

### **Highlights of the history of nursing at Simmons College**

1902 Developed articulation agreements with Children's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital to provide college level science courses for their diploma students.

1906 Established a Public Health Nursing Program in collaboration with the Boston Instructive District Nursing Association (later to become the Boston Visiting Nurse Association).

1915 Established a Department of Public Health Nursing.

1933 Implemented a five- year baccalaureate program in nursing, and became a charter member of the National League for Nursing.

1952 In collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health, established a master' program in Public Health Nursing. The Rockefeller Foundation supported this program.

1978 Developed the graduate program in Adult Primary Health Care Nursing in collaboration with the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, funded by the Division of Nursing.

1983 Expanded the Primary Care graduate program to include Occupational Health.

1989 Initiated the RN-MS program. Development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> baccalaureate degree program for individuals seeking a career in nursing (Dix Scholars Program).

1990 Expanded the Primary Care Core to include Parent-Child Health and Geriatric Health. Developed dual degree program in Maternal-Child Health with Harvard School of Public Health.

1993 Established the undergraduate evening/weekend program for Dix Scholars. Initiated the School Health and Women's Health concentrations in the graduate Nursing Department. Developed dual degree program in Occupational Health with Harvard School of Public Health funded by NIOSH.

1994 Established the Simmons/Westbrook Partnership in Primary Health Care Nursing, an off-site weekend program for graduate nursing in cooperation with Westbrook College, Portland, Maine.

2000 Established the five- year BS to MS Program and Direct Entry Program for non-RN college graduates.

2003 Established an 18-month accelerated BS in Nursing for non-RN college graduates

2003 Established collaboratively with the School of Education and other programs in SHS a CAGS in Health Professions Education and a PhD in Health Professions Education. Developing collaboratively with the SHS Health Care Administration Program a post-baccalaureate certificate program to develop nurse managers.

2006 Established an off-site RN-BS program at Winchester Hospital for nurses with an Associate's degree.

2007 Established off-site RN-MS and BS-MS programs in Nursing Administration at Winchester

2007 Established an off-site RN-BS program at South Shore Hospital for nurses with an Associate's degree.

2008 Established an off-site RN-BS program at Faulkner Hospital for nurses with an Associate's degree.

2008 Admitted first cohort of Post-Master's Doctorate of Nursing Practice students on the Boston Campus.

2009 admitted first cohort of Longwood Area Hospital students to MS in Nursing Administration Program

2011 School for Health Sciences re named The School of Nursing and Health Sciences

The reputation of the Nursing Department and of its graduates is exceptionally strong. Graduates are well known for their clinical expertise and knowledge. This is a result of not only a rigorous curriculum but also the fact that all nursing faculty practice at least one day per week. Additionally, since our last accreditation site-visit in 2003 the number of faculty who has completed their doctoral degrees has increased from 8 to 11 and the number enrolled in doctoral programs from 2 to 12. Scholarly presentations and publications have also doubled.

The Department has been recognized by donors for its ongoing excellence. In 2007 it received an anonymous \$1M gift for the development of a Faculty Scholars Legacy Fund. In 2008 we received a \$2M gift from an alumna of the class of 1962 for the development of a bridge and tutoring program for academically at risk students and also for simulation lab upgrades. Total recent programmatic funding well exceeds \$4M.

## Philosophy of Nursing

The faculty of the Nursing Program believes that a liberal education is essential for the development of professional nursing practice in a culturally, racially and ethnically diverse community. The quality of this practice is enhanced by, and dependent on, knowledge acquired from the liberal arts and sciences. The process, as well as the content of liberal education, is fundamental to the development of critical thinking, decision -making and communication skills, as well as facilitating the individual student's development of an appreciation of the global society. The faculty believes that learning is a unique, life- long process, moving from the simple to the more complex, and encompassing the domains of personal, empirical, aesthetic and ethical knowledge (Carper, 1975). The science of nursing requires the acquisition of knowledge in each of these domains that the learner integrates and utilizes in her/his growth as a professional nurse. Growth is evidenced as the learner gains an understanding of the profession of nursing by acquiring knowledge in each of these domains.

The Simmons College Nursing Faculty believes that professional nursing is practiced according to the nursing metaparadigm, which includes beliefs about person, health, nursing, and environment. Each **person** is unique. Human beings are holistic in nature, yet they have interacting biophysical, cognitive, social, spiritual and developmental dimensions. Persons have their own perceptions, values, beliefs and goals. Individuals have the ability to be self-directive, to adapt to change, to achieve their potential, and to ascribe personal meaning in their lives.

**Health** may include states of wellness and illness. It has subjective and objective perspectives viewed from both the standpoint of the client and the health care system. Wellness is a dynamic state of integrity whereby the person repatterns life toward optimal functioning. *Health* is recognized as a multidimensional and dynamic state of wellness and illness, and is defined as "the actualization of inherent and acquired human potential through goal-directed behavior, competent self-care, and satisfying relationships with others while adjustments are made as needed to maintain structure, integrity and harmony with the environment." (Pender, 1987, cited in ANA Social Policy statement, 1995). The faculty believes that the professional nurse assists persons in identifying health needs, utilizing a holistic framework that recognizes the uniqueness and complexity of each individual.

**Nursing** is the diagnosis and treatment of human responses to actual or potential health problems. It involves an interaction between the client and nurse, which is designed to promote, restore, and maintain health or support a peaceful death. The nurse uses knowledge from the natural and behavioral sciences, aesthetics including caring and empathy, and ethics, which involve making moral choices. Nurses are ethically and legally accountable for their actions. The **Environment** includes biophysical, psychosocial, cultural and spiritual dimensions that interact and influence health. Each person lives and interacts within an ever-changing environment. The environment can be modified to have a positive impact on health.

The nurse independently utilizes the nursing process in the practice of professional nursing in accordance with the standards of nursing practice and the ANA Code of Ethics. The nurse collaborates with clients, families and other health care professionals who are members of an interdisciplinary team in assessing, planning, delivering and evaluating health care. The professional nurse functions as an advocate for person and focuses nursing practice on person within the context of family and community. The professional nurse is an active participant in the social and political processes that influence the health care delivery system. The nurse utilizes critical thinking and clinical judgment to analyze the client needs, determine and implement appropriate, therapeutic nursing interventions, and coordinate the activities of other health care providers involved in the care of the client.

The graduate program in Nursing at Simmons College is designed to prepare professional nurses for careers in advanced clinical practice, academics and administrative leadership. Students in the program are mentored in a variety of clinical settings which range from primary health care to diverse specialty and acute settings. Knowledge acquired in their undergraduate education is applied and synthesized to the advanced study of natural, behavioral and applied health sciences. Advanced practice nursing in the graduate program means specialization, expansion and advancement in the professional role of the nurse practitioner, nurse scientist and nurse executive. Excellence in scholarship, clinical practice and service spans the curriculum.

The essence of advanced practice nursing consists of the purposeful relationship created between the individual professional nurse and the patient, community or system at large. An inter-disciplinary practitioner-mentoring model is applied to guide students in the personalized development of clinical practice which both improves systems of care and ultimately influences patient outcomes. The program emphasizes the development of excellent skills and acquisition of tools necessary to integrate evidence, including safety quality care measures, into practice across the lifespan.

The advanced practice nurse builds on an in-depth knowledge of the individual, family and the community as a complex system and begins to expand interventions to include not only a response to immediate health care needs, but the promotion of health and prevention of illness in these aggregates. Our students value the patient and the system from which these arise. The quality of the therapeutic relationship between nurse and patient reflects collective competencies in clinical assessment, intervention and innovative strategies for care. The foundation of practice expands across diverse political, ethical and cultural populations, establishing opportunity to respond to the health care needs of our community.

**Professional Standards that guide the programs include:**

- The American Nurses Association Standards of Clinical Practice
- The American Nurses Association Nursing Code of Ethics
- The American Nurses Association Social Policy Statement

**Nursing Program Mission**

The Simmons College Nursing Department supports the college mission by educating professional nurses to assume roles in clinical practice, leadership, advocacy, scholarship and health care policy. Simmons College graduate nurses provide expert and compassionate care, adhering to the highest ethical and professional standards, to client populations in all health care settings.

## **Nursing Program Values**

Support those of the college and include:

- Community
- Excellence
- Diversity (cultural competence)
- Scholarship
- Leadership
- Professionalism
- Compassionate caregiving (humanism)
- Respect for others
- Evidence based practice
- Ethical practice
- Life-long learning

## **Nursing Program Vision**

- To expand clinical academic partnerships locally, regionally, nationally, globally
- To expand program offering
  - a. to respond to the shortage of nursing and nursing educators
  - b. To respond to continuing education needs of practicing nurses.
  - c. To respond to the explosion of nursing knowledge.
  - d. To respond to service partner's needs for new advanced practice options.

To academically support all learners with varied needs and learning style

## **The Graduate Programs in Nursing**

### **Program Overview**

Simmons' graduate nursing program offers students the opportunity to be active participants in a nationally accredited educational program with an established history of academic and clinical excellence. The program provides students with specialized education in primary health care nursing focusing on scholarship, practice as family nurse practitioners. Graduates are prepared for leadership positions, research initiatives, and doctoral study. Several off-site programs prepare graduates for the roles in executive nursing.

The educational program combines classroom and clinical experiences that are responsive to student needs and interests as well as to program goals. Varied experiences and knowledge are integrated into the educational process through the faculty's use of interactive teaching, web-enhanced learning, seminars, tutorials, and the case-study method. Students gain clinical experience in major health care settings within the metropolitan Boston community. Students are precepted by certified advanced practice nurses and mentored by nursing faculty who are themselves certified advanced practice nurses and active in practice.

## Objectives

The graduate program in Nursing at Simmons College is designed to prepare professional nurses for careers in advanced clinical practice, academics and administrative leadership. Students in the program are mentored in a variety of clinical settings which range from primary health care to diverse specialty and acute settings. Knowledge acquired in their undergraduate education is applied and synthesized to the advanced study of natural, behavioral and applied health sciences. Advanced practice nursing in the graduate program means specialization, expansion and advancement in the professional role of the nurse practitioner, nurse scientist and nurse executive. Excellence in scholarship, clinical practice and service spans the curriculum. The essence of advanced practice nursing consists of the purposeful relationship created between the individual professional nurse and the patient, community or system at large. An interdisciplinary practitioner-mentoring model is applied to guide students in the personalized development of clinical practice which both improves systems of care and ultimately influences patient outcomes.

### Outcome Objectives for the Master's Curriculum

Critique, evaluate, synthesize and utilize theoretical, scientific and clinical knowledge as applied to the assessment and management of primary and acute health and illness states.

Demonstrate a personal, collegial and collaborative approach as an advanced practice nurse while emphasizing health promotion, disease prevention and identification of environmental factors that impact health status across the lifespan.

Develop an understanding and appreciation of human diversity as an advanced practice professional to assure the delivery of appropriate and individualized health care across the curriculum.

Demonstrate sound critical thinking and clinical decision making reflected in effective written and verbal communication skills utilized by the advanced practice nurse in a complex delivery system.

Demonstrate personal qualities and professional behaviors which are assertive and engage in advanced practice activities that advocate for on-going change and leadership within nursing and in the health care system.

Apply critical thinking skills within a multidisciplinary approach to care which fosters strategies and assembles multifaceted resources to empower patients, families and communities to attain and maintain maximal functional wellness.

Demonstrate nursing judgments and interventions which provide culturally sensitive care for diverse populations.

Demonstrate nursing practices which address human differences.

Design and implement evidence-based primary health care practices in varied health care systems.

Assume a leadership role in the management of patients, communities and larger systems. Initiate changes in patient care and in the health care system through negotiation with other health care professionals.

Evaluate the efficacy of health promotion, health protection, disease prevention, and treatment interventions through the application of knowledge of health care systems, economics, policy, ethics and politics.

Conduct clinical nursing research designed to advance the science of nursing.

Advance professional growth through continued acquisition of theoretical knowledge and clinical experience, and through participation and/or leadership in professional and community consultation and collaboration, continuing education, certification, and lifelong learning.

**Professional Standards that guide the specialist programs include:**

The American Nurses Association Standards of Clinical Practice  
The American Nurses Association Nursing Code of Ethics  
The American Nurses Association Social Policy Statement  
The American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing  
The American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Doctoral Nursing Education  
The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties Domains and Competencies of Nurse Practitioner Practice  
Criteria for Evaluation of Nurse Practitioner Programs (National Task Force on Quality NP Education).

**Program of Study: Primary Health Care Nursing**

The Graduate Program in Primary Health Care Nursing prepares students as Family Nurse Practitioners:

- Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Care (MS)
- The clinical focus is on preparing graduates to deliver primary health care across the life span. During the last semester, the student may elect to spend clinical time in a specialty area including Pediatrics, Women's Health, Gerontology and Vulnerable Populations. Once certified the graduate is prepared to work either with special populations or in family settings and with clients and families across the life span.
- Nursing Administration(at select Boston hospitals)
- Doctor of Nursing Practice (post-MS )



## **DEGREE OPTIONS**

### **Master's Degree Program for Nurses with a B.S.N. or B.A. /B.S. in a Related Field**

This program is designed for registered nurses who have a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a related field who wish to obtain a graduate degree in nursing within a family nurse practitioner specialty concentration. This program can be completed either full time in two years or part time in either three to four years. The Simmons College graduate program is one of the oldest nurse practitioner programs in the country.

### **Master's Degree Program for Diploma or Associate Degree Nurses**

The RN-M.S. in Nursing Program is a unique curriculum designed for diploma and associate degree registered nurses who wish to obtain a graduate degree in nursing within a family nurse practitioner specialty concentration. The program is individually designed and paced to allow the student to complete the program in three to four years once the prerequisite courses are met. There is no time limit on undergraduate courses accepted for transfer. These features, among many others, position the program among the best in the country. Specifics will vary depending upon experience, previous education, and selection of part-time or full-time study. See the curriculum for more information.

### **Master's Degree Program for Non-Nurses with a B.A. /B.S.**

The Direct Entry Program in Advanced Practice Nursing is designed to prepare individuals without nursing backgrounds for the advanced practice nursing role. The program is a three-year, full-time program. Students in the Direct Entry program are eligible to take the RN nursing licensure examination at the end of the second fall term. They must pass the exam before beginning the graduate primary care clinical sequence, though they will participate in campus laboratory experiences beginning in the summer of the first year of the program. Students who complete the pre-licensure portion are strongly encouraged to work as an RN prior while to completing the graduate portion of the program. The student can collaborate with their advisor based on job opportunities.

### **Master's Degree Program for Practicing Nurse Practitioners**

This program is designed for nurses currently practicing as nurse practitioners who wish to expand their nursing skills through graduate education. Critical-thinking skills and a strong knowledge base in primary care are required. Candidates are encouraged to meet with the Course Coordinator to discuss their individual experience and goals for the program. Three courses can be challenged: NUR 404, Advanced Pathophysiology, and NUR 422 and 423, Advanced Pharmacology across the Life span. Primary care courses may be waived at the discretion of the Department Chair. Candidates must present evidence of licensure in the advanced practice role of nurse practitioner and documentation of current certification as a nurse practitioner. If the primary care sequence is waived, the program of study consists of eighteen to twenty-five credits. The program can be completed either full time or part time. Upon successful completion, the student will be awarded a Master of Science degree in Nursing.

### **Dual-Degree Master's Program in Maternal-Child Health**

Simmons College and the Harvard School of Public Health offer a two-year, full-time, dual-degree option offering a Master of Science in Primary Health Care Nursing from Simmons College and a Master of Science in Society, Human Development, and Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. Students must apply separately to each institution and be accepted individually by each institution for enrollment in this dual degree option. The dual-degree program allows preparation as a Family Nurse Practitioner and additionally prepares the graduate to deliver care to aggregate populations of women and/or children at a public health level and to develop health programs in the community. Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the appropriate certification exam administered by the professional nursing organization.

Students admitted to the dual-degree program enroll in half-time study at both Simmons College and the Harvard School of Public Health for two academic years plus one summer session at Simmons College. The program is eighty semester hours. Applicants to the dual-degree program must apply to both institutions and meet admission requirements for both institutions. Check with each institution about application deadline dates which differ. Applications for the Harvard School of Public Health can be obtained from the School's admissions office at 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

### **Post-Master's Programs (C.A.G.S.: Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study)**

#### **Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (C.A.G.S) in Health Professions Education**

This is interdisciplinary certificate of advanced graduate study in health professions education prepares graduates for positions as university faculty and other teaching roles. This program provides students with an opportunity to continue doctoral studies in our Ph.D. in Health Professions Education, offered through the College of Arts and Sciences.

#### **Doctorate of Nursing Practice**

The DNP will prepare doctoral-level nursing clinicians for expert practice and leadership in clinical settings. The DNP is a practice-focused degree analogous to professional doctoral degrees in other disciplines, including Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Dentistry and Clinical Psychology. The DNP differs from the Ph.D. in its emphasis on practice and practice-related research.

The DNP is designed for:

Experienced advanced practice nurses (Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Nurse Anesthetists) who have had at least two years (approximately 5000 hours) of advanced practice experience (Post-Master's DNP in Practice Leadership)

Experienced Nurse Managers who have a minimum of two years (approximately 5000 hours) in a managerial or executive role (Post-Master's DNP in Practice Leadership).

#### **Requirements for Program Completion for All Nursing Candidates\***

##### **Prerequisite for the Research Sequence (SNHS 410: Research Methods**

**For all Master's Candidates:**

## **Statistics**

An undergraduate-level statistics course must be completed before taking Research Methods

. The course should include the following:

1. Descriptive statistics: mean, median, mode, percent, distribution, normal curve, confidence levels, variance, standard deviation
2. Correlation: chi square, pearson r
3. Inference: t-test, ANOVA
4. Levels of significance
5. Probability
6. Parametric vs. non-parametric tests
7. Hypothesis testing
8. Types of error

If an applicant's course was taken more than ten years before the application deadline, the applicant should take the Simmons College Self-study Assessment Test (available from the Nursing Department) to assess competency. If the assessment result is poor, the student should retake Statistics prior to taking SNHS 410.

## **Prerequisite for the Primary Care Clinical Sequence (NUR 500 Advanced Health Assessment)**

### **Health Assessment**

A graduate health assessment course is required prior to entering Primary Health Care Nursing I (NUR 500 and NUR 500 A). This Health Assessment course can be completed after acceptance to either the Direct Entry Nursing or regular B.S.N.-M.S. in nursing program. Since the graduate nurse program prepares students to become Family Nurse Practitioners, it is recommended that students have beginning knowledge in health assessment across the life span. Students who have health assessment preparation in only one area (adult or pediatrics) are advised to obtain further preparation. Simmons nursing program offers a health assessment course with a life span approach during the January intersession. It is non- credit course but can be taken for Continuing Education Credits.

\*Students must have taken a current statistics and health assessment course within five years of the admission application deadline at a regionally accredited U.S. college or university before beginning SNHS 410 and NUR 500 and NUR 500 A. However, the timing of when to take these prerequisite courses will depend on your chosen curriculum. Please refer to the sample program curricula to determine if statistics and health assessment should be completed before application or post-admission.

**B.S.N.-M.S. in Nursing Curriculum for Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
Two-Year Full-Time Schedule**

**YEAR 1**  
FALL

SNHS 570	Health Promotion: A Global Perspective .....	2
NUR 404	Advanced Pathophysiology .....	4
SHS 410	Research Methods .....	3
	<b>Total credits.....</b>	<b>9</b>

SPRING

SNHS 450	Health Care System: Interdisciplinary Perspectives .....	3
NUR 507	Scholarly Inquiry I.....	2
NUR 500	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan .....	2
NUR 500A	FNP I: Clinical Decision Making.....	1
	<b>Total credits.....</b>	<b>8</b>

SUMMER

NUR 501	FNP II: Primary Care Nursing of the Childbearing Family .....	4
NUR 501A	FNP II: Clinical Decision Making .....	1
NUR 508	Scholarly Inquiry II .....	2
NUR 504	Family Theory: Health and Illness.....	3
	<b>Total credits.....</b>	<b>10</b>

**YEAR 2**

FALL

NUR 422	Advanced Pharmacology Across the Life Span .....	3
NUR 502	FNP III: Primary Care Nursing I.....	4
NUR 502A	FNP III: Clinical Decision Making .....	2
	<b>Total credits.....</b>	

SPRING

NUR 503	FNP IV: Primary Care Nursing .....	4
NUR 503A	FNP IV: Clinical Decision Making .....	3
NUR 589	Informatics.....	3
NUR 423	Advanced Pharmacology II.....	2
	<b>Total credits.....</b>	<b>12</b>

Elective *		3
------------	--	---

<b>Total credits for program .....</b>	<b>48</b>
--	-----------

**B.S.N.-M.S. in Nursing Curriculum for Family Nurse Practitioner Program  
Three-Year Part-Time Schedule**

**YEAR 1  
FALL**

NUR 404	Advanced Pathophysiology .....	4
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>4</b>

**SPRING**

SNHS 450	Health Care System: Interdisciplinary Perspectives .....	3
NUR 507	Scholarly Inquiry I.....	2
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>5</b>

**SUMMER**

NUR 504	Family Theory: Health and Illness.....	3
NUR 508	Scholarly Inquiry II.....	2
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>5</b>

**YEAR 2  
FALL**

SNHS 570	Health Promotion: A Global Perspective .....	2
SNHS 410	Research Methods.....	3
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>5</b>

**SPRING**

NUR 500	Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan .....	2
NUR 589	Informatics.....	3
NUR 500A	FNP I: Clinical Decision Making.....	1
<b>Total credits .....</b>		<b>6</b>

**SUMMER**

NUR 501	FNP II: Primary Care Nursing of the Childbearing Family .....	4
NUR 501A	FNP II: Clinical Decision Making .....	1
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>5</b>

**YEAR 3  
FALL**

NUR 422	Advanced Pharmacology Across the Life Span.....	3
NUR 502	FNP III: Primary Care Nursing .....	4
NUR 502A	FNP III: Clinical Decision Making .....	2
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>9</b>

**SPRING**

NUR 503	FNP IV: Primary Care Nursing.....	4
NUR 503A	FNP IV: Clinical Decision Making.....	3
NUR 423	Advanced Pharmacology...II.....	2
<b>Total credits .....</b>		<b>9</b>

Total credits for program .....48

## **RN-M.S. in Nursing General Curriculum**

### **For RNs with Diplomas or Associate Degrees**

Students are admitted directly into the graduate nursing program and work closely with an advisor. Students do not receive an undergraduate degree as they are considered graduate students and therefore, are not required to meet all the undergraduate requirements for a Bachelor of Science degree. Applicants must be licensed to practice nursing in Massachusetts. Simmons College maintains articulation agreements with Laboure' and Roxbury Community Colleges for the RN-M.S. program. Graduates of these schools should contact the Simmons Nursing Department at 617-521-2141.

### **Phase I-Senior Sequence**

The nursing sequence begins in May. It is expected that students maintain a minimum cumulative average of 2.67 (B-) in the undergraduate courses and 3.0 (B) average in the graduate-level courses.

### **Phase II-Graduate Sequence**

Upon successful completion of the first year of the RN-M.S. program (see below), students enter the core primary care courses and specialty courses for their nurse practitioner program of study. See the two-year, full-time or three-year, part-time B.S.N.-M.S. sample curricula for more information.

Portfolio documentation of senior year equivalent clinical experience in Community Health (NUR 337) and Leadership and Management (NUR 454) affords the applicant the opportunity for an individualized and alternative senior year clinical practicum. Course work in these two courses is still required of all students. Students are guided in the portfolio development and review process by their faculty advisor. Upon successful completion of the first year of the RN-M.S. program, students select the core primary care courses and specialty courses for their nurse practitioner program of study. Prior to starting the graduate research sequence (SNHS 410) students are required to take a basic statistics course.

## **RN-MS PROGRAM**

### **Full-Time Curriculum**

#### **SUMMER**

##### **Year 1**

**NUR 390** Integrative Seminar  
(4 credits)

**Math 118** Statistics (4 credits)

##### **Year 2**

**NUR 504** Family Theory: Health  
and Illness (3 credits)

##### **Year 3**

**NUR 501** FNP II Primary Care  
Nursing of the Childbearing Family  
(4 credits)

**NUR 501A** FNP II Clinical  
Decision Making (1 credit)

**NUR 508** Scholarly Inquiry II  
(2 credits)

#### **FALL**

**NUR 235** Integration of Pharmacology/  
Pathophysiology (4 credits)

**NUR 337** Nursing Care of Individuals,  
Families, Communities (4 credits)

**NUR 404** Advanced Pathophysiology  
(4 credits)

**SNHS 410** Research Methods (3 credits)

**SNHS 570** Health Promotion: A Global  
Perspective (2 credits)

**NUR 422** Advanced Pharmacology  
Across the Life Span (3 credits)

**NURS 502** FNP III Primary Care  
Nursing (4 credits)

**NUR 502A** FNP III Clinical  
Decision Making (2 credits)

#### **SPRING**

**NUR 292** Health Assessment  
(4 credits)

**NUR 350** Independent Study  
(4 credits)

**NUR 454** Leadership/Management  
in the Clinical Setting  
(4 credits)

**SNHS 450** Health Care Systems:  
Interdisciplinary Perspectives  
(3 credits)

**NUR 500** Advanced Health  
Assessment Across the Lifespan  
(2 credits)

**NUR 500A** FNPI Clinical Decision  
Making (1 credit)

**NUR 507** Scholarly Inquiry I (2 credits)

**NUR 503** FNP IV Primary Care  
Nursing (4 credits)

**NUR 503A** FNP IV Clinical  
Decision Making (3 credits)

**NUR 423** Advanced Pharmacology  
Across the Life Span (2 credits)

**NUR 589** Informatics (3 credits)

**TOTAL CREDITS: 76**

## Direct Entry Curriculum in Advanced Practice Nursing

### YEAR 1

SUMMER (6 weeks) NUR 425.....Nursing Process and Skills (required of all students)  
**Total credits.....4**

### FALL

NUR 404 Advanced Pathophysiology ..... 4  
 NUR 426 Variances in Health Patterns of Adults and Elders I ..... 4  
 NUR 435 Integration of Pharmacology and Pathology ..... 4  
 NUR 492 Health Assessment..... 4  
**Total credits..... 16**

### SPRING

NUR 448 Variances in Health Patterns of the Client with  
 Psychiatric and Mental Illness..... 4  
 NUR 438 Variances in Health Patterns of Adults and Elders II ..... 8  
 SNHS 450 Health Care System: Interdisciplinary Perspectives ..... 3  
**Total Credits.....15**

### SUMMER (12 weeks)

NUR 447 Variances of Health Patterns of Childbearing Families ..... 4  
 NUR 449 Variances of Health Patterns of Childrearing Families ..... 4  
 NUR 437 Nursing Care of Individuals, Families, and Communities ..... 4  
**Total credits..... 12**

### YEAR 2

### FALL

SNHS 410 Research Methods ..... 3  
 NUR 454 Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting..... 4  
 NUR 455 Clinical Decision Making ..... 4  
**Total credits..... 11**

**NCLEX (RN) Examination taken at this time.**

### SPRING

SNHS 570 Health Promotion: A Global Perspective ..... 2  
 NUR 458 RN Internship (24 hours/week) .....1  
 NUR 507 Scholarly Inquiry I..... 2  
 NUR 500 Advanced Health Assessment Across the Lifespan ..... 2  
 NUR 500A FNP I: Clinical Decision Making.....1  
**Total credits.....8**



SUMMER

NUR 459	RN Internship- 12 weeks (32 hours/week).....	1
NUR 501	FNP II: Primary Care Nursing of the Childbearing Family .....	4
NUR 501A	FNP II: Clinical Decision Making .....	1
NUR 508	Scholarly Inquiry II .....	2
NUR 504	Family Theory: Health and Illness.....	3
Electives*		
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>11</b>

YEAR 3

FALL

NUR 422	Advanced Pharmacology Across the Life Span .....	3
NUR 502	FNP III: Primary Care Nursing I.....	4
NUR 502A	FNP III: Clinical Decision Making .....	2
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>8</b>

SPRING

NUR 503	FNP IV: Primary Care Nursing .....	4
NUR 503A	FNP IV: Clinical Decision Making .....	3
NUR 589	Informatics.....	3
NUR 423	Advanced Pharmacology II.....	2
<b>Total credits.....</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Total credits for the program.....</b>		<b>98</b>

**Dual-Degree Curriculum in Maternal-Child Health  
at the Harvard School of Public Health**

**Master of Science (S.M.) in Society, Human Development, and Health**

YEAR 1  
FALL

BIO 201	Biostatistics .....	5
EPI 201	Epidemiology .....	2.5
MCH 200	Growth and Development.....	2.5
	Total credits.....	10

SPRING

MCH 207	Nutrition in Child Growth and Development .....	2.5
MCH	Elective .....	5
	Free Elective.....	2.5
	Total credits.....	10

YEAR 2  
FALL

MCH 204	Content of MCH Programs .....	5
	Free Electives .....	5
	Total credits.....	10

SPRING

MCH 205	Implementation and Evaluation.....	2.5
MCH	Tutorial Consultation and Technical Assistance - Case Studies .....	2.5
	Free Electives .....	5
	Total credits.....	10

Total credits HSPH program.....40\*

\*Including 17.5 elective credits (see Simmons program plan for Family Nurse Practitioner)

**Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Full-time Curriculum  
(Except for Year 2)**

**Year I**

	Credits
Fall	
NUR 620 Ethical/Legal Issues in Advanced Practice.....	3
NUR 640 Advanced Research Methods .....	3
NUR 655 Biostatistics.....	3
NUR 750A Capstone Seminar I .....	2

**Year I**

Spring

NUR 630 Professional Leadership and Practice Change .....	3
NUR 650 Epidemiology.....	3
NUR 750B Capstone Seminar II.....	2
NUR 670 Health Policy .....	3

**Year 2(Not full time)**

Fall

Elective .....	3
Elective.....	3
NUR 750C Capstone Seminar and Practicum III .....	1

Spring

NUR 660: Informatics .....	3
NUR 750D Capstone Seminar and Practicum IV .....	1
NUR 675 Quality Improvement in Health Care.....	3

**Total Credits: 36**

**Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Part-time Curriculum**

**Year I**

Fall

NUR 620: Ethical/Legal Issues in Advanced Practice-----	3
NUR 640: Advanced Research Methods-----	3

Spring

NUR 650 Epidemiology-----	3
NUR 670 Health Policy-----	3
Elective-----	3

**Year 2**

Fall

NUR 655: Biostatistics-----3

Elective-----3

Spring

NUR 670: Health Policy-----3

NUR 660: Informatics-----3

**Year 3**

Fall

NUR 750A Capstone Seminar and  
Practicum I-----1

Elective -----3

Spring

NUR 630: Professional Leadership and Practice Change-----3

NUR 750B: Capstone Seminar II -----2

**Year 4**

Fall

NUR 750C: Capstone Seminar III-----1

Spring

NUR 750D: Capstone Seminar IV-----1

**Total Credits 36**

**Core Course Descriptions**

**NUR 404**

**Advanced Pathophysiology**

This course in organ systems physiology is designed to teach the fundamentals of normal function that are essential to understanding clinical problems. Examples from pathophysiology are used to illustrate physiological concepts. This course includes all major organ systems. It assumes previous academic preparation in anatomy and physiology and an understanding of basic algebra and simple physiology. Discussion sessions and problem sets provide opportunities to synthesize content and discuss clinical problems. This course is only offered in the September semester and can be completed by non-degree students (excluding Direct Entry candidates and non U.S. citizens who must enroll full-time) to waive the GRE requirement for application if a grade of “B” or better is earned. (4 credits)

**NUR 422****Advanced Pharmacology Across the Life Span I**

Content focuses on current concepts in the pharmacologic therapies of common health care problems seen in primary health care. Basic pathophysiology, clinical pharmacology, modes of therapy, and monitoring parametrics are explored. Diagnosis and management of health care problems and their treatment regimens are discussed. Case studies are utilized to clarify, reinforce, and correlate therapeutics with specific health care problems. (3 credits)

**NUR 423****Advanced Pharmacology II**

This course is designed to meet the needs Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) prescribing for clients across the life span in the primary care setting. It builds on previously and /or concurrently acquired knowledge from nursing, pharmacology and advanced pathophysiology. The course will focus on clinical decision-making in prescribing pharmacologic interventions for pediatric health problems. Lectures, class discussion and case studies will be used to clarify and reinforce cost-effective and clinically appropriate choices of pharmacotherapeutics. Online quizzes and discussion boards will be used to promote continuous learning and active participation in reading. (2 credits)

**NUR 507****Scholarly Inquiry I**

This course provides the philosophical and historical basis for the development of nursing science and the relationship of among nursing theory, science, practice, and research. Students analyze theories, concepts, and research methodologies within the perceived worldview. (2 credits)

**NUR 508****Scholarly Inquiry II**

This course explores the development of nursing science and the relationship of nursing theory, science, practice, and research from both the quantitative and qualitative methodology. Several research methodologies are explored including Quality Improvement, Evidence Based Research and Evaluation Research. Students identify and implement a scholarly project during the course. (2 Credits)

**NUR 504**

**Family Theory: Health and Illness** This course will assist the students in expanding, synthesizing and utilizing current theoretical and research based frameworks regarding family systems. Assessment and care of families at all developmental stages will be highlighted throughout the course with the use of case studies and discussion forums. In addition to the research and theoretical emphasis, the use of current lay literature, theatrical and film productions about relevant topics related to family functioning will be utilized to enhance perspectives and understanding of contemporary family issues. (3 Credits)

**SNHS 410****Research Methods**

This course, taught across the School of Health Sciences programs, focuses on preparing students to critically analyze research literature. Emphasis is placed on critically reading and interpreting published research in terms of applicability to the practice of health care professionals. Taught using small groups, discussions and lecture, this course provides a foundation for subsequent participation in research. (3 credits)

## **SNHS 450**

### **The Health Care System: Interdisciplinary Perspectives**

The course includes basic epidemiology, determinants of health, an overview of the health system, health providers, financing, and interdisciplinary practice models. It also includes issues of quality, technology, aging and long-term care, ethical analysis, and alternative (complementary) healing modalities. The course is taught in a lecture/seminar format and is open to matriculated graduate students in Health Care Administration, Nutrition, Primary Health Care Nursing, and Physical Therapy. Required of all Masters' students except occupational health (3 credits)

## **SNHS 570**

### **Health Promotion: A Global Perspective**

GSNS 570 is an interdisciplinary, problem based course designed to give students an overview of health promotion issues, explore selected current topics in health and health policy from a global perspective and investigate the consequences these issues have for the health status of individuals, populations and society. This course will provide the theoretical foundation to allow the practitioner to design interventions which promote health and behavior change in the individual client within the community setting. (2 credits)

## **Family Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Core Courses**

## **NUR 500**

### **Advanced Health Assessment**

This course introduces the student to the essential competencies necessary to provide primary health care to patients and families of diverse populations. Students engage in study that will assist them in understanding the developmental and cultural needs of patients across the life span as they relate to delivery of primary health care nursing. Family frameworks that reflect a developmental, systems approach are presented to guide the student in understanding the primary health care needs of patients, families and systems in this context.

## **NUR 500 A**

### **Clinical Decision-Making**

In the clinical decision making course the cognitive processes underlying diagnostic and clinical decision-making are presented as knowledge is applied in the delivery of primary care to volunteer patients. This is a companion course to NUR 500 and **each** of these courses complements the other to assist the beginning advanced practice nursing student to gain a knowledge base of common patient issues as an advanced primary care nurse. In addition, the clinical decision making skills that the nurse is refining in order to utilize his/her competencies in the delivery of primary health care nursing are reinforced in both components of the course.

## **NUR 501**

### **FNP I: Primary care of the Childbearing and Childrearing Family**

The focus of this course is on the care of the low risk childbearing woman and her newborn applying a developmental theoretical perspective in the family practice setting. The clinical component provides the opportunity to integrate the theoretical content from prior courses and apply it to clinical obstetrical and gynecologic family practice.

Throughout the weekly clinical conferences and clinical practice preceptorship experience, the student nurse practitioner (SNP) will achieve the skills needed for holistic, primary care of the well woman obstetrical client in family practice in ambulatory care.

#### **NUR501 A**

##### **FNP I: Clinical Decision-Making**

The clinical component provides the opportunity to integrate the theoretical content from prior courses and apply it to clinical obstetrical, gynecologic and family practice. Throughout the weekly clinical conferences and clinical practice preceptorship experience, the student nurse practitioner (SNP) will achieve the skills needed for holistic, primary care of the well woman obstetrical client in family practice in ambulatory care.

#### **NUR 502**

##### **FNP Theory and Practice II: Primary Care Across the Life Span**

This course will continue to highlight the common health issues faced by individuals and families and will build on the Advanced Health Assessment course and FNP Two, Primary Care of the Child bearing family and infant. Continued emphasis on thorough assessment, PE, contributing to the differential diagnosis and plan of care for patients and families will be highlighted in all classes. In addition to considering the developmental context for overall assessment, a systems approach will also be integrated to highlight the common health problems encountered by the FNP in primary care.

#### **NUR 502 A**

##### **FNP II: Clinical Decision-Making**

This clinical course provides 16 hours of clinical each week under the preceptorship of a certified Nurse Practitioner. The student has the opportunity to refine clinical skills in assessment and management of acute and chronic illness in the delivery of care to a variety of clients across the life span

#### **NUR 503**

##### **FNP Theory and Practice III: Primary Care**

This is the final course in the primary health care core sequence. The course content will focus on the unique needs of vulnerable populations across the life span.

#### **NUR 503 A**

##### **FNP III: Clinical Decision-Making**

In this clinical component the student will have a 3 day clinical placement under the preceptorship of a Nurse Practitioner. During this clinical the student will have the opportunity to practice in an increasingly independent role as a Family Nurse Practitioner.

#### **NUR 504**

##### **Family Theory Course**

This course will assist the students in expanding, synthesizing and utilizing current theoretical and research based frameworks regarding family systems. Assessment and care of families at all developmental stages will be highlighted throughout the course with the use of case studies and discussion forums. In addition to the research and theoretical emphasis, the use of current lay literature, theatrical and film productions about relevant topics related to family functioning will be utilized to enhance perspectives and understanding of contemporary family issues.

## **NUR 589 Informatics**

The focus of this course is on essential core concepts, skills, and tools that capture evidence based practice for the FNP and define the health care informatics field. Students examine a variety of current and emerging health information technologies to promote safe patient care, improve health care quality and efficiency and foster consumer-centric care to advance nursing practice.

### **Core Courses in Simmons Occupational Health Concentration**

#### **NUR 571: Practice of Occupational Health**

This course focuses on the assessment of the workplace hazards, the physiology and biomechanical aspects of work; and a practical problem-solving approach to health problems in various work settings. It also emphasizes the relationship between working conditions and health, with special reference to the recognition, measurement and control of occupational hazards. Course Activities: Oral and written projects, class discussions, walk through field trips to local industries (field trips may take up to 4 hours). Prerequisite: Permission of Instructor (4 credits)

#### **NUR 572: Occupational Health Policy and Administration**

The course examines the legal and economic, and political foundations of occupational health activities in the United States; and discusses the roles of government, unions, and research organizations. Helps students acquire and understanding of management functions in corporations. Course Activities: Students develop the necessary knowledge and skills in the above areas to apply medico-legal and risk management principles to achieve a healthful workplace. Prerequisite: Permission of the Instructor (2 credits)

#### **NUR 573: Principles of Toxicology**

The course is designed to expose students to the principles and methods that should be used to determine whether a causal relationship exists between specific doses of an agent and an alleged adverse effect, observed primarily in humans. Integration of principles and methods of toxicology is extremely important since the primary purpose of toxicology is to predict human toxicity.

Toxicological data obtained in animal studies must be placed in proper relationship to the exposure observed in human population. The course deals with organ systems and whole target organs, selected classes of toxic agents and the application of toxicological principles are covered. Students are assigned a topic for a short presentation. Course notes: Prerequisites: NUR 404, and organic Chemistry. Nur 422 must be taking prior or concurrent to this course. (2 credits)

#### **NUR 574: Introduction to Occupational and Environmental Medicine.**

Overview of Occupational and Environmental Medicine including: the diagnosis and management of illness following exposure to specific workplace substances, environmental and community hazards, such as asbestos, lead, organic solvents, and vibration; methods of diagnosis of early organ system effects of chemicals and techniques for assessing impairment and disability; as well as, medicolegal aspects of occupational health.

Course Activities:  
Mid-term exam  
Final exam



One case based, written project

Prerequisite: NUR 582 and NUR 582A; may take concurrent with NUR 584 and NUR 584B (2 credits)

### **NUR 575: Ergonomics/Human Factors**

Emphasizes the design of the job “to fit the worker” in terms of both productivity and prevention of injuries. Specific problems are investigated which result from the nature of the job itself, e.g., musculoskeletal disorders including low back pain and repetitive stress injuries of the upper extremity and human error. Fundamental ergonomic topics, such as human physiology, occupational biomechanics, epidemiology, and work place design, are considered in the development of good job design principles.

Course Activities: Lecturers and group discussions, and term project analyzing a real world job.

### **NUR 500**

#### **Advanced Health Assessment**

### **NUR 500A**

#### **Clinical Decision-making**

### **NUR 501**

#### **FNP II Primary care Nursing of Childbearing and Child rearing Family**

### **NUR 501A Clinical Practicum**

### **NUR 502**

#### **FNP III Primary Care**

### **NUR 502A**

#### **Clinical Decision-making**

### **NUR 503**

#### **FNP IV Primary Care**

### **NUR 584B**

#### **Clinical Decision-making and Analysis in Primary Health Care Nursing in the Workplace**

This course builds upon the principles of primary health care nursing in the workplace and includes the two components of a clinical practicum and a clinical decision-making seminar. It is expected that students will become increasingly independent in the delivery of health care services, and will consult with preceptors and members of the interdisciplinary health care team as appropriate. In the clinical component, students are responsible for the delivery of primary health care to workers and for the evaluation of a specific occupational hazard or group. Faculty meets regularly with students and preceptors for the purpose of evaluating student performance and successful attainment of course objectives. Written feedback on student clinical summaries and conferences facilitate this final component of the transition to the Master’s-prepared nurse practitioner role. Course requisite: NUR 564 (4 credits)

## **Master's Degree Program for Non-Nurses with a B.A. /B.S. (Direct Entry)**

The Direct Entry Program in Advanced Practice Nursing is designed to prepare individuals without nursing backgrounds for the advanced practice nursing role. The program is a three-year, full-time program. Direct Entry students will be expected to maintain a working relationship with a nurse mentor during the program. This individual will be selected by the student during the first nursing course and will guide the student through the role socialization process. Students are eligible to take the nursing licensure examination at the end of the second fall. They must pass the exam before beginning the graduate primary care clinical sequence.

### **Courses in the Direct Entry Program**

**NUR 404**  
**Advanced Pathophysiology**

**NUR 422**  
**Advanced Pharmacology Across the Life Span I**

**NUR 423**  
**Advanced Pharmacology II**  
This course is designed to meet the needs of the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) prescribing for clients of all ages in the primary care setting. It builds on previously and/or concurrently acquired knowledge from nursing, pharmacology and advanced pathophysiology. The course will focus on clinical decision-making in prescribing pharmacologic interventions for pediatric health problems. Lectures, class discussion and case studies will be used to clarify and reinforce cost-effective and clinically appropriate choices of pharmacotherapeutics.

**NUR 425**  
**Nursing Process and Skills**  
This course introduces the student to the art and science of nursing. The nursing process provides the organizing framework for professional practice. Fundamental nursing concepts, skills, and techniques introduced in this course provide students with the foundations of nursing. Simulated clinical experience in the Learning Resource Center enables students to gain mastery of content.  
(4 credits)

**NUR 426**  
**Variances of Health Patterns of Adults and Elders I**  
This course introduces the concepts of functional health patterns that optimize the health of individuals, families, and communities across the life span. The student integrates knowledge from the sciences, liberal arts, and nursing science into nursing practice with a major emphasis on functional health patterns. This nursing approach is holistic, with consideration given to physiological, psychological, socio-cultural development, and spiritual needs of the individual, family, and aggregate. The nursing process is utilized in the identification of all functional health patterns of clients who as individuals and aggregates are vulnerable and at risk for variance. Opportunities are provided to implement fundamental nursing care in the sub-acute care and community settings.  
(4 credits)

**NUR 435****Integration of Pharmacology and Pathophysiology: Perspectives for Nurses**

This course focuses on the pharmacological and pathophysiological applications necessary for individual patient needs using a systems approach. Topics include specific drugs, classifications, side effects, and interactions with other therapies. (4 credits)

**NUR 437****Nursing Care of Individuals, Families and the Community**

This course provides an overview of theoretical concepts related to community-based health care and family health. Concepts of health, health assessment, and therapeutic communication and interviewing are applied within the context of the family and community. The focus of this course is on assisting the student in the development of nursing skills necessary to promote health of families and communities. Attention is given to awareness of diversity, cultural sensitivity and knowledge to enable the students to provide culturally competent nursing care. Listed as NUR 437 for Direct Entry students (4 credits)

**NUR 438****Variations of Health Patterns of Adults and Elders II**

In this course, which builds on Variations of Health Patterns of Adults and Elders I, students apply the concepts of the bio-psycho-social-cultural-developmental-spiritual sciences in developing, implementing, and evaluating nursing interventions for the adult and geriatric client experiencing variations in functional health patterns. There is a special emphasis on health management and metabolic patterns. Within a systems framework, opportunities are provided to deliver nursing care with increased depth, complexity, and independence to adult and elderly clients in acute care and community settings. (8 credits)

**NUR 447****Variations in Health Patterns of Childbearing Families**

In this course, which builds on Variations of Health Patterns of Adults and Elders I, students apply the concepts of the bio-psycho-social-cultural-developmental-spiritual sciences in developing, implementing, and evaluating nursing interventions for the child-bearing and child-rearing family experiencing variations in functional health patterns. There is a special emphasis on health management and sexuality/reproduction. Clinical experiences encompass care of the high risk and chronically ill young family in both acute and community settings. (4 credits)

**NUR 448****Variations of Health Patterns of Clients with Psychiatric and Mental Illness**

In this course, which builds on Variations of Health Patterns of Adults and Elders I, students apply the concepts of the bio-psycho-social-cultural-developmental-spiritual sciences in developing, implementing, and evaluating nursing interventions for the client experiencing psychiatric and mental illness. Students apply knowledge of functional health patterns that form the basis for the delivery of care to these clients across the life span. Clinical experiences will be offered in inpatient and community psychiatric/mental health settings where students have the opportunity to care for clients and participate in creating the therapeutic milieu. (4 credits)

**NUR 449****Variations in Health Patterns of Childrearing Families**

In this course, which builds on Variations in Health Patterns of Childbearing Families, students apply the concepts of the bio-psycho-social-cultural-developmental-spiritual sciences in developing, implementing, and evaluating nursing interventions for the child-bearing and child-rearing family

experiencing variances in functional health patterns. There is a special emphasis on health management and sexuality/reproduction. Clinical experiences encompass care of the high-risk and chronically-ill young family in both acute and community settings. (4 credits)

#### **NUR 454**

##### **Leadership and Management in the Clinical Setting**

As a capstone nursing class, this course focuses on the leadership and management role of the nurse in a precepted, direct clinical experience. The course assists students to become effective organizational members as they assume responsibility in a professional role in a field-based internship. Weekly seminars offer self-actualization, independent learning, self-direction and understanding of group interaction in the teaching-learning process. Students are expected to evolve as nursing professionals as they begin their transition to future employees and future managers. The course explores leadership and management theory, critical thinking, nursing concepts, and personal/professional development within the clinical experience and a written project. Clinical Seminars are designed to increase knowledge and understanding of visionary leadership, management, communication, strategies for delegation, conflict resolution, and quality control while in direct clinical practice. Application of this content should be reflective of previous and current clinical and classroom experiences. (4 credits)

#### **NURS455**

##### **Clinical Decision Making**

As a final nursing class, this course will focus on the synthesis of nursing knowledge required to care for the patient and family with complex nursing needs. The course focuses on nursing care of patients across the life-span, but will have a particular emphasis on the adult and geriatric patient. New knowledge will be assimilated with previously learned knowledge to add depth and breadth to the synthesis of knowledge necessary to provide holistic care for patients and families in challenging health care circumstances. The independent preparation and critical thinking required for the synthesis and acquisition of new understandings for this course will serve as a model for the ongoing professional development of the nurse as a lifelong learner. Students will be expected to prepare for each class by responding to NCLEX-type quizzes each week prior to class. Students will come to class prepared to apply integrated knowledge to case study situations developed by the faculty. (4 credits)

#### **NUR 458/459**

##### **RN Internship**

This internship offers the newly-licensed registered nurse the opportunity to practice as a registered nurse in a precepted clinical generalist setting. It is required of all students in the spring semester of the second year for 24 hours a week, and in the summer semester of the second year for 32 hours a week. This experience provides the clinical foundation upon which to build advanced practice knowledge and clinical experience. Prerequisite: Massachusetts nursing licensure. (1 credit each semester) The requirements for this course depend in part on job availability. Students are strongly encouraged to work as an RN while enrolled in the Graduate Program

#### **NUR 492**

##### **Concepts and Skills in Health Assessment**

This course develops the student's skills in the collection of a systematic health history and performance of a physical examination of the adult and pediatric client. Emphasis is on the attainment of motor and perceptual skills at the level of the beginning nurse practitioner. The student also learns how to record findings according to the Problem-Oriented Record System. Listed as NUR 492 for Direct Entry students. (4 credits)

**NUR 507  
Scholarly Inquiry I**

**NUR 508  
Scholarly Inquiry II**

**NUR 500  
Advanced Health Assessment**

**NUR 500 A  
Clinical Decision-making**

**NUR 501  
Theory and Practice: Primary Health Care Nursing I**

**NUR 501 A  
A Clinical Practicum**

**NUR 502  
Theory and Practice: Primary Health Care Nursing II**

**NUR 502 A  
Clinical Decision-making and Analysis II**

**NUR 503  
Theory and Practice: Primary Health Care Nursing**

**NUR 503 A  
Clinical Decision-making and Analysis III**

**SNHS 410  
Research Methods**

**SNHS 570  
Health Promotion**

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING ADMINISTRATION OFF –SITE PROGRAMS

The goal of the Master of Science in Nursing Administration program is to prepare nurse leaders who wish to become effective and proficient in administrative and managerial roles within health care. The program is broad in scope, emphasizing nursing administration in diverse health care settings. The program builds upon students' prior experiences in staff nursing and nursing management, providing the knowledge base needed to further develop the complex skill set required to function at higher levels of management and administration.

The curriculum integrates knowledge from and is co-taught by the disciplines of nursing and health care administration. Program content focuses on nursing and leadership theories, organizational and change theories, ethical and legal issues, health care delivery systems and health care policy, human resource management, health care economics, and information systems. The program includes two leadership practicum experiences, as well as a "capstone" project. Students are expected to design and conduct a practice related research project.

The program is intended for experienced nurses who have had some experience in leadership roles, either as nurse managers, charge nurses, or other informal leadership roles. The course work for the MS in Nursing Administration is interdisciplinary and intended to meet the needs of a diverse student population. Successful completion of the program qualifies the graduates to apply for national certification in Nursing Administration from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (AACN).

The program is currently open only to registered nurses with or without a baccalaureate degree at Beth Israel Deaconess, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Children's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute and South Shore Hospital for those nurses with a baccalaureate degree in nursing or a related field; they would complete 49 credits of study in nursing administration. For those nurses without a baccalaureate degree, the program will model our current RN-MS programs and can be completed with 64 credits. Nursing and Health Care Administration faculty will co-teach all courses. There are nine courses that currently exist in the Simmons HCA program, six that currently exist in the Nursing RN-MS program, and six new nursing administration master's level courses proposed.

Professional Standards that guide the nursing administration program includes:

- The American Nurses Association Standards of Clinical Practice
- The American Nurses Association Nursing Code of Ethics
- The American Nurses Association Social Policy Statement
- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Master's Education for Advanced Practice Nursing
- The American Association of Nurse Executives
- Quality and Safety Education in Nursing
- The National Health Leadership Competency Model

## **Program of Study in Health Professions Education**

### **Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (C.A.G.S.) in Health Professions Education for M.S.-prepared health care professionals.**

This post-masters specialty program is designed to meet the national need for health professions educators. Advanced practice health care clinicians (nurses, nutritionists, physical therapists); will acquire core knowledge and skills to teach at the higher education level or as health educators in other settings. This 16 credit, online program can be completed in one year. The program will allow the student to apply theories of education, design lesson plans, create and evaluate health professions curricula and programs, develop skills in grant writing, and utilize various educational modalities. Upon successful completion of this program, students may apply to the Ph.D. in Education program offered by the Simmons College of Arts and Sciences.

### **Core Courses in Health Professions Education**

#### **HPED 501-Issues in Health Professions Education**

The course explores and defines current issues in the educational process of health professionals. Issues of credentialing, accreditation, entry into practice, degree requirements, and faculty needs and responsibilities are highlighted. Focus is on theory development, evidence based practice and clinical expertise as they relate to the educational requirements of the health professional. The process of intraprofessional decision making is explored.

This course integrates the concepts of professional education and faculty roles and responsibilities. Discussions will focus on the role of faculty in curriculum design, policy setting, the evolution of theory and the integration of research, theory and practice in the academic and clinical area. (2 credits)

#### **HPED 503-Principles of Assessment & Teaching**

The course introduces the student to formal and informal methods of assessing individual learner academic strengths and weaknesses. Students will explore teaching methodologies and have the opportunity to plan and evaluate different teaching strategies. Test development and evaluation are discussed. The development of the clinical practicum as a unique learning environment is explored. (2 credits)

#### **HPED 505-Curriculum Development and Evaluation**

Curriculum development will be studied extensively, the utilization of theoretical frameworks, development of behavioral objectives, and evaluation methodologies are analyzed. Curriculum issues related to the practice environment are identified. The course provides students with the opportunity to acquire skill in the development, selection, implementation and evaluation of evaluation instruments that measure learning outcomes. (2 credits)

#### **HPED 506-Organization, Leadership, and Change**

The course examines principles of effective leadership, organizational structure of the academic and health care environment. Techniques for facilitating and responding to institutional change are explored. The impact of demographic changes on the health care and academic arena is discussed. Contemporary operational and administrative challenges and trends in health professions education are analyzed. (2 credits)

### **HPED 507-Teaching Methodologies and Classroom Design**

This course explores the knowledge and competencies required to develop and implement teaching learning strategies in the classroom, laboratory, and cyberspace environment. Students will participate in various teaching/learning methodologies including problem based learning, multimedia resources, interactive classrooms, web courses and other innovative teaching tools.(2 credits)

### **HPED 508-Theories and Practice of Adult Education**

The specific characteristics of the adult learner and common theories of adult learning are explored. Strategies for effective instructional design for adult learners are addressed. The concepts of education and training are operationalized. (2 credits)

### **HPED 510-Education Practicum/Preceptorship**

This course is a guided practicum and requires the student to develop and implement curriculum materials, demonstrate teaching skills and evaluate the outcome. Students will develop and carry out a learning plan to meet their unique needs within their own professional environment... Each student will have an individual faculty member as a mentor to guide the experience. The practice setting will include higher degree programs, clinical settings and /or institutional staff development departments. A weekly web-based seminar focusing on practice issues, professional skill development, and issues related to theory, practice and research in health professions education is required. Learning activities include 16 hours per week in the precepted practicum and the interactive web-based seminar discussion. (4 credits)

### **Program of Study: Doctorate of Nursing Practice**

The DNP will prepare doctoral-level nursing clinicians for expert practice and leadership in clinical settings. The DNP is a practice-focused degree analogous to professional doctoral degrees in other disciplines, including Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, Dentistry and Clinical Psychology. The DNP differs from the Ph.D. in its emphasis on practice and practice-related research.



Graduates will have the clinical, organizational and leadership skills to meet the changing demands of the present and future health care system. The DNP was developed in full compliance with professional standards for the practice doctorate (“Doctoral Essentials”) developed by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN).

### **Objectives of the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program**

The Post-Master’s DNP program builds on students’ clinical experience and educational preparation by enabling graduates to assume leadership roles in professional practice. Specifically, the DNP will prepare students to:

1. Integrate nursing science with knowledge from ethics, the biophysical, psychosocial, analytical and organizational sciences.
2. Demonstrate leadership in organizations and health care systems to promote safe and efficient care delivery to both individuals and populations.
3. Conduct practice-based research.
4. Utilize technology and informatics to improve health care and to implement change in health care systems.
5. Design, influence and implement health care policies that affect health care financing, practice regulation, access to care, safety, quality, and efficacy of care.
6. Collaborate with interdisciplinary professionals and teams to improve patient and population health outcomes.
7. Assume a leadership role in the design of evidence-based interventions that enhance clinical prevention and population health.

### **The DNP is designed for**

Experienced advanced practice nurses (Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Certified Nurse Anesthetists) who have had at least two years (approximately 5000 hours) of advanced practice experience (Post-Master’s DNP in Practice Leadership)  
Experienced Nurse Managers who have a minimum of two years (approximately 5000 hours) in a managerial or executive role (Post-Master’s DNP in Practice Leadership) .

This program is offered in a “blended” format. Classes are taught online and students are required to attend two on-campus residences per semester. Courses are designed to expand practice and to prepare students as leaders in nursing and the health care system. Students are required to complete a practice-based Capstone Project, as well as document DNP-related practice and policy experience in a comprehensive DNP portfolio.

As with the Simmons College Baccalaureate and Master’s degree nursing programs, the DNP is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

### **DNP Core Course Descriptions**

NUR 670: Health Policy (3 credits)

The primary objective of this course is to empower the DNP student with the tools to influence health policy. The course will analyze the legal, ethical and social issues inherent in policy development. Students will consider the many dimensions of the present health care crisis such as cost, access, equity, quality, globalization and provision of care to an aging population. Students will also learn the presentation of policy analyses in written, graphic and oral forms.

NUR 660: Evidence-based Practice/Nursing Informatics (3 credits)

This course will provide the student with the skills to evaluate and apply the best available evidence-based knowledge and technology in solving clinical practice problems. The student will learn critical appraisal skills to determine the quality and applicability of information for practice. The use of electronic medical records, including implementation and implications for practice, will be considered.

NUR 620: Ethical and Legal Issues for Advanced Practice (3 credits)

This course will address the underlying historical, philosophical and theoretical perspectives in ethics from a biomedical and nursing perspective. Ethical issues will be addressed in a case-based approach. Students will attend ethics rounds and participate in ethics advisory boards at health care facilities. The course will also explore legal issues in advanced practice and in the health care system.

Topics will include scope of practice, state and federal practice regulations, risk management/malpractice, and legal issues in practice ownership/management.

NUR 630: Professional Leadership and Practice Change (3 credits)

This course is designed to advance the student's ability to use leadership and management theory in nursing practice within current and emerging organizational systems. The course will provide students with an introduction to the theories and experience in practice of a key role of leadership: *transforming culture by means of effective implementation of change*. This course will interface with the students' Capstone Project, assisting students in the process of institutional change.

NUR 640: Advanced Research Methods (3 credits)

This course will enable students to achieve skills required for conducting and evaluating practice-based research. Topics will include the following: needs assessment; program planning and evaluation; the application of quantitative/qualitative methods in the study of practice-related phenomena; grant-writing and funding for practice-based research. Students will begin their clinical project, considering the problem, research question (s) and appropriate research design.

NUR 650: Epidemiology (23 credits)

This course will enable the student to gain perspective about the context in which health problems occur and care is delivered. The course will consider the impact of environmental factors, including occupational exposures, living conditions, education, and financial resources on the health of populations. The relationship between these environmental factors, as well as social, cultural, and genetic influences on health will be evaluated, as will the role of the clinician in addressing these issues.

### NUR 655: Biostatistics (3 credits)

This course will enable students to apply statistical methods in research and program planning for advanced nursing practice. The student will acquire skills in design and implementation of epidemiological studies and health programs. The course will introduce students involved in clinical research to the practical application of regression analysis. Linear regression, logistic regression and proportional hazards survival models will be covered, as well as general concepts in model selection, goodness-of-fit and testing procedures.

### NUR 675: Quality Improvement in Health Care (3 credits)

This course focuses on the knowledge, skills and attitudes which will assure a high quality and safe patient and family healthcare experience in a variety of practice settings. The importance of setting aims, applying statistical methods to measure variation hypothesis identification and planning change using PDCA(plan,do,check,and act) cycle form the basis of the course. Current health policy issues related to assuring safe, high quality, effective, equitable, timely patient-centered and efficient care will be addressed.

### Capstone Seminar Descriptions

#### NUR 750 A: Capstone Seminar I (2 credits)

This is the first in a series of four seminars that will guide the student in the completion of the DNP Capstone Project. Capstone I will focus on development of the problem statement and the research questions that will be answered in the Capstone. Emphasis will be placed on development of a sound rationale for the project, justified by a thorough review of the context in which the project will take place and a synthesis of relevant literature on the topic. Pre-requisite: NUR 675: Quality Improvement in Health Care. Co-requisite: NUR 640: Advanced Research Methods.

#### NUR 750 B: Capstone Seminar II (2 credits)

This is the second in a series of four seminars focused on development and implementation of the DNP Capstone Project. During Capstone II, students will develop the proposal for the Capstone Project, including project design, methods, procedures for data collection, sources of funding, and IRB applications. At the conclusion of Capstone Seminar II, students will submit their proposals to their Capstone Committee for approval. Pre-requisites: Capstone Seminar I; NUR 640: Advanced Research Methods; NUR 675 Quality Improvement in Health Care; Co-requisite: NUR 630: Professional Leadership and Practice Change.

#### NUR 750 C: Capstone Seminar and Practicum III (1 credit)

This is the third in a series of four seminars focused on the development and implementation of the DNP Capstone Project. During this course, students will work with their Capstone Committees to conduct their project. The Capstone Seminar will focus on data analysis, including analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, measures to assure reliability and validity of data, and the scholarly write-up of project results. Prerequisites: Capstone I and II: NUR 630: Professional Leadership and Practice Change; NUR 640: Advanced Research Methods, NUR 675: Quality Improvement in Health Care.

## NUR 750 D: Capstone Seminar and Practicum IV (1 credit)

This is the final course in a series of four courses in which students develop and implement their DNP Capstone Project. During this course, students will work with their Capstone Committee, completing the project and preparing a written manuscript and oral presentation of the Capstone. The course will culminate in an oral defense of the Capstone. Prerequisites: Capstone Seminars I-III; NUR 640: Advanced Research Methods; NUR 630: Professional Leadership and Practice Change; NUR 675: Quality Improvement in Health Care.

The DNP program culminates in the successful completion of a Capstone Project. This scholarly project will be practice-focused, and will be completed in collaboration with the student's practice site—clinical, educational or managerial. The project should make a significant contribution to practice in the student's area of interest.

The Capstone Project will be completed over four semesters. Each student will have two-three mentors who will advise, facilitate, and approve the project. Students will complete a scholarly, publishable paper related to the project, as well as present and defend the project orally in a scholarly presentation.

Suggestions for projects could include program development (needs assessment, program plan and implementation); program evaluation; development of a patient-focused health improvement (e.g., tuberculosis prevention for immigrant populations) or education program (e.g., weight management, tobacco cessation); systems innovations/improvements; cost/benefit analyses of program models; epidemiological studies; or other scholarly project consistent with the student's interest.

## **Academic Program Information**

### **Advising**

Each student is assigned a faculty advisor with whom s/he will work during the program.

### **Awards**

The Pauline Wheble Tripp Award is an award given each year to a graduating student for outstanding academic achievement and perceived potential for contribution to the profession of nursing. The Pauline Wheble Tripp Fund was created in memory of Pauline Wheble Tripp, a former alumna of Simmons College and a school nurse for the City of Boston for fifteen years. Mrs. Tripp also served on the faculty of the undergraduate nursing program. The Excellence in Practice Award is given to those students who have achieved the goals of the academic year and have demonstrated expertise in clinical practice. The Faculty Achievement Award recognizes a graduate student who has demonstrated outstanding progress in the advanced practice role. The Graduate Research Award acknowledges that student who has exemplified expertise in the research process.

### **Degree Requirements**

All candidates for the Master of Science degree in Primary Health Care Nursing must complete the required number of credits with a B (3.0) average or above.

### **Graduation Honors**

Any student completing the program course work with a grade point average of at least 3.80 will be awarded the Master of Science degree with Distinction.

**Orientation**

An orientation for new students is held at the beginning of the September semester for M.S.N. students with a nursing background and in May for Direct Entry students. Direct Entry students are notified after admission about the specifics of this orientation program. Since important information about the School, the program, and the College is provided at that time, it is expected that all new students will attend.

**Non-Degree Students (U.S. Citizens Only)**

A potential applicant to the nursing program (not Direct Entry or C.A.G.S.) may take up to two non-clinical courses as a non-matriculated student (non-degree) before applying to the program. Permission is granted on a space-available basis and must be approved in advance of registration by the Associate Dean of Nursing; such approval must be received in writing by the Office of Admission of the School of Health Sciences. Taking courses as non-degree is not available for the Direct Entry nursing program. Registration for non-degree courses is available only through the Office of Admission of the School of Health Sciences. Call 617-521-2605 for further details.

**Student Handbook**

A SNHS Student Handbook and Nursing Student Handbook are distributed to students before the start of the academic year. The College graduate Student Handbook is available online <http://my.simmons.edu/life/handbook/> These handbooks detail student rights and responsibilities, SHS and nursing-specific academic regulations, tuition and fees, financial aid, college facilities, student services, and other useful general information for graduate students.

**Student Records**

Simmons College, in accordance with the Educational Privacy Act of 1974 (the Buckley Amendment), provides for the privacy and accessibility of certain student records. Students are permitted to review and inspect their own Simmons academic records and to challenge specific parts of them thought to be inaccurate. This must be done under the supervision of the Department Chair.

## Nursing Faculty

### **Judy Beal, D.N.Sc., R.N.**

#### **Dean, School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Professor of Nursing**

B.S.N. Skidmore College

M.S.N. Yale University

D.N.Sc. Boston University

Judy A. Beal, D.N.Sc., R.N. In her role as chief academic officer Dr. Beal is responsible for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs, four off-site BSN and MSN programs, 28 full time faculty, 75 adjunct faculty, 5 staff members, and more than 650 students. She has been at Simmons for 25 years and in her current position since 2000. For the first seventeen years of her tenure at Simmons College, she was the Director of Research in the Graduate Program. She coordinated the Research-Theory core and has advised over 650 master's research projects. Dr. Beal has a well-funded program of research focused on nurse practitioner role identity and outcomes as well as more recent work on the hallmarks of scholarly nursing practice. She serves as a collateral research reviewer for the Eastern Nursing Research Society and Sigma Theta Tau International, and is on the editorial boards of The Journal of Pediatric Nursing, the American Journal of Maternal-Child Nursing, and the Journal of Nursing Education. With more than 40 referred publications and 100 presentations, she is sought after nationally and regionally as a speaker. Dr. Beal received The Mary Ann Garrigan Award for Excellence in Leadership from Sigma Theta Tau and has been a Sigma Theta Tau Distinguished Lecturer since 1997. She is the recipient of the Yale School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award and the President-Elect of the YSN Alumni Association. Dr. Beal is actively involved in leadership activities of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International. During her tenure as Chairperson of the Nursing Department and Associate Dean of the School for Health Sciences, she has been successfully funded in programmatic support of over 4 million dollars. Recent awards have included a \$1M gift to establish a Faculty Scholar Legacy Fund and a \$2M gift from an alumna for a Bridge and Tutoring Program for At-Risk Students. Dr. Beal is a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow.

### **Josephine Atinaja-Faller, M.S.N., R.N.**

#### **Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing (Undergraduate Nursing)**

B.S. Rutgers University College of Nursing

M.S.N. Northeastern University

Ms. Faller joined the faculty full-time in 2004 after having taught clinically at Simmons for more than 10 years. Ms. Faller teaches medical surgical nursing, pediatric nursing, obstetrical nursing, and fundamentals of nursing. She maintains an active clinical practice at BWH in postpartum and the neonatal intensive care unit and works at Children's Hospital in staff development.

**Anne-Marie Barron, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., BC.**

**Chair of Undergraduate Nursing, Associate Professor of Nursing (Undergraduate Nursing)**

B.S.N. Boston College

M.S. University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Ph.D. Boston College

Dr. Barron is the Associate Chair for Baccalaureate Nursing at Simmons College. She is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Psychiatric and Mental Health. Her clinical work has included psychiatric liaison nursing, psychiatric emergency nursing and staff nursing. She currently practices part-time as a Clinical Nurse Specialist on the Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Inpatient Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital where she consults with the staff on the psychosocial dimension of oncology care.

Dr. Barron coordinates the clinical nursing course in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing and integrates psychosocial nursing concepts throughout the curriculum. She is particularly interested in the psychosocial and spiritual aspects of nursing practice. Her doctoral dissertation, *“Life Meanings and the Experience of Cancer”*, focused on the patterns of meaning and lived experiences of persons with cancer. It is her clear belief that nurses encounter patients and families at profound moments in their lives and offer compassion, caring, and transformational possibility. Dr. Barron’s teaching, practice, and research interests are focused on meaning and illness and the understanding and alleviation of suffering. Her central goal in nursing education is to guide and support students as they develop perspectives and skills that enable them to offer healing presence in the lives of their patients.

**Charlene J. Berube, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., BC. (Undergraduate Nursing)**

**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

B.S. St Anselm’s College

M.S.N. Boston University

Ms. Berube has been a faculty member at Simmons College since 1993. Her background and clinical expertise in both Maternal-Child Health and Adult Health and their related issues have provided the foundation for her teaching. Ms. Berube has taught courses across the undergraduate curriculum. She maintains a clinical practice as an Adult Health Nurse Practitioner in Southern New Hampshire. Ms. Berube is actively involved in professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau International and the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Ms. Berube has spoken to various organizations and schools concerning adolescent pregnancy and children’s response to loss.

**LaDonna Christian, M.S.N., A.P.R.N., B.C.**

**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

**Director of Dotson Bridge and Mentoring Program**

B.S.N. University of Michigan

M.S.N. University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Ms. Christian’s background and clinical expertise is in public health nursing and environmental health with a focus on policy and the underserved and minority population.

Her medical surgical experience has been in the areas of stroke, ears, nose, and throat oncology and respiratory. She began teaching at Brockton Hospital School of Nursing, but has also taught at South Shore Regional Technical, and Coppin State University School of Nursing in Baltimore MD. LaDonna is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International, Mary Mahoney Nursing Honor Society, Massachusetts Public Health Nurses Association, and Chi Eta Phi Black Nurses Association. She has presented at ACHNE, SOPHE, and The M. Elizabeth Carnegie Research Conference at Howard University. She is the faculty adviser for ALANA students in the Department of Nursing, and is pursuing a doctorate in health education.

**Jean Christoffersen, M.S., A.P.R.N., B.C.**

**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

B.S.N. S.U.N.Y Health Science Center at Brooklyn

M.S.N. Boston College

Ms. Christoffersen has been a full-time faculty member at Simmons College since 2004. Currently, she is the course coordinator for the Psychiatric and Mental Health nursing course. Previously, she was a part-time clinical instructor at Simmons since 1997. Ms. Christoffersen's clinical areas of interest have been working with chronically mentally ill. She has worked with anxiety-disordered and phobia patients as well. Presently, she practices as a Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in the emergency department.

**Margaret Costello, M.S.N., R.N.**

**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

B.S.N. Salve Regina College

M.S. in Health Care Administration, Simmons College

M.S.N. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy

P.h.D., Simmons College

Ms. Costello joined the faculty full-time in 2004 after having taught in the clinical area since 2001. Ms. Costello maintains an active role as the nurse in charge at BWH on a surgical floor. At Simmons she teaches medical surgical nursing. Margaret has been a nurse since 1983 and continues to practice nursing in an acute medical center in Boston. She is also a certified family nurse practitioner. Her area of expertise is adult medical surgical nursing.

**Sarah Cass Desmond, M.S., SM., A.P.R.N., B.C. Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

B.S.N. Northeastern University

M.S. Simmons College

S.M. Harvard School for Public Health

Ms. Cass joined the faculty in 2006 as adjunct in the undergraduate program and in 2007 to teach in the Pediatric Primary Care track. MS Desmond has a Pediatric and Adolescent Primary Care practice at Harvard Street Neighborhood Health Center in Dorchester, Massachusetts and has a special interest in research related to increasing access to and quality of health care services for women, children and adolescents in urban underserved populations, and improving the bond between mother/infant dyads at risk. Prior to her NP experience, MS Desmond worked as a Visiting Nurse on the South Shore, and as a Pediatric and NICU nurse, then as a Clinical Instructor at Boston Medical Center.



**Collette Dieujuste, M.S.N., R.N.**  
**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing (Undergraduate Nursing)**  
B.S.N. Columbia Union College  
M.S.N. Boston College

Ms. Dieujuste has taught at Atlantic Union College, Bunker Hill Community College and University of Massachusetts. Her clinical expertise is in the area of perinatal and obstetrical nursing and she has recently been the Perinatal/Child Clinical Nurse Specialist at Winchester Hospital.

**Susan M Duty, Sc.D., A.P.R.N., B.C.**  
**Associate Professor of Nursing**  
B.S.N. University of Massachusetts, Boston  
M.S. Simmons College  
S.M., Sc.D., Harvard School of Public Health

Dr. Duty is is certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner with specialization in occupational health and prior to becoming a nurse practitioner was certified in critical care nursing. She continues her research at the Harvard School for Public Health about the relationship between environmental exposures to phthalates and male reproductive outcomes and occupational exposures to phthalates among manicurists. Dr. Duty has presented her research both nationally and internationally and published one of the first studies on the human health effects of phthalates. She is the nurse research scientist at South Shore Hospital in South Weymouth, a member of the Massachusetts Coalition of Nurse Practitioners, and is the Simmons College Vice President to Sigma Theta Tau-Theta at Large Chapter.

**Priscilla Gazarian, Ph.D., M.S.N., R.N. (Undergraduate Nursing)**  
**Assistant Professor of Nursing**  
B.S.N. University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth  
M.S.N. University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Ph.D. University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Ms. Gazarian has been on the faculty since 2002. She was the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award for graduate nursing in 1999 at Simmons College. She was the recipient of the Goodman and Alexander Fellowship in 2005.

She teaches Medical-Surgical Nursing, Nursing Process and Skills, Nursing Research Seminar and The Health Care System an Interdisciplinary Perspective. She has presented on the use of clinical narratives in nursing education and continues to collaborate with teaching projects using clinical narratives. Ms. Gazarian was the recipient of the Early Career Teaching Award in 2005 presented by the Massachusetts Association of Colleges of Nursing. She was recently inducted as Faculty Councilor for the Theta at Large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.

Ms. Gazarian is developing a program of research on nurse decision making and the prevention of adverse events. She has an appointment as a Nurse Scientist at the Center for Nursing Excellence at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. She has received funding from the Association of Critical Care Nurses/Medtronic to investigate nurse decision making in preventing in-hospital cardio-pulmonary arrests.

She has practiced as a Clinical Nurse Specialist at Massachusetts General Hospital and currently holds a staff nurse position at Newton Wellesley Hospital. She is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Eastern Nursing Research Society and Sigma Theta Tau Theta Alpha and Theta at Large chapters.

**Makeda Kamara, M.P.H., M.Ed., B.S.N., R.N.**  
**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing (Undergraduate Nursing)**

B.A. Brandeis University  
B.S.N. University of Massachusetts, Boston  
M.Ed. Harvard University  
M.P.H. University of Michigan

Makeda Kamara joined the faculty in 2010 in the Dotson Bridge and Mentoring Program. In the summer of 2011 she was appointed as a faculty member for the Robert Woods Johnson New Careers in Nursing Program for students with a previous degree. Ms. Kamara is a licensed Certified Nurse Midwife and Women's Health Specialist with 30 years of experience. Her specialty area is Black Women's Health and Wellness, midwifery in low resource settings and humanized birth. Her global work includes HIV and Reproduction Program Development in Zambia, midwifery and women's wellness training in Senegal, Gambia, Benin, Colombia, Bermuda, Mexico and Trinidad and presenter on physiological birth and human development.

She has delivered over 1000 babies in the US and around the world and was one of the founding Mothers of the Cambridge Birth Center of The Cambridge Hospital. She also works as a consultant on reproductive justice, birth and women's wellness with NGOs locally and internationally.

Some of the groups she's currently working with are ASOPARUPA, an association for equity for indigenous and African descendant midwives in Colombia; BAFROW, an NGO in Gambia working on developing well woman gynecology, safe motherhood and ending female circumcision as well as the Bermuda Integrative Health Coop. Locally she works with MANA, ICTC, and ACNM in promoting safer birth practices in the US, reproductive justice and eliminating health care disparities (especially infant and maternal mortality).

Ms. Kamara is featured in the new book "Into these Hands: The Wisdom of Midwives" which chronicles the stories of 25 midwives who have impacted the midwifery movement in the US. She is a Wisdom Circle advisor for the International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC) and a speaker on physiological birth and complementary/integrative wellness for women and families. She currently practices Holistic Midwifery and Women's Health thru her group The Imani Family Life Center.

**Rebecca Koeniger-Donohue, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., BC.**

**Professor of Practice, Nursing**  
B.S.N., St Anselm's College  
M.S.N. Boston University Ph.D. University of Rhode Island

Dr. Donohue is recognized widely for her breadth and depth of knowledge in the primary care of women. She published her master's thesis work, Patient Care Classification Systems in the *Journal of Home Care*. She has served on the editorial board of the *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, an international journal based in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Donohue's textbook, *Women's Health Case Studies*, is used extensively in the United States and Canada to prepare women's health nurse practitioners for the National Certification Exam. Dr. Donohue has worked as an advanced practice nurse while pursuing ongoing educational and research opportunities for over 25 years. She taught undergraduate students at Boston University prior to joining the faculty at Simmons College where she teaches at all levels of the program, though primarily at the graduate level. Her NP clinical practice for the last several at the Simmons College Health Center resulted in her writing and editing a new textbook for advanced practice nurses in college health. Dr. Donohue has also investigated the use of personal digital assistants at Simmons College nursing programs, specifically (Palm pilots and Pocket PCs), as a resource tool for bringing evidenced based practice to enhance client encounters.

**Arlene Lowenstein, Ph.D., R.N.**  
**Professor of Practice, Nursing**  
**Director, Health Professions Education Program**  
B.S.N., Fairleigh Dickinson University  
M.A., New York University  
P.h.D., University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Lowenstein has been teaching in the online health professions education program since its inception in 2007. She has extensive experience in clinical and educational settings. She has served in upper levels of administration and educational positions as Vice President for Nursing and Director and Chairperson for nursing graduate programs in Massachusetts, Kentucky and Georgia. Her clinical background is in community health, parent child nursing and geriatrics.

Dr. Lowenstein's research includes racial and class conflict in the healthcare workplace, women with HIV/AIDS and historical studies in educational administration and racial segregation in nursing education. She is the author of two books on innovative teaching strategies.

**Marla Lynch, M.S., A.P.R.N., BC.**  
**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**  
B.S.N. Boston University  
M.S.N. Boston College

Ms. Lynch is joined the Simmons full time faculty in the fall of 2007. Prior to this, she taught part time at Simmons since 1993 and at Quincy College. After many years as a clinical specialist in mental health nursing she is focusing on teaching in mental health. She co-teaches the mental health nursing course and coordinates the consultation/liaison project. She also teaches a graduate course on advanced counseling skills.

**Eileen M. McGee, Ph.D., R.N.**  
**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**  
A.S.N. Laboure College  
B.S.N. and M.S.N. University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Ph.D. Boston College

MS. McGee has previously taught at Laboure College. She has many years of clinical practice in community health nursing, specializing in health care for homeless populations. Her research interests include nursing clinics as models for health care delivery, spirituality in nursing and

substance abuse recovery strategies with homeless populations. Dr. McGee is involved in professional organizations including Sigma Theta Tau and Eastern Nursing Research Society.

**Linda Moniz, M.S.N., R.N., CRRN. (Undergraduate Nursing)**

**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

**B.S. Boston State College**

B.S.N. and M.S.N. Salem State College

Ms. Moniz teaches medical surgical nursing. Her areas of clinical interest are in rehabilitation nursing and long term care. She also works at the North End Rehab and Nursing Center as an educator for the facility. She is a certified rehab nurse through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, Theta at large and Eta Tau chapters, the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN) and the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses (MARN).

**Patricia Rissmiller, D.N.Sc., A.P.R.N., BC.**

**Chair Graduate Nursing, Associate Professor of Nursing**

B.S.N. Catholic University

M.S.N. and D.N.Sc., Boston University

Dr. Rissmiller is the coordinator of the Parent-Child concentration. She has focused many of her energies over the past year in the area of interdisciplinary collaboration within the health care community. She is currently a director for the U-Mass Simmons School Health Institute which is a funded project implementing regional continuing education for school nurses. She is also actively involved on a collaborative project with the Brazelton Group at Children's Hospital to develop an assessment tool based on the Brazelton Scale. She also has a joint appointment at Children's in the Institute for Community Inclusion as a director for training for nurses working with developmentally disabled children and families. Research interests include high risk children and families and school health. Dr. Rissmiller practices in the Maternal-Child Health Department at Cambridge Visiting Nurses Association.

**Shelley Strowman, P.h.D.**

**Associate Professor of Practice, Statistics**

B.A., Bates College

M.A., University of New Hampshire

Ph.D., University of New Hampshire

Dr. Strowman teaches Biostatistics in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program and provides statistical and methodological consultation on graduate research. She also lectures on survey design and multivariate statistics in the Nursing, Nutrition, and Physical Therapy departments. Dr. Strowman joined the School of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty in 2008 after working for several years in Academic Technology as a Statistical Software Consultant.

Dr. Strowman brings to the classroom over 20 years of experience in research, including several years as a consultant in public health. She has provided statistical and survey consultation in a variety of areas including cardiovascular health promotion, tobacco control, the relation between stress and hospitalization, and health risk behavior. Dr. Strowman's professional experience is integrated into her teaching through an emphasis on real-world examples and applications. Professor Strowman has also taught Statistics and provided research consultation in the Schools of Social Work, Management, and Library Science.

**Karen Harvey Teeley, M.S., R.N., AHN-C**  
**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing (Undergraduate Nursing)**  
B.S.N. Fairfield University  
M.S. Boston University

Ms. Teeley is the coordinator for community health in the nursing program. She has practiced in the community setting for over twenty years in home care, public health and occupational health. She has taught at Emmanuel College and University of Rhode Island and has been on the Simmons faculty since 2002. Ms. Teeley's research interests are in holistic nursing and she has presented numerous workshops on alternative healing interventions. She is also ELNEC trained (End-of-life Nursing Education Consortium) and co-teaches Care at the End of Life: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (SHS 459). Ms. Teeley serves on the Professional Advisory Committee for Caritas Home Care and is a founding member of the Faith/Health Connection Parish Nurses Association in southeastern Massachusetts

**Sarah Volkman, Sc.D.**  
**Professor of Nursing**  
B.A., University of California, San Diego  
Sc.D., Harvard University

Dr. Volkman has been involved in preparing nursing students in the basic science content since 1989; teaches Normal and Abnormal Physiology as well as the Integrative Sciences Curriculum for the Direct Entry Program including Biochemistry, Microbiology and Anatomy and Physiology. She holds a joint appointment at the Harvard School of Public Health, in Immunology and Infectious Diseases. In addition to her teaching at Simmons, she continues to teach Infectious Diseases and the Human Organism at Harvard University, where her scientific research interests involve understanding the mechanisms of drug resistance in the human pathogen, *Plasmodium falciparum*.

Besides her teaching and research interests, Dr. Volkman is currently writing a textbook on Human Pathophysiology, which uses clinical case scenarios to examine the mechanisms of human disease. She has received several awards including the Young Investigator Award by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and was a Senior Teaching Fellow and a Christensen Fellow at Harvard University.

**Julie Vosit- Steller, D.N.P., M.S.N., A.P.R.N., BC, F.N.P., O.C.N.**  
**Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**  
B.S.N. College of Our Lady of the Elms  
M.S.N. University of Massachusetts  
C.A.G.S in Family Nurse Practitioner/Adolescent Health, University of Rhode Island

Ms. Steller is a women's health expert with a particular interest in Gynecologic Oncology. Prior to teaching at Simmons, she held faculty positions at both Georgetown University and University of Rhode Island. Since 1991, she has practiced as women's health and family nurse practitioner. In her current clinical role, she spearheads the integration of a nurse practitioner model into a multi-centered gynecologic oncology practice in the Boston area. In addition to her lectures at Simmons, she frequently presents for continuing education programs on the role of the advanced practice nurse in the care of women with gynecologic malignancies.

Her professional background includes consultation at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. As well, Ms. Vosit-Steller has served as study coordinator for several phase three clinical trials focused on cancer treatment. Her post-graduate thesis, *Promoting Cervical Cancer Screening in Hispanic Women in Rhode Island*, focused on the current trends of health screening and maintenance behaviors in the female Hispanic population of the state. This research motivated her to lead the development of a women's healthcare program for the uninsured in Rhode Island. Ms. Vosit-Steller remains an active member of Sigma Theta Tau, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Coalition of Nurse Practitioner's and the Society of Oncology Nurses.

**Patricia White, Ph.D., A.P.R.N., B.C., Associate Professor of Practice, Nursing**

B.S.N. Boston University

M.S.N. Boston College

Ph.D. University of Rhode Island

Dr. White has been teaching at Simmons College in the Nursing Programs since 1987. She is the Co-coordinator of the Adult and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Programs and is also involved in teaching in the undergraduate research and community health courses. She maintains a clinical practice at Compass Medical Associates in Brockton, Mass where she provides primary care to adults and also provides care to elders in long term care and in the home. She has previously practiced in Weymouth, Mass and in Norwood, MA and at the Home Care Program at Beth Israel, Hospital in Boston, MA.

During her doctoral study at University of Rhode Island, she conducted a study on the practice of nurse practitioners caring for clients who were grieving. She has been involved in presenting on the clinical topics of polypharmacy, ethics and bereavement to her colleagues at many NP conferences and has also been working with faculty at Simmons in presenting departmental research on the Direct Entry Experience to NONPF and AACN. She is a member of a new learning collaborative for accelerated models of nursing education (LCANE) with her colleague Janet Rico and a number of nursing faculty from around the country and recently presented to NONPF about the activities of this group. She is active in NONPF on the faculty practice committee and is a member of the MCNP, Sigma Theta Tau and ENRS.

**Clinical Affiliations**

The program maintains teaching and clinical relationships with internationally recognized health care organizations including Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Harvard Pilgrim Health Plan. Clinics, neighborhood health centers, hospitals, and private practices provide additional clinical experience to meet individual student needs and interest. The following is a list of affiliations as of January 2012. It is subject to change; is a small sample of the 200 clinical site locations. For more information about clinical sites, call 617 521-2130.

**Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**  
Boston, MA

Boston Health Care for the Homeless  
Boston, MA

**Boston Medical Center**  
Boston, MA

Boston Center for Rehabilitation Boston, MA

**Brigham & Women's Hospital**  
Boston, MA

Chad Brown Health Center  
Providence, R.I.

Children's hospital  
Boston, MA

**Dedham Medical Associates, Inc.**  
Norwood, MA

Downtown Oakland Clinic  
Oakland, CA.  
**Fall River Heart Associates**  
Fall River, MA

**East Boston Neighborhood Health Center**  
East Boston, MA

**Family Practice Associates**  
Weymouth, MA

**Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates**  
Boston, MA

**Lahey Clinic Hospital, Inc.**  
Burlington, MA

**Massachusetts General Hospital**  
Boston, MA

**MIT Health Center**  
Cambridge, MA

Newton-Wellesley Hospital  
Wellesley, MA

**Pembroke Primary Care**  
Pembroke, MA

**Westwood Pediatrics**  
Westwood, MA

## **APPLICATION AND ADMISSION INFORMATION**

For more information about admission, please see the SNHS website [www.snhs@simmons.edu](http://www.snhs@simmons.edu) , Applicants to all nursing programs are required to submit the SNHS electronic application and supporting paper materials to the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. Officially signed/sealed transcripts and recommendations should not be opened as this will render these documents as unofficial. They should be sent directly to the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at the address below.

Photocopies, faxes, or student copies of original transcripts and recommendations are not acceptable. Please note complete applications, including the electronic and paper documents must be received by the stated deadlines; dates are not the post mark date, rather, the date when all materials need to be received in the SNHS Office of Admission. No application can be acted upon unless all materials are received. There is no guarantee that late applications will be considered; late applicants are not eligible for consideration of merit scholarship[s] or graduate assistantships. Be certain to mail all materials to the following address; do not address any materials to “Admission Office, Simmons College,” as there are six admission offices at Simmons and your information could remain in the wrong office for some time.

*School of Nursing and Health Sciences  
Office of Admission  
Room S332  
Simmons College*

*300 The Fenway  
Boston, MA 02115*

### **Application Procedure**

Applicants are responsible for mailing the required supporting paper application materials to the Office of Admission at the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. All documents submitted become the property of Simmons College and cannot be returned to the applicant. .

Application materials include:

1. A completed electronic application, including materials specific to the selected nursing option and Certification of Finances Form (for non-U.S. citizens only).
2. A non-refundable application fee of \$50 or \$100 for the DNP program(unless an appropriate application fee waiver code is included).
3. For RNs, evidence of current licensure and at least one year of clinical experience.
4. Official academic transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate academic institutions attended whether or not a degree was awarded, and whenever courses were completed or if courses are not specific to the program for which you are applying or whether courses appear on another transcript. Applicants who are completing an undergraduate degree in the year of application must submit a copy of their grade report from the most recently completed academic term, until an official transcript arrives. Photocopies, faxes, or student copies are not acceptable.



5. Applicants who have studied abroad must submit academic documents in the native language as well as official English translations. Additionally, academic records may need to be evaluated by an agency as specified by the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

6. Three professional or academic recommendations The recommendation process is a three-part process: an Identification Form, a Rating Form and a written recommendation are required. Please see the electronic application for specific details. Recommendations provide the Admissions Committee with valuable information regarding the applicant's potential as a nurse and a candidate for graduate study. The School of Nursing and Health Sciences is a professional school so references should be selected carefully. Recommendations should come from individuals who know the applicant well enough to comment on her or his ability to engage in graduate study, and ultimately, in advanced nursing practice. Recommendations from friends, family members, coaches, people for whom you baby sat or were a nanny for and politicians are not acceptable. Photocopies, faxes, or student copies are not acceptable.

**No application can be acted upon unless all electronic and paper materials are received.**

The following should be sent directly to the School of Nursing and Health Sciences by the testing agency for all nursing applicants:

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official TOEFL scores taken within two years prior to the application deadline. The TOEFL requirement is based on native language, not citizenship. No other English proficiency exam will be accepted. The TOEFL is waived for applicants who have graduated at the bachelor's or master's level from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or a post-secondary institution abroad that is recognized by the Ministry of Education in the host country in English-speaking countries **only**. Official scores from ETS are required; copies of student score reports are not acceptable. SNHS is unable at this time to accept electronic scores. The School of health Sciences TOEFL code is 3761.

A minimum score of 570 (paper-based), 230 (computer-based,) or 88 (internet-based) is required.

### **Application Deadlines**

**Application deadlines vary by program. Carefully check SNHS Degrees at a Glance on our web site,**

### **Enrollment Deposit**

Accepted students who wish to enroll must submit a non-refundable enrollment deposit. This deposit is applied to the first term bill.

### **Deferred Entrance**

An accepted student may request in writing to the Assistant Dean/Director of Admission of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences a deferral of the entrance date for a maximum of one year(two academic semesters). The student must indicate what he/she will do in the interim. A deferral is designed for the student to take time off before starting a program ; deferred students may not take classes in the interim as admission was based on the academic record at the time of application. interim. If granted a deferral, the non-refundable deposit is due on the date stated in the original letter of admission to ensure enrollment. This fee is applied to the first term bill. International students will be considered on an individual basis for deferred entry due to immigration policies. No deferrals will be granted after a semester begins.

If a student takes a class, then decides that he/she would like to take some time off, a Leave of Absence (LOA) request must be submitted /approved by the Department Chair and Dean.

### **Reapplication Procedure**

An applicant who wishes to re-apply must call the Office of Admission to learn about this process.. Official academic transcripts for courses completed since the initial application **must** be submitted. A reapplication fee is required. an.

### **Transfer Credit**

Applicants to the program may petition to transfer a maximum of two courses into the program provided the credits were not used for a previously conferred degree and were completed within five years of the petition. This petition must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate Nursing Program and the course faculty. The student must have earned a grade of B or better.

### **Waivers**

Students who enter the Program with a strong background in a particular content area may petition for a course waiver. Such waivers require demonstration of mastery of course content. Students receiving course waivers must still complete the required number of credit hours, accomplishing this by taking additional electives to replace the waived credits. Request for such waivers must be approved by the chair of the Graduate Nursing Program.

### **College Registration**

Contact the Nursing Department directly about course registration for newly-accepted and enrolled or non-degree (special) students.

Courses are billed by credit hour; visit the Tuition and Fees page on the SNHS website for the current cost per credit hour. The registration bulletin will also contain the number of credit hours and schedule for the courses.

If you need to complete prerequisite courses, you may register through the Dorothea Dix Scholar's Program (undergraduate adult continuing education department) as a non-degree student, since most prerequisites are considered undergraduate courses. You would need to complete and submit their non-degree student application which you can obtain from that office. If you have any questions regarding this process, the Dix Office can be reached at 617.521.2500 and [dix@simmons.edu](mailto:dix@simmons.edu).

For more information about Admissions, please visit our Frequently Asked Questions page on our web site. Financial Information

*For information about the current tuition and fees, please see our website.*

### **Financial Aid for U.S. Citizens**

While the responsibility for educational financing belongs with the student, Simmons College administers low-interest loan programs and other alternative loan programs that assist U.S. and permanent resident alien students in financing their education. At Simmons, financial need is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid (low-interest loans). Financial need is determined through an evaluation of a student's ability to contribute toward educational expenses and is administered through the Office of Student Financial Services.

Potential first year graduate students must submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and the Simmons College Supplemental Form to the Office of Student Financial Services by the March 1 deadline for summer or fall entry or October 1 for spring entry for federal financial aid (low-interest loans). Students must be enrolled at least half time (usually 5 credit hours per semester) to be eligible for federal financial aid. Check with the specific program you are interested in to determine the minimum number of credits considered to be half time. The Simmons FAFSA code is 002208.

All Simmons financial aid decisions are made on an academic year basis. In order to receive aid in subsequent years, you must reapply each year, and for priority consideration, meet established deadlines. Renewal of financial aid is contingent upon meeting satisfactory academic progress as well as all other eligibility criteria. Students interested in further information about financial aid at Simmons can find comprehensive information on the financial aid web site at <http://www.simmons.edu/financialaid/> or by calling the Office of Student Financial Services at 617.521.2001.

## Expenses

Information on policies, procedures, charges, registration, and other financial matters is provided by the Office of Student Financial Services (617.521.2001). All students are responsible for becoming familiar with these regulations of the College.

College charges for tuition, fees, and residence must be paid according to the scheduled payment dates. Please note that no student is allowed to complete registration and attend classes without account approval from the Office of Finance. The College reserves the right to withhold all of its services to students who have not met their financial obligations to the College. Such services include mailing transcripts, grades, references, placement materials, and using various offices and facilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts mandates proof of medical insurance for students who are at least three-quarters time (nine credits). You may be required to purchase this insurance if you are not already covered by your personal health plan. Simmons College will accept payments by check, e-check, American Express, Master Card, and Discover Card for graduate tuition. The College regrets it cannot accept Visa, and cannot accept credit card information over the telephone or in person. Students may make credit card or e-check payments online through AARC.

The Office of Admission of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences offers assistance in the form of scholarships and assistantships. These limited merit awards or assistantships for research are competitive and are based on merit. It is important to understand that no merit award will fully cover tuition. On-time accepted applicants to the Direct Entry nursing and BSN-MS program must be enrolled full time; are automatically considered for these merit awards at the time of application. There is no separate, special application for merit awards. Assistantships are determined and awarded after admission. RN-MS, BSN-MS accepted students will be considered for assistantships and are based on half-time enrollment (5 credit hours per semester).

## REFUND POLICY

The College's general policy regarding refunds to students is stated on a separate flyer titled Financial Information. Questions regarding refunds should be directed to Student Accounts personnel in the Office of Student Financial Services at 617.521.2009.

## Information for International Applicants

The School of Nursing Health Sciences (SNHS) welcomes applications from international students (U.S. citizens living and studying abroad, non-U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens) because the campus community is made richer by the presence of individuals with different perspectives from other countries. To assist applicants in understanding the nature of the application and admission process, this section highlights important information to make the transition easier. Due to immigration stipulations, international students requiring a student visa to study in the U.S. must be enrolled full time in an academic program. Carefully review the individual program descriptions in this catalog **since not all programs are full time**. Additionally, if you are currently in the U.S. and have any visa other than an F-1, you must check with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding procedures for changing your visa status.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Application deadline dates differ for nursing programs. Check the first page of the application for specific dates. These dates are when all materials must be received, not the postmark date. It is imperative that students who have or are studying abroad commence the application process at least six months prior to the application deadline. Please allow ample time for the pace of international postal systems, obtaining visa documents, arrival in the U.S. and transitioning to a new environment. International students will not be allowed to enroll if they arrive after the official start of the term.

### **REQUIRED ACADEMIC RECORDS**

In the U.S. academic records or mark sheets are called “transcripts” (this is the term used throughout this catalog). All applicants who have studied abroad must submit official (signed in original ink and stamped with a seal) academic records for study completed at all universities (including schools where no degree or certificate was earned by the student). These documents should include end-of-year result sheets **for each year** attended, national exam results and a copy of degrees or certificates, both in the native language and English translations. Photocopies or facsimiles are not acceptable. Additionally, the academic records *may need* to be evaluated by an agency specified by the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. However, such evaluations do **NOT** take the place of verified academic records from the home country.

A “college” abroad usually means a secondary institution whereas in the U.S., a college is an institution providing higher education. A college can be part of a larger university or represent a singular institution such as Simmons College. Academic records from overseas colleges which are actually secondary schools (high schools in the U.S.) are not required as part of the application process. Courses taken at the secondary level do not fulfill the prerequisite requirements for application and admission to a graduate program. A baccalaureate in the U.S. is a first university degree. Many overseas systems award baccalaureates which represent the completion of secondary education or a year beyond.

### **REQUIRED STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS**

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Applicants whose first language is not English must submit official TOEFL scores taken within two years prior to the application deadline. The TOEFL requirement is based on native language, not citizenship. No other English proficiency exam will be accepted. The TOEFL is waived for applicants who have graduated at the bachelor's or master's level from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or a post-secondary institution abroad that is recognized by the Ministry of Education in the host country in English-speaking countries **only**. Official scores from ETS are required; copies of student score reports are not acceptable. SNHS is unable to accept electronic score reports at this time. The School of Nursing and Health Sciences TOEFL code is 3761. A minimum score of 570 (paper-based), 230 (computer-based,) or 88 (internet-based) is required.

Further information about this exam can be obtained by directly contacting: TOEFL, Educational Testing Service, P.O. Box 6151, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6151, telephone: 215.750.8050 or [www.toefl.org](http://www.toefl.org).

Applications **cannot be reviewed without the receipt of these test scores**. It is very important that applicants register for these exams well in advance of applying for admission. **Candidates should take TOEFL two months in advance of the application deadline for the official score reports to arrive in time.**

## **REQUIRED FINANCIAL DOCUMENTATION**

All non-U.S. citizens who will require a student visa for study in the U.S. must provide accurate and current (within six months prior to applying) evidence of ability to pay for the cost of a Simmons education. These costs are variable (but include fixed and living costs beyond tuition) and outlined on the "Certification of Finances Form" enclosed in the application. This form must be completed and returned directly to the SNHS Office of Admission. Additionally, an original statement from the applicant's sponsor indicating a willingness to provide financial support and a statement from the sponsor's bank verifying the availability of sufficient funds must be received.

All documents must be signed in original ink, written in English and funds must be shown in U.S. dollars (\$). Certain countries limit the amount of money which may be sent abroad. Thus, it is very important for the applicant to inquire about the regulations in the home country concerning transfer of funds. Applications cannot be reviewed without certification and documentation of financial resources. This information is required in order to process an I-20 to obtain an F-1 student visa.

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences offers limited merit awards. These small awards are very competitive. Students must be enrolled full-time for consideration. **Applicants should understand that stipends would not cover the entire cost of tuition.** All applicants are considered for merit awards during the application review process; no separate application is required. Simmons College does not offer state or federal financial aid to non-U.S. citizens. Because Simmons College and SHS are unable to provide extensive funding to non-U.S. citizens, please carefully consider the ability to meet the financial obligations before submitting an application. Please see our website at for a partial listing of private loan sources.

## **ACADEMIC YEAR**

For each academic semester, students receive grades for each subject (course) taken. The first (fall) semester generally begins in early September and ends in mid- December. The second (spring) semester begins in mid- January and ends in mid -May. Additionally, there are summer sessions lasting from May to August. Most programs begin in the September semester.

## **GRADING AND CREDIT HOURS**

The School of Health Sciences at Simmons College awards letter grades for all completed courses: A=Excellent, B=Good, C=Fair, D=Poor, F=Fail and P=Pass. Each letter grade is assigned a value: A=4.00, B=3.00, C=2.00, D=1 and F=0. Each course carries a certain number of credit hours, where, usually, one credit is equal to one hour of classroom instruction. Graduate courses are usually worth three credits although some are worth four, two or one. The total number of credit hours required to obtain a specific degree will determine the number of courses a student needs to complete the program.

## **ARRIVAL AT SIMMONS COLLEGE**

It is important that international students plan properly to arrive at the required time to commence their studies. Allow ample time for obtaining immigration documents, shipping personal items and adjustment due to time and climactic changes. Students will NOT be allowed to enroll in classes if they arrive after classes have officially started. It is imperative that students allow adequate time for moving, student orientation and establishing contacts. Students who choose to live in campus housing are allowed to use those facilities during official school breaks in December/January and May to August.

## **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Statements in the Simmons College catalogs should be taken as the College's current determination of courses, programs, tuition, and fees as currently established. Admission to specific courses and programs will be dependent upon qualifications of students and availability of instruction, Simmons College reserves the right to change its courses, programs, tuition, and fees subsequent to the publication of this catalog.

Simmons College is first and foremost an academic community whose primary goals are to prepare women and men to be well informed, open-minded, and sensitive to values. To attain these goals we seek to create an atmosphere within which students may become actively engaged members of society and to develop the resources to lead rich personal lives. We hope to achieve these goals through an active and continuing exchange of ideas among students and faculty and the general college community.

To ensure that these goals are attained, Simmons has committed itself to the following principles:

Simmons College supports the principle and spirit of equal employment opportunity for all persons, based on each individual's qualifications and fitness. In accordance with applicable law, the College administers its employment and personnel policies without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, legally-recognized disability, or veteran status.

Simmons College admission and financial aid policies are administered in accordance with the Education Acts of 1965, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The College is committed to admitting students of any race, color, or national origin to all the programs and activities generally made available to students at the College, including scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, and other College-administered social, educational, and recreational programs, and student services.

Simmons College strives to ensure that all decisions concerning hiring and promotion of faculty and staff, or the educational process of students, are based on considerations appropriate to an academic institution and not on factors such as race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, age, national origin, handicap, or veteran status.

Furthermore, Simmons College is committed to creating an atmosphere within which the diversity of its members' individual roles meets with understanding, respect, and encouragement, and where discrimination and harassment by any member of the faculty, staff, or student body against any other will be condemned and redressed. The College does not tolerate sexual harassment of employees or students.

Complaints of discrimination or harassment should be addressed to Director of Human Resources, or the applicable dean for appropriate action.