



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING — NURSING LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Fairfield University's Nursing Leadership program is an advanced education, nurse generalist degree created in response to an urgent call for expanding roles in healthcare, better patient outcomes and improved coordination in the delivery of healthcare services. Graduates of the program will provide leadership at all levels of healthcare to move organizations toward evidence-based systems. This is the perfect degree for graduate nurses who do not wish to be nurse practitioners, but do want to maximize career options in dynamic healthcare environments. Career options include management, clinical nurse leader, clinical analyst, informatics nurse specialist, nurse navigator, care coordinator (trauma, stroke), hospital education, adjunct clinical faculty, quality improvement, risk management, and a variety of newly emerging roles.

The MSN in Nursing Leadership is based on the assumptions and competencies of the AACN and the development of healthcare leaders. The program equips nurses to advocate for change and gives them the skills to make change happen.

This program targets nurses with diverse career specialties, professional goals and personal interests. In addition to a strong core of courses, the curriculum can be customized to meet the diverse needs of the nursing professional, allowing students to choose between two leadership tracks with course work outside the School of Nursing. To better align students with the interdisciplinary healthcare environment, students can choose a concentration which includes interdisciplinary graduate courses from experts in the following fields: business, education, engineering and communications.

COURSE OF STUDY

Fairfield University offers two tracks within the NURSING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM:

- Clinical Systems Leadership
- Integrated Healthcare Leadership

Concentrations:

- Informatics Nursing
- Palliative Care
- Education
- Management

CLINICAL SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

Candidates must complete a minimum of 38 credits for the Clinical Systems Leadership Master's degree. Students will lead a rigorous clinical improvement process and will have an opportunity to take an elective in any of the four other graduate schools at Fairfield University. Graduates of this program meet all the qualifications to register for the national Clinical Nurse Leader Certification Exam. Evidence-based initiatives led by students are chosen by students based on their interests and expertise. Examples include:

- Reductions of restraint use in critically ill pediatric patients
- Improving transitions of care for stroke patients
- Primary care coordination of heart failure patients
- Improving medicine safety and education for high-risk home care patients
- Reducing central line associated infections in neonates

GRADUATE CORE

- Nursing Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement
- Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology
- Advanced Health Assessment
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement
- Advanced Healthcare Policy
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Specialty Courses

- Quality Outcomes Management I
- Master's Elective (Engineering, Education, Business, Arts & Sciences)
- Quality Outcomes Management II

INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

Candidates must complete a minimum of 38 credits for the Integrated Healthcare Leadership Master's degree. Students in this track choose a concentration to align with their professional goals. In the final semester, students will design integrated leadership experiences in collaboration with their advisors. Specific concentrations enable students to focus course work on areas of professional interest that include Informatics Nursing, Palliative Care, Education and Management.

GRADUATE CORE

- Nursing Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement
- Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology
- Advanced Health Assessment
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Advanced Healthcare Policy

SPECIALTY COURSES (9 CREDITS)

- Master's Elective in Core Concentration (Engineering, Education, Business, Arts & Sciences)
- Master's Leadership Practicum (150 hours)

Fairfield's degree in Nursing Leadership is designed to allow students the flexibility to plan a curriculum to fit their needs and provides the highest quality graduate educational experience. Specific concentrations enable students to focus course work on areas of professional interest that include Informatics Nursing, Palliative Care, Education and Management.

Informatics Nursing Concentration Curriculum

The MSN Nursing Leadership with a concentration in Informatics Nursing program will provide nurses with the opportunity to apply informatics theory through clinical practicum experiences in a variety of health care settings. Graduates of this program meet all the qualifications to register for the national Informatics Nursing Certification Exam. The concentration in Informatics Nursing targets nurses with diverse career specialties, professional goals and personal interests. Graduates of the program will be prepared to address the predominant healthcare issues of the future, including:

- Improved documentation and resource management in the healthcare setting
- Utilization of electronic health record data to improve patient care and outcomes
- Promoting quality health care through the analysis of aggregate to drive healthcare policy change

GRADUATE CORE

- Nursing Leadership Roles for Systems Improvement
- Advanced Physiology & Pathophysiology
- Advanced Health Assessment
- Advanced Pharmacology
- Research Methods for Evidence Based Practice
- Information Technology for Healthcare Improvement*
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics

SPECIALTY COURSES

- Database Systems (3 credits)—Dolan School of Business
- Information Systems and Database Management (3 credits)—Dolan School of Business
- Master's Nursing Leadership Practicum in Informatics Nursing (3 credits)
- Information Systems (3 credits)—School of Engineering
- Informatics Nursing Clinical Practicum (1 credit)*

* This additional credit of clinical practicum hours meets the eligibility criteria for the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Informatics Nursing certification examination.

For additional information about the Informatics Nursing Concentration, please contact:

Linda Roney, EdD, RN-BC, CPEN, CNE

Phone: 203-254-4000 ext. 2763

Email: lroney@fairfield.edu

OTHER CONCENTRATIONS

- Palliative Care
- Education
- Management

These concentrations include the Graduate Core and Specialty Courses (9 credits) specific to the concentration. For course descriptions of concentrations in Palliative Care, Education, or Management, contact the Track Coordinator.

TRACK COORDINATOR

Sally O. Gerard, DNP, RN, CNL

Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2735

E-mail: sgerard@fairfield.edu

Dr. Sally Gerard serves at the faculty advisor for students in the Nursing Leadership program and is the appropriate person to contact with questions, or to learn more about additional concentrations.

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Joyce M. Shea, DNSc, APRN, PMHCNS-BC

Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2575

E-mail: jshea@fairfield.edu

For a complete faculty listing, see www.fairfield.edu/sonfaculty.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for a master's degree must hold a bachelor's degree in nursing from a regionally accredited college or university (or the international equivalent). A quality point average of 3.0 or higher is preferred.

RN applicants who have a non-nursing bachelor's degree will be considered on an individual basis and may be required to complete select prerequisites to be eligible for admission to the MSN program.

FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications to the graduate program are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Admission Committee. Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.
(Apply online at www.fairfield.edu/sonapp.)
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.
3. A professional résumé.
4. A personal statement:
 - Discuss a practice problem in your field that, in your experience, has a broad impact on patient care outcomes.
 - State professional goals for the next 5-10 years.
 - Explain how a Nursing Leadership degree will help you reach your goals.
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. All foreign transcripts must be evaluated by an approved evaluating service. A complete list of approved evaluators can be found at www.fairfield.edu/eval.
6. Two recommendations, one of which must be from a current supervisor or professor, accompanied by the University recommendation forms.
7. Copy of current RN license to practice in the state of Connecticut.
8. All international students whose native language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language by taking either TOEFL or IELTS exams. For admission to the graduate school, a TOEFL composite score of 550 for the paper test, 213 for the computer-based test, 80 on the internet-based test or an IELTS score of 6.5 is strongly recommended. Scores must be sent directly from the Educational Testing Service (TOEFL) or www.IELTS.org. Fairfield's ETS code is 3390.

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University
Office of Graduate Admission
Kelley Center
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS

Connecticut State law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at www.fairfield.edu/immunization. Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, you must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Please consult your private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000 ext. 2241 or e-mail health@fairfield.edu.

TUITION/FINANCIAL AID

Academic Year 2018-19
Tuition: \$850 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs and our Veterans Pride Program, which are all discussed at www.fairfield.edu/gradfa.

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor.

FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 203-254-4125
Fax: 203-254-4008
E-mail: finaid@fairfield.edu

FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

MORE INFORMATION

ADMISSION QUESTIONS

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.
Phone: 203-254-4184
Fax: 203-254-4073
E-mail: gradadmis@fairfield.edu

OFFICE OPERATIONS

Days: Monday-Friday
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

SCHOOL OF NURSING WEBSITE

www.fairfield.edu/nursing

ONLINE CATALOG

For detailed course descriptions and other University information, please refer to our online catalog www.fairfield.edu/catalogs.